



NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS  
**SORGHUM**  
*NOTES*

National Sorghum  
Producers

*The voice of the sorghum  
industry*

Sorghum E-Notes |  
Feb. 25, 2016

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### Sixth Circuit Claims Jurisdiction over WOTUS Cases

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit agreed to hear consolidated challenges to the Clean Water Act, referred to as waters of the U.S. (WOTUS). In doing so, the Court rejected industry and state government arguments that jurisdiction for the challenges belonged in federal district courts. This same panel issued the decision that has currently halted WOTUS implementation. The most recent jurisdictional ruling allows the U.S. Justice Department to lay important groundwork for an expected Supreme Court case challenging WOTUS.

### RFS Oversight Issues Gaining More Attention

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee discussed oversight of the Renewable Fuel Standard with two panels of government officials and during a [hearing](#) on Wednesday, February 24. The current law requires increasing amounts of renewable fuel to be blended into motor fuel supply at targets set year-by-year. However, after 2022, the law grants the Environmental Protection Agency the authority to administer the the program. Chairman James Inhofe (R-OK) said the EPA should not be allowed to manage the RFS on its own due to "frequent delays, litigation, and even fraud from imaginary biodiesel production."

In other RFS related news, the American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers filed a lawsuit challenging the Environmental Protection Agency's final rules for the 2014-2016 RFS.

National Sorghum Producers and six other industry groups filed a similar lawsuit on Jan. 8, 2016. National Sorghum Producers stands with farmers, small business owners and workers in support of a strong RFS for America.

## Vilsack Testifies on Rural Economy at House Ag

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack testified on the state of the rural economy at a House Agriculture Committee [hearing](#) on Wednesday, February 24. His testimony focused on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's role in biotechnology, trade impacts of the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement, increased opportunities in Cuba and agricultural research priorities. Committee Chairman Michael Conaway (R-TX) outlined five steps Vilsack should complete to boost the rural economy, including opposing cuts to the farm safety net, initiating World Trade Organization challenges against international barriers to trade, encouraging immediate withdrawal of the Clean Water Act, backing a federal GM labeling bill and exercising his authority to designate cottonseed as an oilseed under the farm bill.

## Senate Ag Rescheduled Vote on Biotech Labeling

The Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry rescheduled the vote on a labeling bill for food products containing genetically modified ingredients proposed by Chairman Pat Roberts (R-KS) until Tuesday, March 1. The bill would require the U.S. Department of Agriculture to create a voluntary national GM food labeling standard, superseding state GM food and seed labeling laws. National Sorghum Producers joined other members of the Coalition for Safe and Affordable Food is sending a [letter of support](#) of the bill.

## Commodity Classic Sorghum General Session Spotlight: Randy Allen

Join the National Sorghum Producers at the Sorghum General Session at the 2016 Commodity Classic in New Orleans. Randy Allen, the founder and CEO of RWA Financial Services, will speak on how producers should "manage money, not the grain," providing insight into how farmers can position themselves for the future in an era of low farm prices.

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/](http://sorghumgrowers.com/commodityclassic/).

## National Sorghum Foundation Opens Scholarship Applications

The National Sorghum Foundation opened applications for three scholarship for the 2016-2017 academic year:

- The **Sorghum Challenge Scholarship** includes one \$1,500 award as well as expenses for attending the 2017 National Sorghum Producers DC Fly-in for an undergraduate student enrolled in an agriculturally based department.
- The **Darrell Rosenow Award** provides one \$1,500 award for an undergraduate student majoring in agronomy, plant pathology, entomology, food science and/or plant breeding with an emphasis on sorghum.
- New this year, the **Sorghum Food and Feed Scholarship** provides one \$1,500 award for an undergraduate student studying animal science or human nutrition with an emphasis on sorghum.

For more information on these scholarships, please contact Dr. Bruce Maunder, National Sorghum Foundation chair, at [texasgreenbug@aol.com](mailto:texasgreenbug@aol.com) or 806-749-3478. Deadline to apply is June 1, 2016.

## 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 were strong this week with another 1.7 million bushels in commitments, including 1.1 million bushels sold to Pakistan. Pakistan has now committed to purchasing 6.3 million bushels in three weeks - almost four times larger their previous annual purchase record. Shipments were also very strong with 8.5 million bushels of actual exports. Total exports are now 186 million bushels, 22 percent ahead of last year at this time. The large crop and overall grain market weakness continues to weigh on bids. 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

[The Walking Dead Searches for Sorghum, But What Is It?](#) - KBIA Mid-Missouri Public Radio

[Pesticide Approvals Squeeze Growers](#) - Farm Futures

[Black Sorghum Finds Its Fit in Cereal Line](#) - High Plains Journal

[Swallowing the Frog](#) - High Plains Journal

[Sorghum Growers Excited about EPA OK of Herbicide](#) - Dairy Business

[Family Mealtime: Tips for Cooking with Grains](#) - The Balancing Act

[Today's Reality: Public Driving Many Ag Policy Decisions](#) - Delta Farm Press

[For Sorghum Insect Control, Scouting and Timing Are Critical](#) - Delta Farm Press

[Why You Should Be Cooking with Sorghum](#) - Food Republic

[White Sorghum is the Other Grain in Arkansas](#) - Farm Flavor

[Sugarcane Aphids Make Growing Sorghum Difficult](#) - Ag Professional

[The Rise of Sugarcane Aphids in Sorghum Presents a Major Headache for Growers](#)- Oklahoma Farm Report

[USGC to Release Corn and Sorghum Harvest Quality Reports](#) - Crop Protection News

[Ceres \(CERE\) Says 2015 Sorghum Trait Results 'Exceeded Expectations'](#) - Street Insider

[Drought-Resistant Genes Research](#) - California Ag Today

## Upcoming Sorghum Events

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. 2	Sorghum Pest Management, <i>Kingman, KS</i>
Mar. 9-10	2016 Kansas Ag Bankers Conference, <i>Manhattan, KS</i>
Mar. 24	Oklahoma Sorghum Annual Meeting, <i>Enid, OK</i>
Mar. 25	Good Friday Holiday - <i>Office Closed</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?

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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.