



NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS
SORGHUM
NOTES

National Sorghum Producers

The voice of the sorghum industry

Sorghum E-Notes | May 19, 2016

Senate Takes Action on Agriculture Appropriations Bill

The Senate Appropriations Committee marked up today the FY 2017 Agriculture Appropriations Bill, which funds the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). A committee release said discretionary funding levels totaled \$21.25 billion, \$250 million below the FY 2016 enacted level. Highlights of the bill include a \$25 million increase in agricultural research funding for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, a \$44.9 million increase in funding for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) for emergency preparedness/response to continue programs to control or eradicate plant and animal pests and diseases. National Sorghum Producers will report on further details regarding priority items in the bill in next week's Sorghum Notes.

Competitive, Special and Facilities Research Grants to be Solicited

In a release, the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) announced it is soliciting topics from commodity board entities as part of the implementation process for the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grants Act, reauthorized by the 2014 Farm Bill. The Act includes a priority for funding for plant health and production, focusing on plant genome structure and function, plant biotechnology, conventional and participatory breeding, and plant-pest interactions. A link to the notice can be found [here](#).

EPA Releases 2017 Renewable Volume Obligations

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposed Wednesday increases for 2017 renewable fuel volume obligations for all biofuel types under the Renewable Fuel Standard program. National Sorghum Producers is reviewing the release to understand what it means for the sorghum industry.

House Agriculture Committee Chair Conway Offers Support to Trump Campaign

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway (R-Texas) has expressed his support for GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump, volunteering to help him with agricultural policy issues. The Trump campaign has not yet responded to his offer of assistance, but Conaway feels the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is one particular issue Trump will address during his campaign, according to AgriPulse.

The Academies Say GMOs are Safe for Consumption and the Environment

On May 17, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine released a long-awaited report on the impact of genetically engineered (GE) crops on public health and the economy. According to the report, current GE crop traits do not pose a threat to human health or to the environment. Without taking a specific stance on how the labeling could be carried out, the report did identify potential benefits to labeling GE foods to address the societal concerns of some. However, during the briefing, panel chair Dr. Fred Gould highlighted the voluntary use of labeling for non-GE marketing purposes.

The report is the result of a multiyear study into the agricultural, economic, and social effects of GE crops. "Emerging genetic technologies have blurred the distinction between genetic engineering and conventional plant breeding to the point where regulatory systems based on process are technically difficult to defend," the report said. The report recommended regulators test all new plant varieties created through traditional or biotechnological breeding techniques if they have unique traits that pose a potential hazard - human health and environmental risk. Read the full report [here](#).

Center of Sorghum Improvement Seeks Managing Director

As a part of the [Collaborative Sorghum Investment Program at Kansas State University](#), K-State is actively seeking a managing director for the Center of Sorghum Improvement in Manhattan, Kansas. The managing director will work with an advisory committee to develop and maintain the program objectives, seek public and private funding to support sorghum research, and outreach and administer projects within the scope of the program funded by additional financial contributors. The director will also work to ensure K-State sorghum research is integrated and complementary across all K-State units and responsive to domestic sorghum producer needs and be knowledgeable of the body of research that supports the pipeline of delivering raw technology for sorghum producers, and facilitate the formation of

interdisciplinary teams to seek funding and conduct research to advance the science. For more information or to apply, [click here](#).

Sorghum Crop Update

Producers had planted 33 percent of this year's sorghum crop by week's end, 3 percentage points behind both last year and the 5-year average. As a result of rainfall and lower temperatures, sorghum planting progress was behind the 5-year average in most estimating states, including Kansas and Texas, the nation's two leading sorghum-producing states.

Sorghum planted percentage by state can be seen below:

- Arkansas: 81 percent
- Colorado: 3 percent
- Illinois: 4 percent
- Kansas: 2 percent
- Louisiana: 91 percent
- Missouri: 43 percent
- Nebraska: 13 percent
- New Mexico: 10 percent
- Oklahoma: 36 percent
- South Dakota: 6 percent
- Texas: 71 percent

New Crop Sorghum Bids this Week

This week saw another round of strong export commitments and shipments of 3.0 million and 2.0 million bushels, respectively. The gap between commitments and shipments continues to widen, indicating potential for commitments to continue. Basis was mostly flat on the week's corn market rally. Here are old crop and new crop sorghum bids, where applicable:

- Cargill Houston old: +20, new: -15
- CGB West Memphis old: -40
- TMA Canton old: -73, new: -60
- AgMark Concordia old: -89, new: -70
- Aurora Coop Superior old: -69, new: -50
- WB Johnston Enid old: -55
- Gavilon Vicksburg old: +20

- CGB Henderson new: +0

Sorghum in the Spotlight:

[Crop scouting school set for May 25](#) - Plainview Daily Herald

[Sorghum growers, advocates relieved aphid-killing pesticide made legal again](#) - Lubbock

Avalanche Journal

[A Big Upgrade!](#) - KGNC News

Upcoming Sorghum Events

May 21-24	National Restaurant Association Show, <i>Chicago, Illinois</i>
May 30	Office Closed - Memorial Day
June 1	TERRA Inaugural Field Day, Maricopa, AZ
June 6-10	USGC Mexico Sorghum Team in U.S.
June 19-July 2	Junjie Sorghum Team in U.S.
June 26-28	Summer Fancy Food Show, <i>New York, New York</i>
June 27	Taste Sorghum Event, <i>New York, New York</i>
July 10-15	Mexico Ethanol Producers Trade Team in U.S.
July 16-19	International Food Technology Conference, <i>Chicago, Illinois</i>
July 23-26	Texas Seed Trade Association Meeting, <i>Frisco, Texas</i>
July 25-26	Ag Media Summit, <i>St. Louis, Missouri</i>

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](#).



Enter the NSP Yield Contest and #GoFor250

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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*"Make no small plans; they have no magic to stir
men's blood and probably themselves will not be
realized."*

- Daniel Burnham

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