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SORGHUM E-Notes

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NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:
the voice of the sorghum industry

Yield and Management Contest Results are In!

The National Sorghum Producers (NSP) Yield and Management Contest results have been released! Are you a national winner? Take a look below:

Little B Farms of Texas in the Reduced-Till Irrigated category with a yield of 210.45; Mark Clancy Farms of Oklahoma in the No-Till Non-Irrigated category with a yield of 175.15; F Three Inc. of Nebraska in the Mulch-Till Non-Irrigated category with a yield of 188.61; Ray Haseloff of Texas in the Conventional-Till Non-Irrigated category with a yield of 140.94; Greg Methvin, Irrigated Bin Buster Award winner, of Texas in the Conventional-Till Irrigated category with a yield of 216.14; Duane L. Vorderstrasse of Nebraska in the Irrigated National Food-Grade category with a yield of 172.84; Michael G. Fischer of Nebraska in the Non-Irrigated National Food-Grade category with a yield of 170.79; Chris Robinson Farms of Kentucky won the Non-Irrigated Bin Buster Award with a yield of 196.92.

NSP's yield contest recognizes the best growers in the nation. Therefore, this year's winners will be honored at Commodity Classic 2010, March 4-6 in Anaheim, Calif. with an awards dinner sponsored by Pioneer. Contest winners include county, state and national honorees who topped the contest in one of five production categories.

[This year's results](#) will also be printed in the Winter issue of *Sorghum Grower* magazine along with more details about Commodity Classic 2010.

NSP Partners with NREL to Host Pilot Run with Sorghum

NSP toured the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) Monday to witness a pilot test at its facilities. The test showcased NREL's research of three years with bioenergy sorghum and demonstrated the conversion process to cellulosic ethanol. The pilot test was made possible by the DOE grant obtained through NSP's efforts.

Terry Swanson, Vice Chairman of the NSP Board of Directors and a sorghum producer from Walsh, Colo., said he is pleased with the NREL research because of its potential nationwide impact on the sorghum industry. "NSP is excited to be working with NREL analyzing the feasibility and sustainability of using sorghum as a biomass source for renewable energy," he said. "Renewable energy will play a critical

role in the future of our nation's quest for energy independence, and the work NREL is doing will help the sorghum industry establish itself as a major contributor to that cause."

After working to secure the research dollars, NSP collaborated with NREL to provide almost 100 different sorghum samples for testing, eventually choosing two for pilot testing. The resulting data shows that high biomass forage sorghum demonstrates great potential to fit into cellulosic ethanol conversion. Among those in attendance at the event were the United Sorghum Checkoff Program (USCP) Board of Directors along with special guests such as Colorado Department of Agriculture Commissioner John Stulp. NREL's early but vital research proves the potential for energy sorghum to enter farm production plans across the U.S. as commercial scale technology becomes available. NSP is grateful to NREL, DOE and the Colorado Department of Agriculture, including Commissioner Stulp, for all their efforts to further this important work.

USDA to Perform Further Analysis of House Climate Change Bill

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack spoke about climate change legislation while in Copenhagen, Denmark this week for the global climate change talks. Earlier in the week, he announced that USDA will conduct a more detailed analysis of the House-passed Waxman-Markey climate bill in the next week. He said the current analysis of the bill shows "that it will be a net gain for America's producers." Vilsack explained that farm expenses would increase by \$700 million from 2012 to 2018, but that carbon offset revenues would counteract these expenses by earning \$1 billion per year, potentially increasing to \$15 billion by 2040.

However, Vilsack had this to say about the USDA economic model: "I think there are other models that are more current and complete, that might lead to significantly, and will be significantly, different conclusions."

Neb. Senator Mike Johanns (R-NE), former Secretary of Agriculture, replied to Vilsack's comment saying the Secretary has already damaged the credibility of the analysis. "The Secretary of Agriculture is discrediting his own department's study even before it is released to the public, just two weeks after his chief economist testified before Congress," he said. "It is hard to understand how the Administration's point person for agriculture could support putting 59 million acres of pasture and cropland in jeopardy because other models 'might' lead to different conclusions about the impact on agriculture. I have worked closely with and respect USDA's chief economist, but it appears he has uncovered a truth that is inconvenient for this Administration."

Click [here](#) to read USDA's 28-page report, "The Effects of Climate Change on U.S. Ecosystems."

Disaster Relief for Nation's Farmers at a Standstill

After Senate Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) partnered with Senators Thad Cochran (R-MS) and Roger Wicker (R-MS) last month to introduce disaster assistance for farmers, two other lawmakers tried to do the same this month. Congressmen Marion Barry (D-AR) and Travis Childers (D-MS) submitted a \$2.2 billion agriculture disaster package to the 2010 Defense Appropriations bill, but were denied. The reason for the denial is because the House will only consider disaster assistance for farmers if the Senate approves it first.

Disaster assistance is currently stalled and no formal reports about its progress have been released, but it is not likely with so many other things on the legislative agenda, that the bill will gain momentum in the near future.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

We are updating our online listing of field days, fairs, farm shows, meetings and events. [Please visit for the latest information.](#)

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 Web site 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 alexis@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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Quote of the Week:

"Men of genius are meteors destined to burn themselves out in lighting up their age."
--Napoleon Bonaparte

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