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SORGHUM E-Notes

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NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:
the voice of the sorghum industry

Brazil's Unlevel Playing Field

Even though Brazil's growth has come from highly advanced and large-scale farms, its status as a lesser-developed country gives it real advantages in the international trade arena by using the World Trade Organization to harm its competitors. Brazil recently won a trade case against the U.S. concerning cotton prices. Now the Brazilian sugar-based ethanol industry has U.S. ethanol producers in its sights in hopes of displacing the U.S. industry.

Tom Buis of Growth Energy stated that was a risky proposition for the United States. "Removing the tariff [on ethanol imports] will do nothing to reduce our dependence on foreign oil; all it will do is replace domestically produced ethanol and eliminate U.S. jobs," he said. "It would essentially replace our nation's addiction to foreign oil with a dependence on foreign ethanol—and that is not in the best interest of our nation."

If Brazil's intentions become reality, a report released by the University of Missouri estimates 161,000 Americans will lose their job and \$36.7 billion will be pulled from our economy in the first three years.

House in August Recess

During August recess, progress on the legislative front will remain slow. However, NSP encourages its members to meet with their local representatives and senators while they are back in their districts.

Meanwhile this week, as primary elections took place across the country, one particular win for agriculture came Tuesday after Kansas congressman Jerry Moran defeated congressman Todd Tiahrt in the Senate Republican primary.

Ceres Expands Operations to Brazil

Ceres Inc. has formed a Brazilian subsidiary to focus on expanding sweet sorghum as an ethanol feedstock in that region. Ceres Sementes do Brasil Ltda. will be based in Sao Paulo. Ceres President and CEO Richard Hamilton said sweet sorghum offers the Brazilian ethanol industry opportunity for growth and increased profitability.

"We believe that new sweet sorghum hybrids will be the lowest-cost sources of fermentable sugars in many places, and at times of the year when mills are under-utilized or idle," he said.

Sweet sorghum is already being grown in that specific area of Brazil but grown at a small scale and not as a biofuel feedstock. However, the company has received a great amount of interest from Brazilian ethanol industry members. Currently, large-scale growing trials are being conducted in the area, and Ceres is working with ethanol mills, technology providers and equipment companies to facilitate the introduction of sweet sorghum at area mills.

USDA Announces SURE Payment Application Deadline

Producers have until Thursday, Sept. 30, 2010, to submit an application for payment under the 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program, which provides financial assistance for crop production and or quality losses due to a natural disaster. FSA began accepting and processing 2008 SURE program applications in January 2010, and the American Recover and Reinvestment Act of 2009 allowed for a one-time increase in the calculation of the 2008 SURE payments that are filed by Sep. 30, 2010. Producers who do not file an application by this due date will not be considered for payments. Please contact your local Farm Service Agency office for more information.

This Week's Crop Report

Nationwide, 55 percent of the sorghum crop was at or beyond the heading stage by week's end, 10 percent ahead of last year and slightly ahead of the 5-year average. Most notably, head development in Oklahoma was 31 percent ahead of last year's pace and 29 percent ahead of normal. Coloring inched forward during the week, reaching 28 percent complete by August 1, slightly behind both last year and the 5-year average. The most significant delay was evident in Texas where coloring was nearly two weeks behind normal. Overall, 69 percent of the sorghum crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down slightly from ratings last week but 19 percent better than the same time last year.

Upcoming Field Days and Events

- Aug. 11-12** Sorghum Improvement Conference of North America (SICNA), *Omaha, Neb.*
- Aug. 25** Kansas State University Field Day, *Hays, Kan.*
- Aug. 26** Kansas State University Field Day, *Garden City, Kan.*
- Aug. 31** Sorghum Field Day at Cropping Systems Research Lab, *USDA-ARS Lubbock, Texas*

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 lindsay@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:

"If the rain spoils our picnic, but saves a farmer's crop, who are we to say it shouldn't rain?"

—Tom Barrett

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