



NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS
SORGHUM
NOTES

National Sorghum
Producers

*The voice of the sorghum
industry*

Sorghum E-Notes |
Jan. 28, 2016

EPA Requests Comments on Emergency Sulfoxaflor (Transform) Exemption for Sorghum

The Environmental Protection Agency has opened a brief comment period on a Section 18 application by the Texas Department of Agriculture for use of sulfoxaflor, which goes by the brand name Transform, on up to three million acres of sorghum this growing season to control the sugarcane aphid. The EPA issued a cancellation order for sulfoxaflor in [November 2015](#) in response to a ruling by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Transform has been an important tool for sorghum producers, used by more than 10 states under the previous Section 18 emergency use exemption. National Sorghum Producers is working hard to ensure Transform will be available this growing season. NSP encourages sorghum farmers, particularly those in Texas, to submit comments in support of Transform by Thursday, February 11 via <https://goo.gl/OlvKL8>.

NSP Join Ag Partners in Voicing EPA Concerns

National Sorghum Producers and 37 other agricultural organizations addressed concerns with actions by the Environmental Protection Agency in a joint letter to House Agriculture Committee leadership. The letter called attention to EPA process infringements affecting agriculture, including using agenda-driven science to limit use and pesticide availability for important crop protection tools like sulfoxaflor (Transform), data collection going beyond the scope of federal programs and conducting grassroots campaigns like that opposing waters of the U.S. (WOTUS). National Sorghum Producers and others commended the House Agriculture Committee for scheduling an oversight hearing on the EPA, which was later postponed due to winter storm Jonas. Read the letter [here](#).

NSP Attends Meeting on Biotechnology Policy at USDA

National Sorghum Producers attended an industry update on biotech policy in Washington, D.C., hosted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service. The group discussed upcoming international meetings. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations symposium in Rome will work to develop a biotechnology work plan with like-minded nations and continue discussing the positive benefits associated with related science. A Global Low Level Presence Initiative workshop in Jakarta, Indonesia, will encourage participating nations to endorse statements in favor of asynchronous rule making for genetically modified crops. FAS also delivered updates on biotech policy from world regions, including the European Commission, Brazil and China.

Anti-RFS Amendments Expected During Senate Energy Debate

While exact timing is unclear, multiple anti-Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) amendments are expected during the Senate's debate this week on the Energy Policy Modernization Act. Of note, proposed amendment #2977 by Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA) would repeal the RFS while proposed amendment #3047 by Senator Jeff Flake (R-AZ) would prohibit the U.S. Department of Agriculture from funding renewable fuel infrastructure investments. National Sorghum Producers stands with farmers, small business owners and workers in support of a strong RFS for America.

House Takes Snow Week

Due to winter storm Jonas, the U.S. House of Representatives canceled this week's session. That included postponing a House Agriculture Committee hearing on the Environmental Protection Agency's impact on rural economy with testimony from EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. House Democrats did not cancel their annual legislative retreat in Baltimore from Wednesday to Friday. Votes in the House will recommence on Monday, February 1.

Senior Staff Changes at USDA

Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Krysta Harden will leave the U.S. Department of Agriculture at the end of February. Michael Scuse will serve as Acting Deputy Secretary with Alexis Taylor assuming Scuse's current role as Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services. Additionally, Elanor Starmer, current senior adviser to Secretary Vilsack, will serve as Acting Administrator of the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service following the departure of current Administrator Anne Alonzo.

EPA Proposes Discharge Permit for Pesticide Spraying

The EPA proposed a Clean Water Act discharge permit for pesticide spraying near or on waters, replacing the existing permit set to expire on Oct. 31, 2016. Once finalized, the draft permit would take effect in Idaho, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Washington, D.C., most U.S. territories and most Native American country lands where the EPA is the permitting authority. In all, the draft permit, under the EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), would apply to more than 365,000 pesticide users, including local municipalities, state agencies, pesticide applicators, farmers, ranchers, forest ranchers and scientists. State permitting authorities also can adopt the general pesticide permit as finalized by the EPA. The EPA is seeking comments on costs incurred by permit holders until March 11.

Congressional Republicans and some Democrats have attempted to ban the NPDES, noting the unnecessary dual regulations under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and the Clean Water Act. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee passed this related legislation, the Sensible Environmental Protection Act of 2015, but the bill has not yet been considered by the full Senate.

FDA Commissioner Nominee Blocked in Senate

Robert Califf, President Barack Obama's nominee to head the U.S Food and Drug Administration, faces additional opposition during the Senate confirmation process. He received early criticism from Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee member Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) over her call for labeling of genetically modified salmon. Now, Democratic presidential candidate and Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) is challenging Califf's ties to the pharmaceutical industry. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) can still force an up-or-down vote on Califf's nomination, but procedural votes would likely consume floor time.

Join Leadership Sorghum Class III

If you are interested in applying for Leadership Sorghum Class III, the Sorghum Checkoff will be accepting applications Jan. 4-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](#).

What Fuels You?

In collaboration with Sandbox, formerly known as McCormick, the United Sorghum Checkoff Program recently released a renewables video that outlines sorghum's use as a renewable fuel. Links to the video will be utilized in various renewables campaigns and placed on several website banner ads. In addition, the video can be found on the sorghum checkoff website and Facebook and Twitter pages. To view the video, click [here](#).

New Crop Sorghum Bids

This week's export sales report was delayed due to winter storm Jonas. With little news, basis was steady on the week. Here are this week's spot and new crop 2016 bids (respectively, where applicable):

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

Sorghum in the Spotlight

[Will Aphids Impact Sorghum Acreage?](#) - Ag Journal

[DuPont: Pioneer Brand Hybrids Are Star Performers in National Sorghum Yield Contest](#) - AgriMarketing

[Area Farmers Placed at the 2015 National Sorghum Producers Yield Contest](#) - Hutchinson News

[Biddle Places in State Sorghum Yield Contest](#) - Daily Republic

[Nampa Man Earns Sorghum Producer Award](#) - Idaho Press-Tribune

[New Opportunities Are Available for Sorghum Producers](#) - KTIC

[Nebraska Sorghum Growers Experience Good Production Year](#) - Grand Island Independent

[Aphids Create Sticky Situation for Sorghum](#) - Ag Journal

[Grain Rotations in the Mid-South: What's Best?](#) - Delta Farm Press

[Jumping on the Sorghum Bandwagon](#) - U.S. News & World Report

Upcoming Sorghum Events

Feb. 2	2016 Sorghum Schools, <i>Scott City, KS</i>
Feb.3	2016 Sorghum Schools, <i>Phillipsburg, KS</i>
Feb.4	2016 Sorghum Schools, <i>Ellsworth, KS</i>
Feb.5	2016 Sorghum Schools, <i>Emporia, KS</i>
Feb.2-4	NSP DC Fly-In, <i>Washington, DC</i>
Fed. 11	Kansas Commodity Classic, <i>Manhattan, KS</i>
Feb. 26-28	Mid-South Farm and Gin Show, <i>Memphis, TN</i>
Mar.3-5	2016 Commodity Classic, <i>New Orleans, LA</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.