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SORGHUM E-Notes

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NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:

the voice of the sorghum industry

Where were Your NSP Staff this Week?

While you're busy planting, your NSP staff spent the past week covering multiple issues to ensure that sorghum farmers are fairly represented at all levels of industry and government. Here are some highlights:

Ghost crop: We first reported more than a month ago that USDA was expected to clarify regulations on planting a second crop behind failed wheat. The question is whether or not that second crop will be considered a ghost crop in certain counties. While we know that if you indicated on your crop insurance enrollment form that your second crop will be considered ghost for the purpose of Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) payments, it remains to be seen whether this applies in double crop counties. NSP staff met with farmers and elevators in Oklahoma this week, and worked with USDA-FSA to be sure FSA regulations don't penalize farmers for making sound agronomic decisions and planting sorghum.

RFS-2: When the Environmental Protection Agency released rules on the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS-2) a few weeks ago, we mentioned that sorghum was not discussed to the extent it should have been addressed, but said that NSP will submit comments to EPA reinforcing sorghum's role in the RFS-2. This week, NSP staff worked with the ethanol industry, university scientists and ethanol plants to develop an action plan for commenting on EPA's rules. NSP's comments will include data on grain, forage and sweet sorghum for biofuels production.

Your Sorghum Checkoff at Work: NSP and United Sorghum Checkoff Program (USCP) field and communications staff met around a kitchen table in south Texas this week to develop a plan to efficiently and effectively help producers become acquainted with their new checkoff program and the excellent research it will soon yield for farmers' fields.

NSP to Testify at BCAP Hearing

NSP will testify next week at a Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) hearing on the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP). BCAP, a provision of the 2008 farm bill, provides assistance for development of transportation and infrastructure for biomass crops to be converted into biofuels. High biomass forage sorghum is a viable crop for the BCAP program and NSP will testify that the CCC should widely implement the program in order to encourage development of cellulosic ethanol technologies. The hearing will be held in Amarillo, Texas, Tuesday evening June 2 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

President Reinforces Need for Viable Ethanol Industry

President Barack Obama said on Wednesday that corn-based ethanol needs to remain viable until new types of biofuels can be generated.

"My administration is committed to moving as quickly as possible to commercialize an array of emerging cellulosic technologies so that tomorrow's biofuels will be produced from sustainable biomass feedstocks and waste materials rather than corn," Obama said in his letter. "But this transition will be successful only if the first-generation biofuels industry remains viable in the near term."

Grain sorghum, which produces the same amount of ethanol per bushel as corn, is a viable option for ethanol production while sweet and high biomass forage sorghums fit into up-and-coming ethanol production processes.

New Mexico Farmers Plant, Hoping for Rain

Nationwide, 47 percent of this year's sorghum crop was planted, two percent ahead of last year, but one percent behind the five-year average. The most progress during the week was made in New Mexico, where producers planted a significant amount of dry land acreage ahead of forecasted rainfall.

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.* 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:

"Happiness is something you get as a byproduct in the process of making something else."
- Aldous Huxley

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