

For more information, contact:

Jennifer Blackburn
Communications Coordinator
National Sorghum Producers
(806) 749-3478

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 6, 2011

Sorghum Checkoff Passes, Industry Takes Encouraging Leap Forward

LUBBOCK, Texas — The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today the United Sorghum Checkoff Program referendum passed with a majority consensus and the Sorghum Checkoff will remain in operation.

Gerald Simonsen, National Sorghum Producers chairman of the board and sorghum farmer from Ruskin, Neb., proclaimed the results as a huge win for the industry and sorghum farmers across the nation.

“The NSP board recognized a need three years ago for improvement in the sorghum industry in the areas of market development, research and education,” said Simonsen. “We developed a vision, worked with USDA to create the program and are proud of the results the Sorghum Checkoff has produced in its two short years of operation.”

Barry Evans, a sorghum farmer from Kress, Texas, said he is proud of those who banded together and foresaw the changes required to push the sorghum industry forward.

“Farmers are known to take the initiative and implement the steps necessary to accomplish a goal. This is a prime example of seeing a need and coming together to further our industry,” said Evans. “The projects that will be undertaken could never happen with one person, but when we join together, we can achieve a more diversified and profitable industry. Sorghum needed this.”

“This will breathe new life into the sorghum industry,” said Terry Swanson, vice chairman of the board and sorghum farmer from Walsh, Colo., “The research and marketing component of the checkoff is an integral part of the success of our industry—an area that did not receive much support until now. Sorghum is gaining the technology needed to regain acres lost in the past, and producers are becoming more aware of the far reaching benefits sorghum has to offer.”

The Sorghum Checkoff was established under the Commodity Research, Promotion and Information Act of 1996, and according to USDA Act and Order, was required to hold a referendum within three years of beginning operations. Sorghum farmers who paid an assessment had an opportunity to vote through their local FSA office Feb. 1-28, 2011, to determine the future of the checkoff.

-30-

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.