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SORGHUM E-Notes

November 13, 2008

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:
the voice of the sorghum industry

November WASDE Report Released

The World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates report, released by USDA, stated U.S. sorghum production for 2008-2009 is forecast 7 million bushels lower this month. Feed and residual use is lowered five million bushels with the reduction in supplies. Ending stocks are projected two million bushels lower than in the previous forecast. The season-average farm price is projected at \$3.40 to \$4.20 per bushel, down from \$3.70 to \$4.70 per bushel. Also in the report, the estimate for sorghum area planted and harvested did not change from October to November, staying at 8.3 million bushels and 7.4 million bushels respectively.

RMA Makes Decision on Light Test Weight Sorghum

USDA Risk Management Agency has made it known to insurance companies this week that light test weight sorghum which cannot be marketed may be counted as "zero market value". Once this happens, the producer would be eligible for his complete insurance guarantee as no production would count against it. However, if the producer receives his insurance guarantee, he must destroy the sorghum and cannot receive any salvage value from the crop. This means that a producer cannot hay or graze the crop if he receives a "zero market value". Test weights below 40 pounds per bushel may qualify under a different section of the grain sorghum special provisions, so producers should check with their insurance agents on the details for receiving adjustments on light test weight sorghum.

Sorghum Growers Give Positive Yield Reports

As harvest is underway a producer in Kansas said the yield is very good; there just aren't enough acres to make everyone happy. He is only about 40 percent done with his harvest, and his yields have been anywhere from 80 to 160 bushels per acre, with a yield of 160 bushels per acre on his irrigated crop. As far as others in his area, yields of 125 to 130 bushels per acre have been seen on dry-land crops, but many producers are just getting starting cutting sorghum after harvesting their bean and corn crops. A sorghum grower in the Oklahoma panhandle tells NSP that after harvesting about 1400 acres, his overall yield average has ranged from 10 to 44 bushels per acre with an average of 25. He said his yield is producing test weights of about 20 to 56 pounds, but growers in his area are continuing to experience light bushel weights in some cases. He said although he is finished cutting his sorghum, many growers in the area just began their harvest last weekend. In southern Nebraska, a sorghum grower said sorghum yields have been much better than he had previously thought, with yields in the 150+ bushel range. However, with 75 mile per hour winds and ¾ of an inch of rain already this week, yields may drop back after producers get back in the fields.

NSP Representation at NAFB Convention

Toby Bostwick, NSP Chairman of the Board, as well as Hannah Lipps, NSP Communications Director, will be representing the sorghum industry this week at the National Association of Farm Broadcasting convention in Kansas City. NSP will be getting the good news out about sorghum at NAFB's Trade Talk event, where farm broadcasters from across the country will interview Toby regarding issues such as sorghum for ethanol, the impact of Farm Bill programs, and the positive implications of the national checkoff.

Sorghum Scholarship Opportunities

The National Sorghum Producers will again be offering "The Sorghum Challenge" this year to college students, which includes a \$750 scholarship and a trip to Washington, DC, with the National Sorghum Producers. Deadline for applying is May 31, 2009. Application forms are currently available and may be obtained by contacting the National Sorghum Foundation, Attn: Jeff Dahlberg, 4201 N. Interstate 27, Lubbock, TX 79408. Inquires may be directed to Dr. Dahlberg, NSP Research Director at jeff@sorghumgrowers.com or 806-749-3478.

Additionally, the Nebraska Grain Sorghum Producers Association is offering a \$400 scholarship to a graduating high school senior or to a student currently enrolled in post-high school education. To qualify, the student must plan to pursue a course of study in preparation for a career in agriculture or an ag-related field. If the applicant is currently enrolled in college, his/her studies must be ag-oriented. The applicant's parents or guardian must be a member of the Nebraska Grain Sorghum Producers Association.

The screening and selection of the scholarship recipient will be done by a special committee appointed by the Nebraska Grain Sorghum Producers Association. The committee will select one winner and one alternate winner. Notification will be made by May 1, 2009 in time for spring commencement ceremonies. The proceeds of the scholarship may be applied to the winning candidate's tuition or other educational expenses. Deadline for applying for the 2009 Nebraska Grain Sorghum Producers Association Scholarship is February 1, 2009. Application forms are currently available and can be obtained by contacting the NeGSPA office at P.O. Box 94982, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509; 402/471-3552. Email: sorghum.board@nebraska.gov

Look for Fall Sorghum Grower Magazine

Be on the lookout for your fall issue of Sorghum Grower magazine in the mail next week. This issue features articles on how to choose the best hybrid seed for your operation and how to determine your cost of production and understand its importance. There are also features on carbon credit trading and how it applies to sorghum growers as well as a wrap-up of the International Conference on Sorghum for Biofuel. This issue of Sorghum Grower will include tips on how to avoid tax mishaps and information about sorghum basis. Be sure not to miss out on great information in Sorghum Grower!

Commodity Classic Registration Friday

Starting Friday, November 14th, hotel rooms for 2009 Commodity Classic will open for reservation. Hotel rooms book quickly, so don't delay. Commodity Classic will feature valuable educational sessions, cutting-edge technological demonstrations, association banquets, entertainment events and important networking opportunities. It is the premier convention and trade show of the U.S. corn, soybean, sorghum and wheat industries.

Visit www.commodityclassic.com to make reservations at your hotel of choice and view the 2009 Classic schedule.

Sorghum Maturity Continues to Progress

Ninety-one percent of the sorghum crop was mature and beyond, eight percent behind last year and three percent behind the five-year average. Sorghum was mature in the Delta and in South Dakota, and was nearly mature in Colorado and Illinois. Fifty-six percent of the sorghum crop was harvested, 29 percent behind last year and 17 points behind the average. Harvest was complete in the Delta but was just getting underway in New Mexico. Condition of the crop was rated 53 percent good to excellent, a three percent decline from last week's rating.

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 hannah@sorghumgrowers.com.*

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Quote of the Week:

"Success is getting what you want. Happiness is wanting what you get."
--*Dale Carnegie*

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