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SORGHUM E-Notes

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS Ensuring Sorghum's Profitability

July 31, 2008

USA Today Highlights Sweet Sorghum

USA Today ran a story in today's issue highlighting the crop for ethanol production. Specifically, the story highlighted Global Renewable Energy's (GRE) efforts to build the nation's first sweet sorghum ethanol plant in central Florida. GRE has planted a five-acre test plot and eventually hopes to plant 10,000 acres of sweet sorghum to feed a new ethanol distillery. To read the entire article, click [here](#).

WTO Talks Collapse after Seven Years of Negotiation

Global trade negotiations in Geneva, Switzerland have broken down and been declared a failure for now after 7 years of on-again-off-again meetings. The U.S. had hoped that the talks would yield more open market access for American exports while others involved in the talks wanted decreased farm subsidies and to strengthen the international trading system.

"While we made good progress during the past week," said Ambassador Susan Schwab in a statement on Tuesday, "it is clear that despite our best efforts we will not be able to reach a breakthrough at this time."

The collapse comes as a blow after optimism about a tentative agreement abounded last Friday.

CFTC Transparency Bill Dies in the House

The House of Representative failed yesterday to pass a bill requiring expanded oversight of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. The bill was intended to provide greater transparency in the commodity market and reign in market manipulation through trading practices. A committee version of the bill passed the House Committee on Agriculture last week with bipartisan support.

NSP Staff Remains Active in Farm Bill Implementation

As USDA continues to hammer out rules for new Farm Bill programs, NSP staff remains involved in the rulemaking process. In the past week, NSP has worked with USDA to inform them of the importance of second-crop sorghum behind wheat or cotton being counted in SURE, the new disaster program. In addition, NSP has commented to USDA on the ACRE program in an effort to ensure that USDA implements farmer-friendly rules for sorghum producers.

Sorghum Crop Rated 51 Percent Good to Excellent

Forty-two percent of the national sorghum crop reached heading by week's end, 11 percent behind last year and four percent behind the five-year average. This week's heat wave in South Dakota kept heading 35 percent behind the average. Delays were evident in all states when compared with normal, except in Colorado and Louisiana, where heading was ahead of the average by 17 and three percent, respectively. Coloring, at 27 percent, was six percent behind last year

but one percent ahead of the five-year average. Arkansas' acreage lagged significantly behind the average, while Colorado's acreage was 29 percent ahead. In Louisiana, where development progressed 16 percent during the week, acreage was developing 15 percent ahead of the normal pace. Condition of the crop was 51 percent good to excellent, the same as last week.

From: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/WWNatSumm/WWNatSumm-07-29-2008.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:

I would rather fail in a cause that will ultimately triumph than triumph in a cause that will ultimately fail.

-- *Woodrow Wilson*

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