

# National Sweet Sorghum Annual Conference, Sweet Sorghum For Ethanol Conference Set

## PIGEON FORGE, TENN.

The National Sweet Sorghum Producers and Processors Association (NSSPPA) will hold their 23rd Annual Conference at the National Parks Resort Lodge in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee on February 21-23, 2008. They have excellent meeting rooms and food. In addition, they have a swimming pool so families can bring their children with them and enjoy the facilities. The NSSPPA now has over 490 members from some 37 states and 2 foreign countries.

The conference sessions will start at 8:30 am CST on Feb. 22 and convene near noon on Saturday, March 23. For those that arrive on Thursday evening, Feb. 21, there will be an informal get-together with refreshments at 7:00 p.m. An exciting program has been put together by the Board of Directors. There will be topics concerning the History of Mills by Don Dean of Alabama, several videos of sweet sorghum operations, a separate ladies program and much more. On Friday evening there will be a banquet with special entertainment followed by a time of fellowship and tasting of many sorghum goodies. There will be sorghum syrup and recipe contests with awards presented at the banquet. The purpose of this conference is to improve the overall quality of sweet sorghum syrup production.

If you plan on attending this conference and you want to attend the Friday night banquet, reservations must be made with the Executive Secretary before Feb. 9. To register or make reservations for the banquet or if you have any

other questions, please call Morris Bitzer at 859/806-3358 or e-mail: mbitzer@uky.edu. For room reservations at the Lodge, call 1-800-843-6686 and ask for Jason. Rooms are \$29.95 (Thurs.) and \$59.95 (Friday). Come early or stay over and enjoy the Great Smoky Mountains and Pigeon Forge area.

If you have any interest in growing sweet sorghum for syrup to replace some of that tobacco income loss or just as a hobby, then this is the meeting that you need to attend. For further information, check the NSSPPA website at [www.ca.uky.edu/NSSPPA](http://www.ca.uky.edu/NSSPPA). A pre-registration form is available on the website.

## SECOND SWEET SORGHUM FOR ETHANOL CONFERENCE

The Sweet Sorghum Ethanol Association (SSEA) are planning their 2nd Conference which will be held at the Hilton Knoxville Airport Hotel on Feb. 23-24, 2008. The purpose of this conference is to develop a vertically integrated, farm based sweet sorghum ethanol production system. They will be exploring the opportunity that sweet sorghum provides as an ecological, clean, sustainable source of energy. A panel of potential new processing operations will be exciting. If you are interested in this ethanol conference, please find the tentative program and registration material at [www.sseassociation.org](http://www.sseassociation.org). If you have questions concerning the conference, you may call Laura Karlen at 515-320-3552 or Dr. Danielle Bellmer, Univ. of Oklahoma State, 405-744-6626. Δ