NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS
SORGHUM NOTES

National Sorghum Producers **Sorghum e-Notes | June 16, 2016**

The voice of the sorghum industry

Atrazine Alert: NSP Requests EPA Extend Comment Periods

Tell EPA today why farmers need atrazine at http://sorghumgrowers.com/sorghumalert.

The Environmental Protection Agency not only threatens use of atrazine, but also set a public comment period during the busiest time of the year for the very farmers such restrictions would affect the most. As a result, National Sorghum Producers requested the EPA extend the public comment period regarding the re-registration of atrazine, currently set to expire on August 5, by an additional 60 days to allow for more farmer input.

NSP Board Chairman James Born stated in the letter: "Given the significant demands growers though out the United States are facing this time of year to plant, manage and harvest food and fiber, the ability to thoroughly review and comment is simply not feasible for the average farmer."

Read the full letter here, in which NSP also requests an extension of comment periods for propazine and simazine.

EPA Sets 2017 RFS Below Statutory Levels, But Open for Comment

In May, the Environmental Protection Agency set the amount of renewable fuels required to be blended with conventional fuels at 18.8 billion gallons, 5.2 billion gallons below the levels set by Congress in the 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act (24 billion gallons). This action follows last year's implementation of lower than legally specified Renewable Fuel Standard levels for 2014 to 2016, which resulted in National Sorghum Producers and other agricultural organizations filing a lawsuit against the EPA.

Efforts to weaken the RFS harm sorghum farmers, biofuel facilities and the surrounding communities that depend economically on agriculture. NSP encourages submitting comments in support of the RFS before the end of the current public comment period on July 11, 2016. Learn more or comment directly at http://sorghumgrowers.com/rfs/.

Senate Report Echoes Ag Concerns on OSHA Actions

The Senate Committee on Appropriations formally scolded the Occupational Safety and Health Administration for proposing to revoke a regulatory exemption for farm supply retailers handling anhydrous ammonia without following federal rulemaking guidelines.

The rebuke was included in a committee report attached to the Senate appropriations bill for the departments of labor, health and human services and education. According to the report, OSHA's actions leave the agency open to liability that can be avoided by going through the proper rulemaking process, including notice and period of public comment.

Instituting new Process Safety Management regulations would place significant time and cost burdens on agricultural retailers, according to a March letter sent by National Sorghum Producers and other agricultural organizations.

USGC, Sorghum Checkoff Talk Sorghum in Spain

A recent team from the U.S. Grains Council and Sorghum Checkoff, including Sorghum Checkoff board members Martin Kerschen from Kansas and Carlton Bridgeforth from Alabama, discussed sorghum quality and value in Spain. While in Spain, the team met with meat processing facilities, feedlots, commodity buyers, livestock producer organizations and ports. While Chinese demand limited purchasing opportunities for markets like Spain in recent years, the USGC and Sorghum Checkoff effort is working to re-engage this growing market and keep buyers and end-users up-to-date on the latest in supply and utilization.

Chinese Sorghum Buyers Visit Kansas, Texas, Louisiana

A team of Chinese sorghum importers and feed millers will tour sorghum production and ports in Texas, Kansas and Louisiana June 20-July 1. In addition, the group will visit Kansas State University and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service office in Kansas City, Missouri. The trade team is sponsored by the U.S. Grains Council and the Sorghum Checkoff and organized in collaboration with state sorghum organizations. Learn more about the Chinese team at http://bit.ly/265GlQa.

Court and Congress Take Action on WOTUS

In three separate actions, the House and Senate as well as a federal court order further delayed implementation of the Clean Water Rule (Waters of the U.S.). First, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in Cincinnati issued a court order that maintains a stay on WOTUS implementation as arguments on the WOTUS lawsuit will not be scheduled until at least February 2017. Then, the Senate and House appropriations committees each passed spending bills that included riders to block the Environmental Protection Agency from implementing WOTUS during fiscal year 2017, which starts Oct. 1.

Growers Divided on Proposed Organic Checkoff

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has not issued an Organic Commodity Promotion Order to establish a certified organic checkoff, as authorized by the 2014 farm bill. But, the proposal is under fire by a coalition of farmer groups and businesses. The No Organic Checkoff Coalition sent a letter this week to the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service detailing opposition concerns and calling for voluntary state or regional checkoff programs.

Enter the 2016 NSP Yield Contest

With planting well underway, do not forget to enter the 2016 National Sorghum Producers Yield Contest! The contest provides sorghum farmers with the opportunity to showcase their sorghum crop, competing with farmers across the Sorghum Belt. Winners are recognized each year in conjunction with Commodity Classic.

One additional incentive is the NSP yield goal of 250 bushels per acre. NSP is offering incentives with support from the Sorghum Checkoff to award growers who reach this new benchmark, including a three-year truck lease for first place.

New this year, NSP is partnering with StollerUSA for the Sorghum Shootout. This forum will chronicle the intense management styles of award-winning growers, providing sorghum growers across the country with exposure to some of the best management practices needed to reach the highest yields year after year.

Visit http://sorghumgrowers.com/yield-contest/ to learn more about these programs, read the updated 2016 NSP Yield Contest rules and enter your acres today!

Monsanto, Remington Announce Sorghum Joint Venture

On Thursday, June 16, Monsanto Company and Remington Holding Company, LLC, announced a joint venture that will focus strategically on sorghum. Named Innovative Seed Solutions, LLC, this effort will strive to achieve higher investments and innovations along with increased market access for sorghum. In a related transaction, a subsidiary of Remington will purchase Monsanto's U.S. sorghum production assets. Monsanto will offer sorghum products derived from the joint venture through its Asgrow®, DEKALB®, Channel® and regional seed brand dealer networks globally. Visit http://monsanto.info/21oWKvT to learn more.

Export Report: Strong Sales Continue

Strong sorghum export sales continued this week with commitments of 1.97 million bushels by China and Japan, bringing total commitments for the year to 295 million bushels. Shipments approached historic levels with 8.69 million bushels delivered to China, Japan, South Korea and Mexico. Total shipments for the year now stand at 267 million bushels. That amount equates to 81 percent of the updated USDA target for the marketing year, which was raised to 330 million bushels in the June World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report.

Sorghum Crop Update

Producers have planted 76 percent of this year's sorghum crop as of June 12, on par with the five-year average, according to the weekly U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service Crop Progress report. Arkansas, Nebraska, Kansas and South Dakota have nearly concluded planting. Texas and Missouri are also close to wrapping up at 87 percent complete. In Missouri and Arkansas, sorghum is beginning to head out as of June 12, while sorghum in Texas and Louisiana is 37 and 30 percent headed respectively. Sorghum condition scores indicate a strong start to the growing season, with 71 percent of the crop rated good or excellent compared to 67 percent at this point in 2015. The crop condition

index for sorghum is 373. Perfect conditions would generate a score of 500. Last year at this point, the sorghum condition index was 371.

Sorghum in the Spotlight:

Sorghum Growers: EPA Risk Assessment for Atrazine Departs from Science – High Plains Journal

Sorghum Producers Concerned as EPA Releases Controversial Assessment – NewsWest9

Atrazine Risk Assessment Draws Ire from Ag Sector – Agri-Pulse

EPA's Draft Ecological Report on Atrazine Scientifically Unjustified – Syngenta

EPA, Ag Groups Spar Over Atrazine – AgWeb

EPA Atrazine Assessment Criticized – AgWired

No to Atrazine – AgInfo.net

June Grain of the Month Series: Sorghum – Whole Grains Council

Upcoming Sorghum Events

June 19-July 2 China Sorghum Team in U.S.

June 26-28 Summer Fancy Food Show, *New York, New York*

June 27 Taste Sorghum Event, *New York, New York*

July 10-15 Mexico Ethanol Producers Trade Team in U.S.

July 16-19 International Food Technology Conference, *Chicago, Illinois*

July 23-26 Texas Seed Trade Association Meeting, *Frisco, Texas*

July 25-26 Ag Media Summit, *St. Louis, Missouri*

For a full view of calendar events, visit the NSP website calendar.

Market News - To view this week's Gulf export grain report, click here.

Sign Up to Receive the Sorghum Checkoff e-Newsletter

Sorghum producers can also receive monthly e-newsletters from the United Sorghum Checkoff Program. To receive monthly news and information regarding the Sorghum Checkoff's efforts in sorghum research, education and market development, sign up here. You can also follow the Sorghum Checkoff on Twitter @SorghumCheckoff.

Have you heard about the Sorghum Shootout presented by National Sorghum Producers sponsored by Stoller USA?

Click the video to learn more, and sign up for updates at sorghumshootout.com

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About Sorghum Notes

Sorghum Notes is a publication of the National Sorghum Producers. NSP represents U.S. sorghum producers and serves as the voice of the sorghum industry from coast to coast through education and legislative and regulatory representation.

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Don't count the days; make the days count.

- Muhammad Ali

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