

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

## **SORGHUM E-Notes**

March 18, 2010

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

### **NSP Voices Opposition to Cuts in Commodity Programs**

The National Sorghum Producers along with 52 other commodity organizations sent a letter this week to both House and Senate Budget Committee leadership urging them to disregard the President's proposed changes to the farm safety net.

"While we agree that reducing the deficit is necessary, we do not believe America's farmers and ranchers should have to bear a disproportionate burden of the cuts," the letter states. "Notably, the farm safety net cuts included in the President's budget appear to be proposed not for the purpose of deficit reduction but, rather to offset the cost of spending increases contained elsewhere in the USDA budget. All told, the President's budget proposal for USDA actually increases total outlays by more than \$4 billion."

The letter goes on to criticize cuts in crop insurance coverage through the Standard Reinsurance Agreement and urges Congress to maintain the five-year contract it made with farmers in the 2008 Farm Bill.

### **Company Invests to Reopen Colorado Ethanol Plant**

An ethanol plant near Walsh, Colo. that was one of the first ethanol plants in the nation might get a facelift. Northeast Kansas Bioenergy LLC doing business as Foothill Bioenergy recently purchased the Colorado plant from Farm Credit of Southwest Kansas. The company, which is owned by Nexsun Corp of California, plans to modernize the existing plant which was built in the 1980's then, in a second phase, expand it to seven to 10 million gallons per year.

"When I say modernize, we want it to run as efficiently as possible to produce as much as ethanol as possible per bushel of feedstock," said Alex Park, vice president of project development with Nexsun Corp. "We have to automate the plant, to put in processes that monitor it constantly with computers, instead of people turning knobs."

The plant plans to use mostly grain sorghum to produce ethanol and could pull crops both from eastern Colorado and Western Kansas, providing a promising market opportunity for regional grain sorghum producers.

### **Sorghum Highlighted in Ethanol Producer Magazine**

Kansas sorghum producer and Sorghum Checkoff Board Chairman Bill Greving wrote an article for the latest issue of Ethanol Producer magazine, highlighting phase two of market research and ethanol market development being funded by the Sorghum Checkoff. The article details The Sorghum to Ethanol Plan (STEP) which was created to assist sorghum producers in finding markets for their crops in ethanol while bringing producers and end users together. Read more about the program [here](#).

## 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:

Sorghum Partners, Inc.  
P.O. Box 189, New Deal, TX 79350  
Phone: (800) 645-7478 Fax: (806) 746-5305  
Website: [www.sorghum-partners.com](http://www.sorghum-partners.com)  
E-mail: [information@sorghum-partners.com](mailto:information@sorghum-partners.com)

## Quote of the Week:

The best doctor in the world is the veterinarian. He can't ask his patients what is the matter - he's got to just know.

-- Will Rogers

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