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## **SORGHUM E-Notes**

September 11, 2008

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

### **Deadline to Guarantee SURE Eligibility is Tuesday**

The deadline to guarantee eligibility for the 2008 SURE program is *this coming Tuesday*, September 16. A key for producers will be whether they are eligible after planting a second crop behind a failed first crop. If a producer put in a second crop, such as sorghum, behind a failed cotton or wheat crop, the producer will need to take a close look at eligibility. The determination of required buy-in fees will be based on the insurability or NAP eligibility of the crop on the sales closing deadline. Therefore, second crops must have coverage or have the buy-in fee collected in order for the producer to maintain SURE eligibility.

If the producer listed all crops, including second crops, on the summary of coverage, then the producer is considered to have coverage regardless of the indemnity election made by the producer. If all crops, including second crops, are not listed on the summary of coverage, then the producer is required to pay the buy-in fee in order to be eligible for SURE.

### **Kansas State University Herbicide-Resistant Sorghum Moving Forward**

Kansas State University has developed an herbicide-resistant sorghum. Kassim Al-Khatib, an agronomy researcher at Kansas State University spoke with KTKA news in Manhattan, Kansas about the project.

"We think that we can have this technology in the farmer's hand by 2011," said Al-Khatib. "The K-State approach is to get this technology on as many acres as possible, and in as many hands as possible, and with that we licensed this technology to most seed companies."

You can view the news report and read the story [here](#).

### **News on ACRE Implementation**

Deputy Agriculture Secretary Chuck Conner said Monday that although USDA plans to implement the new average crop revenue election program (ACRE) for the 2009 crop season, Bush administration officials have not decided whether to establish target prices using 2007-2008 crop prices or 2006-2007 crop prices. Using 2006-2007 prices would make the ACRE program less expensive.

Conner said the decision will be made in a timely manner, but he would not specify whether the announcement would be made before September 26, the day Congressional recess is scheduled. Most Farm Bill commodity programs should go into effect on dates by which farmers must plant crops in order to qualify for federal crop insurance, but Conner said details regarding the ACRE program would likely not be available before fall crops are planted.

The ACRE program provides payments to producers if the revenue for a crop within a state is less than the state's crop revenue guarantee and their individual farms experience a crop revenue loss during the same crop year.

National Sorghum Producers, along with other farm groups, signed a letter last week calling for USDA to use the 2007-2008 crop prices for ACRE.

## Presentations from Biofuels Conference Posted

Presentations given at the International Conference on Sorghum for Biofuel have been posted at this address:  
<http://www.ars.usda.gov/meetings/Sorghum/presentations.htm>.

## New on the NSP Website

The [NSP website](#) includes some new information this week. The [Quality Forage](#) page has been updated with information and media about the program. Additionally, we have added new clips to the [Audio News](#) page. Listen to Dan Smith talk about the Texas sorghum crop and hear clips recorded by Tony St. James of [KFLP](#) at the International Conference on Sorghum for Biofuel. This week, [Sorghum Buzz](#) includes the articles below.

[09-09-08, Range Fuels Taps Ceres for Grass to Gas Plans, Earth2Tech](#)  
[09-07-08, Sorghum Could be Biofuel Crop of the Future, The Maui News](#)  
[09-04-08, Grain Sorghum Producers Contend with Many Insect Pests, Southwest Farm Press](#)

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

## Cellulosic Ethanol Summit to be Held in November

NSP will once again serve as one of the key Supporting Organizations on behalf of Infocast's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cellulosic Ethanol Summit, November 17-19, 2008 at the Westin Colonnade Hotel in Coral Gables, Florida.

The Summit, which has generated capacity crowds at its previous two editions, is regarded as the finest cellulosic ethanol event of its kind in the nation. This year, the Summit will be held in Coral Gables, Florida. This year's event boasts a coalition of over 100 speakers, sponsors, supporting organizations and media partners. It will feature Keynote Addresses by two of the key players in the Florida's renewable energy arena: Jeremy L. Susac, the Executive Director of the Florida Energy and Climate Commission and Charles H. Bronson, the Commissioner of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Several of the hot-topic issues to be covered at the Summit include *The Biofuels Debate: Impacts on the Industry*, a progress report on *Feedstock Supply Lines* and the acceleration of *Commercialization & Financing of Industry Growth*. In addition, a Pre-Summit Briefing on Developing A Sustainable Cellulosic Ethanol Industry will be held on Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup>.

Members of NSP will receive a discount of over 30% on registration for both the Summit and the Pre-Summit Briefing. In addition, a discounted block of rooms has been reserved for the event at the Westin Colonnade Hotel in the amount of \$189 per night. To receive the special rate, call the hotel directly at (305) 441-2600 and mention that you are an Infocast/Cellulosic Ethanol Summit registrant.

For more information visit [www.infocastinc.com/cell08](http://www.infocastinc.com/cell08)

## Sorghum Harvest Moves North

Major sorghum areas received rainfall during the week. Temperatures were 10 degrees below average in much of Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

Nationwide, 93 percent of the crop reached heading, five percent behind last year and one percent behind the five-year average. A 10 percent delay in Oklahoma was the most significant delay when compared with other states. 64 percent of sorghum acreage reaching coloring, 16 percent behind last year and four percent behind the average. Kansas sorghum was developing 11 percent behind normal and Oklahoma sorghum was delayed 12 percent.

In Texas, the crop was coloring two percent ahead of the average. 34 percent of sorghum acreage reached maturity, six percent behind last year and three percent behind the five-year average. In Kansas and Oklahoma, development was

seven and five percent behind normal, respectively. 28 percent of the acreage was harvested, five percent behind last year and one percent behind the five-year average. Harvest in Texas was 65 percent complete, and was just getting underway in Oklahoma. Harvest had not begun in Kansas. The overall sorghum condition rating improved two percent from last week, reaching 53 percent good to excellent.

## **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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## **Quote of the Week:**

“Now, we have inscribed a new memory alongside those others. It’s a memory of tragedy and shock, of loss and mourning. But not only of loss and mourning: It’s also a memory of bravery and self-sacrifice, and the love that lays down its life for a friend—even a friend whose name it never knew.”

*- President George W. Bush, December 11, 2001*

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