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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FEATURES

- 8** **The Farm Life Balance**
A mother-in-law and daughter-in-law pair take steps to mentor and balance farming and family
- 12** **Sorghum Leaders**
Short stories on women taking leading roles in the industry
- 20** **Flying into Farming**
A new farm wife finds her role on the farm flying drones and talking precision ag

DEPARTMENTS

- 14** Sorgonomics
- 16** From the Field
- 18** Sorghum Markets
- 22** Capitol Hill
- 26** NSP Update
- 33** Serving Up Sorghum
- 34** Sorghum Shortcuts



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FALL 2020



ON THE COVER: Laikyn and Landry Splitter sprint down a dirt road by their dad Matt Splitter's sorghum field near Lyons, Kansas, during a recent trade education video shoot for the Sorghum Checkoff. In this issue we are celebrating women in the sorghum industry through current and future generations!

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Editor's Desk

Celebrating Women in Sorghum



Women have always played a vital role in agriculture, leading and supporting the industry in communities, board rooms, research labs, on farm ground, at the executive table and beyond. They work hard, not only for themselves, but also for their families while feeding the world and pursuing and supporting each other's dreams. Today, USDA data shows 56 percent of all farms have at least one female decision-maker involved, and of the 3,399,834 farmers in the U.S., 1,227,461 are women. There are more organizations and initiatives than ever before that support women in agriculture like FarmHer, American Agri-Women, #FancyLadyFarmer and Women in Agriculture Day, not to mention USDA farm programs and other initiatives. Women in the agriculture industry have made tremendous strides.

I am proud to work in an industry that recognizes and celebrates the contributions women make—and as it relates to the sorghum industry, we have some of the very best! This issue of *Sorghum Grower* is full of leaders, covering a gamut of talents, contributions and stories I believe we can all relate to and appreciate—and honestly, we just skimmed the surface of a long list of female powerhouses in the sorghum industry.

For me, personally, I've sometimes struggled with the role I serve, not getting my hands dirty every day and having more daily ties back to the family farm in eastern New Mexico. We never forget where we came from though, and I am grateful for the way it has shaped my 10+-year career with the sorghum industry. Increasingly, women without traditional backgrounds in agriculture are coming to the industry to work and serve, and I know it takes us all to make an impact. May we continue to support and recognize women involved in all areas of agriculture and thank those from prior generations who paved the way and educated and inspired future generations.

Overall, it's an exciting time for sorghum farmers and our partners in the industry. Our producers have enjoyed exceptional sorghum prices across the country as the end of harvest nears. Undoubtedly, there are questions about what this looks like in the future, and as we send this issue to press, our country is in post-election turmoil. National Sorghum Producers is committed to a path forward though and will continue to help you navigate future decisions with an eye on the bottom line. If you enjoy our magazine, believe in the work we are doing and are not a member of our organization yet, I would encourage you to join at SorghumGrowers.com/join.

Jennifer Blackburn
Vice President of Communications and Sorghum Grower Editor

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Dear Readers,

First of all, I want to thank our current members, and specifically the names listed above, for their generous support of the National Sorghum Producers. Our list of Legislative Champion and Partner Members has grown significantly over the past year, and we cannot thank you enough for believing in NSP and the work we do on behalf of sorghum farmers and the sorghum industry day-in and day-out.

It goes without saying this past year has been tough for everyone both on the farm and off. However, our blessings in this country are still much too numerous to count, and sorghum is providing a much-needed silver lining. I hope when farmers join me in thinking about our crop—the \$5.00+ prices we are seeing in many areas of the Sorghum Belt, the new herbicide technologies that are close to hitting the market, the assistance payments and a few other wins finally coming to fruition—they are happy with the results of our work.

If you are one of these farmers and have not joined our organization yet, I hope you will strongly consider doing so. We need your membership, and, more importantly, we need your voice. Every dollar and every voice counts, and you can take my word we will always keep your best interest at heart. Our industry and our country are facing a lot of change in 2021, and I hope we can count on you to help us continue championing your cause and providing value to you. Will you join us?

Kody Carson

NSP Board Chairman



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The Farm Life Balance

By Haleigh Erramouspe



Janet Tregellas grew up on a cow-calf operation north of Pampa, Texas, in Roberts County. Sarah Tregellas was raised in Pampa and Perryton, Texas, and had no experience in agriculture before marrying Blake, Janet's son. Despite vast differences in their backgrounds, Janet and Sarah have each brought a piece of their past to Tregellas Family Farms that has helped build it into the successful operation it is today.

From the time they each married into the Tregellas family, Janet and Sarah both dove straight into all facets of farming. A woman directly involved in the production aspect of the operation was something Janet said was the norm for her family.

"Most of the time when we were growing up we didn't have any help," Janet said before she paused to talk to a truck driver bringing corn to their bins. "It was just my mother, my sister and me, and we did everything. My mother has been my mentor and my example. She did everything that my dad did and was in on the decision making, so I had that example. To me it was just natural, to take on and be a partner."

Janet married her husband Rocky in 1976, and, since then, they have farmed grain sorghum, corn, wheat, cotton and soybeans and maintained a cow-calf operation. She has been involved in every aspect of their operation whether it is working through futures and options for their sorghum and other crops, taking care of the cattle,

moving and running equipment or running grain bins, Janet has a diverse and extensive knowledge of the operations on their farm.

Sarah and her husband joined the operation in 2008, forming Tregellas Family Farms. In 2019, Janet and Rocky sold their part of the farming operation to Sarah and Blake.

A New Perspective

Sarah said the extent of Janet's involvement on the farm was immediately evident. Janet added value to their operation, and Sarah said she often noticed others in the family and community reaching out to Janet for her opinion.

Prior to marrying into the Tregellas family, Sarah said she had no experience in agriculture, but through the example her mother-in-law set, Sarah jumped right in. As she became more involved, she said she realized how rare it is to come across someone who is truly as competent and successful as Janet.

"Janet taught me everything she knew," Sarah said, "and because Blake was used to his mom being involved, it was very normal for me to be involved. It was like, 'If a guy can do it, women can do it.' I give credit for that to Janet and Rocky, but definitely Janet for all the work she's put into it."

Sarah said the Tregellas family welcomed her into a healthy and supportive family environment and trusted

her to help in any way she wanted. She started out helping with the books, progressed to running the tractor, grain cart and combine and then tapped into her marketing degree to become more involved in the financial aspect of the operation.

Sarah attended The Executive Program for Agricultural Producers (TEPAP), a program organized by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. The intensive, two week-long program is held in Austin, Texas, and teaches advanced agribusiness skills such as international business development, niche market evaluation, analyzing and forecasting financial positions, as well as personnel management and negotiation.

As Sarah became more involved and attended several other conferences with the family, she said she helped the farm transition to a new accrual-type book-keeping system that helps the family better analyze their profit margins.

Sarah said through her conferences, she learned women can have an easier time marketing commodities, because they are often not as attached to grain. Janet added even her broker has noticed she is typically more prepared to sell than her husband.

"There's always going to be things that women look at differently on the farm," Sarah said. "I think that's part of why our farm has been so successful."

Finding the Balance

Just as much as Janet has been able to mentor Sarah on the production aspect of the farm, Janet said Sarah has been able to contribute to the farm in her own ways, and her view as someone from outside the agricultural industry has helped strengthen their family and operation.

"Sarah has encouraged us to not just be one-minded," Janet said, "and I have appreciated it. I appreciate it more and more all the time. Because there is other stuff in life besides just work. Amazing, isn't it?"

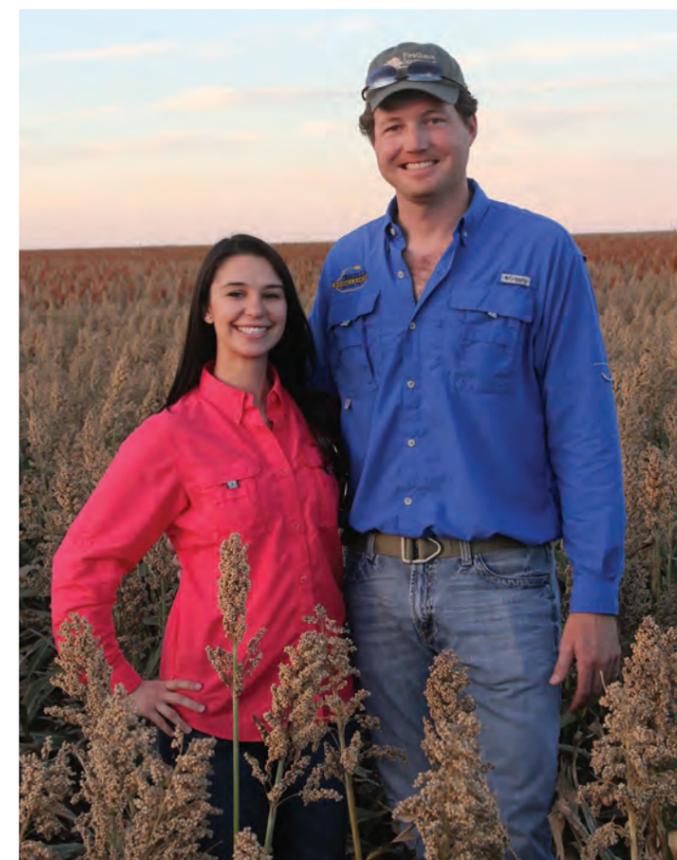
Sarah said hard work was not an oddity in her family growing up, and she truly respects the hard work Janet and Rocky had to put in to keep their farm operating through the tough times. She said Janet and Rocky built the operation out of major debt in the 1980s into a thriving operation that supports two operating families and four employee families.

As Janet and Rocky are transitioning out of the farming operation, Janet said it has been challenging to slow down after working on the farm for so many years. In the agricultural community, she said people often give everything they have to their work, their farm or their ranch, but Sarah's outside perspective has helped the family recognize other priorities.

"Everybody does their best at the time of life that they're in," Janet said, "and I think that's what we've all done and I think we've done a good job of it. We enjoy each other and love each other, and it's a good life."



(Above) Sarah and Janet are passing on family values and farming knowledge to Sarah and Blake's daughter, Charlotte. (Below) Sarah and her husband Blake work to balance their time between their farm and family.





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From Lab to Field

Growing up, Doreen Ware, Ph.D., traveled across the country. Her dad was stationed in various locations for the Navy, and Ware's family lived "a gypsy lifestyle." When her family settled in southern California, she started establishing some roots.

Ware, who now works as a USDA Agricultural Research Service Molecular Biologist, studied as an undergraduate at the University of California-San Diego and completed graduate school at Ohio State University. Her studies revolved around biochemistry and plant biology. After completing a postdoc, Ware took a position with ARS stationed at Cold Spring Harbor in New York. This assignment allows her to conduct research for both the USDA and at a local research institute.

Ware's research focuses on the development of community-accessible resources including reference genomes and databases. She takes a particular interest in what genes are involved in sorghum and control agronomic traits associated with plant architecture and response to environmental factors and certain biotic influences that impact sorghum's yield potential.

"One of the things I really love is that I'm developing resources to support other scientists in their work," Ware said.

Ware emphasized the importance of collaborative science and the value of mentorship. Throughout her education and career, she credited several people who had a lasting impact on her both personally and professionally. From the graduate student who piqued her interests in research as an undergraduate to the network of colleagues surrounding her professionally, Ware said mentors have made all the difference.

Throughout her career, Ware has been fortunate enough to surround herself with people who understand her particular circumstances and provide her the flexibility to work through certain challenges. She said the compassion shown to her from people across the agricultural and scientific spectrums have allowed for her to do her work and do it well. Her role as a mom, daughter and outstanding scientist is admired by the sorghum community.

"I really love working with sorghum because my research directly benefits researchers and the farmer," Ware said. "I can see it go from the lab to the field."

Bringing Passion

One of Janet Bailey's earliest memories is of her dad standing next to towering forage sorghum plants on her family's dairy farm in the early '80s. From those days in the Flint Hills of Kansas to present day, Bailey has not strayed far from her agricultural roots.

When she was younger, Bailey's family raised grain sorghum, forage sorghum, alfalfa, wheat and native grasses to sustain their dairy cattle operation. After graduating high school, Bailey traveled to The Little Apple, a name fondly referring to Manhattan, Kansas, to study animal science, communications and political science at Kansas State University.

After graduating from K-State, Bailey dove head first into the agriculture industry. Prior to her 16-year tenure at Farm Credit, a farmer-owned lending service, Bailey worked for several producer groups in a variety of capacities. Presently, Bailey works as a legislative officer for Farm Credit focusing on public policy and industry relations.

"Fundamentally," Bailey said, "the lending community is a group of people partnering with industry to help provide an engine for American agriculture."

In addition to her work at Farm Credit, Bailey is involved in a number of organizations striving to push forward both women and agriculture.

Most notably, she serves on the executive board for Women Managing the Farm in Kansas. Bailey said the organization strives to provide women from across the agricultural spectrum—from combine drivers to bookkeepers to absentee landowners—a place to learn, mentor and grow.

Throughout her education and career, Bailey credits a significant portion of her successes to mentors.

"I think that's what is so very special about agriculture and the sorghum industry," Bailey said. "I look at people who have long worked in the sorghum industry, both as producer leaders and professional staff, and they place a high value on mentoring."

She said she could not begin to place a value on the mentors and influencers she has met and hopes to model that for the women—and men—coming up behind her.

"I think that women are problem solvers," Bailey said, "and that's why, whether we're in corporate America or our rural communities, we bring that passion. That's something we can celebrate."



Pride in the Mission

The people involved and the industry's mission are what makes Cassandra Jones, Ph.D., a member of the Collaborative Sorghum Investment Program (CSIP) Advisory Board, proud to work with those in the sorghum industry.

"I love my job because of the people that I get to interact with," Jones said. "In this case, I really value their mission to improve profitability to growers, their mission to improve profitability to animal producers and human food producers and just to better understand the science behind it."

Jones is an associate professor and the undergraduate research coordinator in the Department of Animal Sciences & Industry at Kansas State University where she said she is focused on teaching students on all aspects of animal science, including nutrition and how sorghum can be incorporated in feedstock diets. She was selected to join the CSIP Advisory Board by the Dean of the K-State College of Agriculture as a KSU representative in 2016.

The CSIP advisory board is composed of seven individuals representing K-State, the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission and the United Sorghum Check-off Program. They are tasked with allocating funding to different research and marketing projects to increase the value of sorghum.

Jones has an extensive background in livestock feed research in a wide variety of species but is primarily focused in the swine industry. This, combined with her knowledge of the sorghum industry and sorghum as a feed ingredient, is what she said allows her to provide context to the board in those aspects of proposals.

Whether they are looking at projects improving the yield, quality or value of sorghum, Jones said she appreciates the perspective the CSIP advisory board provides when looking into sorghum research and the role she plays on the team.

"We're really going about it in terms of a grassroots effort of truly understanding what is occurring scientifically and investing in the science and using that to make positive movement in the sorghum industry," Jones said.

Preserving Resources and Student Success

The Texas Panhandle is an important agricultural region at a junction because of declining saturated thickness in the Ogallala Aquifer. Through research and working collaboratively with agriculture producers, Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Professor and Agronomist Jourdan Bell, Ph.D., is taking steps toward a shared goal—water conservation.

"It is so important as an agronomist and soil scientist to learn how we can improve agronomic management to ensure agricultural sustainability," she said. "We want to be farming in the Texas Panhandle 100 years from now."

Bell said sorghum is part of the answer and is working with producers to diversify irrigated cropping systems and conserve water.

Bell first started working with sorghum as a research technician for the USDA-ARS Conservation and Production Research Laboratory in 1997. With USDA-ARS, she first worked in dryland cropping systems focusing on tillage and manure management, and sorghum was a primary component of that research. She eventually went on to pursue a doctoral degree in soil science from Texas A&M, but she said sorghum remained a crop of focus.

Having both extension and research appointments provides Bell the opportunity to work directly with producers as well as address regional agronomic issues through applied research activities. On the flip side, she enjoys mentoring students, as well.

"As a female, I am so appreciative of my mentors, and I hope to provide the same mentorship for other female students," she said. "But, as a mother of boys, I also know how important it is for our young boys and men to have mentors."

Bell said it is exciting to see students who come from an agriculture background become excited about research as they develop a better understanding of agronomic principles, and it is also exciting to see students who do not come from an agriculture background realize that not everyone in the industry is a farmer.

"Growing crops is like growing students," she said. "It is amazing to see how they both grow."



Meet Francie Tolle A Female Farm Policy Powerhouse

By Jennifer Blackburn

As part of this issue's theme celebrating women, it is our honor to include Francie Tolle, current director for the Product Administration and Standards Division at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency. Tolle, along with her husband Chuck, two sons and daughter-in-law, farms in Grant County, Oklahoma where they raise grain sorghum, wheat, soybeans, cotton, sesame and cattle.

National Sorghum Producers' first introduction to Tolle was during the 2008 Farm Bill when she worked for the Oklahoma Farmers Union. Working together, implementation guidelines were developed with the Farm Service Agency for the SURE program, which allowed farmers to

still qualify for SURE if they planted a ghost crop of sorghum behind a failed first crop of wheat or cotton—a significant policy win for sorghum.

Tolle also worked as director of the Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association, agriculture liaison to former Congressman Brad Carson, state executive director in Oklahoma for the FSA and now in her role at RMA, giving her perspective from all three sides of agriculture policy through advocacy, legislation and administration and regulation.

Tolle is a sorghum producer, a staunch ally for farmers and ranchers and a strong leader for our industry. Let's get to know her more...



As a female leader, why are you proud of the work you do?

You know, as far as being a female in this industry, I do recognize that there aren't a lot of females. However, there are more now, which I'm happy to see. But on the flip side, I'll say I didn't notice it a lot because my dad didn't treat my sisters and I any differently. He always was of the mentality 'you can do whatever you want to do,' and there weren't any limitations based on being a female or male. So my expectations were there were no limits for me.

I recognized that there were a lot of women in the '80s and even into the '90s that were in the ag industry that really laid the foundation for people like me. Because of the work they did and because of the upbringing that I had, it's just been a wonderful experience. But we need to keep that going. I think recognizing women and what they've done is a good way to do that.

How has your upbringing and awareness from your own farm benefitted you serving agriculture producers through your various roles?

Talking to producers is what I am most comfortable with because that's what I grew up with. My dad farmed, my mother never had a job off the farm, but she certainly was one of the hardest workers I ever knew. Our family dinners consisted of talking about farming and going to the co-op talking to producers. That's natural for me.

What has helped me probably most is being an actual producer myself. Going to RMA, I've used crop insurance. I know how it works. I know how it doesn't work. Whether you're on the advocacy side or you're on the implementation side working on particular issues, the knowledge that you bring with you as a producer is invaluable.

What has it been like to work with National Sorghum Producers over your career?

Your leadership really gets into the weeds of looking at numbers, looking at data and seeing what's really needed in order to help farmers be profitable and what makes sense. What I enjoyed most about [working with NSP] was the detail and the data your organization brought to the table. When you have that kind of data and information and you walk into a congressional office armed with that, plus producers who are actually growing the crop and are constituents of those congressional members, that's powerful. That's what producers have to do to be successful and to be heard. It doesn't

matter what the issue is. Grain sorghum growers do an excellent job, and I was happy to be there [during the 2008 Farm Bill] with them because it represented everything that I am.

Besides fixing sorghum loan rates, what are some other projects you have worked with National Sorghum Producers on?

Right now RMA is working with National Sorghum Producers on a research and development project directed from the 2018 Farm Bill to analyze irrigated insurance for sorghum in areas where water is declining. We've contracted an outside study in regard to a lot of different factors that go into developing crop insurance to come out with recommendations on how we can improve the program, working directly with grain sorghum growers. Once we've got the study back, we'll be meeting with [NSP] leadership to look at recommendations. The main point is to go out and get additional research and the information that would help us develop a better program and at the same time protect the integrity of the program.

What is a career highlight for you?

I think during the 2008 Farm Bill, working through the ACRE and SURE programs and being able to provide real examples from a producer level on how potential programs work at the farm level was a career highlight for me. Another would be working with the ARC and PLC programs from the 2014 Farm Bill, explaining those programs to producers through my role at FSA and helping them make a choice.

Who were your greatest mentors and what advice would you give to other women aspiring for a career in agriculture policy and/or regulation?

Everywhere I've worked, I've just been blessed that I've worked with people who have trusted me and allowed me to do the work that needed to be done. As a supervisor now, I try to treat my employees the same way. To utilize their knowledge and entrust them to go do what needs to be done. But my biggest mentor was my dad.

As for advice, it boils down to commitment. When you are driven in your career, you're committed. There are a lot of women out there that are very committed to agriculture and have a lot of good experience as far as production agriculture, policy and regulation. Every one of those ladies that I can think of right now have a very, very strong commitment to agriculture. That's what it boils down to. You have to be committed.



Protect Your Crop from Pests

By Brent Bean, Ph.D., Sorghum Checkoff Director of Agronomy

There have been many articles written on sugarcane aphids (SCA) and grain sorghum, but very few on SCA and forage sorghums. In grain sorghum we have come a long way in developing sound management practices for dealing with SCA; however, forage sorghum in many ways is a completely different crop.

The downward trend of having to apply an insecticide to control SCA continued in 2020. Where hot spots occurred, growers acted quickly to protect their crop. In most cases, a single insecticide application was sufficient to provide season-long control. The exception was in silage sorghum where, in a few fields, a second application was required. These outbreaks were typically in fields where a particularly susceptible hybrid was planted.

In grain sorghum, planting a tolerant hybrid in regions where SCA are a potential annual problem is often the first step many growers take to manage the aphid. Most seed companies now have several SCA-tolerant grain sorghum hybrid options, and these hybrids are getting better all the time.

Unfortunately, with forage sorghum, there are only a few hybrids with a significant tolerance that have been identified. With the exception of these few, at best, all we

can say is that certain hybrids are less susceptible than others. On a positive note, companies have been working to incorporate SCA tolerance into their forage sorghum, particularly those used for silage. It is expected that SCA-tolerant silage sorghum hybrids will be introduced to the market over the next couple of years.

In sorghum silage, Texas A&M University research has shown yield can be reduced as much as 40 percent prior to sorghum flowering if a high infestation of SCA occurs and is left uncontrolled.⁽¹⁾ Additionally, quality of the silage is reduced, primarily because of a reduction in starch. Both yield and quality are affected much less if the SCA infestation occurs after the grain milk stage. However, late infestations can produce honey dew in sufficient quantities that could interfere with harvest.

The insecticides labeled and most recommended for use in forage sorghum are the same as those used in grain sorghum. These are Corteva's Transform and Bayer's Sivanto Prime, and its soon-to-be replacement, Sivanto HL. The label for Sivanto HL includes soil applied application. This is new and will be especially useful in forage sorghum. A third product, Sefina from BASF, recently received a federal label for sorghum with state labels expected soon.

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO AVOID OR MINIMIZE SCA DAMAGE

Sorghum Silage

- Plant early with an early maturing hybrid. Hope to harvest prior to SCA infesting the field.
- Avoid planting in narrow rows. Use at least a 30-inch row, which allows better coverage if an insecticide application is needed.
- Insecticide coverage is critical. If SCA populations are beginning to increase prior to canopy closure, consider making an insecticide application even if levels have not yet reached an economic threshold.
- Consider applying by chemigation (labeled for Sivanto) when possible for improved insecticide coverage.
- In regions where SCA infestations are a regular occurrence, consider applying Sivanto HL in the seed furrow at planting or other soil application methods as stated on the label.

Sorghum Sudangrass Hay

- In regions where early season SCA infestation may occur, consider using an insecticide seed treatment such as Cruiser, Poncho or Gaucho, which will provide early season control, normally for 40-45 days. This is especially important if the planting date is delayed.

- If SCA infestation occurs and canopy closure is such that good insecticide application coverage cannot be achieved, consider harvesting early and monitoring regrowth forage for SCA. Apply an insecticide as needed prior to canopy closure.

Grazing

- Using good management grazing practices will go a long way in managing SCA. This means turning cattle out to graze sorghum that is no taller than 40 inches or approximately 40 days after emergence. Rotational grazing should also be an effective management tool.
- If SCA infestation levels begin to build, consider treating as soon as possible to achieve good insecticide coverage. High levels of SCA will result in moldy leaves and cattle will avoid grazing these areas leading to wasted forage.
- There is a seven-day grazing restriction following a Transform or Sivanto application.

Reference:

⁽¹⁾ Ed Bynum and Jourdan Bell. 2019. Sugarcane Aphid Damage to Forage Sorghum Silage Yield and Quality induced by different Infestation Levels for the Texas High Plains. TGSP Final Report. <https://www.sorghumcheckoff.com/for-farmers/forage-production/>.

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New Gains in Poultry Feedstuffs Research

By Sherrie Ray

Two Clemson University researchers have set out to correct false, outdated claims about sorghum, bringing it back into the spotlight as a viable feedstuff in poultry production.

Working with the United Sorghum Checkoff Program to conduct research, the duo is using grain sorghum and shedding light on why it provides advantages to poultry producers from both nutritional and economic standpoints.

Mireille Arguelles-Ramos, Ph.D., an assistant professor of poultry nutrition at Clemson University and principal investigator of the checkoff-funded project, was hired to strengthen the poultry nutrition program at Clemson University. Conducting the research with Arguelles-Ramos is Alissa Moritz, a doctoral student in poultry nutrition at Clemson.

The main objectives of the project are to characterize the complete nutritional profile of modern sorghum varieties, evaluate its impact and performance on intestinal health and determine optimal inclusion levels for poultry feed for Japanese quail, northern bobwhite quail and broiler chickens.

To achieve their objectives, Moritz and Arguelles-Ramos first selected modern varieties of grain sorghum to test. They chose tan and/or white, red and/or bronze and US No. 2 yellow sorghum.

"We mainly want to evaluate the pros and cons of each variety," Moritz said. "We want to find the variety that performs more closely to how corn performs."

Some prior research determined the use of sorghum as a feedstuff for broiler birds resulted in a slower growth rate and a higher frequency of intestinal disease from high tannin sorghum.

"What people don't realize is that the majority of the sorghum grown in the United States now is tannin-free or very low tannin," Arguelles-Ramos said. "We want to show poultry nutritionists that it's safe to use modern varieties of grain sorghum."

New research is changing this common misconception, Arguelles-Ramos said.

Moritz and Arguelles-Ramos are working to find the accurate metabolizable energy value, the energy available for growth and reproduction, for each sorghum variety and the amino acid digestibility. They are also evaluat-

ing if there are any particular compounds focused on sorghum's antioxidant capacity and if that has any influence on minimizing common intestinal diseases such as coccidiosis and necrotic enteritis.

"Ultimately, we are looking at all nutritional benefits of sorghum and evaluating growth performance parameters to determine if sorghum can completely replace corn in the poultry industry," Moritz said.

To discuss the idea of completely substituting sorghum for corn, Moritz and Arguelles-Ramos had to evaluate the economic impact.

Moritz said while corn is an excellent feedstuff for poultry production, it is in competition for human consumption, which tends to drive up the cost of using corn in animal feeds.

"If we can alleviate some of the pressure that's on corn production," Moritz said, "then we can use the sorghum alternative to hopefully balance cost fluctuation."

"It is also important to not put all your eggs in one basket," Arguelles-Ramos added, referring to corn.

While using sorghum as a corn alternative comes with many economic benefits, it can also be a challenge when analyzing availability and transportation of grain sorghum in the Southeast. Because sorghum is primarily grown within the Sorghum Belt, stretching from South Dakota to southern Texas, there is a logistical disconnect between where sorghum is grown and where the majority of poultry production is found—a hurdle the Sorghum Checkoff is working to eliminate, exposing sorghum's benefits and creating market demand in the southeast region.

Moritz and Arguelles-Ramos said they are optimistic about the results of their trial. While a few studies had to be postponed due to COVID-19, they were able to pick up where they left off this fall and are hoping to complete their research by December.

Moritz is working on an ongoing gut-related health trial for her personal research, but they anticipate having a final report for the Sorghum Checkoff by Spring 2021.

"I think at the end of the day, education is key, gathering information is key and sharing data is key," Arguelles-Ramos said. "Nutritionists have a big responsibility, but I think if we can validate our scientific data, they will take a chance on sorghum." 🌾



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Miranda Barrett, pictured with her husband David, is holding a fixed-wing HoneyComb drone but now flies a DJI Phantom, performing precision ag mapping on a variety of crop acres annually.

Flying into Farming

By *Haleigh Erramouspe*

When Miranda Barrett thought about farming, she said she believed farmers tossed seed in the ground, called it a day and waited for it to grow. Little did she know she would soon be working with some of the most cutting-edge farm technology to date.

In 2013, Miranda Barrett married her husband David, a farmer from San Patricio County, Texas, whose family had farmed on the same land for more than 100 years. Prior to marrying David, Miranda lived in Houston, Texas, for most of her life. She said she had little to no experience in agriculture.

Thankfully, Miranda said she was able to turn to her mother-in-law when she needed help. Debra Barrett, a fourth-generation farmer, not only grew up helping on the farm, but she also served as the primary operator on the Barrett family farm for 15 years. Debra did all the finances, marketed the crops, ran equipment and made crop rotation decisions.

“We like to rotate 50/50,” Debra said, referring to their cotton and sorghum crop rotation. “Cotton follows sorghum really well for herbicide and insect control.”

Debra said she was involved in various aspects of the

farm prior to becoming the primary operator and made appearances in the local agriculture community from the time she married into the Barrett family, going to different co-op and gin meetings and helping out wherever she could.

This involvement enabled her to move from a peripheral role and take on a much larger role on the farm when her husband was diagnosed with cancer 20 years ago. Debra ran the farm up until 2016 when her son David was able to return to the farm.

When Miranda joined the family, she said she had a million questions about agriculture and farming, and Debra was able to help her realize not only was there more to farming than throwing seeds in the ground, but women had an important part in the operation.

“I didn’t realize there was so much that went into farming,” Miranda said. “She made me realize that there is a much bigger role to be played for women.”

As Miranda’s interest in agriculture grew, she said she realized she wanted to fill her role on the farm, but she did not know what she could possibly do to help. She was working as a registered nurse at the time and completed her solo flight in 2007, working toward a pilot’s license, but she did not know how to incorporate either of these into the farm.

That was until her husband David called saying he had bought a drone and he needed her to learn how to fly it. Miranda said she had always had an appreciation for

It’s great to see women have an outlet to be able to help with the farm much more than we’ve been able to in the past.

aviation, and this new technology allowed her to combine her prior interests with her desire to help on the farm. Miranda said she found her role. She obtained a Part 107 certification to fly drones and has become a trailblazer in the agriculture community in her region.

Since they purchased the drone in 2016, Miranda said she has mapped roughly 35,000 acres of cotton, as well as 10,000 acres on the local wind turbine farm and has progressed to mapping more acres of sorghum and other grains.

Miranda said she can use the drone in innovative ways to help farmers and agronomists write prescriptions for their fields to selectively apply water, fertilizers, insecticides and other technologies in certain areas, as well as map fields for variable rate seeding prescriptions. Miranda said these prescriptions can help farmers decrease their input costs while increasing their productivity in a given field.



Debra Barrett took on the role as primary operator 20 years ago when her husband, John, was diagnosed with cancer.

“I am able to write the prescription on the computer and send it to the equipment within 2-3 minutes, and they’re ready to go,” said Miranda. “There [isn’t] any lag time, and they’re saving money by not having to apply across the entire field if they don’t want to.”

Miranda said her experience working with farmers, agronomists and others in the industry for the past four years has helped her to see the extent of the knowledge and education that goes into agriculture. She recalled a time sitting at a table with her husband and several others who she had worked with through field mapping when she realized she was one of the only people at the table who did not have a Ph.D.

As Miranda has found her place on the farm and in the field of agriculture and she and her husband began taking on more of the farm duties, Debra said she has been able to take a step back from the farm and spend more time with her children and grandchildren. She said she sees how passionate Miranda and David are about the farm and is excited to see how their century farm continues to progress.

“It’s so exciting to see how a wife’s role has really progressed and changed,” Debra said. “Equipment technology has changed so much that physical strength isn’t near as important as mental strength. It’s great to see women have an outlet to be able to help with the farm much more than we’ve been able to in the past.”

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A Whirlwind Election and its Impact on Sorghum Country

By Haleigh Erramouspe

Instead of a 2020 Person of the Year, maybe the Time magazine should have a word of the year: unprecedented. The coronavirus pandemic that took the world by storm in early 2020 has seemed to permeate every aspect of life, including the 2020 elections.

From raucous debates, to candidates hosting Zoom fundraisers and record-shattering voter turnout across the country, the 2020 election cycle was like one never seen before.

The whirlwind election cycle brought changes in our nation's capital, but as lawsuits begin to arise in battleground states, we are left uncertain about the full layout of our executive and legislative branches of government.

At the time of publication, former Vice President Joe Biden has been declared the winner in the presidential election, and the Trump campaign has brought forward litigation in key states. There will be a few new names on Capitol Hill, but Congress appears to remain split with a Democratic House and a Republican Senate even though the Senate will not be fully known until January 2021 due to runoffs in both Georgia Senate races. Congressional

leadership will unfold in the next few months, showing America the faces of the 117th Congress.

Presidential Politics

As America is preparing to transition to a Democratic Administration with Joe Biden, there are many unknowns for agriculture. While Biden has promoted a plan to strengthen rural America and spoke about agriculture's role in mitigating climate change, the former Vice President's exact plans on implementing these changes are largely unknown. Biden will begin selecting members of his Cabinet within the next few months, and these choices will help our industry determine the direction the new Administration will take on agriculture policy in the next four years. Due to a confirmation required in a Republican Senate, those appointed to these positions are likely to be less progressive candidates.

A more known portion of Biden's plan is his position on infrastructure, and this issue is one expected to create consensus between a divided House and Senate. An infrastructure package with a \$1+ trillion price tag is



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expected in 2021 that could have major beneficial provisions to improve how agricultural products are moved across the U.S. and exported to other countries.

Although Biden has big plans and a Democratic-majority in the House to support him, a Republican Senate will likely serve as a stopgap for some of the more drastic legislative ideas. While climate and sustainability are expected to continue to progress in legislation, this is more likely to manifest in incentive-based conservation practices rather than in drastic climate reform based in regulations. A split Senate and House forces more bipartisan negotiation between the two parties with the potential for either more moderate legislation moving forward or very little movement at all if the two groups continue their struggle to reach consensus on a number of large issues.

If the early results are wrong and Donald Trump maintains his presidency, we expect similar tendencies as his first four years in office, continuing the trend of policy focused on supporting rural America and the American farmer.

New Names in the Sorghum Belt

Sorghum country will have new representation in this Congress with new names taking over some of the largest sorghum-producing states and districts. In the Senate, Rep. Roger Marshall (R-KS) will be moving to a new office after winning a hard-fought election to take the seat of long-time friend to agriculture, Sen. Pat Roberts (R), who will retire at the end of 2020. Roberts is currently serving as the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, and his retirement opens the door for a new Member to fill that role, likely Sen. John Boozman (R-AR). We will also see Rep. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) transitioning from the House to the Senate, and former Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper (D) taking the place of Sen. Cory Gardner (R).

In the House, Tracey Mann (R-KS) has taken the reins of the Big First in Kansas, the district producing the most sorghum acres in the U.S. Also in Kansas, Jake LaTurner, who defeated Rep. Steve Watkins (R) in the primary, was elected to Kansas' 2nd Congressional District. Blue Dog incumbents and 2018 freshman Members of the House, Kendra Horn (D-OK) and Xochtil Torres Small (D-NM) have been defeated. Stephanie

Bice (R) will represent Oklahoma's 5th Congressional District, while Yvette Herrell (R) will represent New Mexico's 2nd.

The winds of change were also felt in two large agricultural districts in West Texas with the election of former White House doctor Ronnie Jackson (R) in District 13 and August Pfluger (R) in District 11. Jackson and Pfluger will be taking the reins from Rep. Mac Thornberry (R) and Rep. Michael Conaway (R), respectively. Thornberry and Conaway both made the decision to retire this year after a combined 42 years of service in the House. Conaway has served as both the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Agriculture and has been a friend to the sorghum industry and agriculture producers across the nation throughout his tenure in Congress. National Sorghum Producers appreciates his leadership on the committee, and wishes him the best in his retirement.

The seismic event for agriculture on election evening was the loss of Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture Collin Peterson (D-MN) to Michelle Fischbach (R-MN). Peterson has served in the House for nearly 30 years and had a long standing precedent as the Blue Dog voice on the House Agriculture Committee and a fierce advocate for agriculture throughout his tenure. His leadership will be sorely missed.

Peterson's loss and the retirement of Ranking Member Michael Conaway (R-TX) open the doors to new leadership for both parties in the committee. Rep. David Scott (D-GA) has seniority to take the Chair, but other names such as Reps. Marcia Fudge (D-OH), Filemon Vela (D-TX) and Jim Costa (D-CA) have also been discussed. For Ranking Member, Rep. G.T. Thompson (R-PA) seems to be the front runner, while Reps. Rick Crawford (R-AR) and Austin Scott (R-GA) have also been mentioned to fill the role. While many have speculated on who will step into these roles, it is still unknown who the new Chair(wo)man and Ranking Member will be.

While it is challenging to go to press with unknowns still existing, these are unprecedented times, and the show must and will go on. The wonderful thing about our democratic republic is our country has been transitioning power for the last 200+ years, and we pray it continues for a couple hundred more.✂



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Editor's Note: Results described in this article are reflected as of Nov. 8, 2020.



Carson Takes Over as Chair, NSP Selects New Leadership

By Haleigh Erramouspe

The National Sorghum Producers board of directors recently elected Kody Carson of Olton, Texas, as board chairman and Craig Meeker of Wellington, Kansas, as vice chairman. Dan Atkisson was re-appointed to the board and will transition to the role of past chairman.

“Kody and Craig are strong leaders who will guide our board and industry with intelligence and grit,” Atkisson said. “I look forward to seeing the growth and continued excellence of NSP under their leadership.”

The board also elected new directors Marc Adams of Lubbock, Texas, and Jay Wilder of Snook, Texas, who will serve three-year terms, respectively, beginning Oct. 1.

Adams is the regional vice president for CoBank and serves as an ambassador for an internal program to advance knowledge and understanding of legislative

issues that affect Farm Credit and rural America. He is a member of the Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council and also serves on the Texas Grain Sorghum Producers Association board.

Wilder is a diversified crop and livestock producer, growing sorghum, cotton, wheat and soybeans, and he raises limousin cattle on a farm that has been in his family since 1912. He has served on many state and national agriculture boards, including the U.S. Grains Council and as chairman of the Texas Grain Sorghum Association.

“Marc and Jay both bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the board in their respective areas,” said NSP CEO Tim Lust. “We look forward to the contributions they will offer as we confront issues like international trade, the farm economy and other policy initiatives that are important to U.S. sorghum farmers.”

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Kody and Craig are strong leaders who will guide our board and industry with intelligence and grit. I look forward to seeing the growth and continued excellence of NSP.

//

◀ (Left to Right) National Sorghum Producers Legislative Committee Member Brittan Gruhlkey and newly appointed board Chairman Kody Carson visit with Senator John Boozeman (R-AR) during the 2020 D.C. Fly-In.

The NSP board of directors also recognized two sorghum industry leaders who ended their terms on the board. Don Bloss of Pawnee City, Nebraska, has served on the board since 2012. He served as chairman from 2016 to 2018 and as past chairman from 2018 to 2020. Larry Dahlsten of Lindsborg, Kansas, has served on the board since 2014.

“We are greatly appreciative of the leadership and guidance Don and Larry have provided through their years of service,” said Atkisson. “Their dedication to improving all aspects of the sorghum industry is evident by their passion and the time they have devoted on behalf of sorghum farmers nationwide and to the betterment of our organization.”

In his new role as chairman, Kody Carson has

appointed two new members to the NSP Legislative Committee and a new committee chairman—NSP Vice Chairman Craig Meeker. In addition to Meeker, new members include Shelby Britten of Haswell, Colorado, and Matt Braun of Hobart, Oklahoma.

“We have a diverse and dedicated legislative committee with a passion for serving the sorghum industry and building relationships that lead to positive legislative and regulatory change,” Carson said. “I am excited to see the unique perspectives our new members and committee chairman will bring as we head into the post-election season.”

For more information on the NSP board of directors and legislative committee, visit SorghumGrowers.com/leadership.



Kody Carson
Chairman



Craig Meeker
Vice Chairman



Dan Atkisson
Past Chairman



Marc Adams
Newly Elected



Jay Wilder
Newly Elected

Sorghum Adds Representation to U.S. Grains Council Board

The United Sorghum Checkoff Program and the U.S. Grains Council have worked together to successfully market U.S. sorghum internationally for more than a decade. Part of what makes this relationship so successful is the Sorghum Checkoff's representation within the U.S. Grains Council's leadership.

The Sorghum Checkoff has new representation on the U.S. Grains Council board. Sorghum Checkoff board director Jim Massey from Robstown, Texas, will fill former Sorghum Sector Director Charles Ray Huddleston's position on the board.



JIM MASSEY

"I know I have large shoes to fill coming in behind Charles Ray," Massey said, "but I'm excited to help fulfill the U.S. Grains Council's mission as a member of the board."

Sorghum Checkoff Past Chairwoman Verity Ulibarri from Melrose, New Mexico, was also recently elected to serve as an at-large board director for the U.S. Grains Council. A culmination of Ulibarri's experience throughout the agriculture industry will provide a unique perspective as she advocates on behalf of U.S. sorghum farmers.

"I believe my experience with the checkoff gives me a good perspective to come onto the [U.S. Grains Council] board and continue working to give diverse opinions and ideas on how we can best help U.S. farmers and the industry," Ulibarri said.

Sorghum Checkoff board member Charles Ray Huddleston from Celina, Texas, recently stepped down as the Sorghum Sector Director for the U.S. Grains Council board after two terms. Huddleston's

WHAT'S INSIDE

1

Sorghum Adds Representation to U.S. Grains Council Board

3

Sorghum Producers Appointed to the USCP Board of Directors

4

Sights Set on Domestic Sorghum Markets



leadership has been invaluable to both the checkoff and sorghum industry.

"I want to thank Texas Sorghum and the Sorghum Checkoff for the opportunity to serve on the U.S. Grains Council board," Huddleston said. "It was an extremely rewarding experience working with talented individuals that I will cherish forever."

The rewarding experience does not apply just to those who serve on the U.S. Grains Council board, but is felt by the Sorghum Checkoff as well. Having leadership on the U.S. Grains Council board allows the Sorghum Checkoff to leverage opportunities for the sorghum industry and its producers.

"We are thankful to have sorghum advocates at the state, federal and global level that push our industry in the right direction by supporting market development facilitated by the U.S. Grains Council," Sorghum Checkoff Executive Director Florentino Lopez said. "The efforts of Charles Ray, Jim and Verity do not go unnoticed or unappreciated, and sorghum farmers can find comfort knowing their interests are being looked out for on the international stage."

“

I believe my experience with the checkoff gives me a good perspective to come onto the [U.S. Grains Council] board and continue working to give diverse opinions and ideas on how we can best help U.S. farmers and the industry.

”

VERITY ULIBARRI



KLINT STEWART

Sorghum Producers Appointed to the Sorghum Checkoff Board of Directors

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced the appointment of five members to serve on the United Sorghum Checkoff Program board of directors. All five appointees will serve a three-year term starting December 2020 and ending December 2023.

The 13-member board is authorized by the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996. The Secretary selected the appointees from sorghum producers nominated by certified producer organizations or qualified state organizations.

Klint Stewart was re-appointed to the board and will fill an at-large position. Klint and his wife Cindi live in Columbus, Nebraska, and farm in counties north of there where they grow sorghum along with other crops and 160 certified organic acres. He also runs a cow-calf operation and an antibiotic-free hog operation. Stewart serves on the Nebraska Grain Sorghum Board and the music ministries in his church.

Ethan Miller, a sixth-generation farmer and rancher from Columbia, Missouri, fills the second at-large seat. Miller uses sorghum as a rotation crop with wheat and soybeans and as a cover crop and forage for his sheep and cattle. Miller is the District Manager for the Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District, serves as a committee member for the

Missouri Sheep and Goat Conference and is a graduate of Leadership Sorghum Class III.

James Haase from Eads, Colorado, was re-appointed to an at-large seat. Haase farms sorghum, hard red winter wheat and corn on a three-year rotation with his wife and in-laws. In addition to his farmland, Haase oversees 4,500 acres of native rangeland and a cow-calf operation.

Shayne Suppes was re-appointed to a Kansas seat. He farms with his dad and extended family in Scott City, Kansas. The Suppes family uses a two-out-of-three-year crop rotation on their 13,000-acre, non-irrigated and mostly no-till operation. Sorghum plays a key role in the operation, and they also grow white wheat and sell certified white wheat seed.

Charles Huddleston, re-appointed, fills the Texas board seat. Huddleston grew his first sorghum crop as a 4-H project in 1964 when he was eight-years-old. Huddleston, his wife, Sherry, and their son, Seth, continue the family tradition of growing sorghum, corn and wheat near Celina, Texas. He serves on the Texas Grain Sorghum Producers board and the Collin County Farm Bureau board of directors.

To learn more about Sorghum Checkoff leadership, visit SorghumCheckoff.com.



ETHAN MILLER



JAMES HAASE



SHAYNE SUPPES



CHARLES RAY HUDDLESTON

Sights Set on Domestic Sorghum Markets

Market development and expansion is an integral component of the United Sorghum Checkoff Program's strategic plan. Both at home and internationally, the Sorghum Checkoff works to identify and strengthen markets that bring value to sorghum farmers.

It is no secret a vast majority of domestic grain is exported internationally. With 80 percent of American sorghum being exported globally—80 percent of exports going to China—and strengthened basis as a result, it is easy to get caught up on weekly commitments and grain shipments.

While exciting things continue to happen on the international side, the Sorghum Checkoff has also identified similarly exciting high-value domestic markets.



Consumer Packaged Goods

Sorghum has made a big splash in the consumer food space, capturing the attention of KIND® Cereal and several nutritionally focused snack brands, like Ka-Pop!® Snacks. The nutritional profile, culinary applications and versatility sorghum brings to the table make the grain an exciting product to track in value-added food markets.

Animal Feed

Sorghum continues to excel in more traditional American marketplaces, as well. Animal nutritionists are including sorghum in feed formula-

tions more often as research is published about the crop's nutritional value. Pet foods and aquaculture are becoming traditional markets utilizing sorghum as an ingredient.

Sustainability

Sorghum is well-positioned to leverage consumer opinion toward its sustainable attributes and efficiencies in the biofuel space. Sustainability and cleaner sources of power are gaining traction, and sorghum is the perfect crop to satisfy producers, manufacturers and consumers.

The checkoff is excited about the possibilities of market expansion and ready to meet the demands—by quantity and quality—of both international and domestic customers. At the Sorghum Checkoff, we know markets matter.

SORGHUM INDUSTRY EVENTS

Nov 26-27 Thanksgiving
Office Closed

Dec 1-3 Leadership Sorghum Session 1
New Orleans, LA

Sept 7 Sorghum Checkoff Annual Board Meeting
Virtual Meeting

For more events, visit sorghumcheckoff.com/calendar

USCP MISSION

The Sorghum Checkoff commits to reveal the potential and versatility of sorghum through increased shared value.



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Sorghum Update

Brought to you by the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission

Farming, Financing, Exporting Catching Up with Nu Life's Kelsey Baker

Q: What is your background and connection to agriculture?

A: I grew up on a farm in Scott County, Kansas. I graduated in three years from Kansas State University with a Bachelor of Science in AgriBusiness. Shortly after moving back to western Kansas, I married my husband, Garrett Baker. We farm and ranch in Scott, Wichita and Logan Counties in Kansas for the past 10 years.

Q: What and where is Nu Life Market and how did it begin?

A: Nu Life Market is a food manufacturer dedicated to milling and processing sorghum. The facility is in Scott City, Kansas. It was founded by Earl Roemer. I was one of the first hires at Nu Life Market in 2010.



Q: How did you get your start with Nu Life Market?

A: I met Earl Roemer's wife, Barbara, at a tax seminar shortly after leaving my commercial

lending position at Western State Bank. She told me about the company they were starting. It was the first time I was introduced to the concept of gluten-free food, so I was very intrigued. Initially, I assisted with grant proposals, loan proposals and financial projections. Currently, my position is Chief Financial Officer.

Q: What are the qualities your customers look for in buying food-grade sorghum?

A: All our products are produced under the highest level of food safety along with certifications that include gluten free, Kosher, non-GMO, and our organic products are certified by CCOF. Consumers are looking for healthy, sustainable foods.



Q: Where are some of the most interesting places you've shipped sorghum to?

A: We have shipped sorghum all over the world to countries like Haiti, Japan, Italy and Taiwan.

Q: As harvest 2020 winds down, what does the process to export food-grade sorghum to your customers around the globe look like?

A: With sorghum harvest winding down, we are gathering samples of the grain stored by farmers. We are looking at grain quality, moisture, test weight and color. There is interest to export a wide variety of sorghums to different markets around the world.

Q: What is one thing about living in rural Kansas you could tell someone from a major population center across the country or around the world and why it's important to the global economy?

A: Kansas agriculture is a critical part to providing food products around the world. Kansas is a leader in grain sorghum production. Our Kansas farmers are raising more food using fewer resources to supply consumers with healthy, consistent food products. Sorghum from Kansas is milled into flour and sent directly to consumers as well as loaded into containers and shipped around the world.

Kansas Grain Sorghum, PO Box 618 Colwich, KS 67030
785-477-9474, www.ksgrainssorghum.org

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SORGHUM PEACH SKILLET CAKE

MAKE THIS RECIPE

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- 1 1/4 cup gluten-free sorghum all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 4 tablespoons butter, room temperature
- 2/3 cup granulated sugar
- 3 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/3 cup low-fat buttermilk
- 2 peaches, peeled & sliced
- 2 tablespoons cinnamon sugar for topping

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350° F. Prepare 10-inch oven-proof skillet with cooking spray. Whisk together sorghum flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Set aside. In separate bowl, beat butter and sugar with a mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy. Add vanilla. Beat in eggs and buttermilk. Add dry ingredients and mix until blended.

Pour batter into prepared skillet. Place peach slices in spiral fan on top. Sprinkle with cinnamon sugar. Bake until golden brown and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean—30 to 35 minutes. The batter bakes up around the peaches. Let cool slightly before serving. Cake can be served as rustic dessert topped with whipped cream, sweetened with sorghum syrup or as a breakfast cake.

PREP TIME

15-20 minutes

COOKS IN

30-35 minutes

YIELD

8 servings

SORGHUM FORM

flour





Sorghum Shortcuts

SICNA 2020

The 2020 Sorghum Improvement Conference of North America, the biennial sorghum research conference, looked a little different this year. As COVID-19 swept across the country in March, SICNA was inevitably postponed. Nearly seven months later, industry and researchers were able to tune into SICNA 2020 for a virtual conference Oct. 28-30.

SICNA began with the mission to promote communication and collaboration in research development among sorghum researchers and stakeholders in cooperation with universities, research centers, public institutions and private entities. It serves to link scientists and researchers with sorghum producers and industry representatives to help drive innovation and discovery.

To kick off the conference, vice president of Agricultural and Environmental Research at Cotton Incorporated, Kater Hake, Ph.D., presented a keynote address discussing identity preservation, investment in diversity of science, crisis aversion, and objectively and transparently evaluating production inputs.

Throughout the conference, 15 researchers and industry experts discussed breeding and biotechnology; agronomy and technology transfer; utilization and sustainability; and entomology and pathology.

In addition, Larry Lambright, National Sorghum Foundation chairman, delivered a touching tribute to Bruce Maunder, a lifetime advocate for sorghum and a man admired for his dedication to the crop.

National Sorghum Producers CEO Tim Lust recognized Robert Klein, Ph.D., as recipient of the 2020 Outstanding Service to the Sorghum Industry award, as well.

2020 NSP Outstanding Service Award

National Sorghum Producers' award has a long-standing record for being presented to members of the community who have shown a passion for advancing the crop, and Robert Klein, Ph.D., has spent his career working to improve sorghum through research in plant genetics, physiology, biology and genomics. He received his undergraduate degree in 1977 from the University of Wisconsin followed by a master's degree and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois-Champaign.

Klein began his career in plant research in 1989 when he joined the USDA Agricultural Research Service sys-

tem. He began his current role as a plant geneticist in College Station in 1997 where he focused primarily on the genomic aspects of sorghum including an industry-wide sorghum conversion program. Klein has focused on significant areas of genetic advancement, authoring over 75 peer reviewed professional articles with 7,200 citations. He was part of foundational efforts to map the sorghum genome, including physical and cytogenetic linkages.

Klein's experience is world renowned, and his expertise is regularly requested by domestic and international sorghum programs for advice and education on sorghum plant genetics. Klein has served as an adviser to the United Sorghum Checkoff Program Crop Improvement Committee where he played an integral role in helping shape the current pipeline of sorghum advancements.

More importantly, Klein has always represented himself as a passionate friend, colleague, mentor, and researcher of the sorghum community. Klein's light-hearted, yet witty, personality is respected and welcomed by all in the sorghum community. NSP is grateful to Klein for his many contributions to the sorghum industry. To learn more about SICNA, visit sicna.net.



Bob Klein was awarded the NSP Outstanding Service to the Sorghum Industry Award during SICNA.

PICKING YOUR PERFORMANCE.



Selecting the right hybrid is your most important management decision

Sugarcane aphid pressure, stressful growing conditions, test weight and standability are just some of the defensive characteristics and agronomic factors growers need to balance with yield potential when selecting sorghum hybrids. Fortunately, there are choices to fit any grower's needs.

Pioneer offers the industry's largest selection of sorghum hybrids, each combining elite genetics and agronomic traits with stellar defensive characteristics in a wide range of maturities. That is coupled with proven performance backed by extensive research, and local testing and expertise, which is also on display year after year in the winner's circle of the National Sorghum Producers Yield Contest.

THE NEW ELITES

These selections, including key characteristics of each, are the latest in the lineup of Pioneer® brand grain sorghum hybrids:

85P75¹

- New 70 relative maturity (RM) red sorghum hybrid offers excellent top-end yield potential and test weight in both high yield and tougher dryland environments

85P81¹

- New 70 RM red sorghum hybrid for earlier-maturity southern acres, with exceptional test weight and excellent yield potential, including on tough dryland

82P83¹

- New 72 RM full-season leader hybrid that offers excellent top-end yield potential with exceptional toughness under more stressful conditions

83P11¹

- New 72 RM hybrid that offers excellent yield potential across all yield environments, with exceptional stalks and above-average roots



¹Indicates Pioneer® brand sorghum hybrids with the Pioneer Protector® technology. These hybrids have a sugarcane aphid tolerance rating of 5 or greater

THE PROVEN PERFORMERS

These hybrids are select tried-and-true performers from the lineup of Pioneer® brand grain sorghum:

88P71

- Exceptional top-end yield potential that is highly suited for a range of environments, including ultra-early, and tough dryland to fully irrigated

87P10

- Adapted to both dryland needs and full irrigation with strong yield potential across environments, including improved standability for the early RM grain sorghum market

86P20¹

- Strong yield performance and above-average stalk and root-lodging resistance for maturity

86P33

- Strong agronomics with excellent yield potential in more favorable dryland and irrigated environments, offering good standability in a taller plant type with red grain color

85Y88¹

- White leader product that offers outstanding top-end yield potential in a 70 RM full-season white hybrid, with excellent test weight across yield environments

83P27

- Full-maturity hybrid with a slightly earlier flowering date possessing outstanding yield for maturity, offering favorable stalks and roots, and above-average head exertion for tough dryland acres

Ask your local Pioneer sales representative about the best sorghum hybrids for your acres.
Learn more at Pioneer.com/sorghum.



The foregoing is provided for informational use only. Please contact your Pioneer sales professional for information and management suggestions specific to your operation. Pioneer® brand sorghum hybrids with the Pioneer Protector® technology designation have a sugarcane aphid tolerance rating of 5 or greater. Pioneer® brand products are provided subject to the terms and conditions of purchase which are part of the labeling and purchase documents.
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WHERE YEARS OF TESTS MEET TIMES OF STRESS.

Powered by elite genetics for unrivaled yield potential, our sorghum hybrids excel in sugarcane aphid tolerance. Ask your Pioneer sales representative about the industry's strongest lineup of sorghum.

Pioneer.com/sorghum



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