



NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS
SORGHUM
NOTES

National Sorghum
Producers

*The voice of the sorghum
industry*

Sorghum E-Notes |
Feb. 18, 2016

NSP Asks for Extension on APHIS Comment Period on APHIS Seed Technology Regulations

National Sorghum Producers joined other agricultural organizations this week in requesting an extension of the current comment period on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement (EIS) and alternatives to current biotechnology regulations. The current comment period is open until March 7, 2016. NSP and others respectfully requested APHIS extend the comment period by an additional 60 days to May 6, 2016. According to the group's letter: "A thirty-day comment period with regard to the NOI does not allow all interested stakeholders adequate time to formulate robust and constructive comments on the broad and complex issues explored in the NOI." Read the full letter [here](#).

NSP is committed to engaging constructively to help USDA develop a broadly supported, science-based system of regulation. However, NSP is concerned that 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 as well as significantly increase costs. Submit comments to APHIS at <https://goo.gl/8tSEOb>.

Oklahoma Sorghum Commission Takes Step to Semi-Privatization

The Oklahoma Sorghum Commission petitioned the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry during a hearing on Thursday, February 18 to transfer status as a state agency to a quasi-governmental/private agency. The action, following those by other Oklahoma commodity organizations, provides the Oklahoma Sorghum Commission with more decision-making abilities, including over finances, in addition to changes to election procedures. The Oklahoma Commissioner of Agriculture must now approve the re-organization.

Justice Scalia Passes, Implications for Ag Regulatory Challenges

Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia passed away peacefully on Feb. 13, 2016, marking only the third death of a Supreme Court Justice while in office in the last 60 years. His death will have consequences for how the Supreme Court will rule on several agricultural matters. The Supreme Court will decide this spring whether or not to hear the agricultural industry's challenge to the Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). Should the Supreme Court hear this case, but stalemate at a 4-4 vote, the EPA limits will stand as enacted.

Additionally, Scalia's support was expected during the American Farm Bureau Federation's challenge to the Clean Water Act, commonly referred to as Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS). The eight remaining justices are expected to determine whether or not to hear the AFBF case during a Friday, February 19 conference. Court actions on this issue are more difficult to predict as multiple circuits are reviewing this case.

The debate over Scalia's successor will also likely push back Congressional negotiations on other agricultural topics, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement. Beyond this interim period, Scalia's replacement and the resulting makeup of the Supreme Court could require reconsideration of current strategies and assessments on environmental law and policy on multiple fronts.

EPA Opens Comment Period on Worker Protection Rules

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency opened a comment period on Tuesday, February 16, on draft "Guidelines for Human Exposure Assessment." These proposed changes are of particular importance for pesticide workers and handlers as they would be subject to the

new regulations beginning January 2017. Read more about potential new rules for agriculture in [Delta Farm Press](#). Comments must be submitted by March 22, 2016, at <https://goo.gl/PnOa5J>.

Preston Named New USDA Deputy Chief Economist

The U.S. Department of Agriculture named Warren Preston as the new Deputy Chief Economist effective Feb. 21, 2016. Preston previously served as senior economist for ag policy and has worked at USDA since 1992. More information can be found [here](#).

Commodity Classic Sorghum General Session Spotlight: Phillip Hayes

Join the National Sorghum Producers at the Sorghum General Session at the 2016 Commodity Classic in New Orleans. Phillip Hayes, co-founder of North Bridge Communications, will speak on understanding the challenges of communication amidst generational shifts, media changes and the rise of pathological science. The Sorghum General Session will be Thursday, March 3 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Rooms 353-355 of the Morial Convention Center. Attendees are encouraged to show up early for the NSP Meet and Greet in the same room from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. For more on the sorghum schedule for Commodity Classic, visit sorghumgrowers.com/commodityclassic/.

Join Leadership Sorghum Class III

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 in 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

Export sales reporting was delayed due to the President's Day break. Without fresh demand news, the large crop on hand kept basis steady. Here are this week's spot and new crop 2016 bids, where applicable:

- Cargill Houston old: +55, new: +0
- CGB West Memphis new: -30
- TMA Canton old: -45, new: -50
- AgMark Concordia old: -52, new: -60
- Aurora Coop Superior old: -60, new: -45
- WB Johnston Enid old: -30

Sorghum in the Spotlight

[Potential 2017 Budget Bounty \(But Also Woes\) for US Feed Sector](#) - Feed Navigator

[Demand for Sorghum Remains High](#) - Prairie Farmer

[Big Step Forward for Herbicide-Tolerant Grain Sorghum](#) - Brownfield Ag News

[DuPont Zest Herbicide Approved by EPA](#) - High Plains Journal

[DuPont's Zest Herbicide Approved for Sorghum](#) - Agriculture.com/Successful Farming

[Sorghum Herbicide Advances: Herbicide-Tolerant Sorghum Finally at Hand](#) - DTN/Progressive Farmer

[Over-the-Top Grass Control: Herbicide Approved for Sorghum](#) - KTIC

[Factbox: U.S. EPA Faces Lawsuits over Its Biofuels Plan](#) - Reuters

[Commodity Classic Gives Farmers Chance to Show Their Generosity](#) - Farm Futures

[Sugarcane Aphid Has Changed the Game](#) - Hay & Forage Grower

[14 Sugarcane Aphid-resistant Sorghum Hybrids](#) - Delta Farm Press

[Plainview to Host Regional Sorghum Program on March 3](#) - My Plainview

[Discover the Sorghum Grain - It's More than Molasses!](#) - Organic Authority

Upcoming Sorghum Events

Feb. 23	South Dakota Sorghum Conference, <i>Oacoma, SD</i>
Feb. 26-28	Mid-South Farm and Gin Show, <i>Memphis, TN</i>
Mar. 2-5	2016 Commodity Classic, <i>New Orleans, LA</i>
Mar. 9-10	2016 Kansas Ag Bankers Conference, <i>Manhattan, KS</i>
Mar. 29	17th Annual Crop Clinic, <i>Goodwell, OK</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](#).

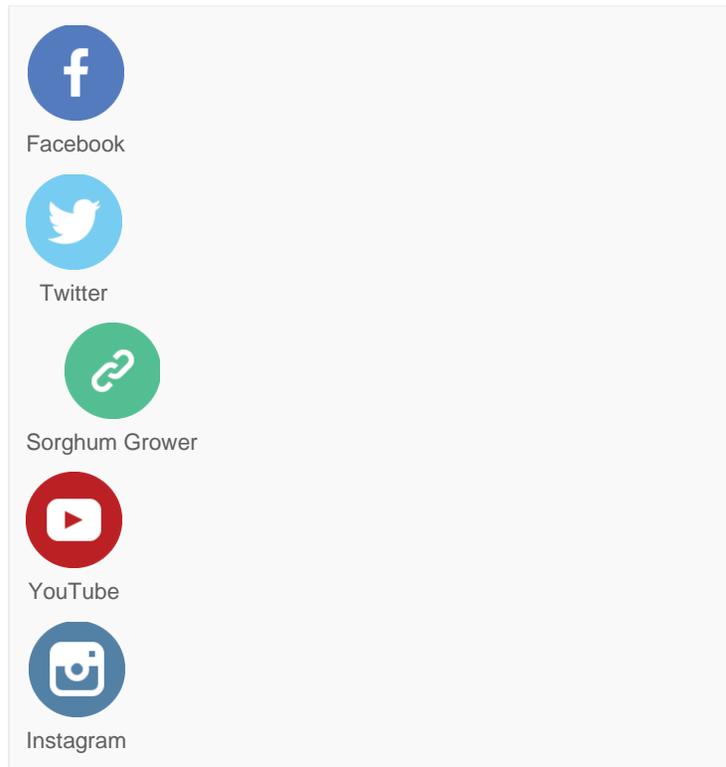


Why should sorghum growers attend Commodity Classic?

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.



"There is a sense in which we are all each other's consequences." - Wallace Stegner



Sorghum Notes is sponsored by:

Sorghum Partners, LLC

P.O. Box 189

New Deal, TX 79350

Phone: (800) 645-7478

Fax: (806) 746-5305

<http://www.chromatininc.com/>

Copyright © 2015 | National Sorghum Producers, All rights reserved.
SORGHUM E-NOTES

Our mailing address is:

4201 N Interstate 27

Lubbock, TX 79403

www.sorghumgrowers.com

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

[Having trouble viewing this email? View in your browser](#)