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## **SORGHUM E-Notes**

### **NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS Ensuring Sorghum's Profitability**

April 17, 2008

#### **House Passes Another Farm Bill Extension**

The House of Representatives passed another week-long extension of the 2002 Farm Bill yesterday as negotiators continue to wrangle over the 2007 farm package. The House voted to extend the bill until April 25<sup>th</sup> and the Senate promises to follow suit today. The Administration has threatened a veto of the extension and USDA released the following statement:

"The President has stated that he does not intend on signing another short term extension if Congress has not shown significant progress towards crafting a good farm bill that he can sign. It is up to the farm bill negotiators to demonstrate that progress is being made on legislation that provides real reform while using acceptable offsets to pay for any additional spending."

Ag Secretary Schafer was quoted yesterday in a report by *Reuters* as saying that "If, in fact, we can make some significant progress today and tomorrow ... then I think we can recommend to the president to sign a week's extension."

At press time, negotiators are working on clearing various titles of the bill. Yesterday, they worked on the Commodity Exchange Act reauthorization. All but two items are finished in the Forestry Title of the bill. Harkin has told the Administration that they are making progress and will continue to work through the weekend, as conferees show the Administration that things are moving forward enough to warrant the President's signature on an extension.

NSP staff again spent the week in Washington, actively involved in working through outstanding issues in the Commodity Title of the bill.

#### **NSP Involved in Discussions between Livestock and Ethanol**

In the past week, the National Sorghum Producers and the Texas Grain Sorghum Producers Association have been actively involved in discussions between the livestock and ethanol industries in regards to ethanol's impact on the livestock industry. Texas A&M University's Ag and Food Policy Center released a study last week showing that ethanol, in fact, has little to do with rising food costs and, instead, ag input costs, labor costs and astronomical energy costs are driving higher grocery store prices. NSP will continue to be involved in ongoing talks about ethanol policy and its impact on the livestock sector.

#### **State Sorghum Checkoff Legislation Passes**

Legislation suspending the Kansas and Oklahoma sorghum checkoffs has passed their respective legislatures. The Kansas Legislature passed HB 2897 by the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, setting the Kansas sorghum checkoff rate to \$0 when a national checkoff is in effect. The Oklahoma Legislature passed HB 2778 by Representative Dale DeWitt and Senate Sponsor Ron Justice. The bill will set the Oklahoma checkoff collection rate to \$0 while a national checkoff is in effect, effective July 1, 2008. NSP would like to thank all involved staff, producers and stakeholders for their efforts in passing this legislation.

## **Sorghum Planting Progresses at Above-Average Pace**

Nationwide, sorghum producers had planted 24 percent of their acreage, the same as last year but ahead of the normal pace by four percent. In Louisiana and Texas, producers were able to stay ahead of the average pace, while producers in Arkansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma were lagging normal by 26, two, and two percent, respectively. Elsewhere, planting was not yet underway.

From: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/WWNatSumm/WWNatSumm-04-15-2008.pdf>

## **About Sorghum Notes**

SORGHUM Notes is a publication of the National Sorghum Producers. NSP represents U.S. sorghum producers and works to ensure the profitability of sorghum production through market development, research, education and legislative representation. Visit our website at [www.sorghumgrowers.com](http://www.sorghumgrowers.com). Write to us at National Sorghum Producers, 4201 N Interstate 27, Lubbock, TX 79403. To unsubscribe to Sorghum Notes, please reply to [hannah@sorghumgrowers.com](mailto:hannah@sorghumgrowers.com). Copy and paste "Unsubscribe to Sorghum Notes" into the subject line.

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## **Quote of the week:**

"Better be wise by the misfortunes of others than by your own." – **Aesop**

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