

4201 N Interstate 27  
Lubbock, Texas 79403  
Telephone: (806) 749-3478  
Fax: (806) 749-9002  
www.sorghumgrowers.com

## **SORGHUM E-Notes**

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

April 24, 2008

#### **Déjà Vu**

Congress has passed yet another one-week extension of the 2002 Farm Bill to give negotiators more time to reach agreement on an agriculture package. The previous extension expires tomorrow. The most recent will expire Friday, May 2. The President has recommended a one- or two-year extension to the 2002 bill, but reports indicate that he will sign a one-week extension to keep from reverting to antiquated permanent law.

One of the principal negotiators responsible for finding offsets for the \$10 billion over the baseline is Senate Finance Chairman Max Baucus. "I think we'll get this thing wrapped up this week," Baucus said. But House Ways and Means Chairman Charles Rangel, who must agree to the offsets, said "Closer doesn't mean a damn thing. It's like being half pregnant."

#### **RFA Weighs in on Food vs. Fuel Debate**

Bob Dinneen, President of the Renewable Fuels Association (RFA), sat down with E&ETV's OnPoint to talk about the Renewable Fuels Standard and a report on the viability of biofuels. He addresses questions about the environmental impact of biofuels, the Renewable Fuels Standard, and the most recent federal budget. On the same program, Donald Endres, CEO of VeraSun Energy, responds to reports that biofuels are to blame for rising food prices. Watch both videos by clicking [here](#).

#### **Gateway Ethanol in Default on Its Loan**

According to a report filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, the company that financed construction of Gateway Ethanol in Pratt, Kansas has filed a notice of default on the loan. The filing asks for the full balance of \$53.4 million to be paid immediately.

Gateway has faced obstacles since the project's start, including excessive rain during construction, higher than anticipated grain prices and a winter ice storm that left the plant without electricity.

#### **Planting Slowed by Rain in Arkansas**

Sorghum planting has begun in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. With 26 percent of the crop planted, producers are at the same pace as last year and three percent ahead of the five-year average pace. According to reports from south Texas, sorghum crops on the Gulf Coast are up but desperately need rain as the dreaded "d-word" – drought – is circulating in famer circles. Meanwhile, planting in Arkansas was facing significant delays after receiving heavy rains last week. With seven percent of their intended acreage seeded, producers in the state lagged 53 percent behind last year's pace and 36 percent behind normal. Sorghum growers in Louisiana and Texas had nearly two-thirds of their acreage planted and were well ahead of their normal pace.

From: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/WWNatSumm/WWNatSumm-04-22-2008.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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Sorghum Partners, Inc.  
P.O. Box 189, New Deal, TX 79350  
Phone: (800) 645-7478 Fax: (806) 746-5305  
Website: [www.sorghum-partners.com](http://www.sorghum-partners.com)  
E-mail: [information@sorghum-partners.com](mailto:information@sorghum-partners.com)

### **Quote of the week:**

"I'm a little late. I bumped by head and broke my hair."  
– *Mitt Romney at the 2007 Gridiron dinner*

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