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SORGHUM E-Notes

July 30, 2009

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:

the voice of the sorghum industry

NASS to Resurvey Sorghum Acres

USDA announced last week that the National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) will resurvey seven states for sorghum and corn acres to ensure accurate acreage reporting. Illinois and Missouri will be resurveyed for sorghum acres while Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Missouri and North Dakota will be resurveyed for corn acres.

NSP to Hold ACRE Decision Workshops

The signup deadline for the Average Crop Revenue Assistance Program (ACRE) is August 14th. Find out how it can work for your farming operation! NSP's Strategic Business Director Chris Cogburn will host four information sessions around the country next week.

Each session will examine your individual farm records and determine if ACRE is right for you. 2009 wheat information will be used to calculate an estimated 2009 wheat ACRE payment while accounting for the interaction between ACRE and SURE. Learn whether your 2009 wheat ACRE payment will be large enough to offset the 20 percent reduction in direct payments on all your base acres.

Take time to sit down with Chris and work through possibilities for your individual operation. Information sessions will be held August 5-10 from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the following locations:

August 5 Hobart, Oklahoma

Western Technology Center Conference Room, 1000 S. Bailey

August 6 Enid, Oklahoma

Oklahoma Grain and Feed Association Conference Room, 2309 N. 10th St., Suite D

August 7 Perryton, Texas

Old VFW Building, located just south of the Expo Center, 402 Expo Dr. (Leatherman Park)

August 10 Melrose, New Mexico

Melrose Grain, 205 E. Denby St.

Please tell your neighbors about these sessions! If you need additional information, feel free to contact Chris Cogburn at 806-239-1434 or chris@sorghumgrowers.com. State-specific ACRE spreadsheets are posted on the home page of our website at www.sorghumgrowers.com. [Please click here to visit our website for a list of resources you will need to bring to the workshop.](#)

FSA to Accept Application for New Biomass Crop Assistance Program

USDA Farm Service Agency Administrator Jonathan Coppess yesterday announced that biomass conversion facilities can begin signing up to participate in the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP), which will help increase production of renewable energy. The program, authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, provides financial assistance to producers who deliver eligible material to biomass conversion facilities and FSA will provide financial assistance to collect, harvest, store and transport eligible materials.

“This program will benefit producers, the developing biomass industry, the general public and the environment as we continue working to expand production and availability of renewable energy,” said Coppess. “Owners of eligible material can receive financial assistance for delivering qualified biomass to conversion facilities that use biomass for heat, power, bio-based products or advanced biofuels.”

Biomass conversion facilities and material owners or producers should contact their FSA state offices or visit www.fsa.usda.gov for more information. FSA will begin accepting applications from biomass facilities interested in participating in BCAP.

NSP has been closely involved with implementation of the BCAP program since it was passed as part of the 2008 Farm Bill, testifying at a hearing on the program’s rules in June. NSP will submit comments about future rulemaking for the program before the August 11 deadline.

SICNA Meeting to be Held in Amarillo, Texas

The annual Sorghum Improvement Conference of North America (SICNA) meeting will be held in conjunction with the United Sorghum Checkoff Program meeting in Amarillo next week. SICNA’s meeting will highlight sorghum research activities around the country through field demonstrations, tours and presentations at a two day event being held in Amarillo, Texas, August 10-12. Research highlights will focus on breeding, management, utilization, pest and diseases, and biotechnology. This meeting is also affiliated with the Great Plains Sorghum Initiative and is conducted each year at various locations around the sorghum belt.

If you are interested in attending the meeting, please contact USCP Research Director Jeff Dahlberg at 806-687-8727 or jeff@sorghumcheckoff.com so an accurate head count can be made for proper accommodations. A final revised schedule will be posted to the website at the beginning of next week. www.sorghumgrowers.com

Changes in Sorghum Development Nationwide

Heading advanced to 38 percent complete, four percent behind last year and eight percent behind the five-year average. The biggest delays were evident in Illinois and Missouri, where soggy fields earlier in the season slowed planting progress. Sorghum coloring reached 29 percent complete, on par with progress a year ago and one percent ahead of normal. Missouri’s crop began turning color during the week, slightly behind the normal pace. After advancing 33 points during the week, the crop in Louisiana was 15 percent ahead of normal. Overall, 52 percent of the sorghum crop was rated in good to excellent condition, down two percent from last week, but up one percent from last year. In Texas, insect pressure stressed the crop in the Southern High Plains.

Taken from <http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/index.asp>

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Aug. 6** Agriculture media bioenergy sorghum field day, Texas A&M University, *College Station, TX*
- Aug. 10-12** Sorghum Improvement Conference of North America (SICNA) Research Meeting, *Amarillo, TX*
- Aug. 13-14** United Sorghum Checkoff Program Board Meeting, *Drury Inn, Amarillo, TX*
- Aug. 17-18** National Sorghum Producers Board Meeting, *Sorghum Headquarters, Lubbock, TX*
- Aug. 19** Southeast Area Field Day, *Ottawa, Kansas*
- Aug. 20** Dean Lee Research & Extension Station Field Day, Louisiana State University Ag Center, *Alexandria, LA*
- 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:

"It's not the voting that's democracy; it's the counting."
~ Tom Stoppard

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