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SORGHUM E-Notes

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NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:
the voice of the sorghum industry

EPA Approves New Herbicide

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the registration of a new active ingredient, Kixor herbicide, last week. Kixor can be used on a wide range of crops including sorghum and is effective on more than 70 broadleaf weeds. In approximately 1,700 field trials, it showed superior burndown and soil residual activity during 10 years of research and development.

Four Kixor formulas including Sharpen (labeled for sorghum), OpTill, Integrity and Treevix herbicides will also be available for producers next year. For further details on Kixor and other formulas, click [here](#).

Abundance of Wheat Causes Grain Storage Issue

An overflow of wheat from this past winter's crop has been stockpiled into grain elevators across the Great Plains. With record-breaking sorghum yields expected in Kansas and Nebraska this year, the wheat surplus is causing serious storage problems, not just for the sorghum crops, but for other commodities as well.

In an Associated Press article today, Mike Woolverton, a grain marketing economist for Kansas State University, said the lack of storage is not only affecting U.S. grain storage, but is also negatively impacting prices.

"This is going to be putting a lot of pressure on storage facilities and the transportation system. Overseas buyers are sitting on their hands seeing these prices continue to fall."

The lack of storage is making area farmers seriously analyze which crops will be planted in their fields for future harvests. Tom Tunnell, executive director of the Kansas Grain and Feed Association, said most farmers are looking to grow sorghum because it is the easiest crop to store on the ground without fear of spoil. He also said there is some relief from the storage crunch due to poor yields in Oklahoma as that has created space for neighboring Kansas crops.

Sweet Sorghum Studied for Conversion to Ethanol in Maryland

Salisbury University in Maryland is currently conducting research on sweet sorghum. In May, eight varieties of sweet sorghum were planted and about half of them have already been harvested. The rest will be examined by mid-October.

Dr. Samuel Geleta of Salisbury's Biological Sciences Department explained why the university began experimenting with sweet sorghum.

"Sweet sorghum can be grown on marginal land with less fertilizer and water as compared to corn," Geleta said. "Since sweet sorghum juice contains simple sugar, producing ethanol from it simply requires extracting the juice and fermenting."

This is just one of the many research efforts ongoing with sweet sorghum across the nation.

49 Percent of Sorghum Rated Good to Excellent

Acreage at or beyond the coloring stage advanced to 81 percent complete by September 20, three percent more than last year but two percent less than the five year average. Forty percent of the crop was mature, which is two percent less than last year and nine percent, or slightly more than one week, behind the average. Despite significant advancement during the week, double-digit delays remained in Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma and South Dakota. The harvest pace remained steady but slow in all estimating states except Illinois, Nebraska and New Mexico where harvest had yet to begin. By the end of the week, 31 percent of the crop was harvested, which is two percent less than last year and four percent less than normal. Overall, 49 percent of the sorghum crop was rated in good to excellent condition, down one percent from last week and four percent less than last year.

Source: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/WWNatSumm/WWNatSumm-09-22-2009.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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Quote of the Week:

"Those who believe that the Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee and senior member of the Senate Finance Committee won't stick to her guns on this issue do not yet know the new Chairman."
--Rep. Larry Combest (*referring to newly appointed Agriculture Chairwoman, Senator Blanche Lincoln, who has taken a tough stance on trade.*)

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