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SORGHUM E-Notes

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS Ensuring Sorghum's Profitability

January 11, 2008

Sorghum Yield Breaks All-Time Record!

National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) reports out this morning indicate that the 2007 sorghum crop yield broke all-time records. NASS reports sorghum yields of 74.2 bushels per acre, up a bushel and a half from the previous record of 72.7 bushels per acre set in 1994. The 2007 yield reflects an 18 bushel per acre increase over the 2006 sorghum yield.

In addition, sorghum production increased by a dramatic 82 percent nationwide over last year. 2007 sorghum production increased to almost 505 million bushels, well over 2006 production which was 277.5 million bushels.

Expiration of NAFTA Provisions Has Minimal Effect on Sorghum

Because of the expiration of certain NAFTA provisions, corn has full and open access to the Mexican export market as of January 1, 2008. This change was originally anticipated to negatively impact the price of sorghum. However, current domestic and international demand for sorghum has fortified markets to the extent that the expiration of NAFTA provisions favoring grain sorghum will have very little effect short term on sorghum prices.

Florida Secretary of Agriculture Looks to Sweet Sorghum

Florida Secretary of Agriculture Charles Bronson is speaking out on behalf of agriculture in his state, encouraging ethanol production using sweet sorghum and other alternative sources. His goal is to make agriculture the number one industry in Florida, even topping tourism, by developing non-traditional renewable energy sources from agriculture products like citrus peel, sugar cane waste, algae and sweet sorghum. One of Bronson's strategies is an infusion of research and development dollars into cellulosic ethanol production. Florida currently does not produce any fuel ethanol, but several plants using various products are one the drawing board.

Flex-Fuel Vehicle Industry Fuels Ethanol Demand in Brazil

Flex-fuel cars represented over 85% of vehicles sold in Brazil last year according to the Association of Automobile Manufacturers. The nation registered 2 million flex-fuel vehicles in 2007, bringing the total number of cars that run on alternative fuels to 4.6 million vehicles. Auto manufacturers in the country offer 63 models of flex-fuel vehicles which has driven demand for ethanol there. In addition, the growing industry has contributed to the creation of over 1 million new jobs. It is projected that half of Brazilian cars will be flex-fuel vehicles by 2013.

About Sorghum Notes

SORGHUM Notes is a publication of the National Sorghum Producers. NSP represents U.S. sorghum producers and works to ensure the profitability of sorghum production through market development, research, education and legislative representation. 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 hannah@sorghumgrowers.com. Copy and paste "Unsubscribe to Sorghum Notes" into the subject line.

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Quote of the week:

"Storms make trees take deeper roots." – Dolly Parton

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