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SORGHUM E-Notes

August 14, 2008

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:
the voice of the sorghum industry

NSP Rolls Out New Website!

NSP introduced a completely new website early this week at www.sorghumgrowers.com. Our new site is full of useful information, [links](#), articles, downloads and photographs. Check out the latest sorghum industry news on [Sorghum Buzz](#), download [Yield Contest](#) forms, contact the [staff](#), renew your [membership](#), and much more. We will be adding more features in the coming weeks so be sure to check back often. And let us know what you think by emailing hannah@sorghumgrowers.com or utilizing the [contact form](#) on our site.

Congress Urges USDA to Abide by Intent

Key members of Congress are working to make sure that USDA implements portions of the new Farm Bill in the way that Congress intended. The Farm Bill included a provision that excluded farmers who have less than 10 acres from receiving direct, counter-cyclical, or average crop revenue payments. However, a non-binding report included with the Bill expressed Congress's intent that all farmers be allowed to aggregate acres so they have more than 10 acres and become eligible for government payments. USDA has said that they will not allow farmers to aggregate.

"Congress acted and streamlined USDA's process in administering payments to small farms," said Harkin, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry. "Now USDA is disallowing consolidation that simplifies its administrative task and instead is focused on a punitive policy approach. It does not make sense from a policy or practical perspective."

USDA countered Harkin's comments saying that if Congress had intended for USDA to allow consolidation, they would have put it in the law (bill text) not in the accompanying report. "If Congress wants to change the law, and require us to consolidate the farms, then we will do it," said USDA spokesman Keith Williams. "We will follow the law as Congress passes it."

International Conference on Sorghum for Biofuels to be Held in Houston

USDA, NSP, Texas A&M University and other organizations are sponsoring the International Conference on Sorghum for Biofuels in Houston, Texas next week. The conference will highlight the up-and-coming use of all types of sorghum for biofuels production. Sorghum's unique water-sipping qualities, short growing season, and hardy nature make it an excellent option for next generation biofuel production. Online registration is closed but you can still register onsite at the Omni Houston Hotel. To view the schedule and learn more about the conference including field trips to Texas A&M University and Verenium's conversion plant in Jennings, Louisiana, visit <http://www.ars.usda.gov/meetings/Sorghum/>. Visit www.sorghumgrowers.com next week for timely news and information about the conference.

August 12 WASDE Report Underestimates Sorghum

The World Ag Supply and Demand Estimate report out this week made the following projection for sorghum:

“The first survey-based forecast for 2008/09 sorghum production is 410 million bushels, down 10 million from last month’s projection. Projected exports for 2007/08 are lowered 30 million bushels with increased sorghum production in Mexico and reduced imports in the EU-27 from larger supplies of feed grains and feed quality wheat. The season-average farm price is projected at \$4.40 to \$5.40 per bushel, down 70 cents per bushel on both ends of the range.”

However, based on NSP discussions with seed companies and farmers, this projection seems low. Seed companies saw increases in seed sales this year and NSP estimates perhaps a million acres of sorghum were planted in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas in late June and the first half of July. With first harvest over in South Texas and with harvest yet to begin farther north, true numbers remain to be seen but will likely be much higher than WASDE predictions.

64 Percent of Sorghum Crop Heading

Sixty-four percent of the national sorghum crop was heading by week’s end, 13 percent behind last year and seven percent behind the five-year average. Delays were evident in all states except Colorado and Louisiana when compared with normal. Coloring, at 35 percent, was four percent behind last year but two percent ahead of the five-year average. Coloring progress in Colorado was 53 percent ahead of the five-year average, while in Arkansas, coloring was significantly behind the normal pace. Elsewhere, progress to the coloring stage was within 10 percent of the average. Twenty-four percent of the sorghum acreage was mature, the same as last year but 2 points ahead of the average. Sorghum condition was rated 50 percent good to excellent, unchanged from last week’s rating.

From: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/WWNatSumm/WWNatSumm-08-12-2008.pdf>

About Sorghum Notes

SORGHUM Notes is a publication of the National Sorghum Producers. NSP represents U.S. sorghum producers. The organization serves as the voice of the sorghum industry from coast to coast through education and legislative and regulatory representation. To learn more about NSP visit our website at 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.*

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Quote of the Week:

Irony: The opposite of wrinkly

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