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SORGHUM E-Notes

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS Ensuring Sorghum's Profitability

May 8, 2008

National Sorghum Checkoff Clears USDA, To Begin Collections July 1

After two years of efforts by sorghum producers nationwide and the National Sorghum Producers Board of Directors, USDA announced on Tuesday that the Sorghum Promotion, Research and Information Order will begin collections on July 1, 2008. A final rule, the latest step in checkoff approval process, was published in the Federal Register on May 6, 2008.

NSP President Dale Murden is optimistic about the role a checkoff will play in the sorghum industry's future. "Now is the time to invest in sorghum," said Murden. "A National Sorghum Checkoff will leverage private industry investment while partnerships with public and private research and development operations will help bring technology to our fields."

Lloyd C. Day, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) commented on the next steps in the process of implementing a national checkoff. "Now that a final order has been published, a certification process will begin for organizations to become eligible to put forward names for the National Sorghum Checkoff Board," said Day. "USDA will then start accepting board nominations from these organizations and the Secretary of Agriculture will appoint directors to serve on the National Sorghum Checkoff Board."

The checkoff, when in effect, will collect .6 percent of the net market value for grain sorghum. Additionally, .35 percent of the net market value will be collected on forage sorghum, but only from first handlers who purchase over 5,000 tons of forage in a calendar year.

NSP CEO Tim Lust said that NSP will work proactively with sorghum handlers and producers to provide an efficient transition to a national checkoff. "Our goal is to make this as smooth a process as possible. We invite people to call our office if they have any questions."

For a fact sheet on the checkoff, click [here](#).

Farm Bill Conferees Agree

The Farm Bill Conference Committee has finally reached an agreement on all titles and issues in the bill and plans to file a conference report by the end of the week. For sorghum, the agreement includes key language requiring USDA to review how it sets price elections and reevaluate the current system with the input of the sorghum industry. The bill also includes an increase in the sorghum target price and incentives for cellulosic ethanol. The President has said that he will veto the agreed-upon farm package, but NSP leaders are working with their Congressional delegations to get enough votes for a veto-override. In meetings with principal negotiators, Bush said that members should "vote their districts."

Robstown Grain Company, Inc. Joins NSP as E-Member

NSP welcomes Robstown Grain Company, Inc. and owner Wayne Miller as its newest Elevator (E) Member! Robstown Grain is a new storage facility near Corpus Christi, Texas. By becoming an E-Member, Miller will become eligible to receive NSP's sorghum basis report, SORGHUM Grower magazine and weekly e-mail updates, and waive the

membership fee to enter the yield contest. There are now more than 165 participating e-member locations in Kansas, Texas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Colorado and Missouri. The e-member program is vital to NSP's ability to effectively work on legislative and regulatory issues of utmost importance to sorghum growers. To learn more about the program, please contact Christi Scherler at christi@sorghumgrowers.com or at (719) 688-4521. We appreciate the strong, ongoing support of all NSP members, e-members and industry partners.

Agriculture Visionary Passes Away

Delmar Glen "Bill" Nelson, 83, of Amarillo died Saturday, May 3, 2008. Bill was devoted to helping farmers and was the first executive of NSP. In December 1958, he initiated the first contract for the development of foreign markets for U.S. feed grains with the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service and the National Grain Sorghum Producers Association, which later transpired into the U.S. Feed Grains Council (now USGC.) He received such honors as Man of the Year in Agriculture and the "Visionary Award for Outstanding Leadership." He has been called the "Father of Overseas Market Development." Bill traveled to 65 countries and five continents, meeting with dignitaries and ambassadors and educating them on trade relations, transport issues, duties and tariffs, as well as U.S. and foreign trade policies. He was married to his wife Aillene for 50 years until she preceded him in death in 2003. The family suggests memorials to Courtney Holcomb Trust, in care of Tanya Schubert, 7501 Hasselt Court, Plano, TX 75085.

Texas Planting Surges Ahead while Arkansas Remains Far Behind Normal

Sorghum planting last week was two percent behind last year's planting pace but one percent ahead of normal. Growers had planted 29 percent of the forecasted U.S. sorghum acreage by the end of the week. Planting was notably delayed in Arkansas where producers, slowed by excessive rains, planted 31 percent of their crop by week's end, compared with 85 and 71 percent last year and normal, respectively. Elsewhere in the Delta, planting was 84 percent complete in Louisiana, just six percent behind last year. Even so, growers were planting the crop 13 percent ahead of the usual pace. In the southern Great Plains, Oklahoma's acreage was being planted 18 percent behind last year and 6 percent behind normal, while the pace in Texas advanced to 66 percent planted, 3 and 10 percent ahead of last year and average, respectively. Planting in the northern and central Great Plains had not yet gained the momentum needed to match or surpass the usual planting pace.

From: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/WWNatSumm/WWNatSumm-05-06-2008.pdf>

Sorghum Featured on House Smarts TV

A sorghum product called Kirei (kee-ray) Board was featured in a segment that ran last week on House Smarts TV, a syndicated home improvement television show. Kirei is made of sorghum stalks held together by adhesives. The board is manufactured in San Diego, CA and used in modern, environmentally friendly decorating. To view the segment, click [here](#).

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:

"No man who ever held the office of president would congratulate a friend on obtaining it." – **John Adams**

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