

4201 N Interstate 27
Lubbock, Texas 79403
Telephone: (806) 749-3478
Fax: (806) 749-9002
www.sorghumgrowers.com

SORGHUM E-Notes

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NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:
the voice of the sorghum industry

Study Reports Atrazine Worth Over 50,000 Jobs

The sorghum industry would suffer devastating job losses if the agricultural herbicide atrazine is banned, according to University of Chicago economist Don Coursey. It would cost between 21,000 and 48,000 jobs from corn production losses alone, and the inclusion of sorghum and sugar cane makes that total even greater.

Coursey estimates atrazine's annual production value to corn, sorghum and sugar cane to be from \$2.3 billion to over \$5 billion. The second most-used herbicide in the U.S., atrazine has been a mainstay in sorghum production for 50 years.

"If atrazine is banned, propazine, another important triazine herbicide for sorghum, would also be removed from the market," said Gerald Simonsen, chairman of the National Sorghum Producers and sorghum grower in Ruskin, Neb. "Because fewer alternative herbicides are available for sorghum, the banning of atrazine would have a dramatic and costly impact on the U.S. sorghum industry."

TAWC Will Hold Field Day Aug. 10

Texas Alliance for Water Conservation (TAWC) announced Thursday their second 2010 *Pioneers in Agriculture* field day will be held at the Floyd County Unity Center in Muncy, Texas, on Tuesday, Aug. 10. Registration will begin at 7:30 A.M., and the field day will conclude 1:00 P.M. with lunch provided. The TAWC is beginning the second phase of their project this summer with select farmers working with consultants and researchers and the latest water management technologies. The goal of this phase is to determine the extent farmers can aggressively conserve their water resources while remaining economically viable.

Informational topics to be discussed at the field day include new resources for irrigation scheduling and resource management as well as the latest recommendations on production decision and profitability management for the following growing season.

As part of TAWC, the *Pioneers in Agriculture* series is designed to connect today's producers with the latest research information through a shared experience that draws on our knowledge-building traditions of field days and farm walks. For more information and a final schedule for the field day, please visit the official website of the project at <http://depts.ttu.edu/tawc>.

Despite Weather, Good Yield Potential Remains in South Texas

Between 6 to 12 inches of rain fell on South Texas sorghum fields last week from rains brought by Hurricane Alex. The storm's rain and winds impacted sorghum harvest that was already in progress from the Rio Grande Valley up to near Corpus Christi. Heavy rain damaged some grain sorghum in the Coastal Ben, with reports of sprouted grain and knocked over early maturing grain. Another tropical depression made landfall this morning near South Padre Island, Texas, bringing more rain to the region. Despite the weather damage to some of the area's crop, a good crop is still expected in South Texas with excellent yield potential.

Crop Report

By week's end, producers had planted 98 percent of the 2010 sorghum crop, slightly ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. Heading advanced 4 percent during the week, leaving progress, at 25 percent complete, slightly ahead of last year but on par with the 5-year average. In Kansas, warm temperatures helped to jump start heading progress slightly ahead of both last year and normal. Nebraska's sorghum crop was 91 percent planted, with 79 percent emerged.

With activity limited to Louisiana and Texas, 19 percent of the sorghum crop was at or beyond the coloring stage, slightly ahead of last year but on par with the 5-year average. While sorghum fields in areas of southern Texas continued to turn color, producers in areas of the Coastal Bend began harvesting their fields during the week. Overall, 71 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.

Legislative Update

Congress is in recess resulting in a slow week on Capitol Hill. Meanwhile, NSP continues to follow the progress on sorghum's status in the supplemental rule of RFS2 by working with members of congress and EPA.

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*

Correction: The North Platte, Neb., field day has been postponed indefinitely.

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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Sorghum Partners, Inc.

P.O. Box 189, New Deal, TX 79350

Phone: (800) 645-7478 Fax: (806) 746-5305

Website: www.sorghum-partners.com

E-mail: information@sorghum-partners.com

Quote of the Week:

“Only he can understand what a farm is, what a country is, who shall have sacrificed part of himself to his farm or country, fought to save it, struggled to make it beautiful. Only then will the love of farm or country fill his heart.”

– Antoine de Saint-Exupery

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