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SORGHUM E-Notes

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NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:
the voice of the sorghum industry

Crop Insurance Price Elections Show Sorghum at 97.8 Percent!

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) released new methodology this week showing sorghum's crop insurance price elections at 97.8 percent of the value of corn up from only 88 percent, which translates to a huge victory for the sorghum industry. The National Sorghum Producers (NSP) has been working hard with RMA over the past eight years to improve price elections, and the new methodology finalizes a long process and shows tangible results for our membership.

For sorghum producers, this new value can mean between \$20 to \$50 per acre or more in increased insurance coverage for sorghum depending on individual yields and coverage levels. Gerald Simonsen, NSP chairman of the board, expressed his excitement about the news. "This methodology is by far one of the best things that could have happened for sorghum producers this year, and this is going to greatly help sorghum producers manage their risk," he said.

During the 2008 Farm Bill debate, NSP worked with Congressman Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) and others to include a provision to develop a new methodology that was replicable and transparent. NSP then worked with RMA to refine the new methodology which will use sorghum prices throughout the Sorghum Belt to calculate the price election. The methodology posted Tuesday by RMA incorporates a time period of 10 years to calculate the price elections. This crop insurance price election will be in effect for the 2010 crop year.

Visit our [Web site](#) for more information about crop insurance price elections and click [here](#) to listen to Simonsen discuss price elections with Tony St, James of KFLP All Ag, All Day.

EPA Decides Not to Decide on E-15

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) decision to either approve or deny blending up to 15 percent of ethanol with gasoline instead of the current 10 percent maximum was due Dec. 1. Instead of issuing an answer, EPA said Tuesday the decision will be pushed to 2010, saying more research is needed to determine the effects of E-15 on current and future vehicles. However, EPA did acknowledge that recent E-15 tests have been promising.

Of the supporters of E-15, Growth Energy was satisfied with the announcement saying it is a "strong signal" that EPA is "preparing to approve E-15 upon the completion of ongoing tests early next year."

Others were not as optimistic about EPA's decision. President and Chief Executive Officer of the Renewable Fuels Association, Bob Dinneen, said EPA's announcement threatens the ethanol industry and will put a hold on advanced biofuels investments. "In order to avoid paralysis by analysis, EPA should immediately approve intermediate ethanol blends, such as E12. Allowing for a 20 percent increase in ethanol's potential share of the market would provide some breathing room for the industry while EPA finishes its testing on E-15."

NSP will continue to update you on EPA's progress with E-15.

Syngenta Offers New Sorghum Hybrids for 2010

Syngenta Seeds, Inc. announced yesterday that the company now carries seven new sorghum hybrids for the 2010 planting season. The new hybrids promise high disease resistance, consistent yields, better drought tolerance and better stress tolerance.

"We are excited to enable growers to take advantage of the best sorghum and alfalfa genetics Garst, Golden Harvest and NK Seeds have to offer for the 2010 planting season," said Bill Gilbert, product manager for miscellaneous field crops at Syngenta. "With the breadth of our sorghum and alfalfa portfolio, growers will be able to find the hybrid or variety that will thrive in their fields and produce excellent yields."

For more detailed information about these hybrids, visit our [site](#).

Climate Change Discussions Continue

Next week, 190 nations will meet in Copenhagen, Denmark for the United Nations Climate Change Conference 2009. As the U.S. prepares itself for this important conference, new information is surfacing about different nations' proposals to combat climate change in their regions. The White House announced a "provisional" target of a 17 percent reduction from 2005 levels in U.S. emissions by 2020 recently. China also announced its "voluntary" goal of reducing carbon intensity by up to 45 percent within the same time period, focusing primarily on energy conservation to reach this goal.

Back in the Senate, climate change legislation is still slowly inching forward, partially due to a recent catalyst. Earlier this week, emails retrieved by a hacker surfaced showing conversations between scientific researchers who discussed methods to exaggerate global warming damage. Congressman Tim Holden (D-Penn.), chairman of the House Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Energy and Research, held a hearing yesterday to review the economic impacts of climate change legislation on the farm sector. Today, a second hearing will be held to analyze research for the potential costs and effects of agriculture offset proposals to address climate change.

Subcommittee Chairman Holden said further analysis of climate change is necessary to proceed with the legislation to formulate an informed decision on the bill. "It is clear from today's hearing that there is still a lot of uncertainty with some of the modeling assumptions and data used to estimate the potential impact of climate change and climate change legislation on agriculture," he said. "The expert testimony of our witnesses from USDA and those analysts and economists on the front lines of climate change research reaffirm that additional questions must be asked and answered before we draw any definitive conclusions."

Most of Nation's Sorghum Harvested

With 75 percent of the sorghum crop harvested, progress was 12 percent behind last year and 15 percent behind the five year average. Harvest was most active in the central Great Plains and Missouri where 11 percent or more of the crop was harvested during the week.

From: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/WWNatSumm/WWNatSumm-11-24-2009.pdf>

Upcoming Meetings and Events

We are updating our online listing of field days, fairs, farm shows, meetings and events. [Please visit for the latest information.](#)

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 alexis@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.

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Quote of the Week:

*"Courage is a mean with regard to fear and confidence."
--Aristotle*

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