

FALL 2024



NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS

# SORGHUM *Grower*

## SORGHUM'S LEADING LADY

BRINGING SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY DOWN  
TO EARTH FOR SORGHUM FARMERS



*Also*

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## Chair's Address

### Continuing to Advance the Vision



If you had told 10-year-old me, growing up in the Kansas City area, I would someday marry a third-generation farmer, live in the middle of nowhere (aka God's country), be blessed with five children and be chairwoman of National Sorghum Producers, I would have laughed and blown your crazy prediction off. But what a life! What an incredible honor for me to travel down this path.

Since joining the board, I have witnessed firsthand the hard work, determination, grit and achievements of our board and our incredible team. There is no question, friends, you've got the hardest-working team fighting on your behalf!

Indeed, we've got work to do; there is no question about that. If we focus, like the five "men of vision," our founders, on promoting sorghum, educating others about the grain and influencing legislation, we'll continue to achieve their goal and far beyond.

The world of sorghum has changed a bit since 1955, but my goal as chairwoman isn't much different. My goal is to make sure sorghum is in every conversation: grain, feedstock, water, sustainability, biofuel, trade, food—you name it; I want us to be there.

Sorghum checks every box to be at every table. But to be at every table and in every conversation, we need you, our members. It's plain and simple; we can't do it without you. Agriculture isn't agriculture without farmers, and National Sorghum Producers isn't NSP if we don't have sorghum members.

I would encourage you to come alongside and support us as we do our best to fight for sorghum and agriculture. We value your input and your support. Thank you to those who have been with us through the years, and if you are new around here, welcome, give us a call, send us an email and introduce yourself! We'd love to hear from you!

Finally, my journey might look different because I got here on a different path. I don't expect anything out of the ordinary, and I hope that as my heels fill these boots, I do it in a way that continues sorghum down a productive, effective path and, most importantly, upholds sorghum's great name and those who blazed the trail before me.

Amy France, Chair





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ON THE COVER: Verity Ulibarri represented U.S. agriculture at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, advocating for climate-smart farming and highlighting sorghum's environmental benefits worldwide.



## Counting Crops and Counting on Data: Why NASS Surveys Matter Part II

By Sydney Lundberg

In the summer issue of *Sorghum Grower*, we highlighted the importance of NASS surveys and the reluctance by many growers to share personal data.

In this second installment of Counting Crops and Counting on Data, we will further explore the critical roles NASS surveys play in shaping agricultural policy, specifically sorghum policy, and address concerns about accuracy, demonstrating their value to farmers and the industry.

As agriculture has been pressing for reauthorization of the farm bill, one broad call to action given to farmers across the nation is to share your story. While this familiar message focuses on narrative, no good story is complete without numbers.

### Influencing Outcomes

As a producer, your data is used to influence farm programs and policy, making accurate data imperative. An envelope from USDA or a phone call from an agency number can easily be ignored, but the surveys conveyed by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) are a tool to share your story. Without farmer participation, the data collected presents an incomplete picture, which can lead to misinformed policies.

Here are some examples of reports that impact farmers and are utilized by other USDA agencies, policymakers, commodity traders and researchers.

- Future price projections by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) are informed by NASS data to provide accurate economic forecasts.
- Monthly World Agriculture Supply and Demand Reports (WASDE) utilize NASS data to monitor U.S. supply and production levels of commodities.
- Historical yields and production trends from NASS are used across USDA agencies for long-term planning and forecasting.
- The Agriculture Resource Management Survey (ARMS) uses data collected by NASS to determine production practices and resource uses of crops.
- Farm income and market trend analysis by the Economic Research Service (ERS) relies on NASS data for accurate assessments.
- Price election methodology developed by RMA incorporates NASS data to set reference prices for crop insurance.



- Production cost estimates created by ERS use NASS data to analyze the financial impact of different crops to farming operations.
- NASS data is analyzed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to evaluate the effectiveness of conservation programs and environmental initiatives.

While the list above may not directly impact the day-to-day aspects of your operation, it does influence critical outcomes. The data in these reports provides quantitative reasoning to ongoing policy discussions, including farm bill, disaster and economic assistance, and 45Z rulemaking.

### Sorghum Farmers Urged to Accurately Complete USDA ARMS Survey by April 2025

Looking ahead, USDA is currently conducting the Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS), a critical tool that informs the GREET (Greenhouse gases, Regulated Emissions, and Energy use in Technologies) model. The GREET model is instrumental in calculating the Section 45Z Clean Fuel Production Credit, which can provide significant financial benefits to producers of clean fuels. Why your accurate input matters:

- **Impact on Clean Fuel Credits:** The data you provide in the ARMS survey directly influences the GREET model's calculations. This, in turn, affects the determination of the Clean Fuel Production Credit under Section 45Z.
- **Nitrogen Application is Key:** Nitrogen application accounts for approximately 77% of the carbon footprint in these calculations. Recent studies indicate that the average nitrogen application rate is about 0.9 pounds per bushel.

NSP strongly encourages all farmers to carefully and accurately report their nitrogen application rates and other relevant data in the ARMS survey. Your precise input ensures the GREET model reflects true industry practices, which can benefit both your operation and the sorghum industry as a whole. The ARMS survey is currently distributed and will run through April 2025.

In the early 1990s the response rate for NASS crop surveys was 80-85%. Today, that rate is 50-60%. Robust participation from the sorghum community is needed. Your data supports market stability, decreases information asymmetry and broadly impacts policy changes NSP is working hard on your behalf to create. Help us achieve that goal. 🙌

### Farm Bill Push During Lame Duck

By Sydney Lundberg

The 118th Congress has been characterized by political divides and partisan gridlocks, which have led to reliance on stop-gap measures for significant legislation, including the farm bill.

In the fall of 2023, the 2018 Farm Bill was given a one-year extension. Over the past year, the House successfully passed its version of the legislation through committee and Senate Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Ranking Member John Boozman (R-AR) released their respective bill frameworks. As September 30 has come and gone and the 2018 Farm Bill has expired, many are left wondering, what now?

For farmers, the delay in authorizing the farm bill does more than create legislative uncertainty. It limits the ability to make long-term business decisions. From securing loans to managing equipment investments, uncertainty trickles down to the very operations that keep American agriculture moving forward.

Regardless of industry specific challenges faced over the past several years, farmers still require policies to improve commodity support. In terms of purchasing power, a dollar today is only worth 80% of what it was when the now expired farm bill was authorized in December of 2018. This alone makes a case for reauthorization, but recent challenges, including tightened financial margins and natural disasters, amplify the need.

It is important to note that farm commodity support programs are authorized on the basis of crop years. This means while certain key provisions under the 2018 Farm Bill expired on September 30, safety net support continues for all crops harvested in 2024.

Although these measures remain, the structure of commodity programs such as ARC and PLC have timeline delays and farmers will not realize payments for the 2024 crop year until October 2026. Given the current state of the farm economy, there has been a widespread



push for ad hoc disaster and economic assistance in conjunction with reauthorization of the farm bill before the year's end.

Under the published congressional calendar, there are a total of 20 days in November and December in which both the House and Senate will be in session. That means 20 days for the release and mark up of Senate bill text, floor consideration in both chambers, and conferencing to get a farm bill out of Congress for the President's signature.

Adding to the difficulty, the farm bill is one of several critical pieces of legislation that will need to be prioritized and passed in this short timeframe. While this may appear like a daunting task, it is not completely discouraging nor is it unprecedented. The 1970, 1990 and 2018 Farm Bills were each enacted during a lame duck Congress.

Despite the obstacles, there remains hope for enactment of a farm bill in 2024. That is why the National Sorghum Producers, and the broader agricultural community, remain steadfast. NSP grower leadership and staff continue to advocate on Capitol Hill, pushing for policies that advance sorghum's priorities and voicing the urgency for a farm bill. 🙌

*(Information provided as of Nov. 1, 2024)*



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# Connecting the Lab and the Farm Gate: What's in Store for the Next Decade of Sorghum Improvement

By Adam York, Kansas Sorghum Producers CEO

One decade ago, the U.S. sorghum industry made a statement through the launch of an innovative public-private partnership housed at Kansas State University. Today, we know this collaborative effort as the industry's signature 10-year crop improvement venture, the Collaborative Sorghum Investment Program, or simply CSIP for short.

Working together, farmers, researchers and private-sector companies have been busy transforming the paradigms of sorghum improvement from a posture of an under-researched crop over the last century into a powerhouse platform to funnel the next generation of sorghum research infrastructure.

Launched in 2016, CSIP grew from a shared vision: to elevate sorghum's yield, demand and value. The collaborative partnership, forged between the United Sorghum Check-off Program, the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission, K-State and the State of Kansas through the Kansas Department of Agriculture, has since become a catalyst for innovation and advancement for sorghum, not just from within Kansas—the Sorghum State—but across the U.S. and around the world with a global network of sorghum scientists.

In a nutshell, CSIP is a keystone initiative housed at a “Purple Insti-

tution,” but it works with public research universities regardless of their mascots; raising the tide for the sorghum farmer by advancing sorghum technology is paramount.

## Seeds of Success through Deepening Roots

CSIP's approach is rooted in a deep understanding of the challenges facing the sorghum industry. Chief among them, securing and leveraging additional funding sources for sorghum improvement.

Guided by its board of directors, which includes current representatives from the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission, United Sorghum Checkoff and K-State, CSIP coordinates farmer-funded investments with public researchers guided by private company outcomes.

Simply put, the program scales out strategies to address demand, value and yield challenges head-on. From coordinating new herbicide-tolerant varieties to synthesizing agronomic impacts and stressors, CSIP's efforts have already yielded tangible results into farmers' seed bags even beyond the initial 2016 vision for the program.

One of the program's significant achievements has been the identification and development of sorghum varieties with increased yield and water efficiency by boosting the crop's inherent trait known as limited transpiration. Identification of other high impact traits have been important as well, including sorghum aphid (formerly identified as sugarcane aphid) tolerance, cold season tolerance, genetics for stable height and staygreen, and more. Facilitating scientific identification of high impact traits valued by both farmers and seed companies is just part of the puzzle, linking those traits to the market comes next.

That's when commercial translation begins by working with seed companies to package these traits back to sorghum farmers. Clearly, these breakthroughs are not only boosting farmers' profits but also contributing to more sustainable agri-

cultural practices and gleaning data for capturing value in new ecosystem service markets, like the bioethanol and consumer packaged goods sectors. The efforts have attracted direct attention from major players in food and ag investment.

## Pointing STRAIT

Just last year in 2023, CSIP coordinated the launch of Sorghum Trait (STRAIT) Collaborative Innovation Network (KIN). The initiative, funded with a USDA-NIFA grant, is working to establish a public-private network encompassing public researchers and private seed companies to more rapidly transcend discovery of new seed traits to the seed bag.

CSIP and its partners contrived the STRAIT KIN as the network will expedite delivery of new sorghum aphid tolerance in seed technologies. The successes of public-private partnership approaches with the

sorghum aphid project gave partners the confidence and eagerness to continue identifying where we can partner to accelerate improvement in sorghum genetics.

Altogether, the traits in the pipeline include added sorghum aphid tolerance, chilling and post-flowering drought tolerance, and a suite of traits that support designing a sorghum hybrid possessing genetic controls for height and maturity. Those of us engaged with CSIP find the boundless potential for the next 10 years of sorghum improvement under CSIP extremely exciting.

## A Vision of the Future

From the beginning, U.S. sorghum farmers have guided CSIP from an idea to a reality and continue to provide farmer vision for the future of sorghum improvement under its capable hands. As the original scope of CSIP reaches its sunset in Spring

2025, CSIP's impact on the sorghum industry remains substantial.

For many sorghum farmers, the success of the program begs the question—why stop here? The answer is simple—we keep going. As readers receive this season's Sorghum Grower magazine, strategic efforts have been underway for months to continue and even accelerate CSIP for the next decade and for the next generation of sorghum farmers.

So, to any sorghum farmers reading this article in the year 2035 who will no doubt have benefitted from the over-two-decades of laser-focused sorghum industry collaboration bringing 21st century sorghum crop tech into the fold, we hope you take time to appreciate the foundational steps of the various sorghum leaders and stakeholders in 2016 and beyond who provided a guiding vision for the future of sorghum through CSIP. Now that was a smart choice. 🌾

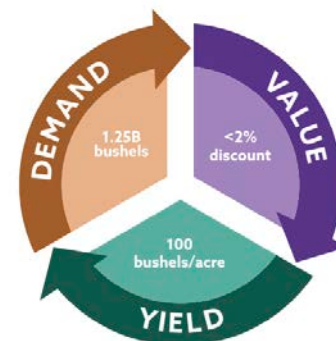


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**The CSIP goal is to enhance sorghum yield, demand and value.**





# 2024 Top Tier

*Legislative Supporting Members*  
of the National Sorghum Producers

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Clint France - Scott City, KS  
Scott Frazier - Chapman Ranch, TX  
Matthew Lansford - Clovis, NM  
Brant & Amy Peterson - Johnson, KS  
J.B. Stewart - Keyes, OK  
Todd Straley - Plainview, TX  
Verity Ulibarri - Clovis, NM

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Daniel Atkisson - Stockton, KS	Darrell Lawhon, Bishop TX
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Nathan Boardman - Crosbyton TX	Meeker Farms - Wellington, KS
Dustin Borden - Gruver, TX	Aaron Paris - Dighton, KS
James Born - Booker, TX	Nicholas Pinkston - Sinton, TX
Chris Cogburn - Hale Center, TX	Todd Pope - Shallowater, TX
Larry Dahlsten - Lindsborg, KS	Leon Richards - Turpin, OK
Marvin Estes - Melrose, NM	Rex Rush - Clovis, NM
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Don Hineman - Dighton, KS	Kirk Zerr - Quinter, KS
Donald Houser - Taft, TX	Jeff Zortman - Fowler, KS
Doug Keesling - Chase, KS	

*Each year, we recognize the members who pay dues beyond the contributor level. Thank you to the above members for your generous support of NSP.*

# NSP Member Testimonials

*"NSP does a great job of working on behalf of sorghum producers. They work tirelessly to open new markets and encourage alternative uses for sorghum. They also speak and act very effectively on behalf of sorghum producers to encourage a favorable regulatory and tax environment, which recognizes the unique characteristics of sorghum."*

**Don Hineman - Dighton, Kansas**

*"I have been involved with NSP for over 30 years and have found them to be very helpful to the sorghum industry. They have worked with RMA to improve crop insurance for sorghum producers. They have also worked with congressional leaders to improve the position of sorghum within the farm bills. They have spent many hours working to make sure we continue to have access to old and new herbicides. I feel they are a very effective organization in working with government leaders and regulators especially considering their size compared to others."*

**Leon Richards - Turpin, Oklahoma**

*"NSP has been a very effective voice in helping our legislators understand our needs. The organization has helped to expand our markets both nationally and internationally, and the research done on sorghum production has been critical in our profitability. Our industry wouldn't be where it is today without the tireless effort of Tim Lust and many others."*

**Marvin Estes - Melrose, New Mexico**

*"I had an insurance issue with seed sorghum several years ago. NSP helped me get it fixed for all producers, and they provide good representation with government agencies. I paid my dues even if I did not produce sorghum most years. I believe they are a great advocate for agriculture in general and are a great help with agriculture legislation, especially pertaining to farm bills. They truly have the producer's best interest at heart."*

**Kevin Belt - Plainview, Texas**

## Join Us

Individual members are the heart and soul of the National Sorghum Producers. NSP exists to serve sorghum farmers and act as the voice of the industry through legislative and regulatory representation. Your support is critical to our success. Will you join us? Scan the QR code >>> to become a member of NSP.





## Cajun Kettle Sorghum Mix

**PREP TIME:** 25 Minutes

**YIELD:** Approx. 16- ½ cup servings

**MAKE TIME:** 1 Hour 15 Minutes

**SORGHUM FORM:**

Popped Whole Grain,  
Syrup

### INGREDIENTS:

- 4 cups popped sorghum
- 1 ½ cups bacon, cooked until crispy, chopped
- 1 ½ cups pecans, wholes or halves, toasted
- 8 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 cup light brown sugar
- ¼ cup sorghum syrup
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- 2 tablespoons Creole seasoning, optional

### INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1 Preheat oven to 250°F.
- 2 In a large bowl, combine the popped sorghum, chopped bacon and pecans. Set aside.
- 3 In a large saucepan, melt the butter over medium heat, add the brown sugar and sorghum syrup. Bring to a boil and let boil for about 3 minutes then turn off the heat.
- 4 Add the baking powder, incorporating thoroughly and carefully as the mixture will bubble and rise.
- 5 Once combined, pour the caramel mixture over the popped sorghum mix. Stir well to thoroughly coat the dry mix.
- 6 Spread the mixture in an even layer onto a baking tray lined with parchment paper and lightly sprayed with cooking spray.
- 7 Put the tray in the oven for approximately 1 hour, stirring it every 10-15 minutes. When done the mix should be crisp and the caramel should be set and crystalized onto the dry mix, it will get crunchier as it cools.
- 8 Sprinkle the Creole seasoning across the mix and toss to coat. Serve with your favorite snacks, drinks and family fun!



## Sorghum Biscuits with Sorghum Sausage Gravy

### Sorghum All Purpose Flour Blend:

2 cups pearled sorghum flour, 1 cup corn starch, ½ teaspoon xanthan gum

First, combine the pearled sorghum flour, corn starch and xanthan gum in a medium-sized bowl and whisk together. After it has all been combined, sift the mixture into an airtight container.

### INGREDIENTS:

#### Sorghum Biscuit Ingredients:

- 2 ½ cups Sorghum All Purpose Flour Blend, plus extra for folding (see recipe above)
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- 1 ½ teaspoons salt
- 1 stick unsalted butter, cold
- 3 tablespoons sour cream
- 1 ¼ cups buttermilk
- Milk, for brushing, as needed

#### Sorghum Sausage Gravy Ingredients:

- 1 pound breakfast sausage
- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- 4 tablespoons whole grain sorghum flour
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper, ground
- 2 tablespoons corn starch
- 3 ½ cups milk

**PREP TIME:** 15 Minutes

**YIELD:** Approx. 4-6 biscuits

**MAKE TIME:** 1 Hour

**SORGHUM FORM:** Flour

### SORGHUM BISCUIT INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1 Preheat the oven to 425°F.
- 2 Whisk together the Sorghum All Purpose Flour Blend, baking powder, baking soda and salt in a large bowl.
- 3 Cut the butter into small cubes, then using a fork or dough cutter/blender, cut the butter into the flour mixture until the butter is about the size of a pea. Place the mixture into the freezer for 15 minutes.
- 4 Once cooled, fold the sour cream into the flour mixture until combined. Add the buttermilk, stirring until a dough is formed.
- 5 Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface, gently press out and fold the dough a couple times to create layers.
- 6 Roll the dough out to 1 1/2- 2 inch thickness.
- 7 Cut out biscuits with a floured 2-inch round cutter and place them on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
- 8 Fold and form the remaining dough together to create more biscuits.
- 9 Brush the top of the biscuits with milk. Bake for 15 minutes, or until golden browned and fluffy, rotating the pan halfway through baking and brushing once more, if desired.
- 10 Serve warm with gluten-free sorghum sausage gravy, butter, jam or your favorite filling.

### SORGHUM SAUSAGE GRAVY INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1 In a large skillet over medium-high heat cook the sausage until browned and fat has rendered, about 8 minutes.
- 2 Add the butter to the cooked sausage and stir until the butter is melted.
- 3 Combine the flour, salt and pepper in a small bowl and pour over the sausage mixture, stirring constantly to combine. Reduce heat to medium-low.
- 4 Whisk the cornstarch into the milk, add the milk in 4 increments, while stirring constantly.
- 5 Continue cooking, stirring constantly until the mixture is thickened to your desired texture. If the mixture gets too thick, add milk to thin to your preferred consistency, if the mixture is too thin, thicken with additional cornstarch slurry as needed by adding 1 tablespoon of cornstarch to ½ cup of milk and adding to the simmering gravy in small increments to thicken to desired texture.
- 6 Remove from heat, taste and season to your preference.
- 7 Cover, and hold warm or refrigerate and hold for up to a week.



### Sign up for the Simply Sorghum Newsletter!

Discover new recipes, nutritional tips and the latest updates on sorghum. From delicious meal ideas to pantry staples, we'll show you how to make sorghum a part of your lifestyle!





## Likely Not All Crop Insurance Proceeds Can Be Deferred This Year

By Paul Neiffer, CPA

**M**any sorghum farmers will collect crop insurance this year, and it is likely part of these proceeds can be deferred to 2025, but not all. The portion related to yield losses can be deferred while the portion related to price cannot.

I actually am collecting crop insurance on my wheat ground in eastern Washington, but in my case, I will not be able to defer any of the proceeds since it is all related to price, not damage. My final yields were all greater than my APH, but the price of wheat had dropped sufficient enough to generate a claim.

The rules are that crop insurance proceeds can be deferred a year after damage for cash basis farmers who typically sell more than 50% of their crops in the year after harvest.

Revenue protection crop insurance is based both on price and yield. If the claim is based solely on yield losses, then this can be deferred. If the claim is based solely on price (such as my claim), then none of it can be deferred. Typically, it is a combination of both, so part of it can be deferred.

Harvest prices have been determined for some locations while other locations are now in the process of determining harvest prices. The insured's guarantee, harvested yield and harvest price will all factor into the indemnity calculation and how much of that indemnity can be deferred.

Let's review an example that may apply to sorghum farmers this year.

*Eric's APH on his sorghum is 50 bushels per acre, and the discovery price is \$4.67. He elects to cover the crop at the 85% level; therefore, his crop insurance guarantee is \$198.48. His final yield is 40 bushels and the final harvest price is \$4.29, which results in harvest revenue of \$171.60. He will receive \$26.88 per acre.*

The price component is based on total harvest bushels of 40 multiplied by the difference in price of \$.38



(\$4.67-\$4.29) or \$15.20. This amount can't be deferred in 2024, while \$11.68 per acre can be deferred.

Note this example is based on how most crop insurance companies calculate the portion related to price and the portion related to yield.

Many more farmers have taken advantage of SCO, ECO, Whole Farm revenue protection or other products where the payment is received in the year after harvest. None of this income can be deferred a year since it is already received in the year after "damage."

There is chatter about an ad hoc program for 2023, or even 2024. Likely none of these proceeds can be deferred either since the payment is at least one year after the damage actually occurred.

Farmers who collect prevent plant payments typically can defer 100% of those proceeds.

Your crop insurance company will usually provide a listing of the payment related to yield and price on the check they issue or will provide you with the 1099.

We are surprised that the IRS has not updated the Form 1099 to require the crop insurance companies to break out the price portion. That may happen in the future.

*Paul Neiffer, CPA, a tax principal, is an agribusiness and business adviser specializing in income taxation and accounting services related to farmers and processors. He's a member and past chair of the Farm Financial Standards Council and authors a monthly column for Top Producer magazine called "The Farm CPA."*



## Reminder! Farmers Must Comply with Corporate Transparency Act Taking Effect January 1, 2025

The Corporate Transparency Act (CTA), enacted into law in 2021, mandates that U.S.-registered businesses report information on individuals who benefit from the business as owners or investors. This includes farms and agribusinesses structured as LLCs, corporations, or limited partnerships with fewer than 20 full-time employees or less than \$5 million in gross receipts. Failure to seek an exemption or submit a Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI) form to the U.S. Department of Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) by January 1, 2025, can result in civil penalties of up to \$500 per day and criminal penalties of up to two years imprisonment. Farmers are urged to understand the CTA's implications and consult with their Secretary of State office or a legal adviser to ensure compliance. Learn more in the Summer issue of *Sorghum Grower*.

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Photo by U.S. Grains Council

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# Sorghum's Leading Lady

## How Verity Ulibarri Champions Agriculture at Home and Abroad

By Jennifer Warren

Standing on the edge of the Caprock in eastern New Mexico, Verity Ulibarri is reminded of what makes her home unique—a vast landscape where the land drops dramatically and the sky stretches endlessly. When a Chinese trade delegation recently visited, marveling at the breathtaking view and snapping selfies close to the edge, Verity saw her home through their eyes. It reinforced the importance of sharing this unique place—and the story of U.S. sorghum—with people around the world.

"They thought that was just awesome," she said with a laugh. "We take it for granted when we're used to it."

Verity wears many hats: mother, wife, sorghum producer, agricultural lender and global agriculture ambassador. As the past chairwoman of the United Sorghum Checkoff Program and current chairwoman of the U.S. Grains Council, she's traveled the world representing U.S. agriculture. Yet, it's the support from her family and her community that keeps her grounded.

Anthony, who grew up in Anton Chico, New Mexico, brought his own experiences, having worked on his grandfather's hay farm along the Pecos River. Together, they combined their skills and passions.

"Within that amount of time, through my job, I'd managed to save up some money," Verity said. "We were able to start with at least some level of capital to start our business."

Starting from scratch wasn't easy. "It's wild to think how far we've come," she reflected on their journey. "At times it seemed like it's been forever, and I wish we could have done more, and other times I wouldn't have thought we'd have accomplished what we could within a 10-year timeframe."

Their success is a testament not just to hard work but also to strategic planning. Verity's off-farm job provided a safety net, as she called it.

"It helped us grow, and also being involved in the producer organizations helped me build a network," she said. "Even just from a knowledge or mentorship standpoint, it helped keep my passion for what we do alive."

### Roots in Eastern New Mexico

Growing up on a farm in eastern New Mexico, Verity's childhood was filled with days driving the tractor, working cattle and cherishing moments with her dad, she recalled.

"I really enjoyed it," she said. "Especially because that was the one time in which I could spend time with my dad and have that connection."

Despite her love for the farm, Verity knew she needed to broaden her horizons. She pursued a finance degree, believing that understanding business administration would open doors, whether in agriculture or elsewhere. Her first job out of college was with Farm Credit of New Mexico, tying her back to her agricultural roots.

"It was serving that mission, which I really enjoyed," she said. "But I still had a goal of trying to get involved in production agriculture somehow myself."

### Building a Farming Partnership

When Verity married her husband Anthony, they shared a dream of starting their own farming operation.

### Stepping Into Leadership

Verity's path to leadership began with attending the New Mexico Sorghum Association annual meetings with her family. As she became more invested in their own farm, she recognized the importance of having a voice in the industry. Verity found her niche in promoting the farm story and building networks.

"I enjoy being out and about with people," she said. "I see that as part of what I provide value for—not just doing paperwork and bookkeeping—but being able to do what I can with my skill sets to not just further what we can on our farm, but represent local farmers."

Verity describes her time with the Sorghum Checkoff from 2014 to 2020 as one where the board of directors took risks and thought about the bigger picture, which helped propel the organization and the industry forward.

"The Checkoff is a small organization when you compare it to budget size and people that are involved relative



Photo by U.S. Grains Council

SORGHUM Grower Fall 2024

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When you answer that calling, you have a responsibility to make a difference – not just for yourself, but for an entire sector, community and industry – but ultimately for your family and our future generations.”

mitigating hazards while having extreme amounts of capital at risk and hoping for the best to build a brighter future- it's a higher calling,” Verity said in a Council statement announcing her election. “When you answer that calling, you have a responsibility to make a difference – not just for yourself, but for an entire sector, community and industry – but ultimately for your family and our future generations.”

### Global Experiences

Verity's leadership roles have taken her across the globe. She's traveled to 12 countries and witnessed firsthand the importance of global trade and the challenges faced by farmers worldwide. One of her most memorable experiences took place in Kenya, visiting a feed store.

“Everything was so analog,” she recalled of the mom-and-pop store, “but yet they had a way in which they could process electronic payments. It was striking, and allowed me to really connect that dot.”

She observed that while technology like electronic payments was in place, much of the infrastructure was vastly different from what she's accustomed to in the U.S.

“As a producer in the U.S., we're not really aware all the time of how efficient our food and production systems are,” Verity said. “We do things at an extreme economy of scale.”

to other organizations out there,” she said. “It's amazing how effective you can be if you're willing to step out and take risks and focus on the important things, but also be willing to look ahead and just put yourself out there.”

Verity was elected in July 2024 as chairwoman of the U.S. Grains Council and is focused on increasing awareness of the importance of trade and moving commodities in a higher value form to provide opportunity for increased producer profitability.

“I feel this industry –farming, in particular; getting your hands dirty, praying for favorable weather, and managing and

This experience highlighted for Verity the complexities of global trade and the disparities in infrastructure.

“We can desire to move the products at high volumes,” she said, “but in some market destinations, challenges with logistics or consistent access to credit make trading higher volumes tough.”

Understanding these differences reinforced the importance of considering cultural and infrastructural contexts in the work she does at the helm of the U.S. Grains Council.

Another one of Verity's most profound experiences was representing U.S. agriculture at the United Nations 2022 Climate Change Conference, known as COP27, in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, and again at the 2023 conference, COP28, in Dubai, India.

In Egypt, Ulibarri spoke to the climate-smart benefits of sorghum and showcased how U.S. sorghum farmers are poised to preserve the world and conserve resources with the help of National Sorghum Producers' \$65 million USDA Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities grant initiative.

“There's a lot of opinions about what the U.N. may or may not do,” she said. “But it is important people in the agriculture sector have a voice in that because people need to eat and consume energy in various forms.”

### A Sense of Purpose

These combined experiences have deepened Verity's appreciation for her role advocating for sorghum and the importance of U.S. agriculture.

“It gives you a sense of purpose, and it's something bigger than yourself,” she said. “We are a small piece of that but a very important piece.”

Balancing her international commitments with family life is no small feat, she said, adding, “I wouldn't be able to do anything if it wasn't for Anthony who holds the fort down when I'm gone with the kids and school and all of that.”

Their children, Atlas, 11, and Valkyrie, 7, are beginning to understand their mother's work, though sometimes with amusing skepticism.

“Atlas said, ‘Well, do you get paid to do that job?’” she laughed, responding, “‘No.’ And he's asked, ‘Well, why would you do that then? You do all that for free?’ I'm trying to explain why anyone would do that, but he's beginning to understand and is supportive.”

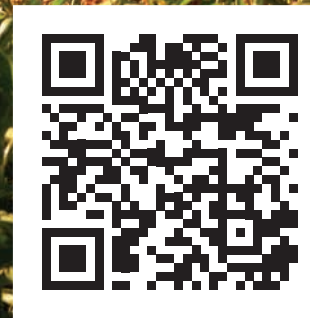
Verity said she does it because she believes in the mission of the U.S. Grains Council—developing markets, enabling trade and improving lives—and is doing what she can to cultivate the future for generations to come by fostering relationships across borders. ♣

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### REASONS TO GROW

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- ✔ Wide adaptation.
- ✔ Short growing season.
- ✔ Versatile planting dates.

### WHEN TO PLANT

- When soil temps reach 60° – 65°F for three consecutive days (~30 days after last frost).

### SOIL FERTILITY

- Soil pH should be ≥ 5.7.
- Must use a starter fertilizer if planting no-till.
- Apply P and K according to soil test recommendations.
- 120 to 150 pounds of N per acre is adequate to produce maximum yields.

### DISEASE MANAGEMENT

- Choose foliar fungicides based on local recommendations.
- Select hybrids that are tolerant of fusarium head mold, stalk rot, anthracnose, and other diseases prevalent in your area.
- Manage charcoal rot through stress elimination and crop rotation.

### HARVEST

- Grain sorghum reaches maturity when it's at 25% – 30% moisture.
- Ideal harvest moisture range is below 20%.
- Store grain sorghum at 13% moisture or below.

### WEED CONTROL

- Base practices on your area's predominant grassy and broadleaf weeds.
- Atrazine is usually the active ingredient in grain sorghum weed control.

### INSECT MANAGEMENT

- Apply insecticide once for full-season sorghum and twice for double crops.
- Main pests are corn earworms, fall armyworms, sorghum midge, and stink bugs.
- Scout regularly to proactively prevent insect feeding damage.

Learn more about grain sorghum management, talk to your Pioneer seed representative or visit [Pioneer.com/Sorghum](https://Pioneer.com/Sorghum).

Source: [https://www.pioneer.com/us/agronomy/grain\\_sorghum\\_mgmt\\_cropfocus.html](https://www.pioneer.com/us/agronomy/grain_sorghum_mgmt_cropfocus.html).



# Bringing Satellite Technology Down to Earth for Sorghum Farmers

By Jennifer Warren

When most people think of NASA, they envision space travel and distant planets. However, NASA's Earth Science Division is turning its gaze back home, focusing on the planet it knows best: Earth.

At the forefront of this initiative is NASA Acres, a program dedicated to applying satellite data and Earth science research to benefit U.S. agriculture. For sorghum producers, this means new tools and partnerships that could revolutionize farming practices.

"We bring together farmers and leading researchers from across the country to build together a more productive, resilient and sustainable food system," NASA Acres Director Alyssa Whitcraft said.

## Bridging the Gap Between Space and Soil

NASA Acres was established in 2022 as a U.S.-focused program to complement NASA Harvest, which began in 2017 with a global scope. Both programs aim to utilize satellite data to improve agricultural practices, but NASA Acres zeroes in on domestic needs.

"The foundational side of science is improving the methods we have to measure how the sea surface height or measuring how glaciers are changing over time," Whitcraft said. "But then there's the side that's applied—taking the research, the data, the tools and putting them into action for impact."

One of the key motivations for NASA Acres is the significant advancements in satellite technology over the past decade. With satellites like Landsat and Sentinel providing higher-resolution imagery more frequently, the data is now more applicable to agriculture than ever before.

"Now, we can see approximately every 0.25 acre on Earth every two and a half to four days, on average," Whitcraft said, noting that other satellites can capture an image a few times per day in about 60 acre chunks. "Even if you have a couple of cloudy days, you're still able to track how the growing season is changing."

## A Four-Pronged Approach to Agricultural Innovation

NASA Acres operates on four core efforts:

- **Improving Mapping Methods:** Enhancing techniques to map farm-level details, allowing for better yield forecasting and understanding of natural and management dynamics of individual fields.
- **Building Understanding:** Combining those maps to create new knowledge about agricultural practices, such as the impacts of cover crop adoption on yield.
- **Integrating Data into Tools:** Working with existing tools that farmers use, assimilating NASA's data to improve decision-making processes.
- **Establishing a Trust Infrastructure:** Building relationships with farmers, hearing their needs and concerns, and constructing legal frameworks to ensure farmers feel secure sharing their data.

"We have to have training data that's ag data, often farm data, to answer the questions that farmers are coming to us with," Whitcraft said, emphasizing the importance of trust in working with farmers. "Farmers are like, 'Why do you want my data? What are you going to do with it?' These are fair questions, I'd ask them, too. We have to build this trust infrastructure."

## Collaboration with National Sorghum Producers

The partnership between NASA Acres and the National Sorghum Producers (NSP) began earlier this year at the Commodity Classic where NASA had a booth.

"We met with NSP representatives and found we had similar perspectives and curiosities," Whitcraft recalled. "It kind of grew from there."

One of the initial projects involves working with General Mills and focuses on using satellite data to monitor sorghum fields participating in climate-smart commodity initiatives in southwest Kansas.

The project aims to develop a dashboard that uses Earth observation (EO) data to monitor the sorghum-winter wheat rotation in nine counties, including Trego, Ellis, Ness, Rush, Hodgeman, Pawnee, Ford, Edwards and Kiowa.

"We will develop a dashboard to use EO data to monitor the sorghum-winter wheat rotation," sorghum project lead Ritvik Sahajpal of NASA Acres said. "The EO datasets will include satellite imagery-based vegetation health indicators, temperature and precipitation information, and data on soil moisture and crop stress related to water availability."

The dashboard will be regularly updated throughout the growing season, leveraging NASA's experience in building dashboards for monitoring crop conditions at regional scales as part of the GEOGLAM-NASA Harvest Agrometeorological (AgMet) EO Indicators initiative.

"Scientific studies have demonstrated the value of EO data in building predictive models of crop yield, and this dashboard will help develop an intuitive understanding of how variations in the EO indicators influence crop growth," Sahajpal said.

## How Satellite Imagery Enhances Understanding of Sorghum Yields

Satellite imagery allows for visualization of fields in different wavelengths, especially the near-infrared (NIR) band, which is well-suited to monitor crop health. Healthier plants reflect more NIR while absorbing more red light, and indicators like the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) use these wavelengths to assess vegetation health.

"High values of these indicators are correlated with higher end-of-season crop yields, and low values can help in identifying stressed areas," Sahajpal explained.

The findings from this project are expected to benefit

farmers by providing valuable, practical information on crop conditions in their region.

"The dashboard can help farmers visualize the main drivers of crop growth and how they are changing over the course of the growing season," Sahajpal said. "While the dashboard is developed at an aggregate county level and does not directly reflect what is happening on the agricultural field, it can still provide valuable information on crop conditions in the surrounding region as well as assist in decisions related to when to harvest and how much to invest in various farming inputs."

This project not only addresses immediate needs but also sets the stage for future applications of satellite imagery in agriculture.

## Collaborative Efforts and Unique Partnerships

NASA Acres collaborates with organizations like NSP and companies like General Mills through a unique structure of public-private partnerships.

"We have a unique structure of public-private partnerships, allowing us to collaborate with private sector entities like General Mills and NSP, and rapidly iterating on project ideas and bringing them to fruition," Sahajpal said.

To further bridge the gap between satellite technology and on-the-ground farming, NASA Acres is launching the Farm Innovation Ambassador Team (FIAT).

"FIAT is a program of early adopter farmers who want to use satellite data, who want to be leaders in that field, and who want to bring that benefit to their broader community," Whitcraft said.

The program will involve high-touch collaboration where farmers drive the research based on their needs. By integrating satellite data with agronomic expertise, the goal is to develop practical solutions that farmers can readily adopt.

NASA Acres is in its initial five-year award period but has ambitious plans for the future. One key metric for success is the practical adoption of satellite data by farmers.

"We're launching FIAT to help us understand better what we should do, what we can do and help build the utility of satellite data not just for farmers but with farmers," Whitcraft said. "They're driving that boat, so to speak."

## A Vision for the Future

As satellite technology continues to advance, the potential applications in agriculture are vast. Whitcraft envisions a future where satellite data is seamlessly integrated into farming practices, benefiting not just individual producers but the entire agricultural community.

"We hope it becomes very grassroots and the lessons percolate upward, as opposed to the direction coming downward," she said.

With initiatives like NASA Acres and partnerships with organizations like NSP, the future of sorghum farming could be looking up—literally. 🌱



## Sorghum Can Fill a Need for Growers in 2025

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

**P**ersistent drought, high temperatures, soaring input costs and poor commodity prices have created challenges for all crops. With this outlook, grain sorghum emerges as an attractive option for the 2025 planting season, offering advantages such as lower input costs, crop rotation benefits and resilience to drought.

**Economic benefits:** Low seed costs and input efficiency

One of the primary reasons to consider grain sorghum is its cost-effectiveness. Sorghum seed is significantly less expensive compared to other crops with costs ranging from \$6-\$19 per acre, depending on seeding rate and desired seed treatments.

Sorghum has relatively few insect and disease issues. Hybrids with sorghum aphid tolerance have greatly reduced the need for an insecticide application. When aphids do reach threshold levels, they can be effectively controlled with Sivanto Prime, Transform or Sefina insecticides.

Foliar diseases are seldom a problem in the Great Plains region with its dry climate. In wetter regions, such as the Southeast, anthracnose is the No. 1 disease that infects sor-

ghum. Selecting a hybrid with good anthracnose tolerance can go a long way in avoiding this disease.

### Sorghum in crop rotation:

Yield benefits for other crops

Sorghum's advantages extend beyond cost savings; it also provides substantial benefits when used in crop rotations with cotton, soybeans and even corn. Rotating crops can improve soil health, break disease cycles and increase yields.

- 1. Cotton rotation:** Sorghum plays an important role in breaking soil disease cycles, particularly for verticillium wilt, a common issue in cotton. Additionally, sorghum residue after harvest enhances soil moisture retention and helps protect emerging cotton seedlings from wind damage. A 2017 study by Texas A&M University found that cotton yields increased by 26% when rotated with sorghum compared to continuous cotton planting.
- 2. Soybean rotation:** In a multiyear trial conducted near Mead, Nebraska, soybeans planted after

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sorghum experienced a 16.6% yield increase compared to continuous soybean planting. This increase in yield has been attributed to improved soil fertility, better physical properties of the soil, more effective weed control, and reduced diseases, nematodes and insect pests.

- 3. Corn rotation:** One of the more surprising findings for many growers is that corn also benefits from being rotated with sorghum. A five-year Kansas State University trial demonstrated that corn yields increased by 8.4% when following sorghum compared to continuous corn. These yield increases reflect the long-term benefits of improved soil health and nutrient cycling that sorghum introduces into a cropping system.

### Herbicide innovations and grass control

Grass control has traditionally been a challenge for growers considering sorghum. However, new herbicide technologies have significantly improved management options.

Non-GMO herbicide technologies like Double Team (S&W Seeds), igrowth (Advanta Seeds) and

Inzen (Corteva) have made it possible for farmers to effectively control grass, including volunteer corn, in their sorghum fields. This advancement removes a key obstacle that has deterred some growers from planting sorghum in the past.

### Irrigation efficiency and drought resilience

Sorghum is commonly planted as a dryland crop, but it can also thrive under limited irrigation. One of the crop's strengths is its ability to withstand short periods without water, making it a valuable addition to fields with variable water availability.

For example, growers may split a field between corn or cotton and sorghum, concentrating irrigation on water-sensitive crops while knowing that sorghum can wait a few extra days without suffering significant yield losses. This flexibility allows growers to optimize their water resources more effectively.

As growers prepare for 2025, sorghum offers a compelling case for inclusion in crop rotations. Its low seed costs, drought resilience and benefits in crop rotation provide both economic and agronomic advantages.

## USDA Announces United Sorghum Checkoff Program Board Appointments

**T**he U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced in October the appointment of four members to serve on the United Sorghum Checkoff Program's board of directors. All four appointees will serve three-year terms, which will begin December 2024.

Macey Mueller of Halstead, Kansas; Kim Baldwin of McPherson, Kansas; and Kevin Pshigoda of Perryton, Texas, were all reappointed to the board while Dale Stolfus of Schuylkill Haven, Pennsylvania, is a new appointment, at-large.

The 13-member United Sorghum Checkoff Program Board is composed of nine sorghum farmers who represent the three states with the largest sorghum production – Kansas, Texas and Oklahoma – and four at-large national representatives.

More information about the board is available on the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) United Sorghum Checkoff Program webpage and on the board's website, [sorghumcheckoff.com](http://sorghumcheckoff.com).



Pictured from left to right is Macey Mueller, Kim Baldwin, Kevin Pshigoda, Dale Stolfus



## Sorghum Checkoff Announces Leadership Sorghum Class VII

The United Sorghum Checkoff Program recently announced the members selected for Leadership Sorghum Class VII. This program, hosted by the Sorghum Checkoff, is designed to cultivate the next generation of leaders and advocates for the sorghum industry.

"The strength of the sorghum industry depends on developing leaders who can advocate for its future," Sorghum Checkoff Chairman Kendall Hodgson said. "With growing demand and evolving challenges in agriculture, Leadership Sorghum plays a vital role in preparing producers to represent and promote our industry with knowledge and confidence."

Seventeen farmers from nine states have been selected to participate in the program's seventh class:

- Nicholas Bridgeforth – Tanner, Alabama
- Dylan J. Moyer – Irvington, Illinois
- Jared Stegman – Dodge City, Kansas
- Lesley Schmidt – Spearville, Kansas
- Sydney Bacon – Salina, Kansas
- Weston Schmidt – Syracuse, Kansas
- Bryan Thomas – St. Charles, Missouri
- Camden Liska – Verdigre, Nebraska
- Brian Null – Hobart, Oklahoma
- Kyle Supplee – Thompsettown, Pennsylvania
- David Gunter – Lexington, South Carolina

- Carson Polasek – Tynan, Texas
- Daniel Sell – Booker, Texas
- Heath Heinrich – Slaton, Texas
- Matthew Bartek – La Grange, Texas
- Reagan Ivey – Robstown, Texas
- Will Braack – Hereford, Texas

"Leadership Sorghum is instrumental in shaping the future of our industry by equipping producers with the skills and knowledge needed to lead and advocate at every level," Leadership Sorghum program director Shelee Padgett said. "The leaders we develop today are vital to ensuring the success and growth of the sorghum industry tomorrow. We are excited to work with Class VII as they embark on this journey to strengthen both their operations and our collective voice."

Through a combination of hands-on experiences and classroom-style learning, participants will gain insight into the sorghum value chain, the role of checkoffs and advocacy groups in supporting the industry and the future outlook for the crop. Leadership Sorghum also offers opportunities for professional development and networking. The first session will take place Dec. 10-12, 2024, in Lubbock, Texas, during the Sorghum Checkoff board meeting. For more details about the Leadership Sorghum program, visit [LeadSorghum.com](http://LeadSorghum.com).

## Sorghum Checkoff Hosts National Media at Culinary Event in New York

In late September, the Sorghum Checkoff hosted an interactive culinary event at the top of the World Trade Center in New York City, inviting national food and health media and influencers, including representatives from the TODAY Show and Martha Stewart Living. The event highlighted sorghum's unique qualities and encouraged its use in culinary content. Checkoff board member Kim Baldwin and staff shared insights into sorghum's sustainability and nutritional benefits, aiming to raise awareness and appreciation for this versatile grain.

Guests enjoyed cooking demos by Corporate Chef Consultant Chase Obenchain and two-time Emmy winner and former Top Chef contestant Ryan Scott, showcasing sorghum's culinary poten-

tial. For more on sorghum's benefits, read Martha Stewart Living's article, visit [marthastewart.com/what-is-sorghum-8723400](http://marthastewart.com/what-is-sorghum-8723400).



Pictured from left to right is Chef Chase Obenchain, Lanier Dabruzzi, Chef Ryan Scott, Kim Baldwin, Clint White, Norma Ritz-Johnson

## Kady Figge Joins Sorghum Checkoff as New Communications Manager

This past summer, the United Sorghum Checkoff Program welcomed Kady Figge as its new Communications Manager. In this position, Figge plays a key role in the planning, development and execution of both internal and external communications for the Sorghum Checkoff. She oversees activities within the information, communication and education department and collaborates strategically with other program areas to enhance communication efforts. Additionally, Figge is leading various communication projects that align with the program's strategic communication plan.

"Kady's deep-rooted passion for agriculture and her diverse experience make her a fantastic addition to our team," Sorghum Checkoff Director of Communications Clint White said in a statement in July. "Her background in agricultural communications and hands-on experience in the industry will be invaluable in advancing our communication goals."

Figge's connection to agriculture runs deep. Growing up in Onaga, a small town in northeast Kansas, she spent much of her time on her fami-

ly's registered Angus cattle operation where she developed a strong foundation in agriculture. She actively participated in local, state and national cattle shows and honed her public speaking skills

through various contests. Her involvement in 4-H and FFA further fostered her love for agriculture.

She holds a bachelor's degree in agricultural communications and journalism from Kansas State University, where she also earned a secondary major in global food systems leadership with a focus on community engagement and minors in agricultural sales and animal sciences and industry. During her time at K-State, Figge was actively involved in organizations like the National Agri-Marketing Association, Agricultural Communicators

of Tomorrow and Sigma Alpha Professional Agricultural Sorority.

"I'm excited to be part of a team dedicated to advocating for the sorghum industry and supporting the farmers who drive it," Figge said. "I look forward to helping tell the story of sorghum and the incredible work of our producers."



### SORGHUM INDUSTRY EVENTS

**Nov 28-29** Thanksgiving Holiday  
Office Closed

**Dec 10-12** Leadership Sorghum Class VII – Session I  
Lubbock, Texas

**Dec 11-12** Sorghum Checkoff Annual Board Meeting  
Lubbock, Texas

For more events, visit [sorghumcheckoff.com/calendar](http://sorghumcheckoff.com/calendar)

### USCP MISSION

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



### CONTACT US

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# Sorghum Update

Brought to you by the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission

## Sorghum Connection Series Extends Support to Kansas Growers with Winter Series

By Maddy Meier

As sorghum harvest in Kansas continues to gain momentum, the Sorghum Connection Series remains committed to empowering the state's sorghum industry.

Launched in September in conjunction with the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission (KGSC), K-State Research and Extension and the K-State Department of Plant Pathology, this innovative and engaging programming provides a comprehensive Winter educational program to new, current, or returning sorghum farmers across Kansas.

Building on the success of its field day series earlier in the Fall, which focused on stalk rot prevention and producer profitability, the Sorghum Connection team offers an additional layer of multiple single-day events across central and western Kansas. The Winter Series will dive deeper into key topics gleaned from the field days' harvest data alongside timely and relevant information from subject matter experts. These events will be held in Salina (December 4th), Hays (December 5th), and Garden City (December 6th).

Attendees will gain valuable insights from subject matter experts at Kansas State University on critical topics:

- Managing Chinch Bug Populations, presented by Anthony Zukoff
- Effective Weed Management Strategies, presented by Sarah Lancaster
- Unleashing the Potential of Sorghum in the Pet Food Industry presented by Julia Pezzali
- Navigating the Sorghum Market Outlook, presented by Dan O'Brien

"The Sorghum Connection Series is more than just a series of events; it's an investment in the future of sorghum production in Kansas through relevant farmer-stakeholder communication," says Maddy Meier, KGSC's director of communications and outreach. "By providing growers with access to the latest research and information, we are working to empower today's modern sorghum farmer to make informed decisions and drive innovation in the heart of sorghum country."

Each event begins with registration at 8:00 AM and concludes at approximately 3:00 PM. To register or learn more, visit [www.ksgrainsorghum.org](http://www.ksgrainsorghum.org) or scan the QR code:



The Sorghum Connection Series offers a unique opportunity for Kansas sorghum growers to connect, learn, and stay ahead of the curve. Don't miss this chance to cultivate success in the year ahead!



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# Sorghum Shortcuts

## Yield Contest Harvest Reports Due

The 2024 National Sorghum Yield Contest is coming to a close. Please return all forms, including harvest forms, no later than Dec. 3, 2024. Contest results will be announced in December, and state and national winners will be recognized at the annual Commodity Classic on March 3, 2025, in Denver, Colorado. To view official contest rules, visit [SorghumGrowers.com/yieldcontest](https://SorghumGrowers.com/yieldcontest).

## Commodity Classic Announces Preliminary Schedule for 2025 Show in Denver

Plans for the 2025 Commodity Classic are well underway as America's largest farmer-led agricultural and educational experience takes place March 2-4, 2025 in Denver, CO. The theme for the 2025 show is "Elevating Excellence in Agriculture."

The preliminary schedule for the 2025 Commodity Classic can be found online at [commodityclassic.com/2025-schedule](https://commodityclassic.com/2025-schedule). The schedule highlights tentative dates and

times for the dozens of sessions, presentations, special events and trade show. Approximately 30 educational sessions on the newest farming technologies will be added to the schedule beginning this fall.

The Denver show also features a new schedule that will run from Sunday, March 2 through Tuesday,

March 4, which is a change from past years' usual format. The new format will also include a pancake brunch, closing reception, and other exciting farmer-focused events.

"Our 2024 show in Houston was a record-breaking event with over 11,500 attendees, so we're excited to see what happens for the show's first time in Denver," said Deb Gangwish, a Nebraska farmer, NCGA member and co-chair of the 2025 Commodity Classic.

Fellow 2025 co-chair Rob Shaffer, an Illinois farmer and ASA member, echoed Gangwish's comments. "This show is the best of the best, and our record-breaking

attendance the past two years shows how much farmers and exhibitors love coming to Commodity Classic. It's an experience unlike anything else."

Limited space is still available for the nearly sold-out trade show. Companies who wish to exhibit at the 2025 show are invited to look for the exhibitor application on the Commodity Classic website at [CommodityClassic.com](https://CommodityClassic.com). For additional information, exhibitors may contact the Trade Show office at 636-745-3008 or [tradeshow@commodityclassic.com](mailto:tradeshow@commodityclassic.com). Registration for the Denver show opened in November of 2024.

Make sure to follow Commodity Classic on Twitter at @ComClassic and on Facebook for continued updates. National Sorghum Producers specific events will be updated at [SorghumGrowers.com/commodity-classic](https://SorghumGrowers.com/commodity-classic).

Established in 1996, Commodity Classic is presented annually by the American Soybean Association, National Corn Growers Association, National Sorghum Producers, and the Association of Equipment Manufacturers.

## ICYMI: Watch our Webinar "Building Resilient Systems and the Economic Impact of Double Crop Sorghum"

National Sorghum Producers held a webinar in September on "Building Resilient Systems and the Economic Impact of Double Crop Sorghum." Experts Matt Durler and John Duff provided insights on enhancing farm resilience and economic opportunities through double crop sorghum and climate-smart practices. You can watch the replay at NSPs' YouTube channel.

Register for Session II "Navigating Double Crop Sorghum Production and Insurance" on Jan. 21 and Session III "Sorghum Silage Insurance Options" on Jan. 28 at [SorghumGrowers.com/webinar](https://SorghumGrowers.com/webinar). Chris Cogburn with Sustainable Crop Insurance Services and Sorghum Checkoff Agronomy Director Brent Bean, Ph.D., will provide an overview of the policy adjustments for double cropping in sorghum, eliminating barriers for insuring double crop irrigated sorghum, practical advice on how producers can work with their crop insurance agent to apply for written agreements, agronomic considerations for optimal double crop grain sorghum production, changes to silage insurance and more.

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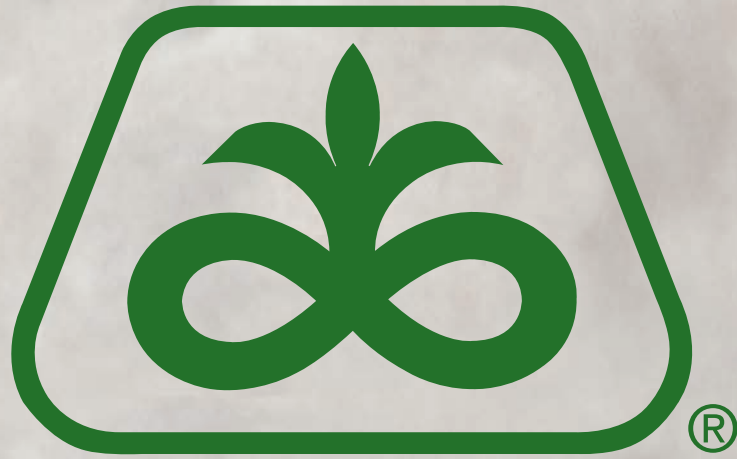
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