

2018 SORGHUM YIELD CONTEST RULES

Please read contest rules carefully before completing the entry form.

****There are many new rules changes****

CONTEST DEADLINES

Mailed entries must be postmarked, emailed, or faxed at least 10 days prior to harvest of the contest acreage.

Harvest Rules, and a Harvest Report Form will be mailed to the contestant as soon as the entry is received. All forms must be completed and in the NSP office no later than Dec. 1, 2018. There will be no extension of deadlines.

CONTESTANT QUALIFICATIONS

Contestant must be a paid member of NSP at the time of entry and judging. More than one member of a family may enter, but each contestant must have a separate membership.

Contestant must be a certified FSA owner/operator of the entry plot.

Contestants can enter more than once, but each entry must be on a separate entry form. Partnerships can enter under the partnership name if the partnership holds a membership. Contestants must be at least 14 years of age at the time of entry. NSP directors, employees and spouses are prohibited from entering the contest.

CONTEST REGIONS

The contest is divided into an East Region and West Region, with the dividing line following the eastern state borders of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. The field state, not the residence of the contestant will determine the region qualification of the entry. Regions do not apply to the food grade division.

CONTEST DIVISIONS

Irrigated No Till
Irrigated Tillage
Dryland No Till
Dryland Tillage
Food Grade

No-Till means the soil is left undisturbed from the harvest of the previous crop to the harvest of the next crop with the exception of the injection of nutrients with knives or coulters, not sweeps.

Tillage refers to any disturbance of the soil beyond the injection of nutrients at any time during the year.

FIELD QUALIFICATIONS

A complete field of 10 or more contiguous acres, planted in the sorghum seed variety named on the entry form will be designated as the contest field. The contest field must be designated on an aerial map. The aerial map must be included with the entry and the harvest report. Each plot's harvest report will be limited to a single harvest per year. High-tannin sorghum varieties will not be accepted.

SUPERVISOR QUALIFICATIONS

A qualified supervisor must be present during the entire harvest and weighing. The supervisor must complete and sign the Harvest Report Form.

Supervisors MUST be from the following list

- FFA Advisers
- Vocational Agricultural Instructors
- County Extension Agents or Assistants
- NRCS Employees
- FSA CED/Loan Managers/Officers
- SWCD Employees
- College of Agriculture Instructors
- American Society of Farm Managers/Accredited Farm Manager
- Crop Insurance Agents/Adjusters (not contestant's agent or adjuster)
- Farm Credit Services Officers (not contestant's service officer)
- Bank Ag Loan Officers (not contestant's loan officer)

Supervisors from the following list will NOT be accepted and the entry will be disqualified:

- Private crop consultants or agronomists
- Anyone who has a financial tie to a company which sells agribusiness supplies (i.e. seed or chemical representatives, farm equipment salesmen, etc.)
- Employees/representatives of the contestant lending agencies
- The contestant himself/herself
- Producers serving on boards of NSP, USCP or state sorghum producers boards affiliated with NSP

HARVEST RULES

Detailed rules for measuring, weighing, moisture testing and calculating the yield results will be mailed to the contestant upon receipt of his/her entry.

The supervisor must be present during the entire harvest of the contest plot, must make all field measurements and computations, oversee the weighing, INCLUDING LOADING AND UNLOADING, moisture testing, verify the date of harvest, report location of the contest field, and specify the tillage method.

Initial Check: The contestant must harvest and report at least 1.5 contiguous acres in order to complete the initial check. The unharvested sorghum will be used for the recheck if resulting yield is 250.0000 or more bushels per acre.

Contact NSP headquarters at 1-800-658-9808 for further instruction if the yield is 250.000 or more bushes per acre.

Recheck: 1.5 contiguous acres from the remaining acres or the contest plot is required if the yield on the initial check is 250.000 or more bushels per acre. When the recheck yield is **equal to or more than** the initial check yield, the recheck yield will be the yield for the plot. When the recheck yield is **less than** the first check yield, an average of the two yields will be used for the contest plot.

WEIGHING

After harvesting, a load's gross weight must be determined first, followed by empty or tare weight on the same date. Determination of a load's gross weight **must occur before** determination of tare weight. If time and date of weighing are not automatically stamped on weight ticket(s), supervisors must note both time and date of both weights on the weight ticket(s).

JUDGING

All division places will be determined by yield only. In the event of a tie, the contestant harvesting and reporting the largest acreage will be declared the winner. If a second tie-breaker is needed, the contestant with the longest time between the entry date and the harvest date will be named the winner. Any entry is subject to further review. Any contestant committing fraud will be barred from the contest for three years.

CONTEST WINNERS

The contestant with the highest yield in the county will be named the county winner.

First, second, and third place state winners in each division will be determined by yield. Entries will not be entered into state and national competition if the yield is below the national average as published in the November WASDE data). Only one state award in each division will be given per membership with the entry with the highest yield considered for state awards.

The first, second, and third place national winners in each division by region will be named from the first place state winners based on yield. Only one national award will be given per membership, with only the entry with the highest yield being considered for national honors. There will be only one national food grade winner.

Hall of Fame: Beginning with the 1997 national winners, contestants who win National 1st Place three times in a division will be inducted into the Hall of Fame and will not be eligible to enter that division again.

AWARDS

County and state winners will receive certificates by mail. National winners will receive trophies. No cash awards will be given by NSP in any division.

BIN BUSTER AWARD: Each year the entry with the highest yield will be awarded a trophy for the Sorghum Bin Buster Award. If this yield is 250 or more, it is also eligible for the GoFor250 Award.

GoFor250 AWARD: Any entry which yields 250 bushels or greater, will qualify for the following three prizes based on yield:

- 1st Place: 3 year pickup lease of a Dodge, Chevrolet, Ford or Toyota (\$25,000 value)
- 2nd Place: All Terrain Vehicle (\$10,000 value)
- 3rd Place: Riding Lawn Mower (\$5,000 value)

Award recipients must have entered a minimum of ten acres and harvested a 1.5 acre plot.