



NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS
SORGHUM
NOTES

National Sorghum
Producers

*The voice of the sorghum
industry*

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Notes | Mar. 24, 2015

Ag Organizations Ask for Delay of OSHA Removal of Farm Supply Exemption

On Wednesday, March 23, National Sorghum Producers joined other agricultural organizations in calling for House and Senate budget officials to delay the proposed removal of an exemption by farm supply retailers from Process Safety Management regulations by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. In particular, OSHA's new PSM standards would place significant time and cost burdens on agricultural retailers with regard to the sale of anhydrous ammonia. The organizations requested committees include language in fiscal year 2017 appropriations bills to prevent the OSHA policy changes from going into effect until after the agency has provided the opportunity for an independent, third-party cost-benefit analysis and public comment period. Read the letter [here](#).

Sorghum Industry Establishes Coordinated Research and Marketing Program

Beginning April 1, 2016, the Sorghum Checkoff, Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission and Kansas State University will enter into a cooperative agreement to increase grain sorghum productivity and expand markets by 2025. The program will fund research into over-the-top grass control and yield improvements involving breeding program developments and field-level management techniques as well as longer-term areas including seed innovation, development of new and novel genetic traits and development of research and genomics databases. For more information, click [here](#).

Senators Urge EPA to Up RFS Blending Targets for 2017

In a [letter](#) sent on Wednesday, March 23, 19 Senators urged the Environmental Protection Agency to set higher blending targets for 2017 under the Renewable Fuel Standard. The EPA's final rule for 2014, 2015 and 2016 - issued in November 2015 - set blending targets lower than Congressionally authorized levels based on previously rejected concerns about distribution infrastructure. The Senators noted this rule "failed to provide the necessary incentive to drive growth in the development of renewable fuels," according to a press release from Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA).

Four More Food Companies Announce GM Labels

Four food companies - ConAgra, General Mills Inc., Mars Inc. and the Kellogg Co. - joined Campbell's in outlining plans for a national label for foods containing genetically modified ingredients. Each attributed the forthcoming nationwide labels to compliance required by Vermont's GM labeling law set to take effect in July. According to

AgriPulse, all but General Mills stated they would not stop using GM ingredients in their products; General Mills' comments did not rule out reformulation based on consumer demand.

New Panel to Examine Future of Biotechnology

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine appointed an ad hoc 13-member committee to examine the future of biotechnology related advances, risk analysis, understanding and oversight. This [analysis](#) will include an evaluation of the risk analysis system for biotechnology products utilized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agency and Food and Drug Administration. The committee, which includes the former director of the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs Steven Bradbury, is part of the federal review of the Coordinated Framework for the Regulation of Biotechnology.

Heated Discussion in House Ag Approps on Food Aid

Discussions on proposed changes to food aid were heated during a March 17, 2016, [hearing](#) in the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies. The White House proposed fiscal year 2017 budget included a \$116 million cut to the Food for Peace program, which provides in-kind donations of U.S. commodities like sorghum to countries in need and would shift funds from in-kind food donations to cash assistance and local and regional purchases. Subcommittee Chairman Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-AL) noted purchases of U.S. commodities have already significantly decreased following changes to the program in 2014.

Obama Formalizes National Drought Partnership

As part of World Water Day on Tuesday, March 22, President Barack Obama issued a [presidential memorandum](#) permanently establishing the National Drought Resilience Partnership. President Obama first created the interagency task force, led by the Department of Commerce, in November 2013 as part of the President's Climate Action Plan. According to the memo, the NDRP is intended to "better coordinate federal support for drought-related efforts, help communities reduce the impact of current drought events, and prepare for future droughts."

USDA Authorizes Funds for Activities in Cuba

On Monday, March 21, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack [authorized](#) 22 USDA Research and Promotion Programs and 18 Marketing Order organizations to conduct authorized research and information exchange activities with Cuba. Vilsack made the announcement while accompanying President Barack Obama on his trip to the island nation. Cuba is unlikely to be a large export customer for U.S. sorghum but would provide U.S. farmers, particularly in South Texas, with new market access opportunities.

McCarthy Testifies in House

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy [testified](#) before the House Appropriations Interior Subcommittee on Tuesday, March 22, on the EPA's annual budget request. Questions from committee members addressed a range of issues, including the Clean Water Act (waters of the U.S.) and pesticide regulations. McCarthy told the committee she is working with USDA to protect pollinators while providing farmers with adequate tools.

New Crop Sorghum Bids

This week's new export sales commitments were strong at 2.6 million bushels led by China. Very strong shipments included 5.6 million bushels in actual exports to China, Japan, Mexico, Pakistan and South Africa, bringing the marketing year's total to 206 million bushels. Basis was mostly flat in continued anticipation of news related to planting intentions and weather. Here are this week's old crop and new crop bids where applicable:

- Cargill Houston old: +45, new: +0
- CGB West Memphis old: -46
- TMA Canton old: -47, new: -50
- AgMark Concordia old: -52, new: -60
- Aurora Coop Superior old: -58, new: -45
- WB Johnston Enid old: -30

Sorghum in the Spotlight:

[Growers Who Planted Chromatin's Sorghum Partners® Brand Seed Have Winning Yields in the 2015 National Sorghum Producers Yield Contest](#) - Business Wire

[Texas Corn Producers Looking for Answers to ARC](#)

[Discrepancy](#) - Southwest Farm Press

[Hays, Ness City Farmers Help Promote Kansas Sorghum in China](#) - Hays Post

[Kansas Delegation Assists in Corn, Sorghum Quality Reports Roll-Out in China](#) - U.S. Grains Council

[US Sorghum Groups Announce Research, Expansion Program](#) - Feed Navigator

[Sorghum Industry Establishes Coordinated Research and Marketing Program](#) - Kansas Agland

[Sorghum Producers Sought for Sorghum Checkoff Board](#) - Farm Futures

[Commissioners Elected to Kansas Commodity Commissions](#) - High Plains Journal

[Sorghum: Not So Ho-hum](#) - American Society of Agronomy

Upcoming Sorghum Events

March 25	Good Friday (<i>Office Closed</i>)
March 29	17th Annual Crop Clinic, <i>Goodwell, OK</i>
April 6-7	TGSA/TGSB Joint Annual Meeting, <i>Austin, Texas</i>
April 13-15	Texas Grain and Feed Annual Meeting, <i>Fort Worth, TX</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](#).

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.



*"Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."
- Will Rogers*



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