

The 2023 Bill Kubecka Memorial Scholarship

The National Sorghum Foundation

Bill Kubecka, who farmed near Palacios, TX, leaves a legacy of dedication and service to the sorghum industry. As a champion of the sorghum industry for more than two decades, Kubecka remained active and engaged in the advocacy process for sorghum and U.S. sorghum producers. Bill was the embodiment of a natural leader having worked tirelessly to represent sorghum producers while serving on the Texas Sorghum Association, National Sorghum Producers, United Sorghum Checkoff Program, and U.S. Grains Council boards of directors. He served as founding chairman of the USCP board and was president of NSP during the 2002 Farm Bill debate. Bill testified before Congress many times and was instrumental in helping pass this landmark legislation. Bill Kubecka devoted countless hours of service to the sorghum industry and was extremely generous to the NSP and USCP organizations in both time and talents. Bill's leadership is symbolic of the importance producers have in influencing policy and building relationships within the sorghum industry. He served sorghum during a time of significant change and set the example for producers and others interested in molding agriculture policy that has direct impact on U.S. agriculture.

The mission of the National Sorghum Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization of the National Sorghum Producers, is to further the development of research, education, and leadership potential of active university students interested in studying agriculture and more specifically, the sorghum industry. In pursuing this goal, the National Sorghum Foundation strives to promote higher education in agriculture. Scholarships are provided to students in pursuit of agricultural degrees with an emphasis on providing support to those students interested in, but not limited to sorghum.

Eligibility requirements for the Bill Kubecka Memorial Scholarship Award

- **University undergrad students** (*sophomore through senior standing*), graduate students, or law school students
- **Must be enrolled in a curriculum related to agriculture economics, agriculture policy, or agricultural law.**
- **Interest in agriculture policy or agriculture law**

Scholarship Application Contents

- **Students are asked to submit a completed copy of the application**
- **An official copy of current transcripts**
- **At least two letters of recommendation.**
- **A headshot photo for use in a media release**

Scholarship Benefits

A selection committee made up of the National Sorghum Foundation Board of Directors will rank the applications and award the winner of the Bill Kubecka Memorial Scholarship package. The scholarship package will consist of:

- **\$1500 to be applied toward one semester of tuition expenses**
- **A trip to Washington D.C. with the National Sorghum Producers or a virtual meeting. Students will meet their Congressional representatives and watch the legislative process as association leaders discuss and resolve timely agricultural issues for the producers they represent.**

Timeline:

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| April 15 – June 1, 2023: | Applications will be submitted for review. Application packets postmarked after June 1, 2023 will not be considered. |
| June 1 – July 15, 2023: | The selection committee will review the applications. |
| August 1 – August 15, 2023: | The winner will be contacted, and funds distributed. |



The 2023 Bill Kubecka Memorial Scholarship

Name: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)
Mailing Address: _____
Telephone: _____ Date of Birth: _____
E-mail: _____
US Citizen: _____ College or University currently attending: _____
Classification (2023-2024): _____
Major Field of Study: _____ Cumulative GPA: _____
Expected Graduation Date: _____

Please answer the following questions on a separate sheet.

1. Bill Kubecka served the sorghum industry in leadership roles with both the National Sorghum Producers as well as the Texas Sorghum Association. How do associations like these play a role in molding national agriculture policy to benefit producers?
2. Why did you choose to pursue a degree with emphasis in agriculture economics or agriculture policy?
3. Explain how commodity check-off programs like the United Sorghum Check-off Program benefits farmers and their profitability.
4. Explain the legal limitations of commodity check-off programs. What are the primary functions of check-off programs?
5. Following the completion of your formal education, what are your career aspirations? Please explain the reasoning for your career decision.
6. Please provide a comprehensive list of your leadership activities since entering college. Also include leadership activities external of school e.g., church, volunteering, etc.

Are you or any member of your immediate family a member of the National Sorghum Producers? _____
Membership ID# _____
(Note: This is not a qualification.)

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Please submit the following information for the Bill Kubecka Memorial Scholarship:

- 1) Official, updated transcripts
- 2) At least two letters of recommendation
- 3) A completed copy of the above application
- 4) A headshot photo for use in a media release

The application package may be submitted to:

The Bill Kubecka Memorial Scholarship
The National Sorghum Foundation
Attn: Jeff Dahlberg
4201 N. Interstate 27
Lubbock, TX 79403

Inquires may be directed to Jeff Dahlberg, Chairman, National Sorghum Foundation at jeff@sorghumgrowers.com or 559-305-3555.

Application Deadline: June 1, 2023. Incomplete application packets received or those application packets which are postmarked after June 1 will not be considered. Applications and supporting letters should be singled sided and not stapled with minimum font size of 11.