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NSP Elects Two New Members to Board of Directors

LUBBOCK, Texas — National Sorghum Producers recently welcomed two new members to its board of directors—Tony Heitschmidt of Bushton, Kan., and Leon Sowers of Murdock, Kan.

Heitschmidt farms 400 acres of no-till sorghum in central Kansas. As a seed dealer and producer, he hopes to bring new insight to the board and anticipates taking sorghum’s message to the nation’s key leaders and lawmakers, promoting the many benefits sorghum has to offer.

Sowers hopes to expand sorghum’s role in the ethanol industry, and he looks forward to representing the sorghum industry both at home and through legislative and regulatory representation in Washington, D.C. Sowers farms 700 acres of no-till sorghum in south central Kansas.

Gerald Simonsen, chairman of the board and sorghum producer from Ruskin, Neb., welcomed the newly elected Kansans, regarding the board’s expansion as a positive step while the sorghum industry continues to grow and move forward.

“The National Sorghum Producers board of directors is happy to have Mr. Heitschmidt and Mr. Sowers on the board. They are passionate about sorghum and committed to the industry,” said Simonsen. “We appreciate them stepping up and being a part of our organization. Because Kansas is the largest sorghum producing state, it’s important we have their representation.”

The NSP board has now increased from nine to 11 members. The two added seats resulted from a by-law change during the board’s November meeting that not only increased the size of the board, but also required at least seven producer members.

“I think the newly expanded board will represent sorghum producers more efficiently by allowing more input to be given, coupled with new and fresh ideas as well as opportunities to increase flexibility within the board,” said Simonsen.

NSP will resume its regular board nomination process at the end of April for 2012 seats, which will be voted on in August 2011.

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NSP represents U.S. sorghum producers and serves as the voice of the sorghum industry coast to coast through legislative representation, regulatory representation and education. To learn more about NSP, visit www.sorghumgrowers.com.