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## **SORGHUM E-Notes**

February 25, 2010

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:

*the voice of the sorghum industry*

### **Sorghum General Session to be Broadcast Live Online**

NSP will host a dynamic and informative general session at the Commodity Classic in Anaheim, Calif. next week.

“The Sorghum General Session is an opportunity for producers to catch up on what NSP is doing in the industry and how new policies and technologies will impact their production in the coming year,” said NSP Chairman Gerald Simonsen, a producer from Ruskin, Neb.

“One of the highlights of the morning will be a panel discussion with some of our national yield and management contest winners,” said Simonsen. “As a producer myself, I think farmers really like the opportunity to interact with their peers and learn what works and doesn’t work for them in grain sorghum production.” Contest winners from Kansas, Texas and Kentucky will make up the panel.

Another highlight of the session will be a presentation by Jonathon Coppess, Administrator of the Farm Service Agency. Coppess’s role at USDA puts him in-the-know about the implementation of farm bill programs, the Administration’s plans for agriculture and future farm bills.

DuPont Crop Protection’s Wayne Schumacher will make an exciting announcement about new technology for sorghum. DuPont Crop Protection has been granted exclusive rights to the Kansas State University sulfonylurea and quizalofop tolerant sorghum traits. DuPont licensed seed companies will transfer these traits to their own germplasm. The limited commercial launch for seed and herbicides is targeted for 2012.

Don’t miss out! Listen live, 8:00 AM Pacific at [www.allagnews.com](http://www.allagnews.com).

### **NSP Staff in Washington, D.C. for Policy Meetings**

New Mexico Grain Sorghum Association President Matt Lansford, Steve McNinch, manager of Western Plains Energy, and NSP CEO Tim Lust were in Washington, D.C. this week for meetings with Congressional offices and agencies on the Renewable Fuels Standard, version two (RFS2), and NSP appropriations priorities.

According to EPA, they are still on track to release a supplement to the RFS2 Final Rule in the next few months that includes sorghum. The three also shared NSP priorities for 2011 appropriations with various

Congressional offices, seeking support for research projects and collaborations that will benefit sorghum growers.

## **Deadline for Insurance, SURE Eligibility Approaching for Most of the U.S.**

Deadlines for purchasing crop insurance coverage are coming up around the country and this year, it is particularly important to pay attention to the deadlines. The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), which is the latest disaster program from the 2008 Farm Bill, requires coverage to maintain eligibility.

In order to maintain eligibility for SURE, producers must obtain crop insurance coverage at the catastrophic (CAT) level or higher, or Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage from FSA for *all crops on all farms in all counties* in which they have an interest.

The deadline sales closing date for some types of crop insurance is March 15 across much of the country but varies by region. [Click here for a map of regional closing dates.](#)

It is critical that producers purchase the required coverage before the closing date to avoid losing disaster assistance eligibility. For more information, [call your local or state FSA office.](#)

## **NSP Signs Letter Encouraging Free Trade**

NSP joined 26 other agriculture organizations this week in urging Congress to approve three pending free trade agreements with Columbia, Panama and South Korea. The agreements would allow U.S. agriculture products to enter the countries duty-free and correct inequities in the market.

“It is critically important to our industries that Congress heed the President’s call to aggressively expand market access opportunities, as our competitors are doing,” stated the letter. “The president focused on the need to create new jobs. But if our best markets are lost to our competitors, U.S. jobs will be lost - not gained.”

To read the text of the entire letter, [visit our Web site.](#)

## **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](http://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](mailto: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:**

"Politics is just another word for human nature."

- *Mom*

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