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SORGHUM E-Notes

June 4, 2009

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:

the voice of the sorghum industry

National Sorghum Producers Develops ACRE/Ghost Crop/SURE Calculator

The interactions between the new ACRE program, SURE program and crop insurance are varied and complex. With that in mind, the National Sorghum Producers and its subsidiary, Sustainable Crop Insurance Services, have developed a spreadsheet for calculating your benefits under the three programs. The calculator was developed specifically for the state of Oklahoma after widespread freezing in wheat presented questions about whether or not a crop planted after failed wheat is considered ghost or double crop for insurance and commodity program purposes. The calculator is available on our website at www.sorghumgrowers.com.

Pelosi Reverses Course and Places June 19 Deadline on Committees

After major cap-and-trade climate change legislation passed the House Energy and Commerce Committee last month, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said she would not place a deadline on other Committee action. Pelosi, who has called climate change her "flagship issue", said that the bill would go to the floor "when it was ready." However, late yesterday, she changed course and said all committee action must be completed by June 19. That deadline could allow the bill to make it to the House floor before Summer Recess which begins at the end of the month.

The House Committee on Agriculture and House Ways and Means Committee both have jurisdiction over the bill and have expressed interest in marking up the legislation before it goes to the House floor. Agriculture Chairman Collin Peterson has threatened to kill the bill if it is not revised to include agriculture interests. He said this week that he will not sign off on the bill until the Agriculture Committee is allowed to write all language related to agriculture and until indirect land use issues in the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS-2) are resolved.

Several farm groups expressed their concerns to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi yesterday regarding the climate change legislation. The groups said changes will need to be made to the bill in the interest of agriculture in order for them to show support. It is also important to agricultural interests that USDA handles the projects rather than the Environmental Protection Agency.

The National Sorghum Producers has serious concerns about this bill and is working closely with the House Agriculture Committee to ensure agriculture interests are represented. It is vital that the bill include significant offsets for agricultural conservation practices as this legislation will significantly raise energy and input prices for farmers.

NSP Welcomes New Member Services Director

The National Sorghum Producers is pleased to welcome Matt Splitter as its new Member Services Director. Splitter will manage the Elevator Member Program, Industry Partner Program and other membership activities of the national association. Splitter follows former Member Services Director Shelee Padgett as she transitions to serve the sorghum industry in field services for the United Sorghum Checkoff Program.

Splitter is a graduate of Kansas State University with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural, specializing in Agriculture Communications and Agriculture Economics. Splitter was raised on his family's farm near Lorraine, Kansas. He was

previously employed as a Customer Service Representative for Fontanelle Hybrids and will be based in Manhattan, Kansas.

NSP Active on Energy Issues Affecting Sorghum Growers

Next week, NSP Chairman of the Board Toby Bostwick will testify at a hearing on the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS-2). His testimony before the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Washington, D.C. will reinforce the importance of carefully analyzing sorghum for its agronomic and environmental benefits and including grain, sweet and forage sorghum in rulemaking for the RFS-2.

NSP Communications Director Hannah Lipps testified this week at a USDA public hearing on the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP), a new farm bill program that will support producers in developing biomass crops for cellulose-based ethanol production. NSP's testimony supported implementing the program, considering the impacts of forage crops on local water supplies and targeting the program toward producers who will be planting sustainable, dedicated energy crops.

Nebraska Grain Sorghum Board Schedules Public Meeting

The Nebraska Grain Sorghum Board has scheduled a public meeting for Wednesday, June 17, 2009. The meeting will convene at 9:00 AM in the Department of Agriculture's Platte Conference Room located on fourth floor of the Nebraska State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE.

A copy of the agenda is available by contacting Barbara Kliment at sorghum.board@nebraska.gov or by calling (402) 471-4276.

Added Soil Moisture in Illinois Delays Planting

Fifty-seven percent of the sorghum acreage was planted, four percent ahead of last year, but one percent behind the five-year average. Planting in Illinois was more than a month behind, due to the abundance of soil moisture. However, planting was well ahead of last year and the average in New Mexico.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- June 5** National Sorghum Producers Board Meeting Conference Call, *Lubbock, Texas*
- June 8-12** Environmental Protection Agency Hearing and Workshop on RFS-2, *Washington, D.C.*
- June 14-18** Mexico Sorghum Buyers' Mission, *Texas and Western Kansas*
- June 17-22** U.S. Grains Council and United Sorghum Checkoff Program Domestic Marketing Meeting, *San Diego, CA*
- June 22-25** Mexico Sorghum Buyers' Mission, *Nebraska*
- July 23** Oklahoma Commission Meeting, *Goodwell, OK*
- August 11** Sorghum Improvement Conference of North America (SICNA) Research Meeting, *Amarillo, TX*
- August 12-13** United Sorghum Checkoff Program Board Meeting, *Amarillo, TX*
- August 17-18** National Sorghum Producers Board Meeting, *TBD*

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:

“Only he can understand what a farm is, what a country is, who shall have sacrificed part of himself to his farm or country, fought to save it, struggled to make it beautiful. Only then will the love of farm or country fill his heart.”

- Antoine de Sainte

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