

FARM BILL
IMPLEMENTATION | p. 6

CONTROLLING
SUGARCANE APHIDS | p. 14

MORE CROP
PER DROP | p. 18



NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS SORGHUM *Grower*

SUMMER 2014

GROWERS TAKE NOTE

International markets creating
strong demand for U.S. sorghum

Also Inside
SORGHUM CHECKOFF NEWSLETTER



ON A MISSION TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE

*Providing feed, fuel and fiber for the world is a tough job.
We are here to help you do it.*

With our full line of grain handling, drying, and storage equipment, Sukup Manufacturing Co. is helping farmers everywhere protect and preserve the world's grain supply. And, with the addition of Sukup Steel Buildings, we can protect and preserve not only your crop, but the tools to produce it as well.

Sukup Manufacturing Co. ■ www.sukup.com ■ info@sukup.com ■ Sheffield, IA 50475-0677 ■ 641-892-4222



TABLE OF CONTENTS

FEATURES

- 14** **Sugarcane Aphids**
 Impacting Grain Sorghum
 New pest creates challenges for
 growers if not treated
- 18** **More Crop Per Drop**
 Panhandle grower uses sorghum to
 mitigate risk and maximize his
 irrigation efficiency

DEPARTMENTS

- 5** **Chairman's Desk**
- 6** **Capitol Hill**
- 8** **Sorgonomics®**
- 12** **Sorghum Abroad**
- 26** **Sorghum Shortcuts**



NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS

SORGHUM
Grower

SUMMER 2014



ON THE COVER: A Chinese grain buyer takes notes during a recent tour in South Texas hosted by the Texas Grain Sorghum Producers. Read more on p. 12. Photo by Jennifer Blackburn.



SORGHUM PARTNERS®

www.chromatininc.com/1-855-SORGHUM

Sorghum: Customized by Chromatin, Renewable by Nature™

CLIMATE CHANGE

Naturally Heat &
Drought Tolerant

RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

Less Irrigation
Fewer Chemical
Inputs

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Herbicide &
Pesticide Use
40-80% < Corn

WATER USE

85% < Sugarcane
50% < Corn

LAND USE

High Yield on
Marginal Land

Food Quality
Brown Midrib
Drought Tolerant
Water Efficient
Heat Tolerant
Nutrient Efficient
High/Low Tannin
Photoperiod Sensitive



Chromatin

NSP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

J.B. Stewart **CHAIRMAN, KEYES, OKLA.**
 James Born **VICE CHAIRMAN, BOOKER, TEXAS**
 Terry Swanson **PAST CHAIRMAN, WALSH, COLO.**
 Sam Simmons **HARLINGEN, TEXAS**
 Tom Willis **LIBERAL, KAN.**
 Don Bloss **PAWNEE CITY, NEB.**
 Gerald Simonson **RUSKIN, NEB.**
 Kendall Hodgson **LITTLE RIVER, KAN.**
 Blake Tregellas **PERRYTON, TEXAS**
 Mike Battin **LUBBOCK, TEXAS**

NSP STAFF

Tim Lust **CEO**
 Shari Connell **OPERATIONS DIRECTOR**
 Chris Cogburn **STRATEGIC BUSINESS DIRECTOR**
 Lindsay Kennedy **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR**
 Jennifer Blackburn **COMMUNICATIONS COORD.**
 Shelley Heinrich **DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**
 Shelee Padgett **FIELD SERVICES DIRECTOR**
 Jesse McCurry **FIELD SERVICES DIRECTOR**
 Roan Cowen **ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT**
 Tobi Heinrich **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**
 Bruce Maunder **RESEARCH ADVISER**

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS

4201 North Interstate 27
 Lubbock, Texas 79403
 806-749-3478 (phone)
 800-658-9808 (toll free)
 806-749-9002 (fax)
www.SorghumGrowers.com

Sorghum Grower is published by the National Sorghum Producers, an organization that represents U.S. sorghum producers and the sorghum industry. NSP is headquartered in Lubbock, Texas, in the heart of the U.S. Sorghum Belt. The organization serves as the voice of the sorghum industry coast to coast through legislative and regulatory representation and education. To subscribe, make address changes, or inquire about membership or advertising, please call 800-658-9808 or email *Sorghum Grower* editor at lindsay@sorghumgrowers.com. © Copyright 2014 National Sorghum Producers

Chairman's Desk



Risk and Reward

WHEN PEOPLE ASK ME WHY I GIVE OF MY TIME to serve as chairman of NSP, I tell them it is because a farm safety net matters to me. Farming is risky business. Sometimes you get just the right amount of rain, sometimes you don't get any at all, and sometimes you get nothing but wind.

In late June, my farm suffered from a devastating wind storm. After years of drought, a storm cloud in the distance seemed like an answered prayer. But as that cloud got closer and the wind blew harder, I realized the cloud we had been praying for was not going to help. Instead of a nice rain shower, some of my sorghum was totally destroyed as well as grain bins, barns, vehicles and even a tractor was totaled as a result of nearly 160-mph straight-line winds. The scariest part of the storm occurred when my wife was struck by a falling power line while in her vehicle as she helped move equipment between fields during wheat harvest.

I tell this story not to complain. I am certainly not the only farmer this year who has lost crops or equipment from a storm, and others have definitely suffered losses greater than I did. It is part of the job. As farmers, we know each year when we plant our crops the overwhelming amount of risk we are undertaking. The overall farm safety net is very important in allowing us to weather these storms.

Fortunately, my wife is doing fine, and farm life is moving on. We will continue to rely on our rotation of tough crops like sorghum and wheat to get us by on the farm, and we will continue to help serve and lead at NSP. It is critical that as agriculture leaders we continue to invest in our organizations that work hard to make sure all our members have a safety net for years like the last few. As farm bill implementation continues, know that NSP is working daily on your behalf to ensure the farm policy written is implemented in a way to help minimize risk in our operations.

J.B. Stewart
 NSP Chairman, Keyes, Oklahoma

Farm Bill Implementation Efforts in Full Swing

By NSP Staff

FARM BILL IMPLEMENTATION, APPROPRIATIONS, regulatory and tax issues are several of the most important agricultural issues currently in Washington.

Implementation of the 2014 Farm Bill is in full swing at the Department of Agriculture. In some areas, progress has appeared seamless and efficient. In other areas, it has been frustratingly slow.

USDA appears to be on track to allow producers to elect between Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) later this year or in early 2015. The optional yield update and base reallocation decision will supposedly be made by landowners this fall.

In the crop insurance title, the Farm Bill authorized producers to separate enterprise units by irrigation practice and be able to select different coverage levels by irrigation practice. After much prodding, USDA says these provisions will now be implemented for spring 2015 crops (originally they said the provisions would not be ready until 2016).

On the other hand, USDA continues to drag its feet on implementing the APH adjustment provision included to help farmers stricken by the ongoing drought. NSP continues to push USDA to implement the Supplemental Coverage Option for as many crops and counties as possible, particularly given its potential importance on producers' PLC-ARC decision.



The interim final rule USDA released that includes conservation compliance tied to crop insurance is unclear on many details but certainly doesn't make us feel any more comfortable with the provision. NSP will continue to work for implementation that is fair for producers.

Regarding appropriations, there is a general desire in Congress to return to regular order and away from stopgap spending bills. However, agriculture appropriations stalled in both chambers – in the House due to the surprise primary loss of then Majority Leader Eric Cantor and in the Senate because of a disagreement on the vote threshold on amendments. The path forward has not been laid out yet, but with the August recess on the horizon and only a short September work period before the Members return home to campaign, a continuing resolution to get us past the end of the fiscal year may not be a bad bet.

Even though the spending bills did not cross the floor, NSP was able to get a sense of, and in many cases review, amendments that will be offered to the appropriations bill. As expected, many of the amendments aimed at tearing

down farm policy and crop insurance resurfaced, including (though certainly not limited to) amendments that would require full public disclosure of producer crop insurance information, place AGI limits on crop insurance, and eliminate the Harvest Price Option.

When the appropriations process does pick back up, whether as an omnibus bill later this year or as standalone legislation as initially planned, NSP will continue to ask for your help in making sure your Members of Congress know the importance of blocking these harmful amendments.

Finally, on the regulatory and tax front, a tax extenders bill that includes Section 179 and bonus depreciation was passed by the House and awaits action in the Senate. And EPA's proposed clean water rule caused a major stir among farmers and ranchers who have little faith in the EPA's claim that the rule will not impact agricultural producers.

A few of these topics deserve articles all their own and NSP will bring more on the potential impact of the proposed clean water rule and in coming issues of *Sorghum Grower*.

Maximize your production with high quality grain sorghum, conventional, BMR, sorghum sudan and forage sorghum seed



**Gayland
Ward
SEED**

Gayland Ward Seed is proud to be a family owned and operated business. Since 1986, we have consistently focused on grower profitability, research, quality and customer service. We appreciate our loyal customers and friends.

www.gaylandwardseed.com (800) 299-9273 Hereford, Texas carson@gaylandwardseed.com

A Strategy for Family Employment

By Kevin Spafford, eLegacyConnect

FAMILY FIRST OR BUSINESS FIRST? THOUGH this point is contentious to many, keep in mind – if the business fails, the family is in trouble. Success for your operation creates financial security, career opportunities and professional satisfaction for everyone. In the end however, the discussion is a muddle of emotions and business practices usually based on family hiring decisions. To eliminate the problem and interject a clear sense of reason to your hiring practices, I recommend a family employment policy.

A family employment policy is a document that specifically states the "conditions" for employment in a family operation. The written agreement:

1. Spells out criteria for hiring and employing family members.
2. Helps to promote a business-like environment for all family members participating in the operation.
3. Allows managing family members to base decisions on a written policy rather than emotional impulse.
4. Details the minimum requirements family members must attain to be considered for employment in the family business.

A complete employment policy encourages owners and managers to base their hiring decisions on written guidelines, rather than emotional impulse. It specifies the minimum education level, work experience, skills and abilities that must be attained prior to consideration for employment in the family business. An employment policy may include an opening statement, such as:

"As a family operation, we are committed to employing family members who demonstrate integrity, act accountably, are industrious and work to further the mission of this operation. We expect participating family members to be appropriately educated, community minded and loyal to the employee team.

"Each participating/prospective family member is encouraged to develop their skills and abilities. Though we will recognize initiative, persistence, and self-reliance, we will only employ family members when there is a job opening and the applicant possesses the education, experience and skills necessary to fulfill the requirements of the job."

Working in the family operation is a privilege; not an entitlement. Opportunities for employment should be based on merit not family rankings. The employment policy may further explain:

"We will hire based on company need. Applicants will be selected according to the skills, abilities and attitudes they bring to the work place. The performance of each employee will be evaluated on a regular basis. If a family member does not meet company expectations, he/she may be released to seek employment outside the family operation. The ownership team will not compromise the integrity of the operation by hiring/retaining any individual who is not committed to success."

Additionally, the employment policy should spell out the conditions for employment, i.e.: Family Members will:



**STAND TALL.
YIELD STRONG.**

PERFORMANCE STARTS HERE. DEKALB® Sorghum can deliver the standability, threshability and staygreen you demand for your operation, with seed treatments destined to perform against the most persistent insects and diseases.



**WORK WITH YOUR EXPERT DEKALB
DEALER TO FIND THE RIGHT SORGHUM
PRODUCT FOR YOUR FARM,
or visit DEKALB.com/agSeedSelect**

Strong Past. Powerful Future.



- Maintain the same standards of performance and professionalism as non-family employees.
- Be supervised by, and accountable to, non-family team members.
- Receive a fair market wage according to the job description and their responsibilities.
- Be expected to attain/maintain a minimum level of community service and continuing professional development outside the family business.
- Not be welcome in the family business if she/he is not employable in another occupation or for another operation.

The family employment policy may go on to say:

“Family members will be welcome to apply for open positions in the operation. Like any other candidate, they must submit a resume and cover letter citing a specific job opening. Unlike other applicants, they will not be considered if they don’t meet the education and experience requirements of the family employment policy.

“When there is an opening, family members will be notified and interested family members will be considered for the position. If there is not an applicant (family member or non-family) interested in a position, the job opening will be posted on the appropriate sites, publications and/or agencies.

“The owners reserve the right to make any/all employment selections. The complexity of our business may necessitate the appointment of non-family members to any/all management positions; especially if/when a family successor is not readily available or not prepared for a particular position.”

A complete employment policy will help everyone – owners, managers, parents, children and non-family employees – to better understand, and separate, family issues from business matters.

Working in a family farming operation can be difficult and the relationships can be confusing. A family employment policy is a written agreement that makes everyone accountable.

This eLegacyConnect tool, Outline for a Family Employment Policy will help guide your decisions on education requirements, hiring practices, compensation, and more. 📖

Kevin Spafford is the founder of eLegacyConnect which provides succession solutions for farm families. Members of National Sorghum Producers receive a discount for full access to eLegacyConnect. Use membership code ‘sorghumgrower’ at eLegacyConnect.com. Also, visit www.SorghumGrowers.com for more information on eLegacyConnect.



WARNER SEEDS, INC

“WE’RE GROWING FULL SEED AHEAD”

PO BOX 1877 – 120 S LAWTON AVE HEREFORD, TX 79045
TOLL FREE: 1-866-WARNER1
PHONE: 1-806-364-4470
WWW.WARNERSEEDS.COM

WARNER WINS!

SAVE GRAIN LOSS

**THE ORIGINAL FLEXIBLE MILO-SAVING GUARD
& GRAIN-SAVER BOOT ATTACHMENT**

ABM
Flexo-Guards, Inc.

800-798-1968
ABM-MFG.COM

- > PREVENT FALL-AWAY HEADS
- > REDUCE SHATTER LOSS
- > IMPROVE HEADER FEEDING EFFICIENCY
- > PERFECT FOR DRAPER HEADS
- > IMPROVE STOCK TRANSFER
- > CAN PAY FOR ITSELF IN THE FIRST 80 ACRES OF HARVEST

DON'T WAIT FOR THE ELEVATOR.

Make it wait for you.

Stop waiting in line at the elevator during harvest.
Save time by bagging your grain directly on the field with the GrainLogix system from Loftness. Then, take it to market when you're ready and the price is right.

GRAINLOGIX
GRAIN BAG STORAGE SYSTEMS



"Grain trucks, augers and bins always create a bottleneck at harvest. That's why I use GrainLogix equipment. All I need is one grain bag loader, and I can store grain as fast as my combines can harvest it. It's a lifesaver for anyone who wants to harvest 30,000 bushels or more a day."

*Craig Fisher
Richardton, ND*



SEE WHAT'S NEW!

Scan this code or visit
grainlogix.com

LOFTNESS
SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT. UNLIMITED INNOVATION.

LOFTNESS.COM · GRAINLOGIX.COM

China Demand for U.S. Sorghum Boosts Opportunities for Growers

By Jesse McCurry

CHINA. THE WORLD'S MOST POPULOUS nation. The third largest country by land area. An ancient civilization. A people with a growing appetite for meat protein, offering U.S. farmers a huge opportunity.

If 2014 is the Year of the Horse according to the Chinese zodiac, then galloping export demand is to be expected in the near term. Florentino Lopez, executive director of the Sorghum Checkoff, says exports play a significant part in promoting strong demand for the crop.

"Demand is critical in providing producers with value, which strongly encourages building supply," Lopez said. "The Sorghum Checkoff believes building demand that ends in increasing supply ultimately helps strengthen the sorghum industry. China, as well as other export markets, enhance these opportunities for all farmers whether you are at a port facility or at an inland elevator. Demand helps drive price."

China Demand

China purchases of U.S. sorghum for the current marketing year ending on August 31, 2014, have reached 161.9 million bushels. This brings the current market year total to 4.44 million metric tons or roughly 186.4 million bushels as of July 17. Sales for the new marketing year beginning September 1, 2014, continue to increase. Currently, sales have reached 802,500 metric tons or roughly 31 million bushels, which will maintain strong demand at the port.

The momentum hasn't slowed down. China made their largest weekly purchase since entering the market during the week of July 4-10 with 11.5 million bushels for the 2013/2014 marketing year and 3.5 million bushels for 2014/2015, according to the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service's July 17 report.

The U.S. Grains Council has had an office in China for more than 30 years. The biggest recent beneficiary of their appetite is the sorghum industry. It is difficult to overstate the importance of China to market demand for grain sorghum in 2014.

According to USDA-ARS, demand in China for more and higher quality food products will grow as personal income continues to rise.

◀ **EDUCATING FOREIGN BUYERS.** Joe Kelley of United Ag (right) guides a delegation of Chinese grain buyers through a facility in El Campo, Texas, during a recent tour hosted by the Texas Grain Sorghum Producers and the Sorghum Checkoff.



“With more hands in the market, end-users have to compete harder for grain, which creates a positive situation for farmers,” Lopez said. “More demand should result in more acres, and that’s good for everyone in the sorghum industry.”

Import Surge

In June, Texas Grain Sorghum Producers hosted a crop tour for a group of Chinese sorghum buyers. Qin Zhao of New Hope Group, one of the largest millers in China, said sorghum is desirable for their needs.

“We are using U.S. sorghum in poultry and duck feed,” Zhao says. “We are substituting approximately 30 percent of the corn we use with sorghum because the corn price is very high. For the same reason, we are using sorghum in pork feed at approximately 10 percent.”

Zhao says sorghum provides a perfect feed for livestock and more sorghum will be used by Chinese feed millers.

“I think more and more Chinese people will be interested in this. We think sorghum is very valuable. We will be buying sorghum from the U.S.”

Outlook Going Forward

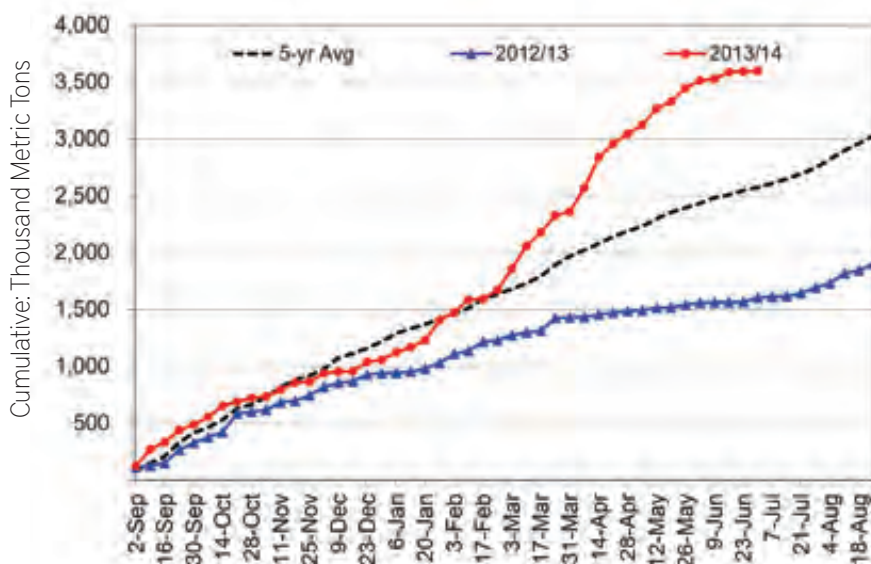
J.J. Jones, international marketing director at Kansas Department of Agriculture says China is a growing market for the U.S.

“Over the past decade, the number of Chinese consumers who have reached middle-class status by global standards has grown exponentially,” Jones said. “This fact, coupled with a growing population, has led to not only greater demand for food in general but also greater demand for higher quality, safer foods and a wider variety.”

According to Jones, Chinese consumers are following the true global protein curve, which illustrates that as consumers achieve higher levels of purchasing power they travel from a carbohydrate-rich diet to one that has higher



U.S. Sorghum Exports



United States Department of Agriculture, Grain Inspection Advisory Committee, July 2014

fats and oils, followed by poultry and seafood followed by pork, lamb or goat followed by beef.

“China’s increasing demand for feed grains and demand for animal proteins also shows the country’s progression on the global protein curve,” he says.

China is relatively new to the feed-grain markets as compared to other global buyers. Many in the industry are waiting to see what Chinese buying patterns will look like, including the domestic ethanol industry.

“With China in the market, it creates additional demand for sorghum, driving up the price,” said Mike Chisam, CEO of Kansas Ethanol. “We are buying starch, so we adjust our grain usage ratio appropriately to maximize value for the facility. That involves looking at the price per bushel paid and the starch content of the received grain and maximizing the amount of starch purchased with each dollar spent.”

The Sorghum Checkoff and U.S. Grains Council understand other markets still must be cultivated for U.S. sorghum.

“Our struggle is supply,” Lopez said. “With the demand from China, other markets like Mexico, Japan and the domestic ethanol market have not been able to fill their sorghum needs, which can only be met with a growing supply.”



Sugarcane Aphids Impacting Grain Sorghum in the South

By Lindsay Kennedy

IF YOU GROW SORGHUM IN the South, chances are you have seen or heard about a new pest rearing its tiny, ugly head in fields.

The sugarcane aphid, *Melanaphis sacchari*, which has typically impacted the plant of the insect's namesake, has now made sorghum a host plant.

The sugarcane aphid made its first appearance in U.S. grain sorghum fields during the 2013 crop year, showing up first along the Texas-Mexico border and later finding its way into southern portions of southern Louisiana and southern Oklahoma. In total, the sugarcane aphid was detected in 38 counties in the aforementioned five states last year, as well as in northern Mexico.

Although sugarcane aphids are small in size, their impact on yield loss and harvest efficiency can be a big problem if not properly treated. Aphids can impact sorghum at all growth stages. They feed on the leaves, causing discoloration. They also produce honeydew, a sticky secretion that supports the growth of fungus on the sorghum plant, which can cause problems during harvesting and stress to the plant.

From a national perspective, the aphid did not significantly impact the U.S. grain sorghum crop in 2013. Entomologists were optimistic a colder than normal winter in regions where sugarcane aphid infestations were located would help prevent their reappearance during the 2014 crop year.

Regardless, the bug came back for an encore performance this year after overwintering in johnsongrass and is once again finding its way into sorghum fields in the South.

Infestations were first identified in the Rio Grande Valley and Coastal Bend of Texas, a region that produces roughly 25 percent of the U.S. grain sorghum crop. As of press time, sugarcane aphids have been found in sorghum fields in Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Oklahoma and, most recently, Georgia, Florida and Tennessee.

"They're definitely worse here than they were last year," said David Kerns, associate professor of entomology for the LSU AgCenter in Winnsboro, La. "The [sugarcane aphid] came in much



◀ **A STICKY SITUATION.** The sugarcane aphid appears as a tan or light yellow insect and can impact grain sorghum at any part of the growth stage, feeding on leaves and producing a sticky honeydew secretion that can cause problems at harvest.

As sugarcane aphids increased in South Texas and along the Coastal Bend last year, the National Sorghum Producers, along with state sorghum organizations, state departments of agriculture, and state extension services, began working to attain Section 18 exemptions from the Environmental Protection Agency to allow growers in the impacted areas to apply Transform WG on their infested fields.

Since Jan. 2014, Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi and Arkansas have been granted exemptions to use Transform WG to treat sugarcane aphids, and many farmers in the affected regions have been able to control aphid populations using the product.

Sorghum Checkoff Crop Improvement Director Justin Weinheimer, Ph.D., says timely application of insecticide is important to minimize, if not eliminate, yield loss from sugarcane aphid infestations.

“We know the product works and has helped growers kill the aphid,” Weinheimer said. “The fields where significant losses occurred this year were fields that were not treated at all.”

In Louisiana, Kerns says growers who treated their fields after identifying the aphid experienced the greatest control when spraying in the pre-boot and boot stages. Growers who found

the aphid and decided to delay treatment, he said, saw minor infestations explode into extreme populations in less than a week.

“Some of the growers who missed the aphids in their fields have seen as much as 50 percent yield loss,” Kerns said.

Jim Massey, a sorghum grower who farms near Corpus Christi, Texas, sprayed Transform WG once the infestation reached 200 insects per leaf in his grain sorghum fields.

“I got great coverage with very good results,” Massey said. “The product was also very gentle on beneficial insects.”

According to Texas AgriLife Extension, beneficial insects, which include lady bugs, parasitic wasps, green lacewings and syrphid fly larvae, feed on sugarcane aphids and can be helpful in controlling populations.

Kerns warns growers against looking to treat sugarcane aphids and midge simultaneously with co-applications of pyrethroids and Transform WG. Although a common treatment for midge, pyrethroids are very toxic to beneficial insects and are likely to flare sugarcane aphid populations. Kerns said growers should avoid automatic applications for midge unless midge are present at the threshold.

Scouting and Thresholds

Massey said getting into his fields to scout for the sugarcane aphid was important in preventing crop damage.

“I walked the fields in numerous places and observed the underside of

earlier in the season this year and has moved really quickly. We have them throughout the state.”

Treatment Options

Although farmers in these regions have seen increased populations in 2014, the good news is there are effective control methods available.

Upon early testing for control methods, Transform WG, a Dow AgroSciences product, was identified as a chemical treatment that provides effective control of the sugarcane aphid.

Other products tested, including Lorsban and Dimethoate, provided some control but were not as effective as Transform WG.

the leaves starting at the bottom of the plant and working my way up,” Massey said.

Since the insect is considered a new pest to grain sorghum, researchers are still working to determine the accurate economic threshold for farmers to use to determine when to treat their fields.

“If sugarcane aphids are detected, farmers are encouraged to work with local experts to determine threshold levels and proper control methods,” Weinheimer said. “Some sugarcane aphid populations may not require treatment but rather close monitoring through regular scouting.”

Mike Brewer, Texas A&M AgriLife entomologist, says while no economic threshold has been established for the sugarcane aphid on sorghum, regular surveying of fields has helped determine when it is time to spray.

“For fields with detected infestations, twice weekly delineation surveys helped growers determine if one of the effective insecticides were needed to control an expanding and potentially damaging aphid population,” Brewer said. “For fields not detected, it is a good idea to redo a detection survey weekly until the potential for aphid flights in your area is gone.”

Sugarcane aphid populations are all female and don’t require a male to reproduce. When populations become overcrowded, some aphids develop wings and colonize in other fields, allowing populations to spread quickly. As soon as the aphid lands on a new host plant, they simply give birth to new female aphids without laying eggs.

Looking Ahead

The sugarcane aphid has caught the attention of sorghum seed companies and chemical companies who are now screening their hybrids to identify genetic resistance to the bug.

Scott Armstrong, research entomologist with the USDA Agricultural Research Center in Stillwater, Okla., and his team have been screening sorghum hybrids for resistance to the bug at their facility since Oct. 2013 and says some very good sources of resistance have been identified, including a line called TX2783 that was developed by researchers at Texas A&M University.

“The good news is TX2783 is available to the breeding industry, so developing commercial hybrids with good agronomic characteristics will not be a problem,” Armstrong said. The line has dual resistance to the greenbug and the sugarcane aphid.

Private sorghum seed companies including Chromatin, Pioneer and Monsanto are also currently screen-

ing grain sorghum hybrids for sugarcane aphid resistance.

Armstrong says not only do resistant hybrids save on insecticide costs, but they are generally much easier on beneficial insects like parasitic wasps and lady bugs.

“Resistant hybrids are a much more sustainable solution for the sugarcane aphid long-term agronomically and economically,” he said.

Weinheimer says it won’t hurt to keep an eye out for the bug, regardless of where growers farm throughout the Sorghum Belt.

“Even if your farm isn’t near the impacted areas, all sorghum farmers across the U.S. are encouraged to scout for the aphid along with their regular insect scouting,” said Weinheimer. 🐞

▼ FRIENDLY BUGS. Beneficial insects, like lady bugs, aid in sugarcane aphid control. Growers have also noted Transform WG did not negatively impact beneficial insect populations on infested plants.





Sorghum *Update*

Brought to you by the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission

Kansas Water Vision Highlights Sorghum in New Technology and Crop Variety Theme

In calling for the development of a 50-Year Vision for the Future of Water in Kansas, Governor Brownback charged the Kansas Water Office and Kansas Department of Agriculture with listening to Kansans to develop a water vision.

On July 1, 2014, the Water Vision Team released the preliminary discussion draft of the Vision for the Future of Water in Kansas calling it the, "culmination of six months of input received from water-related organizations and entities...at more than 160 meetings...reaching more than 9,000 Kansans."

The release of the Preliminary Discussion Draft was followed by a listening tour that covered a reported 1,500 miles and reached more than 825 Kansans.

Sorghum farmer and chair of the Kansas Water Authority, Gary Harshberger said the vision process is about engaging Kansans to discuss future water needs.

"Sorghum is a big part of the equation and looking for alternative crops that maintain farmer income while conserving water," Harshberger said. "The Governor wants to hear from the people on how to best build this vision."

A quick read of the draft breaks the future of Kansas water into four themes with new technologies and crop varieties of particular interest to sorghum farmers.

"After 180 meetings and feedback and attendance of thousands, the Governor's Vision Team heard a clear message that technology, agronomic research, and alternative lower water use crops should be a chapter in the 50-year vision," said Greg Foley, director of the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Conservation Division.

A number of sorghum specific milestones and action items are provided on pages 31-32 of the discussion draft. These include forming "a collaborative stakeholder team to set sorghum research priorities and develop research and funding strategy" with suggested research priorities of "yield, stalk strength, nutritional value to livestock, weed control, and ability to be used for biofuels production."

The preliminary discussion draft recognizes the importance of sorghum to the Kansas agricultural economy and water. Kansas grain sorghum farmers can provide feedback and comments on the importance of sorghum for Kansas water to kwo-info@kwo.ks.gov.

The final discussion draft will be shared later this fall at the Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas, Nov. 12 -13, 2014, in Manhattan, Kan.

For more information on the Kansas Water Vision or to view the preliminary discussion draft of the Vision for the Future of Water in Kansas, visit the Kansas Water Office website at www.kwo.org.

*For more information about the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission, contact
KGSC Administrator Jill Barnhardt 795 22nd Rd. NW, Lebo, KS 66856
(785) 341-6433, jill@ksgrainsorghum.org, www.ksgrainsorghum.org*



More Crop Per Drop

By Jennifer Blackburn

THE DROUGHT HAS CERTAINLY TAKEN ITS toll on many areas in the Sorghum Belt—some feeling effects far more than others.

In order to remain viable, farmers have had to make tough decisions, change crop rotations, and hope for some reprieve from the harsh weather conditions they have faced in the last few years.

For Tom Moore and his brother Ellis who farm approximately 13,000 acres in the northern Texas Panhandle near Sunray, water is a critical resource, and as a result of conditions the last three years, they've found themselves planting more grain sorghum.

"When 2011 rolled in, we weren't getting near even half of our annual rainfall," Tom Moore said. "We couldn't water the cotton and the corn both and make a crop."

Moore said the issue came down to timing. The critical water timing for sorghum came after the critical time for corn had passed, thus establishing sorghum as a more viable crop option in their standard rotation.

"We shifted to grain sorghum just to be able to have our timing different and meet critical water timing needs," said Moore. "This allows us to get water to crops when they need it."

In addition to his corn and sorghum more adequately fitting his current irrigation situation, Moore also said grain prices have been more favorable the last two years. Last year, he started delivering directly to the panhandle swine feeding company Texas Farm.

Moore also enjoys lower input costs with sorghum and says timing on fertilizing sorghum is more flexible depending on the potential the crop has to offer each growing season.

"Our sorghum has done very well for us," Moore said. "We've been very pleased with the crop, and even in the dry years, we're only having to put 10-14 inches of moisture on it, and we're making 7,000-8,000 pound milo consistently."

Moore said sorghum takes a lot less moisture to produce a good crop, and it has been especially difficult during these dry years to fill moisture profiles with irrigation.



EFFICIENT

WATER USE & PRODUCTIVITY

Bred for water efficiency with heat tolerance, sorghum delivers more consistent performance on less inputs than corn. Our complete line-up of proven, high-yielding grain sorghum hybrids are especially selected for drought tolerance, disease resistance and overall performance from our global network of sorghum breeders.

Watch for our new herbicide tolerant sorghum hybrids next season.

Call 877-806-7333 for trial locations near you and visit altaseeds.com to learn more.



Alta
seeds™
Beyond**theYield**

Alta Seeds is a brand of Advanta US, an operating unit of Advanta, a global seed company.
©2013 Advanta US, Inc. Alta Seeds is a trademark of Advanta US, Inc. ALT4266 SG

“Sorghum is a drought-tolerant crop and it doesn’t take near the moisture from the profile,” he said. Another farming method the Moore brothers use to minimize soil moisture is strip-till and no-till.

“

“There is no doubt in my mind we’ll have to do with less water from now on.”

”

“Our corn is strip tilled into last year’s sorghum stalks, and the milo is no tilled into last year’s corn stalks,” Tom said. “The value of no-till is tremendous in retaining soil moisture.”

Bubbler Nozzles

The Moores are taking other measures to conserve water and ensure the longevity of their farm.

At the peak of the drought in 2011, the Moore brothers converted nearly all of their center pivots to 30-inch bubbler nozzles, acting on the advice of a farmer friend in Arizona who had a positive experience with narrow-row drop spacing in chili pepper production.

Tom said he tried the idea on one span on the overhang of a pivot watering droughty cotton. He said the results were dramatic, and they converted every sprinkler shortly after that—an investment he said paid for itself by July 2012. The change reduced their water use and improved yields.

“We’ve got one 330-gallon well that furnishes water to two alternating pivots, each 125 acres,” he said. “Last year 62.5 acres were planted to corn, 62.5 acres to sorghum, 62.5 acres to wheat and 62.5 acres to prewatered-only sorghum. The corn made 282 bushels, the sorghum made 8,000 pounds, the prewatered-only sorghum made 4,000 pounds.”

“The whole effect with what we did with a 330-gallon well with the new bubbler technology was amazing,” Tom said.

“We would not have even attempted it five or six years ago.”

Another benefit of the 30-inch bubbler spacing in modern 20-inch row fields is it prevents dry spots between drops as the bubblers weave around the growing plant.

“With the 60-inch drops, we always had dry spots between the rows,” Moore said. “The 30-inch drops stopped that.”

Moore said as he and his brother contend with less and less water, they continue to keep certain farming and irrigating goals in mind that they will need to achieve in order to remain viable.

“The drought has taught us valuable lessons,” Tom said. “There is no doubt in my mind we’ll have to do with less water from now on.”

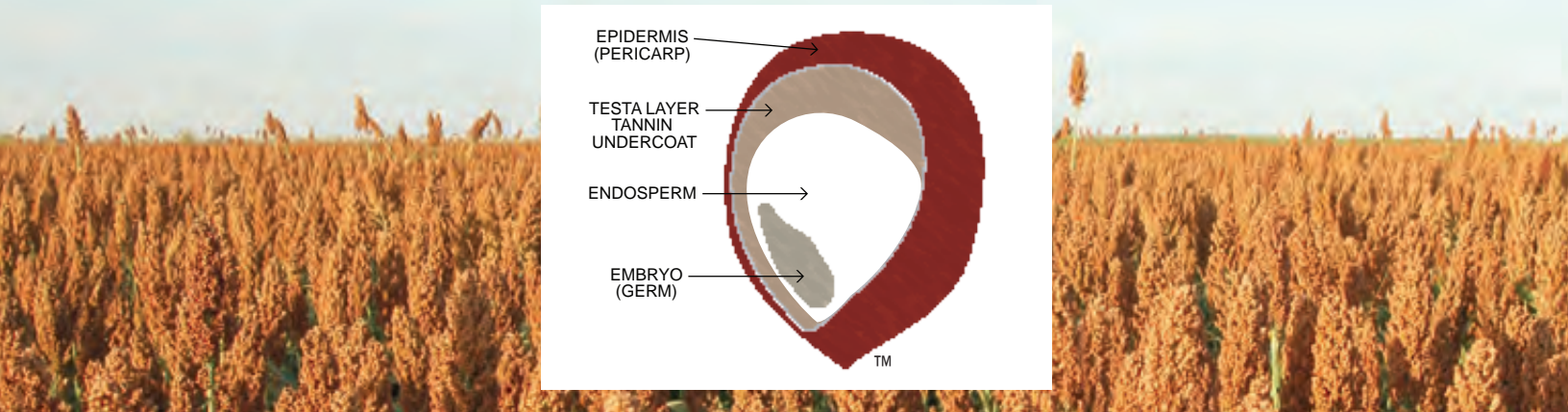
Tom said sorghum handles drought about as well as anything, and what has helped him grow it the most is the way it responds to limited inputs. 🌱

**YIELD
FOR A BETTER
TOMORROW.**

TOP CHOICE OF FARMERS WORLDWIDE.

**SCOTT
SEED CO.**

Visit us at www.scottseed.net or call 1-800-395-8150



HEART GRAINS®

PACKED IN EACH BOX OF GRAIN BERRY®!

Each Grain Berry product contains whole grain wheat or oats plus our high tannin sorghum bran, to enhance fiber and antioxidants. We call it "Heart Grains".

WHOLE GRAIN
PLUS
HIGH TANNIN
ANTIOXIDANT CEREALS



WHOLE GRAIN
PLUS
HIGH TANNIN
ANTIOXIDANT MIXES



HEALTHY EATING & BAKING FUN FOR EVERYONE!

© 2014 Silver Palate Kitchens, Inc. All rights reserved.

MANUFACTURER'S COUPON EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2014

SAVE \$1.00

ON ANY GRAIN BERRY® CEREAL.

Retailer: Silver Palate Kitchens, Inc. will redeem this coupon for face value plus .08¢ handling provided coupon is redeemed in accordance with our offer. Customer pays any sales tax. Void if reproduced or where prohibited by law. Invoices proving purchase of sufficient stock to cover redemptions must be shown on request.

Cash value 1/100¢.
One coupon per item purchased.
Send to: 211
Knickerbocker Road,
Cresskill, NJ 07626.



MANUFACTURER'S COUPON EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2014

SAVE \$1.00

ON ANY GRAIN BERRY® MIXES.

Retailer: Silver Palate Kitchens, Inc. will redeem this coupon for face value plus .08¢ handling provided coupon is redeemed in accordance with our offer. Customer pays any sales tax. Void if reproduced or where prohibited by law. Invoices proving purchase of sufficient stock to cover redemptions must be shown on request.

Cash value 1/100¢.
One coupon per item purchased.
Send to: 211
Knickerbocker Road,
Cresskill, NJ 07626.



MAIL-IN OFFER EXPIRES JANUARY 31, 2015

BUY THREE GET ONE FREE

Send this form, UPCs from any three (3) Grain Berry® Products with the sales receipt and a **SELF ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE** to the address below for a coupon for a free box by mail.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

e-mail _____

No Cash value. One coupon per household.
Mail to: 211 Knickerbocker Road, Cresskill, NJ 07626.

Sorghum Checkoff Announces Leadership Sorghum Class II


The Sorghum Checkoff is pleased to announce the members of Leadership Sorghum Class II. Leadership Sorghum is a program hosted by the Sorghum Checkoff that seeks to develop the next generation of leaders for the sorghum industry. Fifteen sorghum farmers from six different states have been selected to participate in the program's second class.

"Developing new leaders who are prepared to handle the diverse issues impacting sorghum and agriculture is important for this industry," said Sorghum Checkoff Chairman, Stewart Weaver, a sorghum farmer from Edmondson, Ark.

"We have already seen many members of the first class get involved within state and national sorghum organizations and committees, and it is exciting to see the next generation of grower leaders stepping up to the plate. We believe this program is not only benefiting the industry by developing the leaders of tomorrow but is also providing its sorghum farmer class members with a valuable educational experience."

Leadership Sorghum Class II will begin the 15-month program in the Texas Panhandle in September focusing on the sorghum seed industry and research. Throughout the program, participants will be exposed to various aspects of the sorghum industry from basic research to international marketing.

Through both hands-on and classroom-style education, participants will gain an understanding of how sorghum moves through the value chain, how checkoffs and interest organizations interact on behalf of the industry

and what the future holds for the crop. For information about the Leadership Sorghum program, visit www.SorghumCheckoff.com/leadership. 

Leadership Sorghum Class II Roster

The following are Leadership Sorghum Class II members by state (name, city):



Alabama – Carlton Bridgeforth, Tanner



Iowa – Joel Spring, Centerville



Kansas – Dan Atkisson, Stockton; Kelsey Baker, Scott City; Casey Crossland, Wakeeney; Nathan Larson, Riley; Craig Poore, Alton; Lance Russell, Hays; and Jessica Wyrill, Kirwin



Kentucky – Chris Robinson, Sturgis



Oklahoma – Kent Martin, Carmen



Texas – Josh Birdwell, Bynum; Greg Glover, Amarillo; Joe Rohrbach, Hereford; Lee Whitaker, Claude

leadership

SORGHUM

a program sponsored by the 

Export Sorghum Showcases U.S. Sorghum Crop to International, Domestic Grain Buyers

With an increased demand for sorghum globally, the Sorghum Checkoff and Texas Grain Sorghum Producers jointly hosted the first Export Sorghum, an exclusive, two-day seminar for U.S. buyers of grain sorghum from across the world, in Houston, Texas, May 19-21.

The two-day event brought together international grain buyers from China, Japan, Mexico and Spain and approximately 30 domestic grain buyers and sellers.



Florentino Lopez, Sorghum Checkoff executive director, said the significance of Export Sorghum is tremendous as it provided invaluable networking and education opportunities in hopes of leading to future market opportunities for producers.

Jerry Wang, CEO and cofounder of Living Water Integra Trade Inc., said prior to Export Sorghum he had very little knowledge of sorghum. After attending the event, he said he now understands supply and demand, logistics and specifications of U.S. sorghum.

“Export Sorghum provided these individuals the chance to build relationships with one another all while learning more about sorghum,” Lopez said. “These relationships will continue to benefit sorghum growers and the industry as a whole.”

“This is very helpful for me to promote U.S. sorghum to China,” Wang said. “I appreciate the opportunity to be invited here, and I hope we can start exporting U.S. sorghum to China and find more interest.”

During the event, attendees were provided insight on sorghum markets, trade opportunities, contract education and logistics. In addition to informational sessions, attendees visited sorghum fields at Guy Farms in Guy, Texas, as well as the Port of Houston Cargill facility to see firsthand sorghum production in action.

Recent Foreign Agriculture Service reports indicated strong export demand. FAS reported July 17 a total commitment of 186.4 million bushels for this marketing year ending August 31, 2014. Commitments for exports have already begun for the new marketing year beginning September 1, 2014 totaling 802,500 metric tons (31 million bushels).

Among many topics, Lopez said U.S. sorghum quality and price were major discussion areas.

As U.S. sorghum continues to gain momentum, Lopez said international market opportunities are critical.

“Price is always important, but looking at how price, quality and logistics all come together was a big picture item we were able to address,” Lopez said, “U.S. producers can definitely be proud of providing a quality product at an affordable price, which provides an advantage to end users.”

“Our ongoing goal must be to help build strong relationships between buyers and sellers resulting in sorghum sales,” Lopez said. “Sharing how sorghum is the smart choice will continue to be a leading theme in our mission to help build strong markets for farmers that lead to better profitability.” ✓

Sorghum360 Exhibits Sorghum to Food Industry Stakeholders

3

It's a staple in livestock feed, crosses international borders, is significant in the production of ethanol, and more recently, has become quite popular as an ingredient in restaurants and homes of many. Aside from being healthy, nutritious, high in antioxidants, and not genetically modified, Iron Chef Marc Forgione said sorghum is the smart choice for his restaurants because it is naturally gluten-free.

"Every single night we have tables that come in and say 'We're gluten free, what can the chef do for us?'" Forgione said. "Now we don't have to worry about that if we use sorghum in our breads and our pastas, and we can still get the quality and flavor we are looking for."

Forgione, winner of Food Network's Next Iron Chef and recipient of the Michelin Star, recently experimented cooking with sorghum for the first time in preparation for the Sorghum Checkoff's Sorghum360, an event held in New Orleans, La., concurrent with the International Food Technologist Expo on June 22 that featured sorghum's versatility in recipes.

Doug Bice, Sorghum Checkoff high value markets director, said Sorghum360 was a great way to showcase the opportunities available for the growth of sorghum in the food industry.

"Sorghum360 was a unique opportunity to bring together food companies, manufacturers, processors, formulators as well as research institutions where they got to see sorghum in action," Bice said.

The half-day event featured a panel of sorghum experts who addressed a number of topics pertaining to

sorghum nutrition attributes, health benefits, product development, sorghum through agricultural production, market trends and more.

Best of all, attendees not only got to see sorghum first-hand during a cooking demonstration by Forgione but were also able to taste the one-of-a-kind dishes prepared by the chef.



For the appetizer, Forgione prepared scallop ceviche with crispy sorghum, smoked avocado puree, tomato consommé and sechuan buttons. For the main dish, he prepared strip steak, escargot and braised lettuce with sorghum air bread. Dessert included strawberry sorghum consommé with buttermilk panna cotta and sorrel.



After working with sorghum as a new ingredient, Forgione said he has incorporated it into the menu at his three restaurants in New York City.



Tim Lust, Sorghum Checkoff CEO, said it has been exciting seeing sorghum evolve in the food industry over the years. He said new advances in research and development have made sorghum a multifaceted product that fulfills the needs of its consumers while increasing profitability for producers.

While the food industry currently only makes up two percent of the U.S. sorghum market, Lust said interest in sorghum as an ancient, whole grain continues to grow.

"Growers have an opportunity here to really see their industry transform from a feed industry into a food industry, and certainly that comes at a lot higher value," Lust said, "which is what we are all about at the Sorghum Checkoff." ✓

Sorghum Checkoff Concludes Five-Year Sorghum Genetics Project

The Sorghum Checkoff, in collaboration with NuSeed/MMR Genetics and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service, recently completed a five-year, \$600,000 investment in a project to help broaden the pool of available sorghum genetics.

Sorghum Checkoff Crop Improvement Director Justin Weinheimer, Ph.D., said the project, formally known as the "Re-instated Sorghum Conversion Program," was designed to make new sorghum genetic material available to sorghum research and breeding programs to enhance diversity within grain sorghum genetics.

"Advancements in sorghum seed innovation, such as yield, standability and drought tolerance, remain a top priority of U.S. sorghum farmers," Weinheimer said. "This project provides untapped sorghum genetic resources, which can be used to make more profitable sorghum hybrids."

MMR Genetics Sorghum Breeder and Principal Investigator Fred Miller, Ph.D., said these new opportunities will result in significant and major crop improvements in sorghum hybrids that were not previously available through germplasm modification.

"There are vast germplasm reserves held worldwide, but breeders in the U.S. are constrained in using this material due to the fact that this tropical germplasm is unadapted to our day lengths and seasonal temperatures," Miller said.

Over the course of five years, the program converted wild-type sorghum varieties not suitable for U.S. breeding programs into genetic lines that are more easily incorporated into established breeding and research programs.

"While traditional breeding methods were used to develop this material," said Bob Klein, USDA-ARS, Crop Germplasm Research Unit research geneticist, "we also used NexGen DNA sequencing technology to shorten the time between the start of the breeding process and when the germplasm gets in the hands of seed companies. We are also making the DNA sequencing data available to any end-user who has the desire to use this genetic marker information in their breeding or genetics program."

Between 2011 and 2014, Weinheimer said a total of 144 new sources of sorghum genetics were released to breeding programs across the country. A total of 15 different breeding and research programs have acquired some or all of this material and are incorporating it into their programs.

"The results of this project are directly tied to making more productive sorghum hybrids, which in turn result in higher profitability for producers," Weinheimer said. "We are already exploring ways to make additional genetic lines available." ✓

Sorghum Industry Events

Sept. 8-10— Sorghum Checkoff Seed Tour
West Texas

Oct. 13-15 — National Advanced Biofuels Conference
Minneapolis, Minn.

Oct. 18-21 — Food & Nutrition Conference
Atlanta, Ga.

Oct. 20-22 — USGC Expo Exchange
Seattle, Wa.

SORGHUM CHECKOFF MISSION:

USCP commits to efficiently invest checkoff dollars to increase producer profitability and enhance the sorghum industry.

CONTACT US:

Faith Jurek
Communications Director
(877) 643-8727
faithj@sorghumcheckoff.com

For more events, visit sorghumcheckoff.com/calendar

paid advertisement

Sorghum Shortcuts



Farmers Encouraged to #GoFor250

It's time to consider entering the NSP Yield Contest, and National Sorghum Producers would like to remind growers about some significant changes made to this year's contest.

NSP has set a new yield goal of 250 bushels per acre or more to illustrate sorghum's yield potential. All division placings will be determined by yield only.

NSP is offering incentives with support from the Sorghum Checkoff to award growers who reach this new benchmark. Contestants successfully participating in this category will receive a three-year truck lease (Ford, Chevrolet, Dodge, or Toyota) for first place, an all-terrain vehicle for second place and a riding lawn mower for third place.

With the new provisions, there are many new rule changes that growers should be aware of, and NSP asks entrants to pay close attention to this year's contest rules. Visit <http://sorghumgrowers.com/yield-contest/> to learn more, and be sure to read the extended version of the yield contest rule changes. If growers have questions, please call NSP headquarters at 800-658-9808.

Are you going for 250? Share your crop progress on Twitter with a photo and use the #Gofor250 hashtag. We look forward to seeing your photos! Be sure to follow NSP on Twitter (@SorghumGrowers) and on Facebook for news and updates from the sorghum industry. 📱



A Legacy of Helping Grow More Sorghum

Sorghum growers know Syngenta for our history of providing seedcare and crop protection products that help you grow more sorghum. From Concep[®], the first ever-commercial seed treatment, introduced over three decades ago, to the latest herbicides and fungicides, our broad portfolio supports healthier crops and higher yields. So farmers can get more from existing farmland and take less new land into cultivation. It's just one way in which we're helping to meet the challenge of the future: to grow more from less. To find out more, please visit us at www.growmorefromless.com



syngenta[®]

©2014 Syngenta. Important: Always read and follow label instructions. Some crop protection products may not be registered for sale or use in all states or counties. Please check with your local extension service to ensure registration status. Concep[®], the Alliance frame, the Purpose Icon and the Syngenta logo are trademarks of a Syngenta Group Company.

TM



PIONEER®

UNLEASH YIELDZILLA *for* MONSTROUS PERFORMANCE

Locally tested Pioneer® brand sorghum can give your yield potential a boost.

Matching Pioneer sorghum hybrids and traits to your fields is a surefire way to hit higher yields. And with Pioneer Premium Seed Treatment, you can be confident your crop will realize its full potential. Ask your local Pioneer sales professional about your sorghum options.



Pioneer Premium Seed Treatment for sorghum is applied at a DuPont Pioneer production facility. See your Pioneer sales representative for details. The DuPont Oval Logo is a registered trademark of DuPont. PIONEER® brand products are provided subject to the terms and conditions of purchase which are part of the labeling and purchase documents. ®, ™, ® Trademarks and service marks of Pioneer. © 2014 PHIL. DUPPS014004VA_081514_SG