



NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS
SORGHUM
NOTES

National Sorghum Producers
The voice of the sorghum industry

Sorghum e-Notes | May 26, 2016

EPA Assistant Administrator Visits Texas Sorghum Farms

EPA Assistant Administrator Jim Jones and Director David Widawsky visited Texas Grain Sorghum Producers Association and South Texas Cotton and Grain Association staff and farmers this week. John Gordy, Fort Bend County extension agent (seen below), showed Jones and Widawsky sugarcane aphids on maturing grain sorghum, explaining spray timing in accordance with the Section 18 label requirements prohibiting application three days prior to bloom to seed set. The pair also had the opportunity to view a sprayer with nozzle configuration in compliance with label requirements. Texas representatives also expressed concerns over Atrazine, Lorsban and seed treatments that are currently under review by the EPA.



Sulfoxaflor Section 18 Granted in Virginia and South Carolina

Sorghum growers in Virginia and South Carolina now have the green light to use sulfoxaflor to treat sugarcane aphids in grain sorghum during the 2016 growing season. These Section 18 emergency use exemptions for Transform granted by the Environmental Protection Agency now bring the state total to 13, giving farmers in those states more options to treat the pest. Section 18 exemptions have already been granted in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kansas,

Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas. Visit sorghumcheckoff.com to learn more.

Senate Appropriations Approves Spending Bill

The Senate Appropriations Committee last week approved the 2017 spending bill for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and for the Food and Drug Administration. Priorities for National Sorghum Producers included a sorghum genetic database and sorghum research, which can be seen in the report language below. NSP will continue to work to make sure sorghum research is a priority in the final bill.

- *Sorghum Genetic Database.—The Committee recognizes the importance of phenotyping and genotyping that allows breeders to understand which genes are responsible for improvements in drought tolerance and yield. The Committee recommends an increase of \$1,650,000 to further facilitate the partnership between ARS and the Department of Energy on sorghum genome mapping—particularly the creation of an easily-accessed database to house the information generated from the ongoing genetic sequencing research which will facilitate further crop development efforts.*
- *Wheat and Sorghum Research.—The Committee recognizes the potential impact heat and drought can have on the yield and quality of wheat and sorghum and the need for new cultivars to adapt to changing climatic conditions. The Committee provides an increase of \$1,000,000 for research to improve the productivity and quality of wheat and sorghum during uncertain growing seasons resulting from extended droughts and increased temperatures. Within this increase, funding is included to initiate gene flow research to advance the durability and sustainability of fitness traits in sorghum.*

House Passes Revisions to the TSCA, Zika Control Bill

The U.S. House of Representatives Tuesday passed the long awaited update to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) by a vote of 403-12. The bill will give the Environmental Protection Agency more authority to obtain information about chemicals and eliminates some TSCA requirements that currently restrict EPA regulation on chemicals in commerce. The bill also requires the agency to assess the risks of chemicals with the greatest concern that are in commerce and includes a new provision that would prevent states from regulating chemicals even though the EPA has not decided whether it would regulate them—an effective preemptive pause. A handful of Democrats opposed the bill due to this provision,

calling it unnecessary and precedent setting. The bill was supported by the EPA and the White House and is expected to pass the Senate with relative ease.

Also on Tuesday, the House passed the Zika Vector Control Act, formerly dubbed the Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act, on a bipartisan vote, banning Clean Water Act discharge permits for pesticides sprayed on or near waters. The bill would remove requirements for permits under the Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program (NPDES) for pesticides that already are registered under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). The White House has issued a veto threat on the legislation, saying it would, “weaken environmental protections under the Clean Water Act by exempting pesticide spraying from the currently required Pesticide General Permit.” The bill’s fate in the Senate is less clear.

NSP Supports Innovation Letter to Secretary Vilsack on APHIS 340

Members of Congress this week told U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack that government policies and regulations should consistently promote scientific advancement and food and agriculture production. The [letter](#), supported by National Sorghum Producers and signed by 65 Members of Congress, further expanded congressional viewpoints based on stakeholder feedback on the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service’s Notice of Intent to revise pre-market biotechnology regulations. The NOI was published in the Federal Register in February.

House Subcommittee Releases Interior and Environment Funding Bill

The House Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee released the text of the funding bill for the Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency and Forest Service, clearing the way for full committee action when the House returns from their week-long Memorial Day recess. The bill cuts the EPA budget by \$164 million and would block funding for several key regulations such as the Clean Water Rule (WOTUS) and the Clean Power Plan. Subcommittee Chairman Ken Calvert (R-CA) said, “The EPA’s overreach continues to cause economic harm, and this bill denies funding for more job-killing regulators while providing necessary resources to effective programs that actually improve the environment and protect our natural resources.”

European Union Glyphosate Decision Delayed

The European Union on Thursday delayed a vote on the reauthorization of glyphosate when it

became clear a qualified majority would not be reached, according to press reports. France and Germany both announced they will not back the renewal of the weed-killer's authorization, making it likely the European Commission will be forced to let the June 30 deadline on a decision expire. The latest draft of the proposal being considered by the European Commission panel would reportedly authorize use of glyphosate for nine years, reduced from 15 after opposition and a postponed vote on reapproval originally slated for March.

Monsanto Rejects Bayer's \$62 Billion Buyout Offer

Monsanto has rejected the \$62 billion buyout bid from Bayer. The Monsanto board of directors unanimously voted against the offer, calling it "incomplete and financially inadequate." Monsanto said in a press release it is "open to continued and constructive conversations to assess whether a transaction in the best interest of Monsanto shareowners can be achieved." Bayer also released a statement saying, "Bayer announced today that it looks forward to engaging in constructive discussions with Monsanto regarding the proposed transaction." Monsanto's board of directors said there is no set timeline for when further discussions will take place.

Sorghum Crop Update

Planting advancements in all states indicate 37 percent of the sorghum was planted by week's end. Progress in the leading sorghum-producing state of Kansas remained behind historical levels as a result of rainfall and severe weather with 6 percent planted by May 22. Sorghum planted percentage by state can be seen below:

- Arkansas: 88 percent
- Colorado: 6 percent
- Illinois: 6 percent
- Kansas: 6 percent
- Louisiana: 96 percent
- Missouri: 57 percent
- Nebraska: 30 percent
- New Mexico: 16 percent
- Oklahoma: 39 percent
- South Dakota: 36 percent

- Texas: 72 percent

Sorghum in the Spotlight:

[MS Gets EPA Approval to Use Unauthorized Pesticide to Save Grain Sorghum Crop](#) - MPB

[Sorghum on Good Morning America \(Video\)](#) - ABC News

[Ancient Crop Makes New Inroads](#) - Seed World

[Ag Spending Shaping Up Congress](#) - KGNC

[Proposed New Transform Label Excludes Cotton, Sorghum](#) - The Progressive Farmer

[Steps to Managing the Sugarcane Aphid in Grain Sorghum](#) - Sorghum Checkoff

[Management, Planting Practices that Affect Sorghum Yields](#) - No-Till Farmer

[Global Interest In U.S. Sorghum Growing](#) - USGC

[Leadership Program Provides Insight into Sorghum Industry](#) - Sorghum Checkoff

[Forage Sorghum Good Silage Choice for Limited Irrigation](#) - The Progressive Farmer

[7 Tips to Manage Sugarcane Aphids Threatening Sorghum](#) - Progressive Forage

Upcoming Sorghum Events

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](#).



**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.



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"There are no failures - just experiences and your reaction to them."

- Tom Krause



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