

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

SORGHUM E-Notes

January 15, 2009

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:
the voice of the sorghum industry

Sorghum Acreage Expands Nationwide

A nationwide jump in sorghum acreage was reflected in Monday's National Ag Statistics Service (NASS) Crop Production 2008 Summary. The annual survey of the year's crop numbers reported that sorghum farmers planted 8.28 million acres, up seven percent from 2007. Producers harvested 7.27 million acres, also up seven percent from 2007.

Grain production for 2008 was estimated at 472 million bushels, up two percent from the November forecast, but five percent below 2007. The 2008 average grain yield, at 65.0 bushels per acre, is up 2.0 bushels from the previous forecast but down 8.2 bushels from last year's record grain sorghum yields.

Sorghum silage also fared well in 2008 as producers planted 408,000 acres, a 16,000 acre increase over 2007. Silage yield and production also improved in 2008, increasing production from 5.24 million tons in 2007 to 5.64 million tons in 2008.

Lucas Ranking Member of Ag Committee

Oklahoma Representative Frank Lucas has assumed the position of Ranking Member of the House Committee on Agriculture. Lucas was sworn in last Tuesday with the beginning of the 111th Congress. He succeeds Rep. Bob Goodlatte of Virginia who served as the ranking Republican on the committee for the past six years including four as Chairman.

A lifelong farmer from Oklahoma, Lucas said, "I have lived the real world challenges farmers face across the country. I will continue to be a strong voice for rural America and, in particular, for production agriculture." Lucas will work side by side with Minnesota's Collin Peterson, who will continue to serve as House Ag Committee Chair.

Advanta and Arcadia Biosciences to Develop Nitrogen Use Efficient Sorghum

Advanta and Arcadia Biosciences today announced completion of a research and commercial development agreement for the development of Nitrogen Use Efficient (NUE) sorghum. Under terms of the agreement, Advanta receives exclusive global rights to the use of Arcadia's NUE technology in sorghum. Arcadia receives an upfront payment, milestone payments and a share of commercial sales.

"While it does not have as much widespread visibility as other grain crops, sorghum is an extremely important global crop, and its importance will continue to grow as a function of the increasing interest in biofuels. Development of NUE sorghum varieties can help farmers who produce sorghum for feed or fuel to farm more efficiently, cost-effectively and in a way that's better for our global environment," said Eric Rey, president and CEO of Arcadia.

Attend Nebraska Sorghum Cropping Profitability Seminars

Annual Sorghum Cropping Profitability Seminars, organized by The Nebraska Grain Sorghum Producers Association (NeGSPA) and Nebraska Grain Sorghum Board, will be held at three locations January 20–22, 2009. The program each day will run from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM. The meetings, supported by the University of Nebraska and Kansas State University Extension Service, will be held the following dates and locations:

Tuesday, January 20 at the Saline Center at Hwy 15 & County Road M;
Wednesday, January 21 at the 4-H Building in Deshler;
Thursday, January 22 at the Ag Center at the Franklin County Fair Grounds in Franklin, NE.

For more information, contact your local Cooperative Extension Education Coordinator or the Nebraska Grain Sorghum Board/NeGSPA office at 402/471-4276 or email: sorghum.board@nebraska.gov.

United Sorghum Checkoff Program Announces Position Openings

The USCP has posted announcements for the positions of Executive Director and Field Services Director. Job descriptions and postings are available at www.sorghumcheckoff.com.

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:

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:

Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things.
-- Peter F. Drucker

Interested in Sponsorship Opportunities?

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