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SORGHUM E-Notes

June 16, 2011

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:
the voice of the sorghum industry

Ag Community's Strength Tested This Week

This year there have been many slow weeks in Washington, D.C., but this was not one of them as several important ag-related issues have been before Congress over the last three days. Both the House and Senate have voted on multiple pieces of legislation vital to the agriculture sector, and during this time, NSP has fought tirelessly to hold onto those issues important to agriculture and the sorghum industry alike.

Farmers won a short-lived victory Tuesday evening as a measure backed by Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK) aimed at repealing the Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit (VEETC) failed in the Senate with a 40-59 cloture vote. Unfortunately, when this same proposal was offered Thursday by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Sen. Coburn on a stand-alone vote, the measure passed 73-27. While NSP is disappointed with results of this vote, the industry is hopeful that this piece of legislation will not be approved by the House.

Two other ethanol related votes took place today—one on each chamber floor. Both proposed amendments called for barring federal government funds from being used for blender pumps. The amendment offered by Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) failed with a 41-59 vote. In the opposite chamber, Rep. Jeff Flake's (R-AZ) amendment to the FY12 House Agriculture Appropriation bill passed for a second time with a vote of 283-128.

The House chamber began consideration Tuesday of the FY12 Ag Appropriations bill. After a long stream of debate on the unlimited number of amendments allowed to be offered, the bill passed 217-203. Some potentially harmful amendments for agriculture were brought to the table but representatives in agriculture's corner worked vigorously to defeat them. Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) offered an amendment to impose a limit of \$125,000 on total payments that producers could receive from farm bill programs, which failed 154-262. Rep. Flake offered an amendment to lower the adjusted gross income for producers that failed 186-228. Rep. Flake also put forth an amendment to defund the Market Access Program (MAP), which is designed to encourage development, maintenance, and expansion of commercial agricultural export markets. This amendment also failed with a vote of 101-314.

Many Members of Congress stepped up to the plate and went to bat for agriculture this week. NSP thanks these representatives and their staff along with our members for their hard work and effort on behalf of U.S. farm policy. We did not win all the votes, and the current environment for agriculture and renewable energy becomes more challenging each day, but we can also celebrate holding off damaging anti-farm legislation this week.

NSP Board of Directors Seeking Applicants

The nominating committee for NSP has begun the process of accepting applications for anyone with an interest in serving on the NSP board of directors. If you have an interest in participating with our organization at the board of

directors' level, you may call the office to request an application and recruitment packet or find it on our website under the board of directors page [here](#).

A member of the board of directors must first be a member of NSP and have a passion for working on the behalf of sorghum growers through lobbying activities and fundraising. The NSP board is not limited to growers. No experience is necessary, simply a desire to improve the industry. Deadline to apply is Wednesday, June 22.

Crop Report

As of June 13, planting progress varied between states. Arkansas was 99 percent complete, Colorado at 42 percent, Illinois at 70 percent, Kansas at 68 percent, Louisiana at 100 percent, Missouri at 70 percent, Nebraska at 72 percent, New Mexico at 47 percent, Oklahoma at 68 percent, South Dakota at 75 percent, and Texas at 86 percent. Grain sorghum harvest is well under way in the Lower Rio Grande Valley region of Texas with news from the fields reporting grain heavy on bushel weights and yields outpacing projections in many areas.

Upcoming Field Days and Events

- June 20** Nebraska Grain Sorghum Producers Association Meeting, *Beatrice, Neb.*
- June 28** Northeast Research Station Pest Management and Crop Production Field Day, *Joseph, La.*
- June 27-29** International Food Aid and Development Conference, *Kansas City, Mo.*
- June 27-30** Fuel Ethanol Workshop, *Indianapolis, Ind.*
- July 22** Oklahoma No-Till Conference, *Norman, Okla.*
- July 25-27** U.S. Grains Council 51st Annual Board of Delegates Meeting, *San Francisco, Calif.*
- July 29** Oklahoma Commission Meeting, *Goodwell, Okla.*

Sign Up to Receive the Sorghum Checkoff e-Newsletter

Sorghum producers can now receive monthly e-Newsletters from the United Sorghum Checkoff Program. To receive monthly news and information regarding the Sorghum Checkoff's efforts in sorghum research, education and market development contact info@sorghumcheckoff.com and provide your email address. You can also sign up at www.SorghumCheckoff.com/contact-us. You can also follow the Checkoff on Twitter @SorghumCheckoff.

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 jennifer@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. You can also follow NSP on Twitter @SorghumGrowers, and you can find us on Facebook.

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Quote of the Week:

“All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.”

—Martin Luther King, Jr

Interested in Sponsorship Opportunities?

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