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SORGHUM E-Notes

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NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:
the voice of the sorghum industry

Time to Send in Yield Contest Entries!

The National Sorghum Producers annual Yield Contest is well underway this year and it's time to fill out your entry forms and send them to NSP. Regular entries to the contest must be postmarked at least 30 days prior to harvest of the contest plot, and express entries must be sent via overnight delivery at least 10 days prior to harvest of the contest acreage. Each contestant must be a member of NSP at the time of entry and judging but you can include your membership form in the same envelope as your entry. Contestants can enter one of five different contest divisions, and prizes will be awarded at the county, state, and national levels. Two bin-buster award winners will receive \$250 each. National winners in each category will be invited to a very special awards dinner with the NSP Board of Directors at Commodity Classic. For official Yield Contest rules and entry forms visit: <http://www.sorghumgrowers.com/Yield%20Contest.html>.

Despite Economic Trouble, Agriculture Strong

The Farm Credit system remains "healthy" according to Mark Keenum, Agriculture Undersecretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services. Keenum said the system was stable during prepared statements before his confirmation hearing to be a member of the board of the Farm Credit Administration, the system's regulator.

"With the turmoil our nation is currently facing in the financial markets coupled with the historic uncertainties of the agricultural economy," said Keenum, "it is more imperative today than ever to ensure that the Farm Credit Administration continues its diligence of a strong surveillance system in its regulatory and examination challenges."

Later in the day, the Farm Banks Credit Funding Corp., the issuer and marketer of the system's debt, released a statement saying that the agriculture economy is also solid and that "the financial position of the system, including its capital levels and credit quality, is strong, supporting the system's AAA credit rating."

USGC Mission Participants See Market Potential

Troy Skarke, U.S. Grains Council (USGC) Sorghum Sector Chair is optimistic about the future of sorghum exports to the EU. "There is tremendous long-term opportunity for U.S. sorghum to be exported into Europe because end-users will have better access to sorghum, know how to use it due to ongoing education efforts and will build it into their rations at high inclusion rates," said Skarke.

Short term, Skarke does not expect to see the volume of sorghum going to the EU that U.S. producers experienced last year. "In the EU, sorghum is priced against feed wheat from Ukraine," he said. "They use that feed wheat in their rations because there is such a massive amount available and it is less expensive than U.S. sorghum. Until that supply is exhausted, I don't expect the EU to import as much sorghum from the U.S."

Skarke was one of several sorghum producers who recently travelled to Europe to promote U.S. sorghum as a feedgrain to EU end users. While in Europe, two different groups sponsored by the U.S. Grains Council hosted educational workshops on sorghum use and met with various industries to promote sorghum.

RFA Ads Highlight People and Places

The Renewable Fuels Association has launched a new television advertising campaign to highlight the people and places affected by ethanol production. They begin in Hereford, Texas, which is home to two new ethanol plants. Both videos can be seen by visiting our blog at www.sorghumgrowers.blogspot.com.

Sorghum Harvest in Delta & Southern Great Plains

Sorghum coloring reached 80 percent of the sorghum acreage, 16 percent behind last year and six percent behind the five-year average. Coloring was complete in the Delta and in Colorado, at or ahead of the average pace. In New Mexico, though not complete, coloring was ahead of the average pace. Elsewhere, acreage was coloring behind normal. Forty-three percent of the acreage was mature, 17 percent behind last year and nine percent behind the five-year average. In Illinois, sorghum acreage was developing to maturity 57 percent behind the average pace. Thirty-two percent of the crop was harvested, nine percent behind last year and four percent behind the five-year average. Sorghum harvest was underway in the Delta and the southern Great Plains. Sorghum condition was rated 53 percent good to excellent, a one percent decline from last week.

From: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/WWNatSumm/WWNatSumm-09-23-2008.pdf>

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. 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.*

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Quote of the Week:

America believes in education: the average professor earns more money in a year than a professional athlete earns in a whole week.

Evan Esar (1899 - 1995)

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