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SORGHUM E-Notes

November 20, 2008

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:
the voice of the sorghum industry

United Sorghum Checkoff Program Board Meets in Washington, D.C.

The new United Sorghum Checkoff Program Board of Directors held its first meeting this week at the USDA headquarters in Washington, D.C. The Board discussed important issues such as a formal name for the program, election of officers, request for proposal process, bylaws and an initial budget. The Board elected to formally name the program the United Sorghum Checkoff Program.

Officers are President, Bill Greving of Prairie View, Kansas; Vice President, Bill Kubecka of Palacios, Texas; Secretary, Jeff Casten of Quenemo, Kansas; and Treasurer, Dale Artho of Wilderado, Texas.

"This is an exciting time for sorghum producers as the new checkoff organization gets up and running," said Toby Bostwick, Chairman of the NSP Board of Directors, who attended the meeting this week. "NSP is looking forward to working with the USCP Board to grow this industry and bring new technology to producers' fields."

NSP staff including Tim Lust, CEO; Marsha Bryant, Director of Operations; and Chris Cogburn, Strategic Business Director, also attended the meeting.

Food Prices Stay High as Commodity Prices Recede

The Consumer Price Index for October proves what farmers, agriculture industry associations and savvy consumers have been saying for months: ethanol is not to blame for food prices that skyrocketed over the summer. According to the October Consumer Price Index, prices for virtually everything consumers buy including airline tickets, clothing, and gasoline dropped in October while food prices increased or remained unchanged. While the prices of oil and commodities hover around half of their mid-summer levels, grocery manufacturers have not lowered food prices to reflect lower costs. A report released today by the Renewable Fuels Association details the dramatic drop in prices, noting:

"But now, five months after the "commodity bubble" began to deflate, food prices remain at levels much higher than normal. The price for corn—the would-be scapegoat of food price hikes—has fallen more than 50 percent since peaking in late June. Wheat prices have plunged 55 percent from their peak, while soybean prices are down nearly 50 percent. And oil prices have fallen dramatically from their highs, resulting in a 50 percent reduction in retail gasoline prices and a 40 percent drop in diesel prices. This has all occurred at the same time U.S. ethanol production has continued to expand."

Additionally, Secretary of Agriculture Ed Schafer commented yesterday on the attack the Grocery Manufacturers Association launched on ethanol last summer. In a media interview after his speech at the Cellulosic Ethanol Summit, Schafer said that when GMA held a press conference yesterday calling for an end to ethanol subsidies, they "stood up there with no credibility whatsoever" claiming that it will take 18 to 24 months for the lower commodity prices to bring food prices back down. "I just think that they are totally off base," Schafer said. "They're trying to justify their corporate policy in increasing costs to the consumer by blaming it on somebody else - that's just simply wrong."

Read RFA's complete report [here](#).

NSP Well-Represented at Cellulosic Ethanol Summit

NSP was well-represented at the Cellulosic Ethanol Summit in Coral Gables, Florida this week by NSP Research Director, Jeff Dahlberg, and NSP Washington Representative, Mark Rokala. High biomass cellulosic sorghums are an excellent fit for new cellulosic ethanol production technologies.

The Cellulosic Ethanol Summit brought together businesspeople, industry representatives, entrepreneurs, investors and other stakeholders for an event focused entirely on bringing cellulosic ethanol to market-scale production. Participants had opportunities for education, networking and sharing information. Secretary of Agriculture Ed Schafer was a keynote speaker at Wednesday's session.

Though Lagging, Sorghum Harvest Nears End

Producers had harvested 78 percent of the sorghum crop, 18 percent behind last year and nine percent behind the five-year average. Harvest was complete in the Delta, and ranged from 45 percent complete in New Mexico to 88 percent complete in Illinois. Producers were harvesting at or behind the average pace in all states except Colorado and Texas, where harvest was one percent ahead.

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:

There is one day that is ours. There is one day when all we Americans who are not self-made go back to the old home to eat saleratus biscuits and marvel how much nearer to the porch the old pump looks than it used to. Thanksgiving Day is the one day that is purely American.

- O. Henry

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