

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

## **SORGHUM E-Notes**

August 26, 2008

### **NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS: *the voice of the sorghum industry***

*Thank you for bearing with us as we have adjusted our Sorghum Notes schedule for the past two weeks. Because of staff travel, today's E-Notes will serve as your sorghum news source for last week as well as this week.*

## **International Conference on Sorghum for Biofuel Held in Houston**

The [International Conference on Sorghum for Biofuel](#) was a huge success last week in Houston, Texas with over 250 registrants in attendance. The Conference brought together researchers, industry representatives, entrepreneurs, private industry and government interests to explore and pursue the reality of next generation biofuels made from [sorghum](#).

On Tuesday, it was standing room only in the conference ballroom where experts talked about the scientific, agronomic and practical strengths and weaknesses of the future development of sorghum for biofuels. Much focus was placed specifically on sweet sorghum for near-term biofuels production and cellulosic sorghums for production in several years. On Wednesday, participants separated in to small breakout sessions to tackle issues specific to their expertise.

On Wednesday and Thursday, participants toured ethanol facilities and infrastructure in College Station, Texas at [Texas A&M University](#) and at Jennings, Louisiana where [Verenium](#) is working on a cellulosic conversion facility. The College Station tour featured in depth discussions about cellulosic and sweet sorghum agronomics as well as information about compacting sorghum silage in cotton module builders for transportation to ethanol plants. Texas A&M showed off the [Norman Borlaug Center for Southern Crop Improvement](#) and finished up with a tour of a pilot conversion plant where it converts cellulosic materials to a gasoline-like product. Verenium, another gracious tour host, allowed participants to view their cellulosic conversion technology plant.

Interest in up-and-coming sweet and cellulosic sorghum varieties has increased exponentially in the past several months and last week's event showed that biofuels from advanced sources like sorghum are garnering real support and attention from the international community.

Watch for Conference materials to be posted at <http://www.ars.usda.gov/meetings/Sorghum/> and visit our [blog](#) for event photos.

## **A New Blog to Accompany Our [New Site](#)**

In conjunction with the International Conference on Sorghum for Biofuel last week, NSP launched a new web log or "blog" to keep up with the day to day happenings in Houston. We will continue to utilize this blog to post photographs and keep you up to date on the latest news from the sorghum industry including production tips, research findings, event information, and more. Visit at [www.sorghumgrowers.blogspot.com](http://www.sorghumgrowers.blogspot.com).

## **Sorghum Field Days to be Held throughout the Sorghum Belt**

The USDA-ARS Germplasm Field Day will be held on Wednesday, August 27, 8:30 to noon at the Plant Stress and Water Conservation Lab in Lubbock, Texas. The field day will highlight various research programs involving sorghum and will feature updates on cold and drought tolerance and the sorghum genetic mutation population created for use in studying sorghum genetics.

On September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, the 2008 Great Plains Sorghum Conference will be held in Manhattan, Kansas. Talks will focus on ethanol production from sorghum, agronomic practices, new uses, and herbicide tolerance.

On the night of September 4th, the Nebraska Grain Sorghum Association 2008 Sorghum Hybrid Plot [Field Day](#) will be held in Chester, Nebraska between 5:00 and 8:00 PM and will showcase sorghum hybrids from various commercial seed companies and talks about CRP and the [National Sorghum Checkoff](#).

## **This Week in Sorghum Buzz**

If you've missed it thus far, our [new website](#) includes a [Sorghum Buzz](#) page which highlights the stories other people are writing about sorghum. Here are some highlights from the past week:

[08-24-08, Sorghum Field Day Planned at Chester, High Plains Journal](#)

[08-22-08, Tunisian Decision Could Dramatically Increase US Corn, Sorghum, and DDGS Exports, Grainnet](#)

[08-21-08, Sorghum: A Biofuel Alternative?, Voice of America](#)

[08-20-08, It's Standing Room Only at Sorghum Biofuel Gathering, Houston Chronicle](#)

[08-19-08, Sorghum's Potential in Alternative Fuel Production Discussed, AgNews](#)

[08-18-08, USDA and Chinese Ministry Sign Biofuels Agreement, Feedstuffs](#)

[08-18-08, USDA Conference Spotlights Sorghum's Biofuel Potential, USDA Agricultural Research](#)

[08-18-08, Searching for an Alternative Energy, Journal and Courier](#)

[08-16-08, Sweet Sorghum Gets a Squeeze, Lexington Herald-Leader](#)

[08-15-08, International Workshop on Sorghum for Biofuels in Houston, The Farmer-Stockman](#)

For a complete listing of this week's articles, go to <http://www.sorghumgrowers.com/Sorghum%20Buzz.html>.

## **Chinese Ministry and USDA Extend Support for Biofuels Research**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture signed an agreement with China's Ministry of Science and Technology to broaden cooperation on biofuels research, including more study of sorghum. The pact is an extension of a broad science and technology research-sharing accord dating to 1979.

## **84 Percent of Sorghum Crop Heading**

Eighty-four percent of sorghum acreage reached heading, eight percent behind last year and two percent behind the five-year average. Forty-six percent of the acreage was coloring, 10 percent behind last year and three percent behind the five-year average. In Colorado, the crop was coloring well ahead of last year and normal. All of the acreage in Louisiana had colored, and the majority of the crop had colored in Arkansas, Colorado, and Texas. Twenty-eight percent of the sorghum acreage reached maturity, one percent behind last year but the same as the five-year average. Maturation in Arkansas was 30 percent behind the five-year average. Producers had harvested 23 percent of the sorghum acreage, two percent ahead of last year and one percent ahead of normal. While harvest was just getting underway in Arkansas and Oklahoma, more than half of the crop had been cut in Louisiana and Texas. Sorghum condition was rated 53 percent good to excellent, one percent lower than last week.

## **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](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).*

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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:**

He can compress the most words into the smallest ideas of any man I ever met.

*-- Abraham Lincoln*

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