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SORGHUM E-Notes

November 25, 2009

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:
the voice of the sorghum industry

NSP Wishes You and Your Family a Very Happy and Safe Thanksgiving Holiday!

NSP Asks Congress for Estate Tax Reform

Almost 50 agriculture groups joined the National Sorghum Producers (NSP) recently asking House leadership to support reform for the current estate tax law by excluding farm assets from estate taxes for as long as the property remains as a family agricultural operation.

The bill, HR 3524, would also protect the environment by exempting properties that are protected by a qualified conservation easement. This would strengthen agriculture in the U.S. by providing certainty in estate planning for farmers, ranchers and forest owners who pass their operations to the next generation.

Senators Make Strides with Disaster Relief for Nation's Farmers

Last week, Chairwoman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-AR.), cosponsored disaster assistance legislation with Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS) Ranking Member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS) with hopes of providing support for affected American farmers and livestock owners.

With crop losses in the millions in many states due to excessive rainfall in some areas and drought in others, timely disaster relief is necessary. The proposed legislation would secure \$1.3 billion in direct payment assistance to farmers in "primary" disaster areas as declared by the United States Department of Agriculture. However, chances for the disaster assistance legislation to pass are low due to its dependence on the health care bill schedule.

Senator Lincoln used her native state as an example to explain what producers all over the nation are experiencing with crop losses. "Arkansas farmers, like so many producers across the country, have experienced unusually heavy rainfall this year, damaging crops and making it nearly impossible to harvest what little is left standing," Lincoln said. "Weather conditions have left many of our state's hard-working farmers unsure if their operations will survive another year. In these difficult economic times, this measure will help ensure our farmers can continue to meet our food and fiber needs while providing much-needed economic strength to our rural communities."

NSP will update you on disaster assistance legislation as we find new information.

75 Percent of Nation's Sorghum Harvested

With 75 percent of the sorghum crop harvested, progress was 12 percent behind last year and 15 percent behind the five year average. Harvest was most active in the central Great Plains and Missouri where 11 percent or more of the crop was harvested during the week.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

We are updating our online listing of field days, fairs, farm shows, meetings and events. [Please visit for the latest information.](#)

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 alexis@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:

*"The noblest pleasure is the joy of understanding."
--Leonardo da Vinci*

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