



NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS
SORGHUM
NOTES

National Sorghum Producers
The voice of the sorghum industry

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NSP Releases Statement on EPA Risk Assessment for Atrazine

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency this week released its [Draft Triazine Ecological Risk Assessments](#). The assessment determined the herbicide atrazine poses ecological risk to plants and animals including amphibians, birds, reptiles and mammals, which according to the National Sorghum Producers departs from extensive scientific research proving the safety of atrazine.

“National Sorghum Producers strongly disagrees with the methodology the EPA used to arrive at these results,” said Past Chairman J.B. Stewart, a sorghum farmer from Keyes, Oklahoma. “We feel the agency has abandoned a science-based approach even including studies in the review that the agency’s own 2012 Scientific Advisory Panel said were flawed. The EPA has ignored years of analyses that show atrazine is safe. It’s one of the most studied chemicals in the U.S. and has been a proven and dependable herbicide for more than 50 years.”

National Sorghum Producers will soon be actively seeking input from its grower community once the draft ecological assessment is published in the Federal Register. EPA will be accepting public comments for 60 days after that time. After receiving and reviewing public comments, the agency will amend the assessments, as appropriate, the EPA said in a statement.

“This is a tool our farmers cannot stand to lose,” said NSP CEO Tim Lust. “The EPA continually brings forth challenges for the farm community and chooses to ignore the science, underscoring the importance to have a united and vocal showing from our farm community about the importance of this important crop-protection tool.”

Lust said NSP will continue to work with the EPA, Congress and the White House to help bring logic and science back to the assessment process. Atrazine is being reviewed as part of the 15-year chemical re-registration process that started in 2007.

Sorghum Checkoff Announces \$500,000 Investment

The Sorghum Checkoff announced this week a \$500,000 investment in sorghum research, made at the inaugural Transportation Energy Resources from Renewable Agriculture (TERRA) program field day at the University of Arizona's Maricopa Agricultural Center in Maricopa, Arizona. This investment follows the U.S. Department of Energy's commitment of \$30 million in 2015 for sorghum to be researched as a model feedstock through the TERRA program. Six projects were funded under the program and will bring new technology to sorghum breeders.

The TERRA program will integrate biology, engineering and computer science into technological innovations that will facilitate advancements in agricultural productivity, crop yields, environmental stewardship and energy security.

These technologies were showcased at the field day, including the "Field Scanalyzer" located at the Maricopa Agriculture Center, which is currently the largest field crop analytics platform in the world. It incorporates state-of-the-art remote sensing technologies that measure and analyze crop growth and development with unprecedented resolution, speed and accuracy. To read the full Sorghum Checkoff release, [click here](#).

NSP, USCP Attend TERRA Program Field Day

Sorghum was on display in Maricopa, Arizona, this week at the inaugural [Transportation Energy Resources from Renewable Agriculture \(TERRA\) program](#) field day at the University of Arizona's Maricopa Agricultural Center. TERRA is the \$30 million U.S. Department of Energy sorghum program. Among the technologies showcased was the "Field Scanalyzer," the largest field crop analytics platform in the world. It incorporates state-of-the-art remote sensing technologies that measure and analyze crop growth and development with unprecedented resolution, speed and accuracy. The event featured speakers from the scientific community, government and commodity groups. National Sorghum Producers past chairman J.B. Stewart and NSP and USCP CEO Tim Lust both participated as speakers.



EPA Judge Orders End of Flubendiamide Sales

Chief Administrative Law Judge Susan Biro Thursday ordered that all remaining products that contain flubendiamide, the active ingredient in Belt™, be pulled from the market following the Environmental Protection Agency's cancellation of the pesticide. Bayer CropScience and Nichino America, the makers of Belt™, previously requested a hearing before the judge, contesting the EPA's proposed cancellation, claiming the EPA based its decision on theoretical modeling versus five years of real world monitoring submitted by Bayer. Belt™ was available for use on more than 200 crops, including sorghum for controlling fall armyworms, sorghum webworms, cutworms and corn earworms. Bayer will bring the case before the Environmental Appeals Board and expects a final decision by July 6.

Landowners Have Option to Sue to Halt Clean Water Regulation of Farmland

The U.S. Supreme Court this week unanimously ruled landowners who feel the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers improperly attempt to regulate land with regard to water protection regulations now may challenge the federal government. Farmers and ranchers across the country are calling it a win in the challenge over the Environmental Protection Agency's Water of the U.S. even though the ruling has no impact regarding the current litigation surrounding the issue. The ruling does set a large precedent, however, and provides new relief to farmers, allowing them to file a lawsuit against the EPA much earlier in the process rather than being required to obtain a costly

permit prior to appealing.

USDA Extends Deadline for Recording Farm Structure

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack last week announced a one-time, 30-day extension to the June 1 deadline for recording farm organization structures related to Actively Engaged in Farming determinations. This date is used to determine the level of interest an individual holds in a legal entity for the applicable program year. Farming operations will now have until July 1 to complete their restructuring or finalize any operational change. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued the extension in response to farmers and ranchers who requested more time to comply, and to assure that everyone has enough time to provide their information under the new rules. Learn more [here](#).

USDA Unveils New Improvement to Streamline Crop Reporting

The U.S. Department of Agriculture this week announced that farmers and ranchers filing crop acreage reports with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and participating insurance providers approved by the Risk Management Agency (RMA) now can provide the common information from their acreage reports at one office and the information will be electronically shared with the other location. To read the full USDA release, click [here](#).

Export Report: China Continues to Buy U.S. Sorghum

This week saw very strong export sales commitments of 8.25 million bushels by China. This brings total commitments for the year to 288 million bushels. Shipments were also strong with 2.1 million bushels delivered to China and Mexico. This brings total shipments for the year to 256 million or 81 percent of the USDA target. FOB prices at gulf ports remain strong with June and July sorghum prices posted at 108 percent and 103 percent of the price of corn, respectively.

Sorghum Crop Report

Producers had planted 44 percent of this year's sorghum crop by week's end, 2 percentage points ahead of last year but 7 points behind the 5-year average. Planting advances of 25 percentage points or more were observed in Nebraska, New Mexico, and South Dakota during the week.

Sorghum in the Spotlight:

[Agri-Bots: US Department of Energy Invests Millions in Cutting-Edge Arizona Crop Scanner](#) - KJZZ

[5 Lunch Ideas That Have Ideal Fuel For Runners](#) - Women's Running

[Transform Approved in Nebraska to Treat Sugarcane Aphids](#) - KTIC Radio

[Sorghum Producers Concerned as EPA Releases Controversial Assessment](#) - NewsWest9.com
[The Lone Star View of Sorghum](#) - KGNC

Upcoming Sorghum Events

June 19-July 2 Junjie 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**

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.