



NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS  
**SORGHUM**  
**NOTES**

National Sorghum  
Producers

Sorghum E-Notes |  
April 21, 2016

*The voice of the sorghum  
industry*

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### Reduced PHI for Sivanto Prime Approved in Texas

The Texas Department of Agriculture approved a 24(c) special local need registration for Sivanto Prime, a Bayer CropScience product, that reduces the pre-harvest interval. Texas producers can now apply Sivanto Prime up to 14 days prior to harvest, compared to the previous interval of 21 days. This approval extends the window for Texas producers to use Sivanto Prime to manage pests like the sugarcane aphid. For more information, click [here](#).

### NSP Submits Comments on APHIS NOI

On Thursday, April 21, National Sorghum Producers submitted comments on the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Notice of Intent to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement (EIS) and discuss proposed alternatives to current biotechnology regulations. NSP is committed to engaging constructively to help USDA develop a broadly supported, science-based system of regulation. However, NSP is also concerned the APHIS proposed changes to the seed technology regulatory framework would ultimately have the effect of regulating non-transgenic or non-genetically modified crops in the same fashion they do transgenic ones currently. NSP is concerned that this expansion of APHIS

regulatory powers would slow down the delivery of new technologies and varieties to farmer's fields and significantly increase costs. To read NSP's comments in its entirety, click [here](#).

## **NSP Supports Ag-Biotech Education Provision in Ag Appropriations**

National Sorghum Producers and other agricultural organizations expressed support for the funding of education efforts on biotechnology during appropriations discussions. The fiscal year 2017 agriculture appropriations bill, which passed the House Appropriations Committee on Tuesday, April 19, includes \$3 million targeted to informing the public about the application of biotechnology to food and agricultural production. Representative Nita Lowey (D-NY) offered an amendment to strike the funding, which failed by a 20-29 vote. Read the letter [here](#).

## **No Changes Requested for GIPSA DDGS Marketing, Services**

On Tuesday, April 19, National Sorghum Producers recommended no changes to the standards, methods and grading for distiller's dried grains with solubles (DDGS) by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration. In response to a Federal Register [request](#) by GIPSA, NSP commented in a [letter](#) that there are no DDGS market-identified quality attributes that GIPSA does not currently describe or provide testing for and instead called for continued opportunities for the sorghum ethanol industry to grow and innovate.

## **Sorghum Research Supported as Ag Appropriations Passed by House**

On Tuesday, April 19, the House Appropriations Committee approved the fiscal year 2017 agricultural appropriations

bill. The legislation included language in the report (below) directing the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service to provide funding for gene flow research, providing valuable resources critical to supporting new variety development.

The sorghum excerpt found on Page 19 of the bill reads: "Sorghum in Agriculture. – the Committee recognizes the growing significance of sorghum in agriculture due to water conservation traits and increased utilization. Funding is included to initiate gene flow research to advance the durability and sustainability of fitness traits in sorghum."

### **EPA Submits 2017 RFS Volumes for Review**

On Friday, April 15, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency delivered proposed 2017 Renewable Volume Obligations for the Renewable Fuel Standard to the Office of Management and Budget for regulatory review. Per OMB regulations, the final mandates should be released within 90 days. Last year, the EPA used a waiver to set these volumes below legislatively mandated levels. As a result, National Sorghum Producers and six other industry groups filed a lawsuit challenging the agency's final rules for 2014-2016. NSP stands with farmers, small business owners and workers in support of a strong RFS for America.

### **EPA, Waters of the U.S. Scrutinized by Congress**

In separate hearings on Tuesday, April 19, both the House of Representatives and the Senate took the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to task for an "activist agenda," including the Clean Water Act (Waters of the U.S.). The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee criticized the EPA for failing to release documents related to the act requested last July. Meanwhile, a hearing conducted by the Senate Committee on Environment and

Public Works questioned the EPA's focus on climate versus working on other programs like the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, which helps states and local communities pay for improvements to sewer and waste water treatment systems. Finally, also on Tuesday, the House Appropriations Committee did approve the fiscal year 2017 energy and water appropriations bill. The legislation included a policy directive blocking the WOTUS rule.

### **Leadership Sorghum Class III Deadline Next Week**

If you are interested in applying for Leadership Sorghum Class III, the Sorghum Checkoff will be accepting applications until April 30, 2016. Interviews with selected applicants will take place late May 2016. Leadership Sorghum Class III will be announced June 30, 2016.

In order to be eligible for Leadership Sorghum, participants must meet the following requirements:

- Be a farmer actively engaged in sorghum production
- An applicant who is actively engaged in sorghum production but is employed by an operation must have employer approval
- Men and women are encouraged to apply
- Applicants must be U.S. citizens

For more information on Leadership Sorghum and to review the Leadership Sorghum Class III selection criteria, click [here](#).

### **New Crop Sorghum Bids**

This week included 1.2 million bushels in new sorghum export commitments, led by China, bringing total sorghum export commitments to 259 million bushels (82 percent of current U.S. Department of Agriculture projections).

Shipments were very strong with deliveries of 7.6 million bushels. Basis was soft on large crop prospects and in response to a recent futures run. The futures run has resulted in steady to rising flat prices, pushing sorghum in some areas nearer to profitable levels. Producers should watch this run closely and be ready to lock in profit opportunities if they arise. Here are this week's old crop and new crop bids, where applicable:

- Cargill Houston old: +25 new: +8
- Gaviion Henderson new: +0
- CGB West Memphis old: -56
- Gaviion Vicksburg old: +20
- TMA Canton old: -65, new: -50
- AgMark Concordia old: -80, new: -70
- Aurora Coop Superior old: -45
- WB Johnston Enid new: -60

### 2016 Sorghum Planting Progress

Sorghum planting progress jumped last week but remains behind the five-year average as of April 17, 2016. In its weekly Crop Progress report on Monday, April 18, the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service reported sorghum planting in Louisiana jumped 24 points from the prior week at 53 percent planted, and planting in Arkansas jumped to 19 percent complete compared to 8 percent the prior week. In Texas, planting progressed to 42 percent complete. Planting also continued in Oklahoma and New Mexico as well as starting in Missouri.

### Sorghum in the Spotlight:

[National Sorghum Producers Call on EPA to Postpone](#)

[Chlorpyrifos Meeting](#) - Oklahoma Farm Report

[Aq Groups Press EPA to Postpone Science Meeting on](#)

[Chlorpyrifos](#) - DTN/Progressive Farmer

[NSP Seeks Candidates](#) - KGNC

[Food Plots for Pheasants and Quail Provide Needed Shelter](#) -  
KIWA Radio

[Johnsongrass Research Might Benefit Sorghum](#) - AgNet West

### Upcoming Sorghum Events

April 18-20 Pet Food Forum, *Kansas City, MO*  
April 25 Washington Watch, *Washington, D.C.*  
May 12-14 South Texas Country Elevator Association's  
Convention, South Padre Island, *TX*  
May 30 Memorial Day, *Office Closed*

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](#).

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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.



*"Nothing will work unless you do."  
Maya Angelou*



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