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SORGHUM E-Notes

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NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:
the voice of the sorghum industry

NASS Predicts Lower Sorghum Acreage

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) this week released 2010 prospective planting reports for sorghum. The report suggests growers will plant 6.36 million bushels per acre, down four percent from last year. According to reported numbers, the crop will increase in Colorado, Louisiana and South Dakota but decrease in Nebraska and Texas. This number, as always, is subject to change throughout the spring planting period as growers' intentions change based on weather and other factors. Meanwhile, the Rio Grande Valley reports this week that sorghum is up and in good condition to start the season.

BCAP Continues to Draw Fire

While NSP works to finalize comments on the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) on behalf of sorghum producers, the program continues to draw fire. BCAP was created to encourage the establishment of new bioenergy crops and facilitate the collection, harvest, transportation and storage of those crops for bioenergy production. However, the program has grown, opening it up to criticism from various arenas.

At a House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture hearing this week, Representative Jack Kingston (R-GA) and Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) said the program is over budget even before it has been fully implemented and urged cancelling it altogether.

However, Farm Service Agency Administrator Jonathon Coppess cautioned against repealing the program. "This program has incredible potential," said Coppess. "It is a new program and we have to learn what the statute says . . . I would be cautious about wanting to kill a program we haven't even gotten implemented fully yet."

For sorghum, BCAP may provide additional incentive for the use of high biomass energy sorghums in cellulosic ethanol production processes. In its comments on BCAP which are due to USDA next week, NSP will support the program's ability to jumpstart new technology with existing feedstock varieties.

Sorghum Industry Loses Dr. Morris Bitzer

Dr. Morris Bitzer, executive director of the National Sweet Sorghum Producers and Processors Association, passed away unexpectedly this week after a short illness. Dr. Bitzer worked for 38 years at the University of Kentucky as an Extension Specialist in the Agriculture Department. His specialty was no-

till corn. After retiring two years ago, he focused his energies on promoting and researching sweet sorghum. Our condolences are with Dr. Bitzer's family.

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 Web site 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:

"I'm an idealist. I don't know where I'm going, but I'm on my way."
-- *Carl Sandburg*

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