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SORGHUM E-Notes

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NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:

the voice of the sorghum industry

NSP Welcomes Southeast Renewable Fuels as New Industry Partner

Southeast Renewable Fuels recently became the first sweet sorghum Industry Partner. SERF is located in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where they are currently developing a biofuels plant specifically designed to make ethanol from sweet sorghum—the first commercial scale plant of its kind. The plant, expected to produce more than 20 million gallons of ethanol per year, is expected to begin operations sometime in 2012. NSP looks forward to its future relationship with SERF and further advancing sweet sorghum as a viable alternative fuel source.

ADM Introduces New Sorghum Flour

Archer Daniels Midland Company featured its new sorghum flour for use in gluten-free and multi-grain applications at the 2010 Institute of Food Technologists Food Expo in Chicago this year. Brook Carson, ADM technical products and market development manager, said the global market for gluten-free products is increasing with the expectation to gross more than \$4.3 billion within the next five years.

Democrats Pull Plug on Climate Bill – Energy Discussions Continue

Without the 60 votes needed to pass climate change legislation with a carbon cap or renewable electricity standard before the August recess, Senate Democrats abandoned hope to pass a comprehensive energy bill this summer. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid will introduce a bipartisan energy-only bill that responds to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill and more popular energy items. This comes as no surprise to many after continued opposition from GOP senators and some moderate Democrats. Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico said even after the recess, there will be substantial time constraints.

The ethanol industry plays an important role in economic activity of the Sorghum Belt and the future of the sorghum industry. National Sorghum Producers believes the ethanol tax incentives have been valuable policies in growing America's ethanol industry. NSP encourages policy makers to also evaluate Growth Energy's Freedom Fueling Plan, which outlines the process of redirecting a portion of these incentives to build out a critically needed renewable fuels infrastructure. NSP does not believe an extension of the tax incentives and the Fueling Freedom Plan are mutually exclusive ideas. We encourage Congress and the ethanol industry to develop a plan that provides stable policies, yet looks at the long term needs of the industry.

Consideration of Damaged Grain Sorghum in the Special Provisions of Insurance

Special Provisions of Insurance (SPOI) is used by crop insurance companies to assist with grain sorghum quality losses. SPOI is constructed to discount sorghum crops based on realistic crop damage or loss. When determining discounts, the two primary concerns are test weight (lower than 40 lb/bu deemed off the chart) and damage kernels (35 percent or greater deemed off the chart). If the producer harvests the grain with damage over 35 percent or test weight under 40 lb/bu, then the producer has the option of (1) receiving the actual discount he receives when marketing the grain if it is sold within 60 days of the end of the insurance period or (2) settling the claim with a discount factor of 50 percent. For more information, contact Chris Cogburn at 806-749-3478 or visit our website at www.sorghumgrowers.com.

Sorghum Checkoff Procedures for the Conduct of Referenda

The United Sorghum Checkoff Program referendum was signed into the Federal Register on July 16, 2010, for a 30 day comment period on the proposed rule. Comments must be posted online at <http://www.regulations.gov>, referencing Docket No. AMS-LS-10—0003, the date, and the page number of the issue in the Federal Register.

This Week's Crop Report

Heading of the nation's sorghum crop advanced just 3 percentage points during the week. At 30 percent complete, progress was slightly ahead of last year but 4 percent behind the 5-year average. In Texas, a lack of sunshine limited head development in areas, slowing progress to 1 percent during the week. Nationally, 21 percent of the sorghum crop was coloring by July 18, slightly behind both last year and the 5-year average. The most significant delay was evident in Texas, where progress was nearly two weeks behind normal. Overall, 75 percent of the sorghum crop was reported in good to excellent condition, up slightly from ratings last week and 21 percent better than the same time last year.

In Kansas, 6 percent of sorghum was reported as headed compared to 2 percent for last year and the 5-year average of 7 percent. Sorghum condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 66 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. For Nebraska, sorghum conditions rated 62 percent good, and 18 excellent. Sorghum headed was 5 percent, ahead of last year's 1 and 3 average.

Upcoming Field Days and Events

- July 28** Herbicide-Tolerant Sorghum Field Day, *Claude, Texas*
- July 29** University of Illinois Brownstown Field Day, *Brownstown, Ill.*
- Aug. 5** Dan Lee Field Day, *Alexandria, La.*
- Aug. 5** University of Illinois Dixon Springs Field Day, *Simpson, Ill.*
- Aug. 11-12** Sorghum Improvement Conference of North America (SICNA) *Omaha, Neb.*

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 not only gives riches to a nation, but the only riches she can call her own.”

– Samuel Johnson

Interested in Sponsorship Opportunities?

Call NSP at (800) 658-9808 to learn more.