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Grower

BIN BUSTERS

BRANT & AMY PETERSON - WINSOME FARMS

Also Inside

NASA ENGAGES U.S. AGRICULTURE

SORGHUM SPRINGS INTO ACTION IN D.C.

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ON THE COVER: Brant and Amy Peterson of Winsome Farms in Johnson City, Kansas, were recognized at the 2023 Commodity Classic as the 2022 National Sorghum Producers Yield Contest Bin Buster Winner with a yield of 245.80 bushels per acre.



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From the CEO



A Team Approach to the Next Farm Bill

It is that time of year where staff and volunteer directors return home from Commodity Classic and quickly head to Washington, D.C., before planting begins to roll north toward the upper regions of the Sorghum Belt.

As I reflect on Commodity Classic, I believe it was one of the best Classics I can remember. A highlight, for me, this year was embracing the families that make up our Sorghum Family. With Mickey Mouse's house just down the road and the diverse young farmer leadership represented on the National Sorghum Producers and Sorghum Checkoff boards, it is no surprise we had a number of children in attendance. It was our honor to welcome them and make their sorghum experience as close to their Disney experience as possible. After all, there is a tremendous chance several will become future volunteer directors of NSP, and, in-line with the theme of Commodity Classic this year, we believe strongly in "Preparing for the Next Generation."

As we prepared for Commodity Classic this year, we did it slightly "short handed" with our fair share of challenges along the way. Unfortunately, I believe facing labor shortages, in general, is the current normal in America right now, and we have had to adapt and overcome them. It is easy to see when you have a group of volunteers and staff that work as a team, we are able to get the job done with excellence—and Team Sorghum delivered.

That same team spirit will be needed as agriculture producers and proponents face the next farm bill. As we analyze what programs have worked for sorghum and what will need to be adjusted to move forward with sound policy that protects sorghum farmers, we believe the future is all about risk management.

It is too early to know if dollars are available to write a bill this year or not, but what we do know is with input costs skyrocketing, we must find a way to protect additional risks. While increasing reference prices seems to be the obvious, simple solution, I think it will take a more creative approach this time around to navigate the budget rules that are in play. NSP continues to analyze a number of options to ensure the safety net for sorghum is improved and competitive with other commodities. Stay tuned as every member of the team will be needed to pass this farm bill across the finish line.

Tim Lust, CEO

Sorghum Growers Spring into Action in D.C.

By Adam York

This new year marks the dawn of the 118th session of Congress, and to ensure bipartisan support for U.S. agriculture and the sorghum industry, dozens of sorghum growers have already ventured to our nation's capital to advocate on behalf of the sorghum industry.

These efforts are especially important in 2023 as policy makers begin to draft a new farm bill, and doubly so, considering about 40 percent of House lawmakers are newly elected to the chamber since the 2018 Farm Bill became law. That's nearly 200 Representatives in need of rapid education of meaningful farm policy!

That's why National Sorghum Producers leaders spent the last week of March on Capitol Hill, elevating farm bill priorities for the nation's sorghum farmers early in the legislative process in addition to disaster assistance priorities, regulatory issues and expressing support for trade, renewable energy and research. NSP conducted policy meetings with various Members of Congress in both the House and Senate as well as committee staff for both House and Senate Agriculture Committees.

They also met with the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service to discuss challenges and opportunities for new agricultural markets as well as the Natural Resources Conservation Service where NSP members provided personal on-farm stories of how sorghum remains climate and water-smart in production systems while emphasizing flexibility in federal conservation programs remains a priority.

Finally, throughout these discussions, NSP also highlighted recent industry victories and significant advancements in sorghum nutrition and institutional market access, such as inclusion in USDA's Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs just last summer.

The Food Buying Guide is the essential resource for food information for all child nutrition programs, like school lunches, in the U.S. Whole grain sorghum is naturally gluten-free and an excellent source of 12 essential nutrients, like protein and iron, which are important for child health and development. That's a powerful pairing of local markets near local production that benefits children, our schools, sorghum growers and taxpayers.

State sorghum associations have also complimented NSP's advocacy in D.C., adding volume and building new relationships with policymakers and staff. In February, Kansas farmers Andy Hineman and Brant Peterson met with Members of the Kansas congressional delegation through Syngenta's Leadership at Its Best class, representing NSP as members of the Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association.

The Texas Grain Sorghum Producers Association also held its annual meeting in Washington, D.C., in March, meeting with members of the vast Texas congressional delegation and engaging in discussions with the U.S. Agency for International Development Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance, USDA FAS, and the NASA Earth Science Division.

These discussions have also extended out from Washington, D.C., into the countryside. NSP's immediate past chairman Kody Carson, a farmer from Olton, Texas, delivered remarks to a House Agriculture Committee Farm Bill Listening Session in Waco, Texas, that included Congressman Ronny Jackson (TX-13) and Congressman Tracey Mann (KS-01), friends of our industry who represent prominent sorghum districts.

So far in 2023, sorghum advocacy efforts have delivered a clear and consistent message: market volatility, inflation, higher input costs and lower projections for crop cash receipts are only adding to the stress and uncertainty of harsh and unpredictable weather throughout the Sorghum Belt.

Growers are fortunate and thankful to have tools like crop insurance and congressionally-authorized disaster assistance available to help stay afloat, but due to the severity of these challenges, a stronger federal Title 1 farm safety net under a meaningful and robust farm bill is desperately needed to provide adequate resources to allow predictability and certainty for years to come.

The issue: there is a major shortfall in safety net spending compared to historical levels. Investing in the safety net now could avoid costly ad-hoc spending and fill gaps in the next 10 years. For context, the 2008 Farm

Bill had a Title 1 baseline of \$85 billion. Adjusted for inflation, that figure would be roughly \$121 billion in 2023 dollars compared to the current Title 1 baseline of \$62 billion. And in context of the entire federal budget as the House Agriculture Committee recently estimated, the farm safety net—commodity programs and crop insurance combined—is projected to only account for a mere two-tenths of one percent of federal spending in a 10-year window of 2024 through 2033. That's why, for now, all eyes are on the budget.

In the weeks and months to come, NSP will continue to fiercely represent its members in Washington, D.C., as committee hearings are called, opportunities arise and threats from interests hostile to the American farmer certainly begin to surface. The civic engagement of our grower leaders and NSP membership at both the state and national levels remains the cornerstone of successful policy outcomes to advance the sorghum industry forward in this critical year and for years to follow.



Photo provided by Texas Farm Bureau



◀ NSP PAST CHAIR Kody Carson from Olton, Texas, participated in a farm bill listening session hosted by the House Agriculture Committee in Waco, Texas in March, speaking on behalf of the sorghum industry.

▼ DURING VISITS to Washington, D.C., NSP producer leadership, including Cedar Rush (NM), Shane Ohlde (KS), Chairman Craig Meeker (KS), Vice Chair Amy France (KS) and Past Chair Kody Carson (TX) met with a number of congressional offices, including Senate Agriculture Committee Ranking Member John Boozeman (R-AR).



◀ CONGRESSMAN Jake LaTurner (KS-2)



▲ SENATOR Roger Marshall (KS)

◀ CONGRESSMAN Tracey Mann (KS-1)

NASA Engages U.S. Farmers: Bringing Satellite Data Down to Earth

By Keelin Haynes, NASA Acres



Since the launch of the first Landsat satellite in 1972, NASA and its partners have mapped agriculture worldwide and provided key input into global supply outlooks that bolster the economy and food security.

Now NASA is increasing its decades-long investment in U.S. agriculture through the launch of NASA Acres, a new consortium that will unite physical, social, and economic scientists with leaders in agriculture from public and private sectors. They will have the shared mission of bringing NASA data, science, and tools down-to-Earth for the benefit of the many people working to feed the nation.

"For decades, NASA has collected data in space to improve life on planet Earth," said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson. "Now these observations can be used not only to better understand our home, but to make climate data more understandable, accessible, and usable to help support agricultural business and benefit all humanity."

NASA Acres is commissioned under the agency's Applied Sciences Program and led by the University of Maryland. The consortium approach brings together public and private stakeholders and allows rapid actions in delivering NASA Earth observation data into the hands of U.S. farmers.

"Farmers and ranchers are looking for information to help them make all sorts of decisions, from water use to what crops to plant and when," said Karen St. Germain, director of NASA's Earth Science Division. "NASA is always looking for new ways to help people find and use science to inform their decisions, so we're very excited about this new consortium to help America's farmers use NASA Earth science data."

Initial projects include aggregating and analyzing years of satellite data with state-of-the-art machine learning and artificial intelligence tools. Such efforts could help optimize scheduling for fertilizer application and irrigation, support early detection of pests and disease, monitor soil health, and provide information tools to support local food production.

Other projects will focus on using open science to improve mapping capabilities that support user-driven applications. The consortium will help us understand how U.S. agriculture is evolving and will shed light on effective management strategies to build economic, environmental, and productive resilience to global change.

U.S. farmers and ranchers have their own space agency

"While we have seen enormous value in the use of NASA data and tools, we also know that what works in one place can't just be picked up and dropped in a new place," said Alyssa Whitcraft, the director of NASA Acres. "To bring the greatest value of satellite data to U.S. agriculture, we have to start with place-based knowledge. Pairing that with satellite data unlocks powerful insight."

The United States is one of the world's top agriculture producers and exporters. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the nation's farms, orchards, ranches, and supporting industries provide more than 10% of U.S. jobs and 5.4% of the U.S. gross domestic product.

In recent years, NASA has been working to ensure that members of the U.S. agriculture industry are connected directly to the agency's agriculture work, particularly through its Earth Applied Sciences program. In

2022, agency scientists including St. Germain made a "Space for Ag" tour across Nebraska and Kansas, and they have continued to have a presence at the nation's largest farming convention, the Commodity Classic.

NASA Acres builds on the success of NASA Harvest, a globally focused consortium also based at the University of Maryland.

"We want farmers to know that their space agency has an agriculture program that is focused on understanding their needs and finding solutions with them," said Brad Doorn, who leads the NASA agriculture program area that oversees NASA Acres and Harvest.

Whitcraft emphasizes that NASA Acres relies first and foremost upon those closest to the land. NASA Acres is already working with small-scale, independent farmers in Maui County, Hawaii; specialty crop growers in California and New York; ranchers in Colorado; and farmers regenerating marginalized and degraded agricultural lands across the country.

"My mission has always been to feed people—not just in my home, and not just today, but looking ahead for the many generations to come," said Whitcraft. "U.S. agriculture is a cornerstone of the global food system, and it is awesome to have this opportunity with NASA to benefit my own 'backyard.'"

WHERE SORGHUM COMES INTO ORBIT

NSP's \$65 million Partnership for Climate-Smart Commodities program uses data collected at the farm level to monetize the value of farm practices in sustainability markets. However, this data can be used to add value to farmers in many other ways, and the work NASA is doing with predictive analytics is one example. From crop models that predict yields and enable better marketing decisions to nitrogen prescriptions that save farmers money on inputs, farm-level data is essential to training these models.

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Sorghum's cSmart Launches Venture Capital Platform

By John Duff, Sero Ag Strategies

The Collaborative Sorghum Marketing Transformation Program (cSmart) launched the first-ever venture capital platform focused exclusively on attracting capital for companies, projects and innovations that create opportunities for sorghum farmers. The platform is aimed at matching private capital with funding to support startups and established companies investing in sorghum while also facilitating a network of private investors seeking opportunities for competitive returns in agriculture.

The launch of the cSmart platform comes at a time when businesses across the U.S. are seeing the value in investing in agriculture. Sorghum, known as The Resource Conserving Crop™, is increasingly seen as a valuable investment opportunity with the most notable example of an investment in sorghum coming in October 2022 when leading global investment firm, KKR, invested \$300 million in sorghum seed company Advanta. cSmart is proud to come alongside KKR and other businesses to facilitate investment in the crop.

“The number of opportunities to add value to sorghum farmers by attracting capital to our industry is truly unprecedented,” cSmart board director and sor-

ghum farmer from Keyes, Oklahoma, JB Stewart said. “From San Francisco to New York, businesses across the U.S. are now positioning themselves to invest in agriculture, and cSmart is proud to engage these businesses in a way that facilitates further investment in sorghum, The Resource Conserving Crop™.”

The diversity of investments made by cSmart to date highlights the wide net the organization intends to cast. Investments have been made in support of a container facility for specialty sorghum exports, to match private investment with funds for marketing efforts for an all-female run sorghum food startup and to facilitate networking and due diligence for an industrial sorghum starch project. The launch of cSmart has been welcomed by industry leaders as a groundbreaking step toward financing even more innovation in the sorghum industry.

“Out of necessity bred by difficult growing environments, innovation is the American sorghum farmer’s most important tool,” cSmart board director and MOJO Seed President Jerry O’Rear said. “As a reflection of this inventive spirit, the launch of cSmart is a groundbreaking step toward financing even more innovation and doing so in a way that adds maximum value to sorghum farmers.”

Fueled by relationships across the sorghum industry and the supply chain, cSmart leverages knowledge and financial flexibility to support startups, existing companies and investors bringing innovation to the sorghum industry. The platform is expected to attract significant interest from private investors seeking investment opportunities in the growing agriculture investment space as well as startups and established companies looking to deploy innovation in sorghum.

The launch of cSmart is a significant development for the sorghum industry. With a focus on bringing value to sorghum farmers and leveraging financial and industry expertise, cSmart is well-positioned to support the growth and development of the sorghum industry for years to come. For more information on investing or obtaining support for sorghum innovation, contact cSmart consultant John Duff. Duff can be reached at john@seroag.com or 806-638-5334.



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Sorghum Shines at Commodity Classic

By Jennifer (Blackburn) Warren

Sorghum and sunshine turned out in a big way for the Commodity Classic this year in Orlando, Florida. The event, held March 9-11, had a record-breaking attendance of more than 10,400 attendees, beating the previous record of 9,770 attendees set in New Orleans in 2016.

This year's event featured more than 30 educational sessions, a sold-out trade show with over 400 exhibitors, a keynote address by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, and policy meetings of the sponsoring commodity associations, including National Sorghum Producers.

NSP Policy Meetings

During NSP board meetings, sponsored by Advanta, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Chief Terry Cosby visited with the NSP board of directors about the department's work and opportunities for sorghum as The Resource Conserving Crop™.

Under Secretary Robert Bonnie, Risk Management Agency (RMA) Administrator Marcia Bunger and Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Zach Ducheneaux also met with NSP leadership to discuss a number of programs impacting sorghum farmers, including climate-smart agriculture, crop insurance and disaster assistance.



Commodity Classic General Session

A highlight event each year at Commodity Classic is when leaders of each association take the stage for a roundtable discussion at the General Session. The next farm bill was top of mind for the association leaders.

Speaking to the drought experienced in the Sorghum Belt in 2022, NSP Chairman Craig Meeker from Wellington, Kansas, said those particularly challenging conditions highlight the need for an even stronger safety net in the next farm bill. "Show me the money," he began, elevating the priority for new funding necessary to make meaningful improvements to the farm safety net.

The group also spoke to the theme for Commodity Classic—Preparing for the Next Generation. Meeker is a sixth generation farmer and said, "I have to say thank you to the generations that walked in my footsteps before. It's a blessing, and I'm lucky enough to have the seventh generation coming behind me, whether it's my son or two daughters.

"I'm blessed beyond means to have somebody that loves the farm and loves the way of life the way I did. I guess I am the next generation on my farm. My dad is at home taking care of things while I'm down here, and I appreciate that. I know one thing. If we don't have a faith, and we don't have a respect, and we don't know Jesus Christ as our personal lord and savior, not any of this stuff is worth anything," Meeker said to applause from the crowd that filled the 2,643-seat Chapin Theater at the Orange County Convention Center.

Sorghum Yield Contest Awards

The NSP Sorghum Yield Contest Gala, sponsored by Pioneer®, gave sorghum growers the chance to showcase their yield achievements during the 2022

◀ USDA UNDER SECRETARY Robert Bonnie, RMA Administrator Marcia Bunger and FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux met with NSP leadership during board meetings at Commodity Classic.



crop year. NSP Chairman Craig Meeker presented awards to the national winners in six categories, including the 2022 Bin Buster winner Brant & Amy Peterson of Winsome Farms, which you can read more about on pages 14-17. NSP also presented a Sorghum Kid's video highlighting our own next generation, which you can view at youtube.com/sorghumgrowers.

Sorghum PAC Casino Night and Auction

Immediately following the gala Friday night, NSP kicked off its annual Sorghum PAC Casino Night & Auc-

tion, sponsored by Alta Seeds and UPL. This year, casino night consisted of live, online and silent auctions, which have all increased in earnings over the past four years.

"I feel we are very fortunate to have very giving growers, board members and staff," NSP Industry Relations Director Jamaca Battin said. "The Sorghum PAC Casino Night & Auction returned in a triumphant way, and our fundraising efforts accomplished a great deal in reaching our purpose to more effectively promote legislators who understand and advocate on behalf of sorghum farmers."

NSP is expecting to bring in more than \$140,000 to Sorghum PAC at the conclusions of Casino Night & Auction and the Third Annual Sorghum PAC Golf Tournament, which will be held April 29 in Dodge City, Kansas (read more on pg 26).

2024 Commodity Classic

The 2023 Commodity Classic will be held in Houston, Texas, from February 29-March 2. Join NSP in taking part in Commodity Classic events along with the NSP Yield Contest Gala, Sorghum PAC Casino Night & Auction and future learning sessions. For more information visit, CommodityClassic.com.

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National Sorghum Yield Contest Winners

Southwest Kansas Growers Earn Bin Buster Award With 245.80 BPA Sorghum

Story By DTN, Crops Editor Jason Jenkins

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (DTN) -- "Just four more bushels." It doesn't sound like a very ambitious goal for increasing yields, but for one southwest Kansas sorghum grower, "four more bushels" provided all the necessary motivation to grow the highest-yielding entry in the 2022 National Sorghum Yield Contest.

On Thursday, Dec. 8, National Sorghum Producers announced that Brant and Amy Peterson, who operate Winsome Farms in Johnson, Kansas, took top honor as this year's Bin Buster Award recipients, producing drought-denying sorghum with a yield of 245.80 bushels per acre (bpa). This was the Petersons' second year entering the contest and their first national title.

Last year, the Petersons took first place in Kansas for irrigated sorghum with an entry yielding 204.13 (bpa). While many first-timers might have been content with such a result, Brant Peterson couldn't help but look down the list of national winners and make an observation: Though his yield was nothing to sneeze at, had he yielded just 4 bpa more, the Petersons would have placed second nationally for irrigated sorghum.

"I was like, 'Holy Cow. Just four more bushels?' I can surely make four more bushels," he said in an exclusive interview with DTN. "So, this year, I swung a little harder at it and gave it a little more attention. It was a pretty rough year, so I was surprised when I got the call."

Organized by the National Sorghum Producers since 1985, the yield contest initially began as a means of

increasing membership and educating producers on new management techniques, said Tim Lust, the organization's CEO.

"While those goals remain today, the yield contest has also become a way to identify and recruit leading producers in our industry, many of whom have served in leadership positions within our organization through committees and our board of directors," he said. "Sorghum is a staple in many farm rotations across the Plains and increasingly so in areas looking to add a crop to their rotation, address tough soil conditions, pest and disease problems and limited rainfall situations while increasing soil organic matter, capturing carbon, breaking up compaction and improving overall soil health."

Peterson, a 48-year-old, fifth-generation farmer, said that his family has grown sorghum for as long as he can remember. However, during the past decade or so, the crop's prominence within their 7,000-acre operation has changed.

"Sorghum was always kind of the redheaded stepchild that took a back seat to corn because of the basis, but you always knew the ground that wouldn't grow corn could grow sorghum," he said, noting that he grows grain, silage and food-grade sorghum. "After the drought of 2012, our water table out here took a big hit, so we were looking to transition away from as much corn and over to more sorghum. I could average 25-ton sorghum silage with just 5 to 9 inches of irrigation."

The High Plains of southwest Kansas offer unique conditions. The silt loam and sandy loam soils run deep -- as much as 10 feet deep in some places -- offering greater water-holding capacity than soils farther to the east. But that's not the "secret sauce," Peterson said.

"Our elevation is 3,300 feet, so while we may be 95 degrees (Fahrenheit) during the day in the summer, we'll be 68 at night," he explained. "We cool off, and that gives time for the crops to relax. They're not stressed all the time. With whatever winter moisture we get and a little pre-water, I can grow 70-bushel milo without another inch of rain."

Peterson admits to being hesitant about entering the contest because he didn't think he could compete. The to-do list on a farm is unending, and he felt his time should be spent on other pursuits.

"And honestly, I didn't think that we had any products that would get us there, but then Channel came out with 6B95," said Peterson, who also is a Channel dealer. "In test plots about 50 miles from me, it had yielded 200-bushel sorghum the previous two years. The folks running the trials encouraged me to put it on some good ground with water, so I thought maybe we actually can compete."

In 2021, Peterson planted his first contest plot with the new Channel variety at a population of 60,000. He said he didn't put a lot into his initial fertility program, but after catching a few timely rains and the crop looking good, he decided to fertigate with a little UAN32 at the boot stage. "I think that paid," he added.

While his 2021 contest plot was growing, so too was Peterson's involvement with Leadership Sorghum, a program sponsored by United Sorghum Checkoff that works to develop the next generation of leaders for the sorghum industry. His class of 12 included two previous national yield contest winners, and Peterson wasn't shy about asking questions.

"They were planting Pioneer, but still, at what population? 120,000? I planted 60,000; guess I need to bump up the population," Peterson said. "Those guys let me pick their brains, and after we finished where we did in the 2021 contest, we tweaked a few things for this year."

Peterson selected the same irrigated field, but he flip-flopped the areas where he planted his contest plot. With the price of nitrogen fertilizer sky high, he elected to spread 8 tons of manure on the field. He strip-tilled to prepare the seed bed, and then on June 1, he planted Channel 6B95 on 30-inch rows at populations varying from 90,000 to 120,000.

As was the case for wide swaths of the country during the growing season, drought found its way to Winsome Farms. The Petersons only have the ability to irrigate about one-eighth of their total acres, so much of their dryland corn, wheat and sorghum suffered in the dry heat. While overall the 2022 crop was well below average, the irrigated contest plot was a wellspring for agricultural optimism.

During the season, Mother Nature only provided about 5 inches of rain. Peterson was able to put on 10 more inches, which included his pre-plant irrigation. He said his weed-control program wasn't as effective as he would have liked, requiring him to hire a roguing crew to clean things up.

When the combine rolled through the plot on Halloween day, it sported a different head than what Peterson used in 2021.

"I felt like I had a better sorghum crop out there last year, but I wasn't able to get it all in the combine," he said. "So, I bought a corn head retrofitted with an ARRO conversion kit. It's fantastic."

Lust said that Peterson's 245.80 bpa yield is six times this year's national average. It's also one of the top 10 highest yields on record in the contest's nearly 40-year history.

"The results of the sorghum yield contest show just how resilient sorghum is. It truly is 'The Resource Conserving Crop,'" said the sorghum CEO. "The drought had devastating impacts. Water is and will continue to be an important issue, and it's years like 2022 that really show what sorghum is made of and why, rain or shine, it can thrive."

Peterson said participating in the contest has changed his perspective on what his yield goals for sorghum should be. Historically, he has grown corn on his better acres. However, when he combines the yield potential he's seeing from newer varieties, the lower overall cost of production and the growing demand for the crop, sorghum isn't automatically taking a backseat as it might have a generation ago.

"Sorghum's future is super exciting to me," Peterson said. "It checks a lot of boxes when it comes to folks' goals for sustainability, and it meets the needs of consumers. And I can grow great sorghum on accident. We've been doing it forever."

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▼ BRANT PETERSON receiving their award at Commodity Classic.



National Sorghum Yield Contest Winners

By Jennifer (Blackburn) Warren

Unexpected. That was the theme talking to this year's sorghum yield contest national winners. Drier than usual conditions impacted farmers from New Jersey to southwest Kansas, but despite the challenges of Mother Nature, sorghum still shined as a drought resilient crop that elevated these growers to the national winners' stand in the 2022 National Sorghum Producers Yield Contest.



DRYLAND-TILLAGE EASTERN CATEGORY:

First Place: Allen Walters, Walters Farms Clark County, Illinois Variety: Dekalb DKS38-16 Yield: 184.21 bpa

Allen Walters farms in Clark County, Illinois, along the I-70 line between St. Louis and Indianapolis. His 2022 growing season started off with a full moisture profile and conditions that delayed planting. He finally found a window to plant in June, then it all changed. "When it got dry, it got really dry. We had a couple tenths here and there. It's kind of interesting to see milo here in a different climate and what it can do just with how much it grew with no rain." Walters said he ended up with 3-4 inches of rain in July and August, taking his crop to the finish line with a yield of 184.21 bushels per acre. "I was not really expecting it. I didn't know

what it knew. It loved drier weather; I just wasn't sure." Walters planted Dekalb DKS28-16 at 100,000 seeds per acre on 30-inch rows. He ran 110 lbs of anhydrous ammonia in the fall then came back in mid- to late-June with a wide drop application to end up with 165 lbs of actual N. He applied 200 lbs of DAP fertilizer and 150 lbs of potash in the fall, as well. He also ran 2.6 quarts of Bicep and 3 oz of Explorer (mesotrione), and at heading time they followed up with a fungicide and a 2 oz rate of Baythroid insecticide. Walters said sorghum is a good fit for his farm because he is able to sell it to a premium bird seed market nearby, and he has reduced deer pressure. Walters looks forward to the next growing season and future possibilities. "[Sorghum] kind of floored us, but it showed us what it could do with dry weather, and [we] wondered what it could do with two more inches of rain at the right time."



DRYLAND NO-TILL EASTERN CATEGORY:

First Place: Billy H Bowers Farm Trust Davidson County, North Carolina Variety: Pioneer 84G62 Yield: 218.20 bpa

Guy Bowers had adequate moisture to kick off his 2022 growing season, planting his Pioneer 84G62 sorghum toward the end of June in David-

son County, North Carolina. After a month of no moisture, the rains began in the fall. "It's just one of those things where everything kind of fell into place. I started [harvesting] on the outside, and once I got in [the middle of the field], it got really good." Bowers has moved his planting date back from May to June to capitalize on timely moisture during heading and for reduced sorghum aphid pressure. His ideal plant population is between 125,000-135,000 seeds per acre, and he plants on 30-inch rows. From a fertility standpoint, Bowers tries to keep around 150 units of N, 125 of P and 125 of K. He applies a small amount of sulfur with his liquid nitrogen and some micronutrients. "It's the same program I use for corn. I just cut back a little on the nitrogen so I don't burn it up, but it's the same if I were to try and make 175-200 bushel corn." Bowers ended the season with a yield of 218.20 bushels per acre. He keeps 95 percent of his grain sorghum crop for himself to feed beef cattle, replacing corn in his feed ration.



DRYLAND-TILLAGE WESTERN CATEGORY:

First Place: Dylan Knoll Charles Mix County, South Dakota Variety: Pioneer 89Y79 Yield: 209.32 bpa

While the season started off very dry for Dylan Knoll in Charles Mix

County, South Dakota, he received enough moisture to get his sorghum crop started, planting in late May. "We got a pretty good shot of rain for about 3-4 weeks after planting, so I got a good start and emergence, then it tillered out really well." Knoll planted at a lower plant population, 90,000 seeds per acre, with an air seeder on 15-inch rows, which helped conserve moisture and reduce weed pressure. Knoll applied 150 lbs of N and 50 lbs of phosphorus. At harvest, the dry weather lent itself to exceptional conditions. "[The sorghum] matured really fast because of the weather, so it came out really dry and really even—the driest we've ever combined. It was really nice and clean." Knoll bailed the remaining stalks and retained some of the grain to feed cattle. He and his father (pictured left) are not strangers to the sorghum yield contest and were unsure if their crop would stack up against the competition this year. "For the conditions we had, we had no idea it would yield that good. We sure weren't expecting it this year. Sometimes we try too hard, and when we don't try, it does better." Their efforts led to a 209.32 bushels per acre yield this year using Pioneer 89Y79.



DRYLAND NO-TILL WESTERN CATEGORY:

First Place: Duever Farms Marshall County, Kansas Variety: Pioneer 84G62 Yield: 180.19 bpa

Michael Duever of Marshall County, Kansas, began the 2022 growing season with adequate moisture and ideal conditions, planting his Pioneer

84G62 sorghum on 15-inch rows at 65,000 seeds per acre in mid-May. While the moisture waned and his crop endured a dry early summer, the crop was able to pull through and perform with a 180.19 bushels per acre yield. Michael put down 130 lbs of anhydrous ammonia, and during the growing season, he applied seven gallons of 10-34-0 liquid starter. The field, located near a creek bottom on 40 acres next to his dad's place, has become an ideal location to grow sorghum, and his seed dealer encouraged him to enter the sorghum yield contest. "I know talking to some people you didn't have to go very far north—30-40 miles—and people were hurt by the drought, but we were extremely blessed in our area."



IRRIGATED EASTERN CATEGORY:

First Place: Jeffrey Barlieb Warren County, New Jersey Variety: Pioneer 84G62 Yield: 203.35 bpa

Jeffrey Barlieb said his 2022 growing season started off exceptionally well. "It was probably set up to be our best year ever the way things looked, then in the middle of June, that's when things started to turn south, and we went probably seven weeks without rain." Fortunately, with the addition of moisture and some timely rains in August, Barlieb's Warren County, New Jersey, sorghum crop reached 203.25 bushels per acre at harvest. Barlieb planted Pioneer 84G62 at 150,000 seeds per acre on 15-inch rows in June, applying 300 lbs of N. "Our sorghum never goes in until later. So, I think the timing of the rain

kind of helped us. I think we could have done better, but we're thankful for what we have this year because everything else was pretty much a disaster." He added, "my grandfather always told me all my life, Mother Nature is the boss."



FOOD GRADE CATEGORY:

First Place: JnL Farms Appanoose County, Iowa Variety: Richardson G37 Yield: 156.87 bpa

Joel Spring farms in south central Iowa in Appanoose County. With a wet fall and winter prior to planting, his sorghum went into the ground with a full moisture profile in mid-June. "We had timely rain through about the middle of July, and then we went through another one of our spells from July 15-Sept. 7 with less than an inch of rain. So the crops had phenomenal potential, and a year like this reminds us why we plant milo here." Spring's investment in the crop paid off, and he harvested a 156.87 bushels per acre food grade plot. Spring planted his Richardson G37 seed at 105,000 seeds per acre on 15-inch rows. He applied 150 lbs of anhydrous ammonia, 50 lbs of phosphorus and 60 lbs of potash. The typical rotation in Spring's area is corn and soybeans, but he said sorghum performs well on some of his tougher soils. "Even on the good ground, the corn was burning up into August and giving up, and the milo is still nice and lush and green. Years like this show us why we raise milo." Spring markets his crop to West Coast food markets by shuttle train.✂



Sorghum Update

Brought to you by the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission

Sorghum: Bringing Communities Together Since 8,000 B.C.

By Adelaide Easter

Food holds a different meaning when you travel to different places in the world. It is tied to culture and reflects an area's history, geography and traditions. Sorghum is no exception to this phenomenon. Most commonly, when you think of the sorghum crop in the U.S., you may think of its end use being livestock feed and ethanol production. However, across the globe, sorghum is regularly found in the diets of more than 500 million people. Why is this?

Looking back at history, we can see that sorghum was first domesticated in northeast Africa, between what is now known as Ethiopia and Sudan, estimated around 8,000 BC. This means that sorghum has been cultivated in Africa for thousands of years, making it deeply rooted in tradition and even ceremonies such as the Jie Harvest Ritual, where the sorghum crop serves as the interconnection between the Jie people, their Turkana neighbors, and their God. So, in this sense, sorghum plays a role in expressing one's identity.

While the crop was first domesticated in Africa, it rapidly spread to the rest of the continent, becoming a staple of people's diets. This crop quickly became normalized in Southeast Asia, but it wasn't until the 18th century that it reached America. A letter written by Benjamin Franklin discussing how sorghum could be used in the production of brooms is the first written record of sorghum in the U.S. Here in the U.S., sorghum isn't regularly seen in the diets of people but instead in animals. Aside from livestock feed, sorghum is applied in ethanol and biofuel production. Why is sorghum not a part of the mainstream diet in the Western Hemisphere?

There are many reasons sorghum isn't eaten in the U.S., but the main reason I see is a lack of awareness. After meeting with Lanier Dabruzzi, MS, RD, LD, the Director of

Food Innovations and Institutional Markets for Sorghum Checkoff, I was left with this quote: "Only 30% of consumers in America are aware of sorghum and its uses." Even I fell under this category growing up. But with National Sorghum Producers and the Sorghum Checkoff's work, education and awareness are growing. One goal of both organizations is to see sorghum included in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Adding sorghum to the latest iteration of these guidelines, which will be released in 2025, would include a crop considered culturally inclusive to the growing, diverse American population. WIC, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, is considering adding sorghum to the national food package for the first time. This means that the more than 6.2 million women, infants and children who rely on WIC for nutritious foods could soon benefit from sorghum's nutrition.

Lastly, the Sorghum Checkoff actively promotes whole grain sorghum as a nutritious addition to school meals after its inclusion in the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs last year. Since school meals now have a requirement of using at least 80% of whole grains each week, whole grain sorghum and whole grain sorghum flour are now a solution for schools.

Throughout history, sorghum has not only provided nourishment but has also brought communities together. There are many great ways that sorghum is utilized, but through farmers, we can continue to develop how it is used, and continuing education is at the heart of this progress. From its use of livestock feed to school meals, sorghum is a sustainable, resilient, and versatile crop that has the potential to grow in its impact. There is a bright future for sorghum, and I can't wait to see what it brings for sorghum and its producers.

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Research Shows Potential Sorghum Health Benefits

By Lanier Dabruzzi MS, RD, LD,
Sorghum Checkoff Director of Food Innovations & Institutional Markets

Investments by the sorghum industry and outside organizations have resulted in a substantial amount of research looking at sorghum's impact on various diseases, including heart disease, cancer and diabetes. Sorghum's robust nutrition profile positions it as a novel approach to combat and mediate various diseases using a "food as medicine" approach, which is top of mind for national leaders in agriculture, healthcare and policy discussions.

Whole grain sorghum provides more than 20 percent of what adults need each day for 12 essential nutrients, including protein, fiber and iron. In fact, a half-cup serving of whole grain sorghum provides more than double the protein as the same amount of quinoa, nearly double the iron as a 3-ounce sirloin steak, and you would need to eat more than 7 cups of raw spinach to get the same amount of vitamin B6.

In addition to its nutrition, sorghum provides exceptionally unique, abundant and diverse antioxidants, which research has linked to a variety of health and nutrition functional attributes.

Gut microbiome

The gut microbiome, or the tiny organisms that live in the intestines, is an area of study that has gotten a tremendous amount of attention lately due to the discovery of how it affects health. Research has shown that sorghum bran

contains a type of antioxidant called polyphenols, which positively impact gut microbiome ecology, resulting in improved immunity and decreased obesity.

Obesity

Whole grain sorghum is an excellent source of both fiber and protein, both of which lead to lower body weight. Beyond whole grain, polyphenols from pearled grain have been shown to decrease fat absorption due to their ability to inhibit fat and carbohydrate digestion.

In a real-world scenario, a Randomized Control Trial (RCT) found that including extruded sorghum snacks in the diet reduced body fat percentage in overweight men.

Oxidative stress

Oxidative stress is often the culprit for inflammation, diabetes and cancer. Research has shown that a diet that includes sorghum can help to protect against oxidative damage associated with diabetes.

Selenium is a mineral that helps to decrease oxidative stress in sorghum grain when it is under high temperature and stressful growing environments by enhancing its antioxidant defense system. Similarly, once sorghum is consumed, the selenium works as an antioxidant to help protect cells from damage in the body.

Inflammation

Inflammation is a natural part of the body's response to injury or infection,

but chronic inflammation can lead to illness and disease. Therefore, it is recommended to include foods in the diet that have anti-inflammatory properties. Sorghum has higher antioxidant levels and anti-inflammatory properties than blueberries.

Diabetes

Diabetes plagues nearly 10 percent of the U.S. population with an annual price tag of nearly \$330 billion spent nationally to care for those with diabetes. Looking to the diet to help prevent or treat diabetes is a strategy the federal government has acutely focused its attention. Whole grain sorghum is an excellent source of fiber that contains a high level of resistant starch, which slows digestion and regulates blood sugar levels. Additionally, research shows that sorghum bran polyphenol extract improves blood glucose to a similar effect as diabetes medication.

Heart Disease

The leading cause of death in the U.S. is heart disease, which has led to a large focus on ways to both prevent and treat the disease. Sorghum can be part of that solution, as research has shown that the main storage protein in sorghum provides ACE-inhibitory properties, meaning it relaxes blood vessels resulting in decreased blood pressure. Additionally, sorghum extract has been shown to improve dyslipidemia, increasing good cholesterol and decreasing bad cholesterol.

It is because of this notable research that the Sorghum Checkoff announced its work with the American Heart Association® this year focusing on including sorghum in a heart-healthy diet.

Cancer

There are many studies showing sorghum's role in decreasing the risk for and progression of various cancers, including colorectal, breast, liver, esophageal, lung and leukemia. One of the proposed mechanisms outlined in the literature is that the phytochemicals from sorghum bran fight cancer by inhibiting the growth and spreading of the cancer.

Antimicrobial

An exciting area of research is looking at sorghum polyphenol-modulated antimicrobial properties in both airborne (*Legionella pneumophila*) and foodborne illnesses (*Staphylococcus aureus*, *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Campylobacter jejuni*, and *Campylobacter coli*).

Each time research is conducted, the picture of how sorghum contributes to health becomes clearer. To spread the word about current sorghum science, the research will be compiled and published as a supplement to the *Journal of Food Science* later this year. Looking to the future, we will be exploring human clinical trials to further bring the science to life. There is no lack of interest in sorghum science, and we are just getting started. 🌱





NEWSLETTER

sorghumcheckoff.com | Spring Edition 2023

USCP National Sponsor of American Heart Association's® Healthy for Good™ Initiative

The United Sorghum Checkoff Program (USCP) announced in February its national sponsorship of the American Heart Association's Healthy For Good initiative, kicking off American Heart Month in a big way. The initiative is aimed at promoting healthy eating habits and lifestyle choices for individuals and families across the United States.

Sorghum, a nutritious and versatile grain, is a perfect fit for this initiative as it is an excellent source of dietary fiber and contains antioxidants that can help reduce the risk of heart disease. As part of the sponsorship, the USCP worked with the American Heart Association to create resources and educational materials to promote the health benefits of sorghum.

"This is a first-of-its kind relationship for the Sorghum Checkoff and represents our strong commitment to supporting healthy solutions and nutrition education for all Americans," Sorghum Checkoff Director of Food Innovation and Institutional Markets Lanier Dabruzzi, MS, RD, LD, said. "There is a growing body of research showing sorghum's heart health benefits and we're excited to be a national sponsor of Healthy for Good™

to help people improve their heart health through delicious, versatile and nutritious food choices, like sorghum."

"Eating fresh, nutrition-rich food benefits both your physical and mental health and is a key component of the American Heart Association's Life's Essential 8, which identifies specific health behaviors and health factors driving optimal heart and brain health," American Heart Association's chief medical officer for prevention Eduardo Sanchez, M.D., M.P.H., FAHA said. "Our Healthy for Good initiative helps people eat smarter by providing recipes, articles and tips to build—and maintain—good nutritional habits. We look forward to adding to our popular "eat smart" resources thanks to support from Sorghum Checkoff."

A serving of cooked whole-grain sorghum is an excellent source of 12 essential nutrients, including protein, iron and zinc. Sorghum is a natural source of antioxidants, which may help to lower one's risk of cancer, diabetes, heart disease and some neurological diseases. Research has illustrated sorghum's role in maintaining healthy blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

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USCP Releases 2022 Annual Report Highlighting Successes and Growth in Sorghum Industry



A staple in African, Asian and some Native American cuisines, sorghum is growing in popularity in American cuisine. Naturally gluten-free and non-GMO, sorghum is the perfect addition to any diet. Vegetarians, those avoiding gluten, vegans and meat eaters alike can enjoy sorghum. The nutritious, versatile ingredient has a neutral, nutty flavor that can be enjoyed boiled in soups or grain bowls, popped as a crunchy snack or baked using sorghum flour.

"Industry-changing innovations are happening for sorghum right now, for the better, and we are committed to showing how sorghum can be incorporated as part of a healthy diet," Sorghum Checkoff Executive Director, Norma Ritz Johnson said. "Our Healthy for Good sponsorship announcement comes with perfect timing as February is recognized as the month for Americans to focus on their cardiovascular health. Sorghum can be a catalyst for change in the area of health and nutrition."

By sponsoring the Healthy For Good initiative, the USCP is not only promoting the health benefits of sorghum but also supporting U.S. sorghum producers by increasing consumer demand for sorghum products. The partnership with the American Heart Association is a win-win situation for every-

one involved, as it promotes healthier eating habits while also supporting the U.S. sorghum industry.

Recipes, nutrition and more information are available at SorghumCheckoff.com/consumers/, and more information on American Heart Association's Healthy for Good initiative can be found at heart.org/healthyforgood.



USCP Taps Into Google's Expertise to Grow Consumer Awareness and Drive Demand

The United Sorghum Checkoff Program (USCP) recently announced its strategic partnership with Google, aimed at increasing consumer awareness about sorghum through innovative marketing strategies. As a producer-funded national organization dedicated to improving the sorghum industry and representing sorghum farmers across the United States, USCP aims to promote the sustainability and health benefits of sorghum and its versatility as a food ingredient.

The partnership with Google will enable USCP to leverage digital marketing strategies to create consumer awareness campaigns that highlight sorghum's benefits. The recent campaign titled "Sorghum. Food's Best Kept Secret." showcases sorghum as a whole-grain option for consumers. The ads are powered by Google Ads, which leverages Google's expertise in digital marketing. The ads can be viewed on The Sorghum Checkoff's Youtube channel, Sorghum. Nature's Super Grain.

"We can raise awareness about sorghum's benefits and offer a viable solution to individuals seeking healthier alternatives," USCP Director of Communications Clint White said. "Sorghum is a powerhouse grain with so much to offer consumers who value nutrition, sustainability, and versatility in the kitchen."

USCP has also partnered with Padilla Speer Beardsley, Inc. (Padilla), a leading public relations agency with extensive experience in the food and agriculture industry. The agency will work with USCP to accelerate sorghum's position from ancient to high-performance grain for sustainable, healthy meals and snacks.

"Together, we'll let consumers in on the secrets of sorghum – from its high-protein, gluten-free and antioxidant-rich nutrition benefits to its role as a water-saving, climate-resilient crop – and make it the go-to grain for everyday cooks," Padilla President Matt Kucharski said.

By increasing consumer awareness and demand for sorghum, this partnership between USCP, Google, and Padilla will ultimately benefit sorghum producers. As consumer interest in sorghum grows, producers will see increased demand for their crops, leading to more stable markets and potentially higher prices for their products. This partnership is an important step in ensuring the long-term success and profitability of the sorghum industry, benefiting both producers and consumers alike. For more information on this exciting new project, please visit SorghumCheckoff.com.



Better Sorghum Hybrids for 2023

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

With dry soil profiles throughout most of the Sorghum Belt, coupled with high input costs, it is anticipated planted sorghum acres will be up in 2023. One of the most important decisions growers can make is which hybrid to plant. Historically, the release of new sorghum hybrids has been slower than some of the other crops; however, in the last five years many new hybrids have been released by seed companies providing growers with new options to consider.

The grain sorghum yield gain from 1963 to 2017 was recently studied by scientists at Corteva™ Agriscience and Kansas State University with the findings being published in *Crop Science Journal*. The yield gain of Pioneer® commercial hybrids increased by 24 lbs/acre per year over that time period. What was particularly interesting was yield gain has accelerated in recent years (see bar graph), with a significant yield increase for hybrids released from 2006 to 2017.

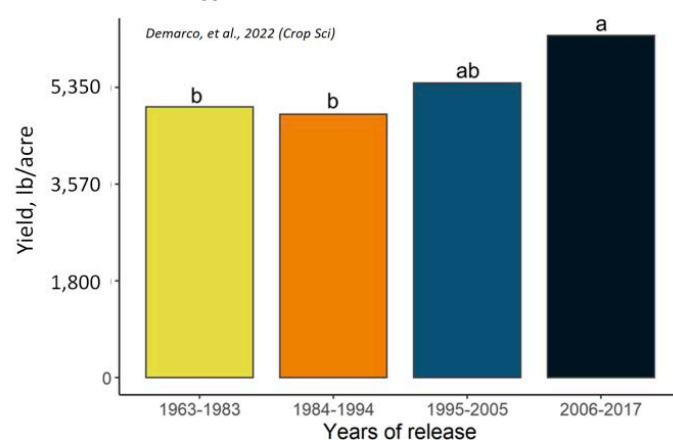
In the coming years, growers should expect the rate of yield gain to increase as new breeding techniques are adopted. The use of doubled haploid and other technologies should reduce the time to develop a hybrid by at least four years. In addition, and maybe even more importantly, the gain in knowledge of the location of important genes on chromosomes, coupled with powerful computer programs, will make breeders much more efficient at selecting superior parent lines for crossing to make better hybrids.

Before a new hybrid is released by a seed company, it is rigorously tested under multiple envi-

ronments. Companies will not bring a hybrid to the market unless it has some significant advantage over other hybrids they sell.

Higher yield is always the goal and is accomplished by the hybrid simply having a higher yield potential under optimum conditions or having better defensive traits that equip the hybrid to better withstand abiotic (nonliving) and biotic (living) stress.

U.S. Sorghum Yield Gain 1963-2017



Abiotic stress is typically caused by drought and high temperatures. Because sorghum tends to be grown in dry environments, sorghum breeders spend a large portion of their efforts in developing hybrids that can withstand periods of drought and still maintain yield potential. Often overlooked by growers is the importance of heat stress. Much of the U.S. has experienced elevated temperatures

in the last few years, and this is not expected to change any time soon. More effort is going into breeding for heat stress than in the past.

Biotic stress is usually from insects or diseases. Sorghum companies have placed considerable effort in identifying hybrids and parent lines with sorghum aphid (previously known as the sugarcane aphid) tolerance. Most new hybrids now have tolerance to sorghum aphids. For those regions where diseases are an issue, better anthracnose resistance has been incorporated in some of the new hybrids. The newest advance in sorghum hybrids has been the introduction of herbicide tolerance. These new hybrids allow for grower access to specific herbicides previously unusable in sorghum. There are three effective, grass controlling herbicide technologies now available:

- Double Team™ hybrids from S&W Seed, tolerant to FirstAct™ herbicide, sold by ADAMA
- Igrowth® hybrids from Advanta Seeds, tolerant to ImiFlex™ herbicide, sold by UPL
- Inzen™ hybrids from Pioneer, tolerant to Zest™ herbicide, sold by Corteva

Each of these technologies was developed with conventional breeding techniques and are non-GMO.

Contact your seed company to discuss these new herbicide tolerant hybrids and other recently released hybrids that have superior yields with better drought, heat, insect and disease tolerance.

USCP Releases 2022 Annual Report Highlighting Successes and Growth in Sorghum Industry



The 2022 Sorghum Checkoff Annual Report provides a comprehensive overview of the organization's efforts to enhance the sorghum industry. The report highlights the Sorghum Checkoff's achievements in research, promotion, and education initiatives to increase the demand for sorghum and improve the crop's profitability for farmers. Readers can also learn about the organization's financial performance, key partnerships

and collaborations, and the impact of its programs on the sorghum industry. The annual report serves as an informative resource for anyone interested in understanding the Sorghum Checkoff's role in supporting sorghum producers and the industry as a whole.

Scan the QR code above to review the 2022 annual report.

SORGHUM INDUSTRY EVENTS

May 29 Memorial Day
Office Closed

June 5-9 Sorghum in the 21st Century
The Corum Event Center Montpellier, France

June 11-13 Export Sorghum
Houston, TX

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 Shortcuts

Sorghum PAC Golf Tournament: Register Your Team!

The Third Annual Sorghum PAC Golf Tournament will be held on April 29, 2023, at noon in Dodge City, Kansas. The tournament, sponsored by Alta Seeds and UPL Ltd, features a four-person scramble and will take place at the Mariah Hills Golf Course. The tournament will be followed by happy hour and awards. The course restaurant, Prime On The Nine, will cater a pulled pork lunch, starting at 11 a.m. Registration will remain open until all tournament spots are filled. Learn more at SorghumGrowers.com/sorghum-pac. All experience levels are welcome.

NSF and BASF Award 2022-2023 Scholarship Winners

The National Sorghum Scholarship Foundation and BASF recently announced the winners of their joint scholarship. Max Harman from Michigan State University and Breely Huguley from Texas Tech University each received a \$2,500 award to be applied toward tuition during the 2022-2023 academic school year.

Harman is a first year Ph.D. student studying molecular plant genetics at Michigan State. In his application, he said he wants to pursue a career in agriculture research to improve food and our food system using novel gene-editing techniques to discover and implement novel traits that benefit both producers and consumers.

Huguley, a senior agricultural communications major at Texas Tech, grew up on a farm near Olton, Texas.



Huguley plans to pursue a master's degree in the same discipline with future aspirations to either work in public policy in Washington, D.C., or in public relations and crisis communications.

For more information about the National Sorghum Foundation and other scholarship opportunities, visit SorghumGrowers.com/foundation-scholarships.

2023 Sorghum Yield Contest Open

The 2023 National Sorghum Producers Yield Contest is now open. The entry deadline for the 2023 Sorghum Yield Contest is November 15. The goal of the yield contest is to increase grower yields, transfer knowledge between growers to enhance management and identify sorghum producers who excel in each state and throughout the country.

In order to enroll, contestants must be a paid NSP member at the time of entry and harvest. More than one member of a family may enroll, but each member must have a separate membership. All entries will be reviewed and divisions will be placed off of yield only. National and state winners will be recognized at the 2024 Commodity Classic in Houston, Texas.

Interested contestants can visit SorghumGrowers.com/yield-contest to see official contest rules and entry form, or contact NSP Director of Operations Julie Barclay at 806-749-3478.

NSP Opens Board Application Process

The National Sorghum Producers began accepting applications on April 3 for three positions on the 2023 board of directors. NSP board members lead efforts to create positive change for sorghum farmers through effective policy and relationships and hold a vision to promote, advocate for and defend the sorghum industry. To be qualified to serve on the board, candidates must be a current NSP member and have a passion for representing sorghum farmers through advocacy and fundraising activities. No prior board experience is necessary, only a desire to improve the sorghum industry. Applications are due Friday, May 5, 2023, at 5 p.m. CST. Each position includes a three-year term, beginning October 1, 2023, the start of NSP's fiscal year. For the application or more information visit SorghumGrowers.com/leadership or contact NSP Director of Operations Julie Barclay at 806-749-3478.

Genetics Matter.

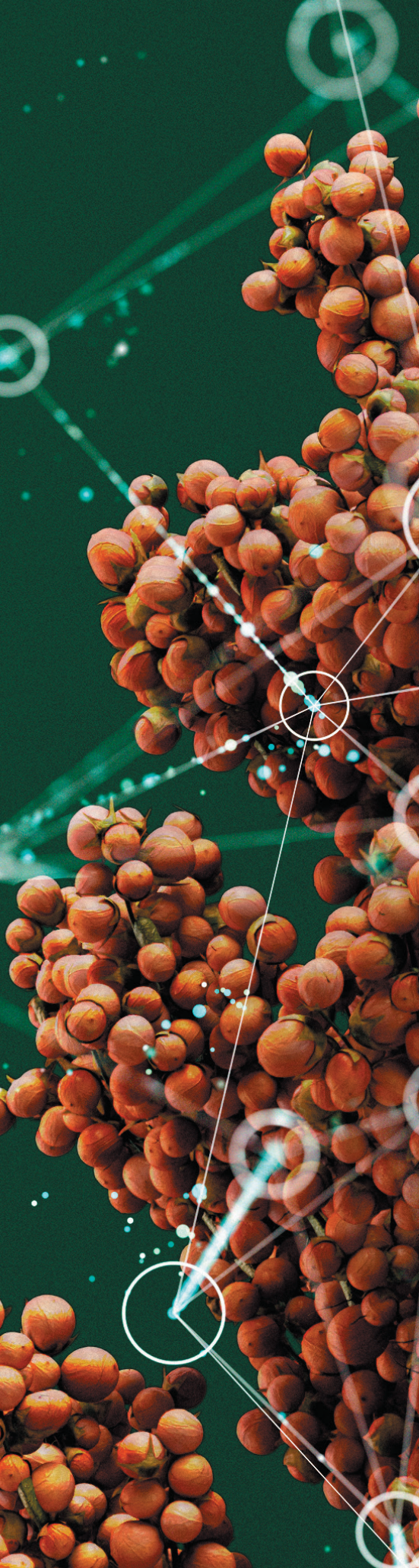
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