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SORGHUM E-Notes

June 10, 2010

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:
the voice of the sorghum industry

NSP Works with FSA on SURE Payment Delay

NSP staff met with USDA Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs Brandon Willis and FSA personnel June 8 in Washington, D.C., to discuss why producers in some areas had received SURE payments while producers in other areas have not. NSP members have expressed concern, particularly those with GRP, GRIP or seed production, that they have not received SURE payments to date. After visiting with FSA, NSP learned the identified setback relates to a problem with data received from RMA to finalize SURE calculations. FSA is working as fast as possible to resolve this and will distribute checks to producers, hopefully, within the next 30 days.

Producers with GRP or GRIP will be expected to prove their production. If producers are unable to provide these records, they will have to go through a yield certification process working with their county committee similar to requirements in previous disaster bills. NSP will continue to monitor FSA's progress to resolve this issue in a timely manner.

Energy Subcommittee Hearing Promotes Favorable Discussion

NSP representatives attended a hearing June 9 for the House Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Energy and Research to review renewable energy and energy efficiency policies authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill. Key members of the subcommittee expressed concerns about USDA's implementation of the 9003, 9005, 9007 and 9011 programs.

NSP Continues to Work with EPA on RFS2

NSP Board Directors Terry Swanson and Toby Bostwick, ethanol and industry leaders Lee Reeve and Greg Krissek, and NSP staff met with EPA last week in Washington, D.C., as the agency continues to analyze sorghum's status in RFS2. NSP will continually work for sorghum's place in this supplemental rule.

USDA Awards Grant to Investigate Sorghum Forage Biofuels

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced Monday that USDA has selected four recipients in Texas to receive business development assistance to pursue marketing opportunities for agriculture commodities. Waller County Biofuel Steering Committee received a \$25,000 grant to help investigate biogas electrical generation from hybrid forage sorghum. This funding was made available through the Value-Added Producer Grant program in the 2008 Farm Bill.

NSP Board of Directors Seeks New Board Members

The Nominating Committee for National Sorghum Producers is now taking applications from individuals interested in serving on the NSP Board of Directors. Applicants must be a member of NSP to apply and have a passion for working on behalf of the sorghum industry through legislative and fundraising activities. The deadline to apply is July 9. For an application and more information, please visit our website at www.sorghumgrowers.com.

Planting Progress Remains at Steady Pace

Nationally, 65 percent of the sorghum crop was planted by week's end, 6 percent behind last year but on par with the 5-year average. Optimal weather conditions in Kansas, the largest sorghum-producing state, afforded producers six days for fieldwork to plant 26 percent of their crop. In Texas, recent rainfall in the Blacklands delayed planting progress.

According to World Agriculture Supply Demand Estimates (WASDE), projected U.S. feed grain production for 2010/11 is unchanged, but smaller carryin for sorghum, corn and barley is expected to reduce domestic feed grain supplies. There is a 10-million-bushel increase in projected sorghum exports, and the 2009/10 sorghum farm price is lowered in line with that for corn.

For U.S. sorghum use in May and June 2010/11, area planted (mil. acres) is projected to be 6.4 million bushels, down from 6.6 million bushels in 2009/10 estimates. Yield (bushels/acre) is projected to be 65.9 million bushels, down from 69.4 million bushels in 2009/10 estimates. Exports are at 140 million bushels, down 30 million from 2009/10. Ending stocks were 43 million bushels for May and 38 million bushels for June, up from 33 million bushels in 2009/10.

Upcoming Field Days and Events

- June 14-17** Fuel Ethanol Workshop, *St. Louis, Missouri*
- June 15** Stiles Farm Field Day, *Thrall, Texas*
- June 16** West Portland Gin Field Day, *Taft, Texas*
- June 16** Texas AgriLife Research & Extension Center Field Day, *Corpus Christi, Texas*
- June 23** SDSU Field Day, *Higmore, South Dakota*

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:

“As the Republican platforms says, the welfare of the farmer is vital to that of the whole country.”

- William Howard Taft

Interested in Sponsorship Opportunities?

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