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# High Plains sorghum crop benefits from abundant rain

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Posted: Sunday, August 1, 2010 6:37 pm | Updated: 7:11 pm, Sat Jul 31, 2010.

By RICHARD PORTER Herald Agriculture Editor | 0 comments

Unlike the southern part of the state where flooding from tropical storms came at exactly the wrong time for sorghum growers, things are looking favorable on the High Plains.

According to Chris Cogburn, strategic business director for National Sorghum Producers in Lubbock, "Up here, the sorghum looks great."

Heavy rains that moved through parts of Mexico and South Texas at the beginning of July came just as farmers in that area were getting into sorghum harvest, Cogburn said.

In reports by Texas Agri Life Extension agents in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Starr County was hit particularly hard.

In that county, which is located south of Falcon Dam on the Rio Grande, agents reported the loss of an estimated 15,000 acres due to flooding.

Cogburn said an added problem for growers in that area who didn't lose crops to the floods was head sprout, which is when there is so much moisture in the system that the actual grain head begins to sprout.

While Cogburn said that type of grain can be used in ethanol production, he pointed out that there aren't any ethanol facilities in that part of the state.

Shifting his focus to the High Plains, Cogburn said depending on when they planted, farmers here are in relatively good shape.

He said some sorghum was planted as late as mid-July, but, on the other hand, "There's some stuff here between Abernathy and New Deal that already has bloomed out," he said.

That could be harvested in September, he continued.

Cogburn said that planted acres are down some across the region because there hasn't been a lot of lost cotton. In many instances, producers will follow hailed-out cotton with sorghum, but that just hasn't been necessary, he said.

Cogburn said that nationwide, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has estimated about a 300,000-acre decline in planting.

Yield, however, looks like it could be extremely high, especially on the High Plains, he continued.

Price seems to be the only real issue, and Cogburn said that is a little weak right now. A lot will depend on what corn prices do through the end of the summer because the two are related, he said.

In the meantime, Cogburn said, the USDA has reported "south-of-the-line" (south of Plainview and Muleshoe) prices at \$5.71-\$6 per hundredweight.

(Contact Richard Porter at 806-296-1361 or [porter@plainviewdailyherald.com](mailto:porter@plainviewdailyherald.com). Become his fan on Facebook.)

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#### Over-the-top spraying in sorghum soon to be a reality

With all the work that has been done to develop herbicide-resistant row crops, the sorghum industry traditionally has steered away from that technology.

Source: Richard Porter  
Published: 2010-08-01 23:55:00 GMT

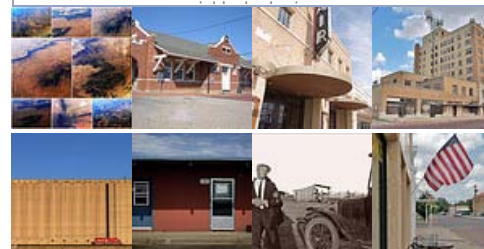
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### Richard Porter



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