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## **SORGHUM E-Notes**

June 18, 2009

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:

*the voice of the sorghum industry*

### **NSP Takes Position on Climate Change Bill**

The National Sorghum Producers met via conference call on Tuesday to discuss their position on H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, or climate change legislation, and issued the following statement from Toby Bostwick, Chairman of the NSP Board of Directors:

“The Board of Directors of the National Sorghum Producers fully supports the ongoing efforts of House Agriculture Chairman Collin Peterson as he works to modify climate change legislation to represent agriculture’s interests. However, we believe it is vital to protect our producer members by opposing H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, as it is currently written.

“The far-reaching impacts of this legislation are not sufficiently understood to determine its real impact on farmers. As written, this bill includes little to nothing that would encourage sorghum producers to support it. We firmly oppose placing oversight of this program with the Environmental Protection Agency, feel strongly that early adopters of conservation practices should be equally compensated for those practices, and believe that our cost per acre of production will increase dramatically under the current legislation with little chance to recover those costs. We will continue to monitor this bill for potential changes before it goes before the full House of Representatives, but oppose it in its current form.”

### **The Latest in the House Effort to Pass a Climate Change Bill**

Throughout this week, House Committee on Agriculture Chairman Collin Peterson (D-MN) has been in ongoing negotiations with Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Chairman of House Energy and Commerce Committee Henry Waxman (D-CA). The goal of their discussions has been to reach an agreement on climate change legislation that will take into account the far-reaching impacts this bill could have on farmers.

While at press time no compromise has been reached, other members of the House Agriculture Committee have expressed to the Speaker the need for more time for the House to make changes to the bill that would at the very least reduce the bill’s adverse effects on rural America. Republican members of Congress including Moran (R-KS) and Lucas (R-OK) this week spearheaded a letter to Speaker Pelosi asking “that appropriate time be allowed for the legislative process to be completed.” The letter, which was co-signed by 18 other members, is available on our [Legislative Page](#).

Word on the street is that, should the climate change bill sail through the House before July 4<sup>th</sup> recess as Speaker Pelosi wants, the Senate will be more deliberate in their consideration of the legislation. Understanding the impacts this will have on every American for years to come, Senator Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma said in an interview with Oklahoma Farm News Report this week that he anticipates the bill could die on the Senate floor as, in his estimation, it currently only has 34 votes of support in the Senate.

### **Attention OKLAHOMA!**

NSP has developed a comprehensive decision tool to aid your decision in whether or not to double-crop. Noting the complex interactions between new farm bill programs, disaster programs, crop insurance and cropping decisions, this

calculator takes all factors into account and allows you to input your personal farm data and determine whether or not a double crop will be the best option for you. [Click HERE to access the calculator.](#)

## **USCP and U.S. Grains Council Sponsors Buyers' Mission to Kansas and Texas**

Six end-users from Mexico visited the U.S. sorghum industry this week in search of good suppliers for their markets. The mission began in Lubbock, where the buyers were oriented to the sorghum industry at NSP/United Sorghum Checkoff Program (USCP) offices. They toured an Attebury Rail facility near Lubbock, the Levelland Hockley County Ethanol plant which processes local sorghum, and visited producers. Working their way north, the buyers stopped at Plainview Farm Chemical, Plainview, Texas and Hooker Equity Coop, Hooker, Oklahoma. They continued their buying mission in western Kansas where the group visited shuttle facilities in Coolidge, Garden City and Dodge City. They also met with producers and Syracuse Coop in Syracuse, Kansas.

During the meetings, the U.S. elevators and end-users discussed issues including grain quality, transportation, consistent quantity, nutritional values compared to corn, processing (rolling and flaking) and price. The buyers represented shuttle train facilities, an independent dairy operation, and feed mills producing commercial feed.

## **Clean Water Restoration Act Could Have Far-Reaching Impacts**

Several weeks ago, NSP reported that it was involved on behalf of the agriculture industry with a court case pitting the National Cotton Council (NCC) against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The case involves permitting procedures for pesticide applicators on or near water. In January, a panel of judges stated that any pesticide application that resulted in pesticide residue coming in contact with water was subject to permitting under the Clean Water Act – which could place undue paperwork and pressure on agricultural operations who already follow label instructions in their application procedures. NCC led the charge to have the case reheard, as past interpretations of the law have excluded many agricultural applications as long as label directions were followed.

Last week, the court granted the EPA's motion for a two year stay, or pause, in the case. This pause will give EPA time to develop new permitting procedures for people who apply pesticides near water. Ultimately, however, the agriculture industry wants to have the case reheard. NSP continues to be involved with this case and will represent sorghum growers' interests in all Clean Water Act discussions.

## **Fuel Ethanol Workshop Promotes Sorghum to Ethanol**

United Sorghum Checkoff Program staff attended the Fuel Ethanol Workshop in Denver, Colorado this week, promoting the use of sorghum for grain, sweet and forage based ethanol production. USCP Marketing Director Florentino Lopez and CEO Tim Lust were interviewed by Chuck Zimmerman from AgWired Media. See a photo and hear the interview by clicking [here](#).

## **81 Percent of Sorghum Crop in the Ground**

Sorghum producers had planted 81 percent of their sorghum acreage by week's end, nine percent ahead of last year and three percent ahead of the average. Progress was slightly ahead of last year's and the normal pace in Kansas and Texas, the two largest sorghum-producing states.

From: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/WWNatSumm/WWNatSumm-06-16-2009.pdf>

## **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

- June 14-18** Mexico Sorghum Buyers' Mission, *Texas and Western Kansas*
- July 1** NSP Board of Directors conference call, [email for more information](#)
- July 17-22** U.S. Grains Council and United Sorghum Checkoff Program Domestic Marketing Meeting, *San Diego, CA*
- July 23** Oklahoma Sorghum Commission and Association Meeting, *Goodwell, OK*
- August 11-12** Sorghum Improvement Conference of North America (SICNA) Research Meeting, *Amarillo, TX*

**August 12-13** United Sorghum Checkoff Program Board Meeting, *Drury Inn, Amarillo, TX*

**August 17-18** National Sorghum Producers Board Meeting, *Sorghum Headquarters, Lubbock, TX*

## **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.

## **SORGHUM Notes is sponsored by:**

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## **Quote of the Week:**

"Let us realize that the privilege to work is a gift, that power to work is a blessing, that love of work is success."

-- David O. McKay

## **Interested in Sponsorship Opportunities?**

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