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SORGHUM E-Notes

September 10, 2009

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:
the voice of the sorghum industry

Sorghum Congratulates Senator Lincoln on Leadership Role

The National Sorghum Producers released a statement yesterday regarding Senator Blanche Lincoln's (D-AR) appointment to Chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.

Toby Bostwick, NSP Chairman of the Board, said he is looking forward to working with Senator Lincoln.

"The National Sorghum Producers has had a positive working relationship with Senator Lincoln and her staff during past agriculture policy debates. Although much of U.S. sorghum production is in the Plains states, we have found Senator Lincoln to be extremely responsive and attentive to the needs of sorghum producers nationwide. Her farm background and her commitment to agriculture are exciting. We know she will continue the collaboration with rural America that we have come to expect from the Committee."

"We thank Senator Harkin for his service and wish him well in his new role."

NSP represents U.S. sorghum producers. The organization serves as the voice of the sorghum industry coast to coast through legislative representation, regulatory representation, and education. To learn more about NSP, visit www.sorghumgrowers.com.

How Much is a Comment Worth?

NSP worked hard in the 2008 Farm Bill to ensure that USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) would re-evaluate the way they determine price elections for grain sorghum. Under Congressional directive from that bill, RMA has studied sorghum price elections, called for recommendations, and has proposed using a model developed by Texas A&M University.

If your price elections are re-rated according to the TAMU model with changes suggested by NSP, your price election for this year could increase by up to \$21 per acre. For example, if you farmed this year in Kansas and have an APH of 85 bushels and buy 70 percent coverage, your price election could increase by \$20.83 per acre based on recent prices. In a lower APH areas, your price election could have increased by almost \$9 per acre.

If \$20 an acre matters to you, *please comment*. RMA will accept feedback until September 22, 2009. It doesn't have to be complicated, just tell RMA that this is important to you. Go to our [website](#) for specific changes NSP suggests to improve the model and instructions on how to comment.

The Truth about Atrazine

The New York Times and several other widely read publications recently published articles with negative information about atrazine levels in the United States water supply and the possible connection between atrazine and cancer in humans. NSP responded to these articles three weeks ago in Sorghum Notes with some facts about this essential crop protection tool. We want to remind you of the truth about atrazine:

--- After 50 years, atrazine is still one of the most effective, affordable and trusted herbicides in agriculture.

--- There has been no proven link between atrazine and cancer.

--- The World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations recently reviewed atrazine in September 2007 and concluded that it is "not likely to pose a carcinogenic risk to humans."

--- Atrazine is used in more than 60 countries around the world (Africa, North and South America, Asia and the Middle East). No country has ever discontinued the use of atrazine based on health effects.

Recent articles have been based on misinformation and inaccurate representation of the actual amounts present in the water. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a statement about the levels of atrazine in drinking water and found that the chemical poses no dangers.

"Risk assessments for cumulative exposures to triazine residues via drinking water based on currently registered uses of atrazine and simazine are not of concern."

NSP continues working to ensure that atrazine is a viable crop protection tool for your farm.

New Faces at NSP

We are happy to welcome a new Communications Coordinator for NSP. Alexis Arnold graduated with a Public Relations degree from Texas Tech University and was previously employed with United Supermarkets in the Marketing department. She has both sorghum farming and cattle ranching in her family and is excited to be a support to the sorghum community.

Hannah Lipps is now External Affairs Director overseeing communications and legislative activities for NSP.

Harvest Begins Nationwide

Sorghum heading was complete in the Delta and nearly complete on the Great Plains. Cool temperatures and wet fields slowed head development in Illinois. Coloring was complete on 60 percent of the nation's acreage, two percent lower than last year and six percent lower than the average. Delays of

23 percent or more were evident in Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, and South Dakota. Thirty three percent of the crop was mature, which is only slightly behind last year and three percent lower than normal. Producers harvested 29 percent of their acreage by the end of the week, on par with last year but one point lower than the five year average. Harvest began in Colorado during the week, where producers had almost seven full days suitable for fieldwork. Overall, 49 percent of the sorghum crop was rated in good to excellent condition, unchanged from last week but four percent below last year.

Source: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/WWNatSumm/WWNatSumm-09-09-2009.txt>

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:

"Education is a better safeguard of liberty than a standing army."
--- Edward Everett

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