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SORGHUM E-Notes

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NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:

the voice of the sorghum industry

Lumax and Lexar Receive Registrations in 48 States

[Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc.](#) announced this week that [Lumax®](#) and [Lexar®](#) herbicides have received registrations in 48 states for use in grain sorghum from the [United States Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#). Lumax herbicide received registration for use in grain sorghum in Nebraska and Kansas in 2008, but the recent approval will expand its use to all states except Alaska, California, Hawaii and New York. This is a new EPA crop registration for Lexar in grain sorghum which was previously registered for corn.

Phil Stahlman, Ph.D., weed scientist at Kansas State University, has conducted research on grain sorghum for 30 years. He said the weed control exhibited by Lumax and Lexar has been "quite exceptional."

"Lumax and Lexar contain multiple modes of action for highly effective control of problem broadleaf weeds and grasses including those resistant to glyphosate, ALS-inhibiting and triazine herbicides such as waterhemp, Palmer amaranth and kochia," Stahlman said. "We haven't had a lot of new developments in grain sorghum in several years, so getting these two products registered for use in sorghum is the most exciting thing that's happened for weed management in sorghum in a long time."

Sorghum Grower magazine published an article on the effectiveness of Lumax for grain sorghum weed protection in the Fall issue. That article, along with several others on solid production practices, is available on the [Production](#) page of the [NSP website](#).

NSP CEO and Chairman of the Board among First to Meet with EPA on Renewable Fuels Standard

This week, NSP was one of the first groups to meet with EPA to explain the importance of sorghum in the ethanol supply chain and the positive environmental implications sorghum can have for biofuels production. The meeting followed last week's release of a proposed rule on the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS-2), a provision of the 2007 energy bill that requires the renewable fuels industry to meet certain goals to reduce harmful environmental emissions. While sorghum was legislatively qualified as an advanced biofuel in the 2007 energy bill, the EPA rule was unclear on the qualification. NSP leaders met with EPA to discuss sorghum's qualification as an advanced biofuel partly because it is a low water use, low input crop. High biomass forage sorghum and sweet sorghum can also fit into future renewable fuels initiatives and were part of the joint discussion. EPA will consider comments from the industry prior to publication of a final rule. NSP will submit comments and testify at an EPA hearing on the subject on June 9 in D.C.

USDA Still Working on Ghost Crop Provisions

NSP has been working for weeks with USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) to clarify provisions in the 2008 farm bill that allow sorghum to be considered a ghost crop when planted behind failed wheat. While the legislative intent is clear, FSA has yet to satisfactorily resolve questions about [Supplemental Disaster Relief \(SURE\)](#) payments in counties that are designated as double crop counties.

To quote Tim Lust, NSP CEO, in [last week's Sorghum Notes](#): "What we do know is that if you are not in a county FSA-designated as a double crop county, regardless of the growth stage of your wheat [when it was declared failed], you can plant sorghum without affecting your SURE eligibility provided your wheat was insured or had NAP coverage."

USDA is reportedly crafting another memo to clarify whether or not a second crop planted in ghost crop designated counties makes the grower ineligible for SURE payments. NSP will inform members as soon as new information is available. For more background on the issue, see the last two editions of [Sorghum Notes](#).

Ag Industry Reaches Out to General Media

America's farmers are extending an olive branch to the same urban media that have often been critical of agriculture, and some powerful U.S. lawmakers asked the nation's reporters in a [letter](#) this week to give them a chance. The push is part of a new media effort funded in large part by U.S. commodity organizations representing sorghum, wheat, corn, peanuts, rice and others. Called "[The Hand That Feeds U.S.](#)," this new farmer-led project aims to improve relations with big-city reporters.

"It makes no sense that we're being demonized by many of the nation's top newspapers," said Linda Raun, a rice grower from Texas who is participating in the project. "It's not the newspapers' fault," she continued. "We haven't done a good enough job telling them our story. We've been negligent in explaining that farmers and farm policy feeds and clothes every person in this country, employs 20 percent of the nation's workforce and will be at the center of America's economic recovery."

Even though the farmers admit they'll never be able to match agriculture's opponents dollar for dollar, they do have some high-profile cheerleaders on their side. Senate Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad (D-ND) and Ranking Member of the Senate Agriculture Committee Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) published an open [letter](#) to the news industry today "respectfully urging [reporters to] take the time to learn more about this effort, U.S. farm policy, and the farm and ranch families that keep America fed."

Learn more about this effort and get involved in telling your story to urban media:

[The Hand That Feeds U.S. website](#)

[Letter to media from top lawmakers](#)

[Press release](#)

NSP Testifies on Importance, Safety of Triazine Products

The sorghum industry was called upon to testify before an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Scientific Advisory Panel on triazine usage and environmental impacts this week in Washington, D.C. At issue are the environmental effects of triazine products, an ongoing battle between environmentalist and land conservationists (farmers) for more than 14 years. Sorghum representatives testified that triazine products are vital to sorghum growers' operations. Testifying on behalf of the industry were Toby Bostwick, Chairman of the NSP Board; Greg Shelor, President of the Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association; and Tim Lust, NSP CEO.

Just for Fun: Eat Your Fork

A scientist in India has created [edible cutlery](#) from sorghum. The knives, forks and spoons can be eaten after you finish your meal. Narayan Peesapaty, managing director of B K Environmental Innovations got the idea for the edible cutlery after he observed plastic cutlery on an airplane. He began experimenting with various types of flour and ultimately settled on sorghum. He says the cutlery has added benefit as a nutritional source, citing sorghum's rich calcium, iron, phosphorous, proteins, vitamins, minerals and fiber content. Just be careful when you eat the knife...

Slow Going for Planters this Week

Producers planted just one percent of the nation's sorghum during the week, leaving progress at 31 percent complete, three points behind last year and two points behind the five-year average. Producers in Arkansas and Louisiana made a strong push in planting during the week, getting 27 and 25 percent of the crop in the ground, respectively. However, progress in both states remained behind normal.

A Look at the Calendar

As always, for the latest information, visit www.sorghumgrowers.com and click on the calendar icon!

June 9	NSP Testimony at RFS-2 hearing, <i>Washington, D.C.</i>
June 10 – 11	RFS-2 Workshop, <i>Washington, D.C.</i>
July 23	Oklahoma Sorghum Commission Meeting, <i>Goodwell, OK</i>
August 11 – 12	Sorghum Improvement Conference of North America meeting and field tours, <i>Amarillo, Texas</i>
August 13 – 14	USCP Board of Directors meeting, <i>Amarillo, TX</i>
August 17 – 18	NSP Board of Directors meeting, <i>Location TBA</i>

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:

“Democracy works but it is not a spectator sport.”

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