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SORGHUM E-Notes

August 13, 2009

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:

the voice of the sorghum industry

ACRE Sign Up Deadline August 14, 2009

The sign up deadline for the Average Crop Revenue Assistance Program (ACRE) is *this* Friday, August 14. Find out how it can work for your farming operation. Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico have state payments available if the individual producer qualifies. For more information and assistance, it's helpful to download the state specific calculators from our Home page at www.sorghumgrowers.com or you may contact Chris Cogburn at 806-239-1434 or chris@sorghumgrowers.com.

NSP Meets With New USDA Under Secretary of Research, Education and Economics

Rajiv Shah M.D. was recently named the new Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics and Chief Scientist in the Department of Agriculture. NSP contacted Secretary Shah in order to inform him about the importance of research to agriculture. Secretary Shah met with NSP yesterday and requested NSP forward foremost research concerns. The importance of the amount of available public funds for small acreage crops like sorghum was also discussed. Secretary Shah previously worked for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation where a significant amount of his research entailed sorghum and sweet sorghum along with the low water use quality sorghum has. NSP will continue to work with Secretary Shah in order to improve funding and research for agriculture.

Farm Bill Requires Changes for the Conservation Stewardship Program

The USDA recently held a meeting with groups interested in the Conservation Security Program, now referred to as the Conservation Stewardship Program as of July 31. These groups were reminded the Farm Bill made significant changes to the CSP. Not only will program tiers change but enrollment eligibility will also be different in order to reach 2009 Farm Bill goals. NSP is following this program closely and will keep our members informed. We encourage members to take a much closer look into the program and talk with your local National Resources Conservation Service office.

Congress in Recess

Both the House and Senate offices are in August recess, but expect a busy return on September 8 with the scheduled completion of appropriation bills, climate change, food safety and health care. NSP encourages its members to keep a watchful eye at local meetings for sorghum issues.

Field Days Provide Essential Information

Want to learn about what's new in your area? Attend a field day. These information sessions are free and provide you with the opportunity to learn about something new and innovating. Locations, dates and times can be found by contacting your county extension agent or contact NSP's Member Services Director Matt Splitter at 785-531-0887 or USCP's Field Services Director Dusti Fritz at 785-564-0299. Some field days can also be seen under the upcoming meetings and events section of the newsletter.

Sorghum is Making Slow Progress

Heading advanced to 61 percent complete by week's end, one percent behind last year and nine percent behind the five-year average. Coloring crept forward just two percent during the week, leaving progress, at 33 percent complete, two percent behind last year and one percent behind normal. Progress was behind average pace in all States except Colorado, Louisiana, and Texas where above average temperatures have aided crop development. 27 percent of the crop was mature, compared with 26 percent last year and 25 percent for the average. Crop maturity was limited to Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas. Overall, 49 percent of the sorghum crop was rated in good to excellent condition, down slightly from last week and a year ago. Taken from <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1573>

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Aug. 17-18** National Sorghum Producers Board Meeting, *Sorghum Headquarters, Lubbock, TX*
- Aug. 18-20** Dakota Fest, *Schlaffman Farm, Mitchell, SD*
- Aug. 18** Kansas State University Fall Field Day, *Scandia, KS*
- Aug. 19** Southeast Area Field Day, *Ottawa, KS*
- Aug. 20** Dean Lee Research & Extension Station Field Day, Louisiana State University Ag Center, *Alexandria, LA*
- Sept. 9** Nebraska GSPA and Grain Sorghum Board Variety Plot Field Day, *Lawrence, NE*
- Sept. 12** Carleton Milo Days, *Carleton, Nebraska*
- Sept. 15-17** Husker Harvest Days, *Grand Island, Nebraska*

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.

SORGHUM Notes is sponsored by:

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Quote of the Week:

"We're looking at a perfect storm of damage to the family farm. I'm not sure we could face tougher times."

~Carolyn Orr

Interested in Sponsorship Opportunities?

Call NSP at (800) 658-9808 to learn more.