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SORGHUM E-Notes

July 9, 2009

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:

the voice of the sorghum industry

NSP Mourns the Loss of Jack Eberspacher

The National Sorghum Producers mourns the loss of its former Executive Director, Jack Eberspacher, who passed away peacefully in his sleep on Sunday, July 5, 2009. He was on indefinite medical leave from his position as President and CEO of the Ag Retailers Association after a cancer diagnosis in late April.

“Jack was our colleague and dear friend,” said Tim Lust, NSP CEO. “His leadership carried this organization both through rough patches and tremendous growth. He cast a remarkable vision for NSP and never let the organization stray from its farmer members and the basics.”

Jack is survived by his wife, Jinger, and his children Sam and Maggie. Friends of Jack Eberspacher have set up an educational trust for his children. Please make checks payable to the Sam and Maggie Eberspacher Educational Trust. Memorials may be mailed to:

Bank of America, N.A.
c/o Carolyn F. Grant-Suttie
8300 Greensboro Drive
Suite 500
McLean, VA 22102

A memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, July 11, at 2:30 p.m., at the Vienna Presbyterian Church in Vienna, Virginia. A reception will be held at the church immediately following the service. The church is located at 124 Park Street, NE. [Click here](#) for driving directions and parking locations near the church. Those wishing to attend the memorial service can obtain more information about travel and lodging [here](#).

NSP Works to Secure Research Funds for Sorghum Improvement

The National Sorghum Producers on Tuesday announced that Senator Sam Brownback of Kansas has secured \$1 million dollars in research funding for sorghum in the Senate committee version of the ag appropriations bill. The money will go to support the Great Plains Sorghum Improvement and Utilization Initiative, a joint sorghum research initiative between Kansas State University, Texas Tech University and Texas A&M University. In cooperation with one another, the three universities will use the funding to work on plant breeding and genetic improvement, new uses, economics, education, plant stress, and agronomic issues including water use and weed control.

“Senator Brownback has proven himself a real champion for this industry through his dedication to making sure this research project was funded,” said Ken Georg of Sabetha, Kansas, a member of the NSP Board of Directors.

Meanwhile, NSP remains involved in the agriculture appropriations process, working to secure funding for the Ag Research Service at Lubbock, Texas and sorghum projects underway at Bushland, Texas. NSP will actively participate in all aspects of the appropriations process through completion, focusing on maintaining and increasing research dollars for sorghum improvement that is meaningful to producers.

FSA Administrator Resigns

Farm Service Agency Administrator Doug Caruso announced his resignation this week from the post he has held less than four months. In a statement, Caruso said he and Administration officials had divergent views on how best to accomplish goals of service to farmers and FSA employees. His statement said the job was “not what I expected.” He said the differences made him “a bad fit for the position and, given the reality, the most constructive thing I could do was step aside to make way for USDA leaders to appoint someone more in synch with their vision.”

Jonathan Coppess, former Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs and aide to Senator Ben Nelson of Nebraska, is serving as Acting FSA Administrator. Plans to replace Caruso have not yet been announced.

Planting Nears Completion

Planting was nearly complete, with 97 percent of this year’s sorghum crop in the ground, one percent ahead of last year and the five-year average. Heading advanced three percent during the week to 26 percent complete, one percent ahead of last year, but one percent behind the average. Above average temperatures allowed for rapid development in the Delta states of Arkansas and Louisiana. Driven mostly by the crop in Texas, coloring had reached 20 percent complete by week’s end, one percent ahead of last year and on par with the five-year average. Overall, 51 percent of the crop was rated in good to excellent condition, down slightly from last week, but on par with a year ago.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- July 17-22** U.S. Grains Council and United Sorghum Checkoff Program Marketing Meeting, *San Diego, CA*
- July 23** Oklahoma Sorghum Commission and Association Meeting, *Goodwell, OK*
- August 11-12** Sorghum Improvement Conference of North America (SICNA) Research Meeting, *Amarillo, TX*
- August 13-14** United Sorghum Checkoff Program Board Meeting, *Drury Inn, Amarillo, TX*
- August 17-18** National Sorghum Producers Board Meeting, *Sorghum Headquarters, Lubbock, TX*

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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Quote of the Week:

“Nothing is as simple as we hope it will be.”
-- Jim Horning, a computer programmer

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