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## **SORGHUM E-Notes**

July 29, 2010

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:

*the voice of the sorghum industry*

### **Reid Introduces Moderate Energy Bill**

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has introduced a streamlined, more politically feasible energy bill to debate before August recess. Reid believes he has the bipartisan support to pass a bill that holds BP accountable for the Gulf oil spill, creates a home energy efficiency program called Home Star, promotes the use of natural gas and electricity, and funds the Land and Water Conservation fund, which is used to create national recreation areas. The bill is missing language that would increase consumer demand for biofuels. Also missing is controversial climate change language that would establish a cap and trade system. Even so, there has been some buzz about slipping climate change provisions into a conference report. If he gets cloture, a number of amendments may be discussed.

To address that gap, Nebraska Republican and former Secretary of Agriculture Senator Mike Johanns introduced legislation this week that would require 67 senators to vote to allow cap-and-trade to become law without debate in the Senate.

“My legislation puts up a huge hurdle to prevent lame duck shenanigans,” he said. Johanns expressed his concern that lame duck senators and congressmen no longer under the umbrella of their voters would advance such an agenda in the conference to reconcile the House and Senate versions of the energy bill.

### **Small Business Bill Important to Agriculture**

A small business bill was debated today in the Senate including several provisions that are important to agriculture. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid scheduled a test vote on a substitute amendment late today that failed, falling two votes short of the 60 votes needed.

Senate Agriculture Chairwoman Blanche Lincoln, who had pressed for the agriculture disaster aid, said in a statement, “I agreed to allow my agriculture disaster legislation to be removed from the small business bill. While I firmly believe agricultural producers are rural small businesses, it was clear the Republicans pulled out all the stops to block my legislation. In exchange for pulling ag disaster from the small business bill, I have secured an agreement from both Majority Leader Reid and White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel and have their commitment to deliver critical agriculture disaster assistance administratively in the next two weeks.”

### **Insurance Option for Damaged South Texas Sorghum**

Following the devastating effects of Hurricane Alex, some producers have been left with little solution for the remainder of their suffering sorghum crop. Much of the remaining grain is highly damaged, some more than 35 percent. Most elevators have ceased to accept over 35 percent damaged grain, forcing producers to work with their crop insurance agents to file claims on the unharvested grain. If the grain has no market value, the crop will have to be destroyed after being documented by an adjuster. Producers will receive zero production on that portion of unharvested grain. Be sure to work closely with your crop insurance agent or contact the national office if you have questions about the process.

## Oklahoma Sorghum Commission Swears in New Officers

On July 29, the Oklahoma Sorghum Commission swore in Craig Sanders of Boise City as the new director from District 1. Brook Strader of Okeene is the new vice chairman, while Brad Brainard of Enid is the new secretary/treasurer.

## NSP Staff Meet With EPA

NSP staff met again with EPA this week. The process remains slow, but we continue to monitor sorghum's status in the supplemental rule of the Renewable Fuels Standard.

## This Week's Crop Report

Heading advanced 13 percent during the week, leaving progress at 43 percent complete, 9 percent ahead of last year and slightly ahead of the 5-year average. Warm temperatures and adequate soil moisture levels provided ideal growing conditions in Kansas, the largest sorghum-producing State, where 11 percent of the sorghum crop began heading during the week. Nationwide, 26 percent of the crop was at the coloring stage or beyond by July 25, on par with last year but slightly behind the 5-year average. In Nebraska, sorghum conditions rated 61 percent good and 19 percent excellent. Sorghum headed was 21 percent, ahead of last year's five and 14 average. Overall, 71 percent of the sorghum crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 4 percent from ratings last week but 19 percent better than the same time last year.

## Upcoming Field Days and Events

- 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.*
- Aug. 25** Kansas State University Field Day, *Hays, Kan.*
- Aug. 26** Kansas State University Field Day, *Garden City, Kan.*

## 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](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 [lindsay@sorghumgrowers.com](mailto: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.

## **SORGHUM Notes is sponsored by:**

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## **Quote of the Week:**

*“Agriculture, manufactures, commerce and navigation, the four pillars of our prosperity, are the most thriving when left most free to individual enterprise.”*

– Thomas Jefferson

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