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

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Posted: Sunday, August 1, 2010 6:55 pm | Updated: 7:11 pm, Sat Jul 31, 2010.

By RICHARD PORTER Herald Agriculture Editor | 0 comments

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

Over recent years, however, that trend has begun to change, and this past week producers on the High Plains had the opportunity to take a look at new sorghum varieties designed for over-the-top spraying.

The big difference is that new varieties use traditional plant-breeding techniques rather than genetic engineering.

Jeff Dahlberg with the National Sorghum Producers in Lubbock explained that when GMO Roundup resistance first came out, many in the sorghum industry were concerned about introducing the technology into their crop. After all, he said, sorghum is related to Johnsongrass, and the last thing anybody wanted was a Roundup-resistant Johnsongrass mutation.

As it turned out, though, researchers at Kansas State University discovered some plants with natural resistance while working on a project related to Africa, Dahlberg said.

Kansas State researchers were not available for comment, but Texas AgriLife Extension Agronomist Dr. Brent Bean has worked with the research and helped put together the recent field day in Claude.

He explained that rather than genetic engineering, the research uses traditional plant-breeding technology to develop marketable hybrids. Current hybrids are tolerant to sulfonylurea, a chemical commonly referred to as SU, and also to ACCase-inhibiting herbicides, Bean explained. That means producers can spray over the top of the crop to control grass problems in their sorghum fields.

Bean said that while current varieties are being tested, they really aren't to the point of being commercially-viable yet. That still is a couple of years away, he said.

Dahlberg said National Sorghum Producers supports the research being done and has been working with companies developing the commercial varieties to put together "best management practices."

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

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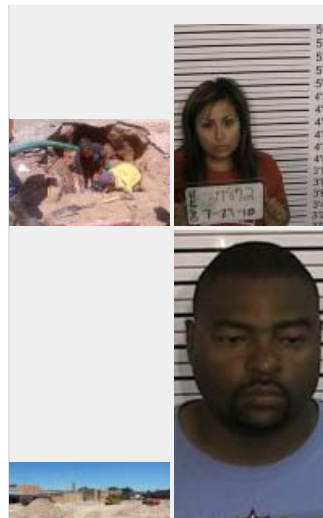
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Silverton rated Exemplary third time in a row

For the third consecutive year, the Silverton Independent School District has been rated as Exemplary by the Texas Education Agency.

Source: **Richard Porter**
Published: 2010-08-08 05:00:00 GMT

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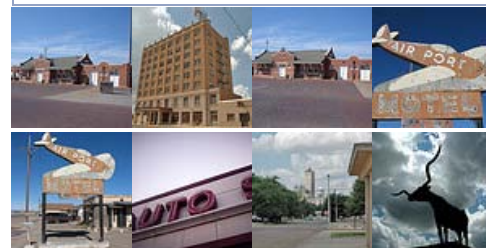
Richard Porter



School tax rate could remain unchanged

If the Plainview school district adopts its proposed tax rate of \$1.04 for the 2010-11 school year, local property owners will see their tax rate remain the same as it is currently.

Source: **Richard Porter**



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