2005 Biobased Industry Outlook Conference to be held at Iowa State University

Krysta Nibe, Office of Biorenewables Programs

Iowa Congressman Tom Latham and Iowa Governor Thomas Vilsack will be discussing the bioeconomy and the future of biobased products at the 2005 Biobased Industry Outlook Conference. The conference, Growing the Bioeconomy: Planting Ideas, Cultivating Partnerships, and Harvesting Progress, will provide information for individuals and groups interested in business opportunities in the areas of renewable energy and biobased products. CCUR has play an integral role in the planning and execution of the conference.

In addition to Latham and Vilsack, speakers including Paul Roberts, author of the critically acclaimed, The End of Oil: On the Edge of a Perilous New World, will discuss the many facets of the bioeconomy including economic issues, value-added product development, and new technologies.

“We are exceptionally pleased with the quality of speakers we have this year. They are really in tune with the growing bioeconomy and the opportunities available,” Jill Euken, Iowa State University Extension specialist and conference committee chair, said.

“Our variety of speakers, including researchers and industry leaders, will highlight new technology developments, capitalization strategies, and opportunities for partnerships.”

Breakout sessions held during the first day will encourage entrepreneurship, new initiatives, and research and business partnerships. Speakers in these sessions will highlight current sustainable development efforts in bioenergy and bioeconomy.

Nan Morain retires after 16 years at CCUR

Nan Morain retired as administration specialist at the Center for Crops Utilization Center in July. A reception was held for family and friends on Friday, July 15 in the courtyard of the Food Sciences Building.

Nan was with CCUR for 16 years and was an integral part of the daily operations of CCUR. She handled the accounting, organized meetings, administered CCUR’s grants and contracts and managed the office. Nan’s assistance will truly be missed by everyone at CCUR.

Nan has moved to Minneapolis to be near her family, but has agreed to consult with CCUR in preparing proposals.

Exhibitors Needed:

Exhibitor space is still available at the 2005 Biobased Industry Outlook Conference. Space is available on a first come basis. Contact Tim Sullivan at 515-727-0656 or Darren Jarboe at 515-294-2342.

Nan Morain retired after 16 years at CCUR

Nan cuts the first piece of cake at her retirement party while her grandchildren look on.
Wintersteen named interim agriculture dean at ISU

AMES, Iowa -- Iowa State University Provost Benjamin Allen has appointed Wendy Wintersteen as interim dean of the College of Agriculture, effective Aug. 1. Wintersteen also will become interim director of the Iowa Agriculture and Home Economics Experiment Station.

Wintersteen, senior associate dean of the college, succeeds Catherine Woteki, who has been dean of the college since January 2002. Woteki will become global director of scientific affairs for Mars Inc., McLean, Va., beginning Aug. 1.

“Dr. Wintersteen has been responsible for budget planning for the College of Agriculture and the agriculture experiment station. In addition, she has extensive experience working with state and national agricultural organizations. We’re very pleased that she has agreed to lead the college at this time,” Allen said.

Prior to joining the dean’s office, Wintersteen served as director of agriculture and natural resources extension, 1995-2000. She became a faculty member in entomology at Iowa State in 1988 and was promoted to full professor in 1996.

Wintersteen’s extension and research focus is on the development and assessment of pest management. She is the author of nearly 60 extension publications and has made hundreds of extension presentations on pest management.

She earned a bachelor’s degree in agriculture from Kansas State University in 1978 and doctorate in entomology from Iowa State University in 1988.

Allen said he will soon appoint a committee to conduct the search for a new permanent dean. Wintersteen will serve in the interim role until a new dean is selected.

Perminus Mungara takes position at GPC

Dr. Perminus Mungara, assistant scientist, Food Science and Human Nutrition, has taken a new position at Grain Processing Corporation in Muscatine, Iowa. GPC is a leading manufacturer and worldwide marketer of corn-based products. Mungara will continue working on biopolymer processing research at GPC.

Mungara was at Iowa State for nine years. During that time he developed soy protein-based plastics. These plastics have the potential to be turned into functional, affordable and environmentally safe products.

NASA FTCSC moves to the Food Sciences Building

On May 15, the staff of the NASA Food Technology Commercial Space Center (FTCSC) relocated to new offices in the Food Sciences Building on the Iowa State University campus. This move was prompted by the notification that NASA would not extend the cooperative agreement with the Center.

“We are very happy to be located near many of our affiliate faculty members at Iowa State,” FTCSC Director Anthony Pometto said. “The Food Science and Human Nutrition department has been most generous and welcoming during this move.”

The main office is now located at 2571 Food Sciences Building. Staff phone numbers have remained the same. The FTCSC offices will remain in the Food Sciences Building until the Center closes on December 30, 2005.
Ames, Iowa -- Catherine Woteki, dean of the College of Agriculture at Iowa State University since January 2002, announced her resignation effective July 31. Woteki will become global director of scientific affairs at Mars Inc. She will be located in McLean, Va.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as dean of agriculture at Iowa State, and I will miss the faculty, staff, students and the Ames community. But this is an exciting opportunity for me, and it will allow me to be closer to family in the Washington, D.C. area,” Woteki said.

Woteki is a nutritional epidemiologist, and prior to becoming dean, she served as a senior research scientist at the University of Maryland, College Park, and professor of nutrition and food safety at the University of Nebraska. From 1997 to 2001, she was first under secretary for food safety in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Woteki is active in several scientific organizations and is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a member of the Institute of Medicine.

“Dean Woteki has done an outstanding job at Iowa State, in directing the College of Agriculture, developing important ties with public officials and agricultural interests around Iowa, and providing leadership in a number of campus projects,” said Iowa State University President Gregory Geoffroy.

During Woteki’s tenure, the College of Agriculture has undergone major changes while retaining its reputation as one of the leading colleges of agriculture in the world. She oversaw reorganization of the biological sciences departments; supported new research initiatives in animal genomics, food safety, water and air quality; and strengthened outreach to farmers through the Corn and Soybean Initiative. Plans have been finalized for a new dairy research and teaching farm.

Mars Inc., is a privately-held, family-owned company that produces some of the world’s leading confectionery, food, pet care, beverage and electronics products and operates in more than 65 countries. Headquartered in McLean, Va, the company’s global sales exceed $18 billion annually.

Conference

From page 1

industry and public policy challenges, as well as discuss the forecast for the next generation of feedstocks for biobased products. A networking reception will allow participants to meet researchers and industry representatives, and hold one-on-one discussions about opportunities. Also, during the reception, researchers affiliated with the Iowa Biotechnology Byproducts Consortium and Iowa State’s Center for Crops Utilization Research and Center for Catalysis will present current research efforts at a poster session.

The second day will focus more on current research and applications in plant oils, ethanol by-products, crop residues, dedicated energy crops, manure, and conservation and environmental challenges. The breakout sessions will highlight potential business partnerships and recent successes of such partnerships in areas such as new crops and processing technologies, value-added products from waste streams, and conservation issues. Following the morning sessions, optional tours will provide attendees the opportunity to visit the Iowa State University Agronomy plots and learn more about natural fibers such as kenaf, switchgrass, and flax.

“We are very excited about this year’s conference,” Euken said. “We believe the sessions that spur conversations and new ideas for biorenewables in the Midwest.” For more information about the 2005 Biobased Industry Outlook Conference, visit the conference Web site at http://www.valuechains.org/bewg/Conf2005/.
Hurburgh joins two new EU programs

Dr. Charles Hurburgh, Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, is now a full participant in two five-year European Union-based projects, TRACE and CoExtra (COEXistence and TRAceability). Dr. Hurburgh is the only U.S. participant in both projects.

TRACE will define the operational requirements to support the 2004 food traceability regulations. Fifty-one EU government organizations and institutes are participating in the program. Their first meeting was held in York, United Kingdom, on April 18 and 20. For more information on TRACE visit www.trace.eu.org.

CoExtra’s objective is to define requirements for future EU importation and public policy relative to foods from biotechnology-based raw materials. Fifty-four EU government organizations and institutes are participating in CoExtra. The first meeting was held in Versailles, France, on June 7-8. For more information visit www.coextra.org.

Industry/Stakeholder Advisory Board Meeting

The CCUR Industry/Stakeholder Advisory Board met August 3 in Ames. The board reviewed and discussed a proposed study by the Battelle Memorial Institute. The Battelle study will provide CCUR and the College of Agriculture (COA) with strategic direction, operational and programmatic concepts, and management and performance parameters. CCUR and COA will use the analysis and recommendations to restructure center operations for more effective economic development in Iowa.

Two commercialization plans were presented to the board by CCUR affiliates. The plans were for soy-based adhesives and soy protein fractionation.

White named interim dean of new college

Pam White will serve as interim dean of the new College of Human Sciences in its inaugural two months.

“Dr. White has a thorough understanding of the issues associated with the new college,” said vice president for academic affairs and provost Benjamin Allen. “We are grateful to her for her continued leadership service to the university.”

White has been serving as interim dean of the College of Family and Consumer Sciences for the past two years and will take on the new interim post July 1, when the Family and Consumer Sciences and Education colleges are combined into the College of Human Sciences.

Colletti joins CCUR

Sharon Colletti became the new CCUR administration specialist in July. She replaces Nan Morain who retired the same month. Colletti will handle the daily operations at CCUR. Prior to coming to CCUR, Colletti was with the NASA Food Technology Commercial Space Center for six years. There she handled the administrative work and marketing of the Center to current and potential partners.
Larry Johnson, Director, CCUR, served as President of the American Oil Chemists’ Society for 2004-05. He presided over the 2005 Annual Meeting that took place May 1-4 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Approximately 1,600 people were present. At the meeting Johnson passed the gavel to Michael Haas, USDA Agricultural Research Service. Dr. Johnson will continue to serve on the Governing Board as immediate past president.

A series of new Iowa State University posters are currently on display at the Des Moines International Airport. Deland Myers, professor of Food Science and Human Nutrition and CCUR affiliate, is featured on one of the posters. The poster highlights his research on soy-based adhesives.
Soyfoods Council opens discussion

Soyfoods Council held an open discussion with CCUR affiliated faculty on Friday, June 10 in the CCUR Theater. Special guest Linda Funk discussed new ideas and potential collaborations in soy-related research.

Funk’s purpose in visiting with CCUR affiliated faculty was to seek ways in which the Soyfoods Council could help promote Iowa State soy-related programs and become more familiar with FSHN research areas.

The Soyfoods Council, which began five years ago, is comprised of industry members and state soybean marketing boards. It will continue as a marketing and information center. The open discussion meeting was hosted by CCUR in partnership with FSHN.

Awards and Honors

Diane Birt was made an inaugural member of the Purdue University Foods and Nutrition Department Hall of Fame on May 6 in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Jay-lin Jane will receive the Alsburg-French-Schoch Award at the upcoming American Association of Cereal Chemists. This is the highest award given every 2-4 years to recognize scientists who made significant contributions to the fundamental understanding of starch structures and properties.

Tony Pometto was recognized with the Iowa-section IFT Outstanding Service Award at the Iowa-section Institute of Food Technologists meeting on April 21.

Toni Wang has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. The promotion goes into effect July 1.

Grants and Contracts

Food Chain Economic Analysis, Part II, USDA, $334,308, C. Hurburgh and J. Lawrence

Iowa Grain Quality Initiative, Iowa Soybean Promotion Board, $25,000, C. Hurburgh and D. Jarboe

An Overview of the Financial Health of Grain and Farm Supply Cooperatives in Nebraska, Nebraska Cooperative Council, $7,848, R. Ginder and D. Jarboe

Poster to Increase Stewardship Awareness for Market Choices® Corn, Dow AgroSciences LLC, Monsanto Company, and Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., $30,000, R. Ginder and D. Jarboe

Synthesis of Catechin Trimers Polyphenol Technologies Corporation, $186,865, G. Kraus

Development of Soy/Corn Oil Plastic Composites USDA, $70,000, R. Larock

Technology Transfer and Commercialization of Soy Protein Adhesives for Bemis Manufacturing of Molded Wood Products, Iowa Soybean Promotion Board, $36,800, D. Myers

Integrating New Fiber Utilization Technologies in Biorefinery, Department of Energy, $112,000, B. Shanks

Genetic and Biochemical Basis for the Transformation of Energetic Materials (RDX, TNT, DNTs) in Plants, Department of Army, Corps of Engineers, $145,684, J. Shanks

Ionic Liquid Efficient and Recyclable Catalyst Systems for Making Biodiesel, United Soybean Board, $52,170, J. Verkade

Establishment of Robust Maize Transformation Systems for the Public Sector, National Science Foundation, $97,982, K. Wang

Establishment of Robust Maize Transformation Systems for the Public National Science Foundation, $892,561, K. Wang

Functional Analysis of Soybean Genes through Transposon Mutagenesis, University of Minnesota, $25,225, K. Wang

Genetic Transformation of Maize Inbred Lines Crop Design N.V., $22,785, K. Wang