



NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS
SORGHUM
NOTES

National Sorghum
Producers

Sorghum E-Notes |
April 28, 2016

*The voice of the sorghum
industry*

EPA Soliciting Comments on Paraquat

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is accepting public comments on proposed actions related to paraquat, the active ingredient in Syngenta's Gramoxone®. The EPA's proposed interim mitigation decision would restrict use of the herbicide to only certified applicators (individuals working under the supervision of a certified applicator would be prohibited from using paraquat), prohibit application with hand-held equipment and require new closed system packaging in addition to other new labeling and training requirements. Many of these requirements will make it very restrictive to purchase and apply paraquat products.

Paraquat is used to control problem weeds in sorghum, corn, cotton, soybeans and wheat. In particular, the herbicide provides an alternative mode of action for managing weeds that have developed resistance to glyphosate. Comments must be submitted by May 9, 2016 at <https://federalregister.gov/a/2016-05279>.

Witnesses Emphasize Regulatory Concerns During House Hearing

On Wednesday, April 27, the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research conducted a [hearing](#) on the factors impacting cost of

production. The testimony from each of seven witnesses echoed a central theme of concern with increased government regulations, particularly from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Dale Murden, a Sorghum Checkoff board director from Mission, Texas, [testified](#) at the hearing on behalf of the citrus industry. Jay Vroom, president and CEO of CropLife America, [testified](#) specifically on the EPA's risk assessment based pesticide review process, including for chlorpyrifos (Lorsban®), glyphosate and imidacloprid (Guacho®).

Scientific Panel Conducts Chlorpyrifos Review

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rejected [requests](#) from National Sorghum Producers and more than 40 other agricultural organizations to postpone a meeting reviewing the potential risks to human health from chlorpyrifos, the active ingredient in Lorsban. The three-day meeting of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act Scientific Advisory Panel (FIFRA SAP) met April 19-21. However, the panel shared industry's concerns on establishing a precedent of using a single epidemiological study for revoking an active ingredient's tolerances. Final conclusions must be submitted to EPA within 90 days.

House Members Demand Answers from EPA on Anti-Farmer Campaign

A bipartisan [letter](#) signed by 145 members of Congress called for answers from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy on the funding of an advocacy campaign in Washington state. EPA Region 10 (Pacific Northwest). The campaign, [What's Upstream](#), used EPA grant dollars to fund a website, radio ads and billboards encouraging the public to contact state legislators to hold the agricultural industry to the same level of responsibility as other industries. The letter stated, "While we appreciate EPA's recent admission that wrongdoing occurred and that the campaign should never have been federally funded, we are still confused why EPA would have approved an award

clearly violating a number of federal laws pertaining to funding propaganda, advocacy, and lobbying efforts.”

EPA Reviewing Registration of Pirimiphos-methyl (Actellic)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has opened a public comment period on pirimiphos-methyl, the active ingredient in Actellic®, based on uncertainty of risk to handlers. In [submitted comments](#), WinField Solutions expressed concerns with the EPA’s methodology, stating, “the data gaps identified in the registration review summary document are excessive and are based on unreasonable exposures.”

Pirimiphos-methyl is currently approved for use in corn and grain sorghum for grain storage control of beetles, weevils and moths. The active ingredient is also approved for ear tag fly control for beef and non-lactating dairy cattle as well as being recommended by the World Health Organization for malaria vector control of insecticide resistant mosquitos. The EPA risk assessment review includes four other active ingredients: aldicarb, bensulide, coumpahos and ethalfluralin. Comments must be submitted by June 27, 2016, at <https://federalregister.gov/a/2016-09732>.

Last Chance! Leadership Sorghum Class III Deadline This 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 strong export commitments of 2.0 million bushels by China and Mexico. Total commitments for the marketing year are now at 261 million bushels or 83 percent of the current U.S. Department of Agriculture projection. Shipments were also strong at 4.0 million bushels to China and Mexico. Overall shipments for the marketing year now total 240 million bushels. Basis was soft following Monday's USDA crop report showing corn planting progressing at double the average pace. With a mostly neutral outlook for Corn Belt weather, the prospect of a large corn crop continues to weigh on the market. Here are this week's old crop and new crop sorghum bids, where applicable:

- Cargill Houston old: +25, new: -15
- Gaviion Vicksburg old: +21
- CGB West Memphis old: -56
- CGB Henderson new: +0
- TMA Canton old: -72, new: -60
- AgMark Concordia old: -75, new: -70

- Aurora Coop Superior old: -65, new: -50
- WB Johnston Enid old: -45

2016 Sorghum Planting Progress

Sorghum planting is halfway complete in Texas and just beginning in Illinois and Nebraska as of April 24, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's national Crop Progress [report](#) on April 25, 2016. Sorghum planting in Louisiana is 64 percent complete as of April 24, a 9-point increase in the last week, followed by Texas at 50 percent complete, a 8-point increase from the week prior. Planting also progressed rapidly in Missouri and Arkansas based on good weather and continued in New Mexico and Oklahoma.

Sorghum in the Spotlight:

[Industry Voices Concerns on USDA Biotech Regulation Changes](#) - Feedstuffs

[New Tool Developed to Stop Destruction of Sorghum Crop](#) - KRGV

[SCA Numbers Rising Steadily in Deep South Texas](#) - Southwest Farm Press

[How Drones Can Give a Boost to Biofuels](#) - MIT Technology Review

[USGC Assesses Demand for DDGS, Sorghum in Turkey](#) - U.S. Grains Council

[Ex-Aventine CEO and Biofuels Consulting Partner Launch Sorghum Whiskey Business](#) - Peoria Journal Star

Upcoming Sorghum Events

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](#).

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.



"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the water to create many ripples." - Mother Teresa



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