

4201 N Interstate 27
Lubbock, Texas 79403
Telephone: (806) 749-3478
Fax: (806) 749-9002
www.sorghumgrowers.com

SORGHUM E-Notes

April 9, 2009

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:

the voice of the sorghum industry

NSP Represents Sorghum Farmers in Climate Change Discussion

The House Committee on Agriculture recently distributed a detailed [survey](#) to farm and commodity organizations, asking for feedback on climate change policy, which will be a major focus of Congress when they return from spring recess. The National Sorghum Producers is working to complete the survey, focusing on representing farmers' interests in the climate change debate.

The Obama Administration has stated that a cap-and-trade system to mitigate climate change will be a major priority during the next four years. Under a cap-and-trade system, high emitting industries will be capped at a maximum amount of carbon they can release and will have to purchase additional carbon credits from farmers or low-emitting industries. Since soils and plants are two of only a few major "sinks" of carbon, farmers will have a stake in all climate change debate. Farmers should have a voice in the climate change discussion and should be fairly compensated for carbon-saving, environmentally friendly production practices. NSP will continue to represent sorghum producers, informing Congress of sorghum's low-input, water sipping qualities.

NSP Works to Resolve Concerns about Grading Sorghum on Odor

NSP met this week in Kansas City with the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS), United Sorghum Checkoff Program (USCP) and grain shipping representatives to resolve concerns about grading sorghum on odor. The groups will be working together to develop a definition for sorghum odor that includes clear guidelines on how to distinguish natural odor in sorghum. More information will be coming soon as the groups work across the industry to ensure that sorghum farmers receive a fair price for the high quality crop they grow.

Crop Insurance May Escape Major Budget Cuts

Congress is in spring recess but before leaving Washington, both the House and Senate attempted to reduce proposed cuts to crop insurance funding while crafting their versions of the budget. The Senate budget plan would reduce spending on crop insurance by \$70 million per year for five years. In the House budget, crop insurance funding would remain intact. The two versions of the bill will have to be reconciled before the House and Senate can compromise on and pass a final budget. NSP will be working to ensure that agriculture does not take the large, across-the-board budget cuts first recommended by the White House. The Administration had originally recommended a \$500 million-per-year cut in the crop insurance budget.

Study Determines E20 Has No Negative Effect on Vehicle Systems

Research conducted by the Minnesota Center for Automotive Research at Minnesota State University, Mankato has determined that increasing the amount of ethanol blended into gasoline from 10 percent to 20 percent causes no significant changes in performance of vehicle fuel systems, and may in fact reduce wear on fuel pumps when compared to gasoline.

The study looked at eight models of fuel pumps representing a variety of manufacturers, model years, common vehicles and designs. The study also examined the effect of E20 on nine different makes and models of sending units. Three of each identical unit were tested for 4,000 hours using gasoline, E10 and E20. Ultimately, the study found that using E20 did not have any greater negative effects than gasoline or E10 on the fuel pumps. The study is available [here](#).

USCP Hires Compliance Director

The [United Sorghum Checkoff Program](#) (USCP) recently welcomed Sue Ann Claudon of Burleson, Texas as Compliance Director for the USCP. Claudon will be working with first handlers to ensure they are aware of all checkoff rules and regulations and act in accordance with them. She will also be working with USCP staff to ensure compliance with USDA reporting regulations. In her previous position as the General Manager for Dairy MAX, Inc., she was responsible for the increased demand for dairy products in the Dairy MAX area by executing an industry-wide, market-driven business plan, investing resources in a strategic manner and providing the best possible economic advantage to dairy farmers. Sue Ann has strong experience with USDA, having served as an Agricultural Marketing Specialist at the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards administration. She was responsible for enforcement and compliance of Packers and Stockyards Act and regulations for auction markets, market agencies, meat packers, poultry dealers and livestock dealers.

Nebraska Sorghum Board Schedules Meeting

The Nebraska Grain Sorghum Board has scheduled a public meeting for Friday, April 17, 2009. The meeting will convene at 9:00 AM in the Department of Agriculture's Platte Conference Room located on fourth floor of the Nebraska State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE. More information is available by emailing sorghum.board@nebraska.gov or by calling the Nebraska Grain Sorghum Board at (402) 471-4276.

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.* If you have questions about the sorghum industry or the National Sorghum Producers, please do not hesitate to call NSP at (800) 658-9808.

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Sorghum Partners, Inc.
P.O. Box 189, New Deal, TX 79350
Phone: (800) 645-7478 Fax: (806) 746-5305
Website: www.sorghum-partners.com
E-mail: information@sorghum-partners.com

Quote of the Week:

Punctuality is the virtue of the bored.
-- Evelyn Waugh

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