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## **SORGHUM E-Notes**

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**NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:**  
*the voice of the sorghum industry*

### **Producers Should Plan Ahead Under New Rules**

Producers who anticipate the possibility of planting grain sorghum or other crops behind failed first crops this season should be aware of new rules pertaining to crop insurance under the 2008 farm bill. According to the farm bill passed last spring, Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payment program (SURE) eligibility could be affected by planting a second crop if it is not properly stated on insurance forms early in the season. Crop insurance sign-up forms are due on Monday, March 16.

“If a producer’s first crop fails then he chooses to plant a second crop, he will not lose eligibility for SURE provided potential for that second crop was declared on his crop insurance sign-up form,” said Chris Cogburn, National Sorghum Producers Strategic Business Director.

Listing sorghum on an insurance form or planting sorghum does not make the producer ineligible for crop insurance on his first crop, nor does it make the producer ineligible for SURE payments. The second crop is considered a “ghost” crop and does not affect SURE eligibility. During 2008 farm bill discussions, NSP worked with Congressional leaders to designate sorghum and other crops planted behind failed first crops as “ghost” crops so they would not count against eligibility for other programs.

### **Welcome Hooker Equity Coop**

NSP welcomes [Hooker Equity Coop](#) as our newest Elevator (E) Member! General Manager John VanMeter has ensured that Hooker Equity is the very first NSP E-Member in the state of Oklahoma. John will receive NSP’s sorghum basis report and his customers will be NSP members, becoming eligible to receive Sorghum Notes, Sorghum Grower magazine and member advisory emails. Additionally, NSP will waive their membership fee to enter the annual yield contest. There are now more than 165 participating E-Member locations in Kansas, Texas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Colorado, Missouri and Oklahoma.

The E-Member Program is vital to NSP’s ability to effectively work on legislative and regulatory issues of utmost importance to sorghum growers. Sorghum checkoff dollars may not be used at any time for lobbying or advocacy efforts. To learn more about the program, please contact Shelee Padgett at (785) 213-8910. We appreciate the strong, ongoing support of all NSP members, E-Members and Industry Partners.

### **Skip Row Grain Sorghum Requirements**

Several counties in Texas have been identified as having skip-row grain sorghum as a common, recognized practice. As such, if separate APH databases are maintained for both a solid and skip row practice, no written agreements for the skip row practice are required. If a producer has a past history for both solid and skip row grain sorghum, separate APH databases for each practice should be created and maintained. If this is the producer’s first year to plant a skip row practice, a variable T-yield should be issued using the current grain sorghum T-yield for the county and a separate APH database should be maintained for the new practice.

Affected counties are: Borden, Brown, Coke, Coleman, Dawson, Howard, Martin, Glasscock, McCulloch, Regan, Schleicher, Sterling, Taylor and Terry Counties, Texas.

### **Requests for Proposal Available**

The United Sorghum Checkoff Program (USCP) has made two new research requests for proposal (RFP) available on their website at [www.sorghumcheckoff.com](http://www.sorghumcheckoff.com).

## Senators Defend Farmers

Senator Blanche Lincoln, (D-AR) believes that U.S. farmers paid their dues to the nation's economic recovery plan when they passed a farm bill last spring. According to an interview with Tony St. James on KFLP - All Ag, All Day radio, the 18 months of negotiations leading up to signing the 2008 farm bill led to deep cuts in farm programs, leaving no room for more reductions. She also said that Ag Secretary Tom Vilsack's comments last week pitting farmers against hungry children were inappropriate. You can hear the entire interview [here](#).

Similarly, Senate Budget Committee Chair Kent Conrad made the following comments earlier this week at a hearing on President Obama's FY 2010 budget plan:

"And you know I represent an agricultural state. I just spent the last year-and-a-half getting a Farm Bill passed, and we paid for the Farm Bill. We paid for the Farm Bill, but precious little else paid for around here. I was a little taken aback to read that people are suggesting somehow the Farm Bill is not fiscally responsible, because of all the things that have occurred around here in the last two years, it was one of the very few that was actually paid for - and it was done at my insistence - the Farm Bill was paid for. So we made a lot of tough choices. We raised money. We made spending reductions. So those who suggest that it is not fiscally responsible, I don't think they are very aware of the history of how we got a Farm Bill passed here with 81 votes, overcoming two presidential vetoes, and reopening that at this moment is probably not a real propitious way to advance this budget."

## NSP Holds Producer Meetings

NSP staff conducted and attended producer meetings in Oklahoma, Colorado and Texas last week. On Thursday, March 5, meetings were held in Hooker, Oklahoma and Lamar, Colorado. On Friday, March 13, a meeting was held in Boise City, Oklahoma and NSP staff presented at a meeting in Muleshoe, Texas. The program included presentations on implementation of the 2008 Farm Bill by Tim Lust, NSP CEO, crop insurance issues by Chris Cogburn, NSP Strategic Business Director, and the USCP by Virgil Smail, USCP Executive Director.

## 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](http://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](mailto: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 will not be doubted that with reference either to individual or national welfare, agriculture is of primary importance"  
- President George Washington

## Interested in Sponsorship Opportunities?

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