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## **SORGHUM E-Notes**

March 11, 2010

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:  
*the voice of the sorghum industry*

### **NSP Reports Successful Commodity Classic**

NSP board members and staff represented sorghum farmers last week at Commodity Classic in Anaheim, California. Commodity Classic is the convention and trade show of the U.S. sorghum, corn, wheat and soybean industries. The Classic was a great opportunity for growers to learn about hot industry topics, featuring sessions such as agriculture in the media, the agronomics of carbon capture, what you should know about climate change and what's next for ag-based biofuels. Final attendance counts came to 1,369 growers with 4,330 total registrants.

One of the highlights of Classic was a [keynote address by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture](#) Tom Vilsack who underscored the importance of farmers and rural economic development for the future of the country.

As a part of Classic, NSP hosted a dynamic and informative general session. The session allowed producers to catch up on what NSP is doing for sorghum growers and to [hear about new policies and technology](#) that will affect their operations in the next year. Yield Contest winners were honored at a dinner in their honor on Friday evening.

NSP also took part in the sold-out Commodity Classic trade show which held 816 booths. The trade show featured some of the biggest names in agriculture displaying the latest in cutting-edge products and services. Throughout the week, representatives at the NSP booth had a steady flow of farmers who either grow sorghum or are interested in how sorghum might work into their operations.

### **Disaster Aid One Step Closer to Passage**

U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln, D-Ark., Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry yesterday said farmers affected by weather-related disasters are one step closer to receiving relief. The U.S. Senate today approved Lincoln's \$1.5 billion disaster package as part of the Tax Extenders Act of 2009. The aid will reach both producers who suffered from flood losses in Arkansas and those with severe drought losses in Texas.

"Our farmers provide the safest, most affordable, most abundant food supply in the world. We cannot afford to see them forced out of business because of weather conditions out of their control. This will provide the relief producers need to stay in business, saving jobs right here in Arkansas," Lincoln said.

The legislation would provide an estimated \$1.1 billion in supplemental payments to producers who suffered crop losses in counties declared "primary" disaster areas by USDA.

## **Atrazine Still Safe Despite New Criticism**

Despite a new set of observations released last week in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*, Syngenta and scientists around the world maintain atrazine is safe to use, based on the weight of evidence of more than 6,000 studies and more examination than any other crop protection product.

The recent observations on frog development run counter to the vast majority of scientific opinions, which show atrazine has no effect on amphibian development. The study also fails to adhere to two important scientific requirements, raising questions about the integrity of the assessments' experimental design. After a comprehensive study in 2007, regulators and credible scientists agreed that atrazine is safe to frogs at levels that appear in the environment. The EPA, the Australian government and the World Health Organization have all looked at atrazine's effects on endocrine systems and given atrazine a clean bill of health.

EPA followed a painstaking process before recommending the re-registration of atrazine for use in American agriculture, relying on a systematic, objective evaluation. The EPA also looks closely at each study on atrazine to determine whether its results are scientifically sound. Despite these efforts, a legal and political attack has been launched against atrazine, relying on a handful of studies which, by objective scientific standards, offer questionable conclusions. The EPA estimates that the total negative impact of the loss of atrazine on sorghum, corn and sugar cane growers in the U.S. would exceed \$2 billion per year.

For 50 years, atrazine has been used safely in agriculture with no effect to amphibians, fish, birds and other wildlife at concentrations found in the environment, a fact that is supported by numerous scientific studies. Based on sound science and rigorous review, the EPA determined that atrazine poses "no harm that would result to the general U.S. population, infants, children or other ... consumers."

For more information, visit [www.atrazine.com](http://www.atrazine.com).

## **Nebraska Grain Sorghum Board Meeting Scheduled**

The Nebraska Grain Sorghum Board has scheduled a public meeting for Thursday, March 25, 2010. The meeting will begin at 9:00 AM in the University of Nebraska- Lincoln Student Union located on the East Campus at 33<sup>rd</sup> & Holdrege Street. The specific room assignment will be posted on the kiosk in the Union lobby.

In addition to regular business, the Board will hear research updates from USDA Agricultural Research Service scientists from Manhattan, Kansas and Lincoln, Nebraska. Reports will also be provided on other program activities.

The meeting is open to the public. A copy of the agenda is available by emailing [sorghum.board@nebraska.gov](mailto:sorghum.board@nebraska.gov) or by calling the Nebraska Grain Sorghum Board at (402) 471-4276.

## **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 Web site 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 [hannah@sorghumgrowers.com](mailto:hannah@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:**

"If farmin' were a sport, I'd be its biggest fan!"

*- Pint-sized Commodity Classic attendee and future farmer, Anaheim, Calif.*

### **Interested in Sponsorship Opportunities?**

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