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## **SORGHUM E-Notes**

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NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:  
*the voice of the sorghum industry*

### **United Sorghum Checkoff Program Launches SorghumCheckoff.com**

The United Sorghum Checkoff Program (USCP) has launched a new Web site to provide interactive and up-to-date information about the sorghum industry and the progress of the Sorghum Checkoff program at [www.sorghumcheckoff.com](http://www.sorghumcheckoff.com).

USCP Communications Committee Chair Billy Bob Brown said the new site is dedicated to sorghum producers and their interests. "My hope is that producers will take advantage of the new site, because it is there for them to use," Brown said. "The Web site will allow producers to take advantage of the opportunity to be updated on the latest sorghum research and market development."

In the future, the site will continue to grow and develop, adding a new research database, extensive information on market development activities and opportunities for even more interactive features.

### **Agriculture Secretary Announces 2010 DCP and ACRE Signup Begins**

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced yesterday that enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program has begun and will continue through June 1, 2010; click [here](#) to read more about the ACRE program in the Spring issue of *Sorghum Grower* magazine.

Producers can use the eDCP automated Web site to sign up or visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2010 DCP or ACRE contract. Producers who are eligible to participate in the DCP and ACRE Programs can visit the [www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp) for the electronic contract. To access the service, producers must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form which can be found at [www.eauth.egov.usda.gov](http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov) followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

### **Sorghum Checkoff Hosts North African Buyers**

With the goal of further developing trade relationships between North Africa and U.S. sorghum suppliers, the United Sorghum Checkoff Program (USCP) in conjunction with the U.S. Grains Council and the Texas Grain Sorghum Producers is sponsoring a team of seven sorghum buyers from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia Oct. 4-10.

The team will tour the Port of Corpus Christi and meet with Port officials today (Oct. 8). They will also meet with ADM operators and tour the port elevator facility. On Friday, the team will tour Planters Co-op's multiple locations on the Coastal Bend of Texas to learn more about the typical cooperative and country elevator. The tour will educate them about where sorghum is grown and stored before it reaches the port.

Brian McCuiston, manager of Planters Co-op, said it will be positive for the team to tie field production to elevator handling and export channels. "At our facility, I am hoping to show them what elevator marketers look for in sorghum – what we store, why we store it, why we exist and the measures we take to ensure the identity of our sorghum when it hits the facility," McCuiston said. "It is important to them to know how the grain is handled. Quality means a lot so we'll have the opportunity to demonstrate those practices to them."

## **Cooler Weather Brings Feed Questions**

Frost on sudangrass or sorghum sudangrass hybrids can cause prussic acid build-up. After accumulating on sorghum, prussic acid can be dangerous to livestock, but it is very rare. However, producers worry about the potential dangers of the acid to their livestock every winter. **Livestock may need to be removed from sorghum for a period of time immediately following a frost.** For more information on prussic acid, contact Jeff Dahlberg with NSP at 806-749-3478.

## **49 Percent of Sorghum Crop Rated Good to Excellent**

Ninety one percent of the sorghum acreage was at or beyond the coloring stage. This is four percent more than last year but two percent less than the five year average. In Texas, the second largest sorghum-producing state, coloring progress was less than normal as cool temperatures in the northern High Plains delayed crop development. Crop maturity advanced to 55 percent complete, which is one percent less than last year and 13 percent less than the average. Harvest continued at a slow pace, reaching 35 percent complete by Oct. 4. This is four percent less than last year and nine percent less than normal. Despite an active week of harvest in Arkansas where producers harvested 29 percent of their acreage during the week, overall progress remained well behind normal. Overall, 49 percent of the sorghum crop was rated in good to excellent condition, unchanged from last week but down five percent from ratings last year.

Source: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/WWNatSumm/WWNatSumm-10-06-2009.pdf>

## **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 [alexis@sorghumgrowers.com](mailto: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.

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

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### **Quote of the Week:**

“Courage is rightly esteemed the first of human qualities because it is the quality which guarantees all others.”

- -Winston Churchill

### **Interested in Sponsorship Opportunities?**

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