

4201 N Interstate 27
Lubbock, Texas 79403
Telephone: (806) 749-3478
Fax: (806) 749-9002
www.sorghumgrowers.com

SORGHUM E-Notes

September 17, 2009

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:

the voice of the sorghum industry

Thomas C. Dorr Named President and CEO of U.S. Grains Council

The U.S. Grains Council (USGC) announced Monday that Thomas Dorr has accepted the position of president and CEO of the organization. The Council is the largest export marketing development organization for commodities such as sorghum, barley and corn in the United States. Dorr will officially assume his new role Nov. 16. He is a former Iowa farmer with over 30 years experience in the field and previously served seven years with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Dorr said his experience allows him to appreciate the export market development efforts put forth by the Council.

"I am very familiar with the worldwide market development programs the Council has conducted since 1960," Dorr said. "The Council is focused on global initiatives, but the real purpose of this organization is to sustain and build economic opportunity not only for rural America, but worldwide. I am excited to have the privilege to serve U.S. farmers and agribusinesses in this new capacity."

Dorr said working with the Council's membership, Board of Directors and staff to clearly define the challenges and opportunities for international gain trade will be his first priority.

"I am thrilled to be afforded the honor to work with and for an organization that has developed trusted relationships with international government leaders, livestock producers and grain processing organizations worldwide. Its membership intends we continue to build on its successes."

Dorr succeeds CEO Ken Hobby who has been with USGC for 33 years.

Norman Borlaug, Father of the "Green Revolution," Passes Away

Norman Borlaug, the Father of the Green Revolution, passed away in Dallas, Texas on September 12, 2009. He is best known for his work with high-yield agriculture in developing countries and "shuttle breeding" in which disease immunity between strains of crops is accelerated. These and other techniques created by Borlaug have helped to save approximately one billion people around the world. His efforts earned him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 in addition to his slew of awards and recognitions as an agricultural researcher and humanitarian.

This passion for the eliminating hunger led Borlaug to implement his practices worldwide. In 1950, world grain production increased from 692 million tons to 1.9 billion tons by 1992; that equals 2.8 times the food for 2.2 times the people seventeen years ago, let alone today's calculations. This increase is due primarily to the adoption of high-yield agriculture developed by Borlaug.

Norman Borlaug was a true innovator and contributed a great deal to all agricultural industries. His personal campaign to fight world hunger will not soon be forgotten.

Source: <http://southwestfarmpress.com/news/Borlaug-obituary-0914/>

Senator Lincoln Establishes Position on Pressing Issues

The new Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee is making her position known on several issues that will be key to agriculture in coming months. In her first speech in her new post, Lincoln addressed the National Cattlemen's Beef Association saying she will highlight the affects the climate change bill will have on of consumer prices. Lincoln said she believes finance should be a major factor in determining whether or not the proposed cap-and-trade market is feasible and that the potentially negative impact the bill could have on consumers needs more attention.

She is also pushing for an alteration to the Clean Water Restoration Act that covers "the waters of the United States" instead of "navigable" waters. Lincoln said an amendment needs to be made so the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does not misinterpret the act.

Lincoln further pushed for a free and fair world market for U.S. farmers. She noted that last year, the Bush administration made agricultural concessions in the Doha round negotiations despite the lack of support from other countries. Lincoln said any further negotiations should start "with a new text" and also urged the Obama administration to support the Columbia and Panama free trade agreements as well as making U.S. products easier to sell in Cuba.

Energy and Climate Change Legislation Not Top of the List for Senate

Senator Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) announced Monday that the Senate's busy fall schedule may push any action on the cap-and-trade legislation to 2010. Senator Reid explained the reasoning behind the statement saying health care and regulatory reform must come first on the Senate's schedule.

"So, you know, we are going to have a busy, busy time the rest of this year," Reid said. "And, of course, nothing terminates at the end of this year. We still have next year to complete things if we have to."

He also said there is a possibility the Democrats could move the energy piece separately from the climate change portion to speed up the process, but admitted the chance was a slim one.

Harvest Begins Nationwide

Coloring advanced to 70 percent by the end of the week which is one percent more than last year, but five percent less than the five year average. Rapid coloring in South Dakota during the week allowed

progress to reach a nearly normal pace, just two percent less than the average. Crop maturity crept forward two percent also, leaving progress at 35 percent which is three percent less than last year and seven percent less than normal. The crop in Nebraska and New Mexico had yet to reach maturity and was ten percent and five percent less than the average, respectively. Thirty percent of the crop was harvested, one percent less than last year and two percent less than normal. Producers in Missouri, Oklahoma and South Dakota began harvesting their crop during a week with over four days suitable for fieldwork in both states. Overall, 50 percent of the sorghum crop was rated in good to excellent condition, up slightly from last week but four percent below last year.

Source: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/WWNatSumm/WWNatSumm-09-15-2009.pdf>

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.

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Sorghum Partners, Inc.
P.O. Box 189, New Deal, TX 79350
Phone: (800) 645-7478 Fax: (806) 746-5305
Website: www.sorghum-partners.com
E-mail: information@sorghum-partners.com

Quote of the Week:

"A truly American sentiment recognizes the dignity of labor and the fact that honor lies in honest toil."
--Grover Cleveland

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