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SORGHUM E-Notes

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS Ensuring Sorghum's Profitability

July 10, 2008

Move Cattle off Critical Feed Use CRP

On May 27, 2008, a notice was issued by the Secretary of Agriculture allowing for certain CRP acreage to be available for Critical Feed Use hay and forage on July 1, 2008. A federal judge in Washington State has granted a temporary restraining order against the Critical Feed Use Program effective Tuesday, July 8, 2008 at 5:00 PM. This action is in response to a suit filed by the National Wildlife Federation who requested the restraining order saying that USDA simply didn't do its homework when it came to the impact of this program on wildlife habitats.

According to USDA, all persons must cease utilizing CRP for Critical Feed Use. However, if you are located in a county approved for emergency haying and grazing and operating under the Emergency Haying and Grazing Program, your status does not change. The Managed Haying and Grazing Program remains the same as well. Grazing or haying CRP in the Critical Feed Use Program will be considered unauthorized activity on CRP land until further notice. For more information or if you have questions, contact your County or State FSA Office.

Louisiana Moves Toward and Advanced Biofuels Industry

The Louisiana State Legislature has passed a bill that will encourage advanced biofuel industry development in that state. The parameters laid out in the bill would qualify sweet sorghum to be a feedstock for ethanol production.

The industry association 25x25 says the following about the bill's language: "The bill entails a so-called "field-to-pump strategy that calls for feedstock, other than corn, derived solely from Louisiana harvested crops, which are capable of an annual yield of at least 600 gallons of ethanol per acre, require no more than one-half of the water required to grow corn and are tolerant to high temperature and waterlogging. Feedstocks must also be resistant to drought and saline-alkaline soils; capable of being grown in marginal soils, ranging from heavy clay to light sand; require no more than one-third of the nitrogen required to grow corn (reducing the risk of water contamination) and require no more than one-half of the energy necessary to convert corn into ethanol."

USDA Issues Advance Direct Payments

This week USDA began distributing payments to producers who opted to receive a 22 percent advance payment upon enrollment in the Direct and Counter Cyclical Payment Program. The 2008 rate for grain sorghum is \$0.35 cents per bushel. Signup began June 25 and USDA cut the first checks on Monday, July 7. Final Direct Payments will be issued after October 8, 2008.

Almost All Sorghum in the Ground

Sorghum planting advanced to 97 percent complete, the same as last year and the 5-year average. Twenty-four percent of the sorghum crop was at or beyond the heading stage, 11 percent behind last year and two percent behind the 5-year average. Seventeen percent of the acreage reached coloring, seven percent behind last year and 1 percent behind the 5-

year average. Planting was complete in the Delta, Nebraska, and South Dakota. Planting in New Mexico was 13 percent behind the 5-year average planting pace, while elsewhere, planting was within 8 percent of normal.

Heading was significantly delayed in Arkansas, trailing last year's pace by 40 percent and the 5-year average by 33 percent. In Louisiana, however, dry conditions and near normal temperatures allowed the crop to develop 20 percent ahead of the average. Elsewhere, the crop was heading within 9 percent of the normal pace. Coloring had occurred in Colorado, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas acreage, but had not begun elsewhere. Sorghum condition was rated 51 percent good to excellent, a two percent increase from last week.

From: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/WWNatSumm/WWNatSumm-07-08-2008.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. 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. Copy and paste "Unsubscribe to Sorghum Notes" into the subject line.

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Quote of the Week:

"Truly successful decision making relies on a balance between deliberate and instinctive thinking."

Malcolm Gladwell, *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking*, 2005

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