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## **SORGHUM E-Notes**

July 16, 2009

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:

*the voice of the sorghum industry*

### **Senators Request More Data Prior to Senate Ag Hearing on Climate Change**

Now that a climate change bill has passed the House and moved on to the Senate, debate is heating up in what's known as the more "deliberate" chamber. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairwoman Barbara Boxer (D-CA) remains determined to pass a bill and secure the President's signature before international climate talks begin in Copenhagen, Denmark in December.

Senator Mike Johanns (R-NE) requested this week that USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack develop an agriculture cost-benefit analysis for the program. When Vilsack testified before the House Committee on Agriculture last month, he indicated that his department had not conducted comprehensive analysis as to the program's actual economic impacts. Similarly, his department has not provided analysis on the programs at the two Senate hearings where Vilsack has testified this month. Johanns specifically points out that cap and trade legislation will affect producers across the nation in different ways. A Senate Agriculture Committee hearing on cap and trade is scheduled for Wednesday, July 22.

Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-GA), Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, requested similar information from USDA, addressing his letter to USDA Chief Economist Dr. Joseph Glauber.

"Since agriculture and food production is an energy intensive industry, inputs such as transportation fuel, fertilizer, seed, processing and packaging of food products will have substantial impacts on the bottom line of farms and downstream operators," he stated. "We need to understand the additive effect of increased energy costs at each stage of the food chain..."

[Click here](#) to read the text of Johanns's letter to Secretary Vilsack. [Click here](#) to read the text of Chambliss's letter.

### **E-15 Comment Period to Close**

The comment period for expanding the ethanol blend limit from E-10 to E-15 closes on Monday, July 20. Expanding the blend limit will allow the ethanol industry to grow, providing even greater marketing opportunities for sorghum and expansion into second-generation biofuels nationwide. NSP commented in support of extending the ethanol blend limit. Please take a few minutes to voice your support for expanding the blend limit – these last few days of the comment period could be critical! For more information on how to show your support, visit [www.GoE15.com](http://www.GoE15.com).

### **Movers and Shakers**

The last week has seen a great deal of movement of high level officials in agriculture across the nation. After the abrupt resignation of Farm Service Agency Administrator **Doug Caruso** last week, **Jonathan Coppess**, former Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs and previous aide to Senator Ben Nelson of Nebraska has been appointed FSA Administrator. **Lynn Tjerdtsma** replaces Coppess in his former role as Administrator of Farm Programs. Also at USDA, President Obama has appointed **Bill Murphy** as Administrator of the Risk Management Agency. Murphy formerly served at RMA as the Deputy Administrator for Insurance Services.

In Kansas, former Secretary of Agriculture **Adrian Polansky** who left that post to serve as FSA Kansas State Executive Director has been replaced by Acting Secretary of Agriculture **Josh Svaty**, a former State Representative and Ranking Member on the Kansas House Agriculture Committee.

In Texas, the Southwest Council for Agribusiness has named **Jimmy Clark** as its new Executive Director. Clark served as District Director for the 19<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Texas from 1985 until his retirement last month, first under former Congressman Larry Combest and more recently under Congressman Randy Neugebauer.

## **Southwest Farm Press: Milo a Good Option for Rotation**

Southwest Farm Press this week published an article praising the benefits of planting sorghum in a rotation with cotton. Veteran reporter Ron Smith interviewed J.D. and David Jones of Slaton, Texas about their experience with the crop. To read the story, [click here](#).

## **Sorghum Crop Progresses, On Par with Average**

This week 29 percent of sorghum had developed heads, one percent ahead of last year, but three percent behind the normal pace. Under mostly hot, dry conditions, 28 percent of Arkansas's acreage developed heads during the week. With activity limited to Colorado, Louisiana, and Texas, sorghum coloring crept forward to 24 percent complete, two percent ahead of last year and one percent ahead of the five-year average. Overall, 52 percent of the crop was rated in good to excellent condition, a slight improvement from last week and a year ago.

From: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/WWNatSumm/WWNatSumm-07-14-2009.pdf>

## **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

<b>July 17-22</b>	U.S. Grains Council and United Sorghum Checkoff Program Marketing Meeting, <i>San Diego, CA</i>
<b>July 23</b>	Oklahoma Sorghum Commission and Association Meeting, <i>Goodwell, OK</i>
<b>Aug. 11-12</b>	Sorghum Improvement Conference of North America (SICNA) Research Meeting, <i>Amarillo, TX</i>
<b>Aug. 13-14</b>	United Sorghum Checkoff Program Board Meeting, <i>Drury Inn, Amarillo, TX</i>
<b>Aug. 17-18</b>	National Sorghum Producers Board Meeting, <i>Sorghum Headquarters, Lubbock, TX</i>
<b>Aug. 19</b>	Southeast Area Field Day, <i>Ottawa, Kansas</i>
<b>Aug. 20</b>	Dean Lee Research & Extension Station Field Day, Louisiana State University Ag Center, <i>Alexandria, LA</i>
<b>Sept. 12</b>	Carleton Milo Days, <i>Carleton, Nebraska</i>
<b>Sept. 15-17</b>	Husker Harvest Days, <i>Grand Island, Nebraska</i>

## **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](http://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](mailto:hannah@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:**

"Never place a period where God has placed a comma."

~ [Gracie Allen](#)

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