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SORGHUM E-Notes

June 24, 2010

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:

the voice of the sorghum industry

NSP President Testifies Before Subcommittee at Farm Bill Hearing

Gerald Simonsen, chairman of the NSP board of directors, testified today before the House Agriculture Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management to discuss the safety net for sorghum and its producers. In his testimony, Simonsen emphasized crop insurance, budgets, the importance of the Energy Title, and the sustainability of sorghum, as well as concerns and appreciation for work done to improve various programs in the 2008 Farm Bill. Simonsen also stressed the importance of the sweet and energy segments of the sorghum industry.

Simonsen represented the sorghum industry well and shed positive light on the efforts of the association and the producers it represents. To highlight Simonsen's testimony, Rep. Adrienne Smith of Nebraska pointed out sorghum's water-sipping advantage as a viable feedstock and asked Simonsen what steps NSP was taking to ensure sorghum's place as an advanced biofuel. Simonsen reiterated NSP's efforts to work with the USDA and EPA to solidify sorghum as an advanced biofuel under the supplemental rule of the RFS2, as well as our ongoing efforts to provide EPA with the best possible information to use in their models.

Advanta Names Steve Ligon as U.S. Business Manager

Advanta US Inc., a business unit of Advanta India Ltd., one of the world's largest sorghum seed research and marketing companies, announced June 22 the addition of Steve Ligon as business manager.

Ligon will be working from the Hereford, Lubbock and Fargo Advanta organization locations. Ligon most recently was the head of commercial operations for Syngenta Seeds North American, and has 22 years of management experience in the crop protection and row crop business.

Advanta US produces germplasm for forage sorghums, sudangrasses, hybrid grain sorghums, sorghums for biofuels, and sunflowers.

US Corn Shipment Arrives in China

For the first time in almost 15 years, a shipload of U.S. corn arrived in China. According to the U.S. Grains Council, the vessel carrying 55,000 metric tons (2.2 million bushels) of U.S. No.2 yellow corn arrived at the Longkou Port in Shandong Province of China on June 21, and, without delay, cleared customs and berthed for commencement of discharge on June 22.

The delivery is a positive indication for future grain imports into China. Another vessel of U.S. corn is scheduled to discharge in July 2010.

Producers Must Report Prevented Planting Acreage

For FSA program eligibility, producers are reminded to report prevented planting acreage. Producers must report crop acreage they intended to plant, but were prevented from planting due to natural disaster. Prevented planting acreage must be reported on an FSA-576 Notice of Loss no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date. Check with your local county FSA office for sorghum's final planting date.

A late-filed report can be submitted if a producer is unable to report the prevented planting acreage within the 15 calendar days following the final planting date. Late-filed reports can only be accepted if a farm visit can be made to assess the eligible disaster condition that prevented the crop from being planted.

Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of FSA programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP), Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs).

For more information on FSA crop reporting requirements, visit your local County FSA office.

Guide Available for Using Sorghum after Failed Cotton

Hail damage to cotton is not uncommon this time of year. Texas AgriLife Extension has released the tenth edition of their guide "Alternative Crop Options after Failed Cotton & Late-Season Crop Planting for the Texas South Plains", which lists guidelines for planting late-season grain sorghum. The guide can be found online at <http://lubbock.tamu.edu/cotton/pdf/cropreplantoptions10.pdf> .

Sorghum Crop Makes Headway in Most Areas

Nationally, 88 percent of the 2010 sorghum crop was planted by week's end, 2 percent ahead of last year and 3 percent ahead of the 5-year average. In Texas, recent flooding in the Northern High Plains delayed planting by several days but overall progress for the state remained ahead of normal. Nationwide, heading of the sorghum crop inched forward during the week. By June 20, 19 percent of the crop was at or beyond the heading stage, slightly ahead of last year but 1 percent behind the 5-year average. Overall, 73 percent of the sorghum crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from ratings last week but 16 percent better than the same time last year. Despite an overall improvement in condition ratings in Texas, producers in the Coastal Bend continued treating fields for stink bug and headworm infestations. Harvest is set to begin in the Rio Grande Valley next week.

Upcoming Field Days and Events

July 27 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:

"The farmer works the soil, the agriculturist works the farmer."

– Eugene F. Ware

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