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SORGHUM E-Notes

July 1, 2010

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:
the voice of the sorghum industry

House Ag Committee Passes Cuban Trade Bill

The House Agriculture Committee passed H.R. 4645, The Travel Restriction Reform and Export Enhancement Act, yesterday by a vote of 25-20.

The legislation restores the “cash in advance” policy for Cuba's purchases of U.S. farm products and eliminates the need for Cuba to go through third-country banks to make payments to U.S. exporters. It also removes all restrictions on U.S. citizen travel to Cuba, which have worked against U.S. farmers and ranchers.

A Texas A&M study of the estimated economic impact of H.R. 4645 indicates up to \$365 million in additional U.S. agricultural exports could result, adding \$1.1 billion in business activity and 6,000 new jobs.

If the travel ban is lifted, it will allow for potential growth in sorghum exports.

NSP Meets with EPA

NSP staff met with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) officials yesterday to discuss the status of grain sorghum under the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS). While the process is not moving as fast as anticipated, it is moving forward. International indirect land use change (ILUC) remains a key unknown that will ultimately determine if grain sorghum is declared an advanced biofuel. NSP staff also discussed the status of sweet sorghum with EPA yesterday, and believes it will move forward soon to receive classification by EPA.

Hurricane Alex Impacts South Texas Sorghum Crop

Heavy rain from Hurricane Alex is threatening what many have said to be the best grain sorghum crop in South Texas in years. The storm, which was downgraded to a tropical storm after it made landfall last night in northern Mexico, has dumped more than six inches of rain on parts of the Rio Grande Valley where sorghum harvest has been under way for nearly a week. While the impact from the storm to the area's sorghum crop may not have been as bad as expected, NSP has not yet received official reports of crop losses.

The region's grain sorghum took a toll in 2008 when it was hit by Hurricane Dolly and suffered through a devastating drought in 2009.

Sorghum Acreage Down in 2010

According to the latest acreage report from the National Agricultural Statistics Service, 6 million acres of sorghum has been planted in the United States this year, down 9.5 percent from the 6.63 million acres planted nationwide in 2009. Kansas and Texas, the country's two largest sorghum producing states, are both seeing 11 percent sorghum acreage decreases from 2.7 million acres in 2009 to 2.4 million acres in each state in 2010. Nebraska sorghum acres are down 38 percent to 145,000 acres.

Crop Report

By week's end, 94 percent of the 2010 sorghum crop was planted, slightly ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. Planting was at or ahead of normal in all estimating states except New Mexico. Nationally, heading advanced two percent during the week, leaving progress, at 21 percent complete. This is on par with last year but slightly behind the 5-year average. In Texas, sorghum fields in south Texas and the Lower Valley matured rapidly due to above average temperatures. Overall, 72 percent of the sorghum crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down slightly from ratings last week but 20 percent better than the same time last year.

Upcoming Field Days and Events

- July 13** DuPont Field Day, *Manhattan, Kansas*
- July 15** OSU Extension Field Days, *Perkins, Oklahoma*
- July 22** University of Tennessee No-Till Field Day, *Milan, Tennessee*

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:

"Agriculture was the first manufacturing industry in America and represents the best of all of us."

– Zack Wamp

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