

FALL 2025



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Fall 2025
Volume 19, Issue 4

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CHAIR'S ADDRESS

Continuing the Work Together



Each time I come home from Washington, I'm reminded why this work matters so much. Over the years, I've seen firsthand how much effort it takes to turn good ideas into good policy. Our grower leaders and staff continue to put in countless hours in meetings, walking the halls of Congress, and making sure sorghum's voice is heard. The conversations we have in those rooms truly shape what happens back home on the farm.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act is proof of that. It delivered real results for farmers — stronger safety net programs, new investments in trade, and extended biofuel incentives that will benefit growers for years to come. But we also know our work isn't done. Trade disruptions, delayed aid, and falling prices are creating uncertainty across the countryside, and we're tackling those challenges head-on every single day.

It's an honor to carry your stories with me to the Hill — they remind me who and what we're fighting for — your families and mine. Progress doesn't happen by accident. It takes members who stay engaged, leaders who show up, and a unified organization that keeps pushing forward. The strength of National Sorghum Producers comes from the growers who make it all possible. Every membership, every conversation, and every hour spent advocating for our crop moves us another step toward stability and growth.

As we look ahead to the end of 2025 and beyond, I'm confident in the path we're on. We've proven that when we work together, we can achieve lasting results that make a difference — in the field, in the marketplace, and in our communities. Thank you for being part of that effort, and if you are not yet a member, I encourage you to join us.

It is a privilege to serve and to stand beside you in this work we love. Thank you for trusting us to represent you and for helping us keep sorghum's voice strong in Washington and beyond.


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy F".

Amy France, Chair

PIONEER
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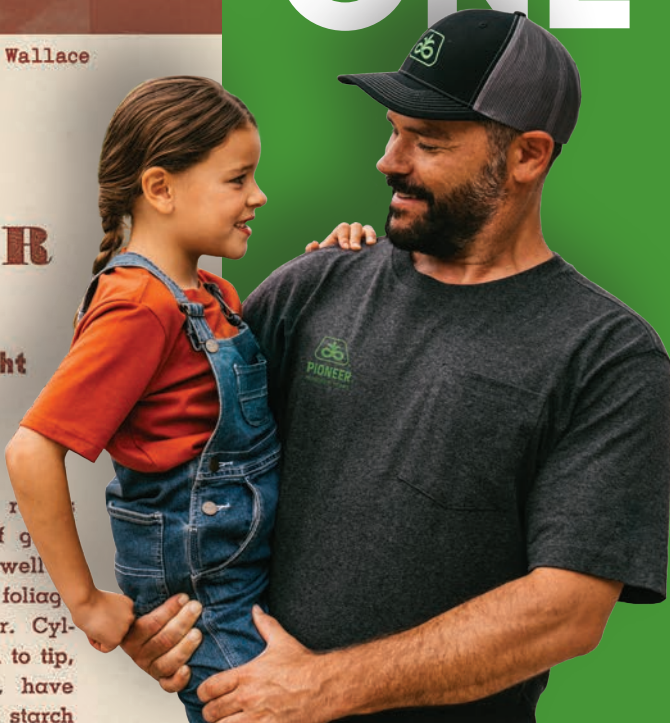
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NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS

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FALL 2025

Industry Partner Spotlight

"We're proud to partner with Pioneer®, whose century-long commitment to seed genetics innovation empowers producers and aligns seamlessly with NSP's mission. Thank you for your support."

Shutdown Strains Rural America

By Elissa Gilliam

At the time of publication, the federal government shutdown continues, and uncertainty is cast across the countryside. While the impacts of closed agencies and furloughed staff are felt in every corner of the country, rural America is bearing a disproportionate share of the burden.

While much of the federal government remains at a standstill, critical conversations affecting agriculture continue behind the scenes in Washington. NSP staff and grower leaders are staying in close contact with key congressional offices to ensure sorghum priorities remain visible despite the disruption. Discussions around appropriations, trade, disaster assistance, and implementation timelines are ongoing, even if progress is slow. The uncertainty underscores why consistent engagement with lawmakers is essential, to make sure the sorghum industry doesn't lose ground while broader political negotiations play out.

Some relief has begun to take shape with USDA's decision to reopen county Farm Service Agency offices on a limited basis. These offices are operating with minimal staff and restricted hours, allowing producers to access critical programs like safety net payments, disaster assistance, and marketing loans that had been frozen during the shutdown. The move offers temporary relief to farmers who have faced weeks of uncertainty and cash-flow constraints while waiting on vital federal support.

Even when government operations resume fully, farmers will potentially face a long backlog of delayed payments and stalled program rollouts. USDA will need to process months of pending authorizations before normal operations

return, further tightening the window for producers to make critical financial and operational decisions.

Meanwhile, lawmakers face a rapidly closing window to pass Farm Bill 2.0 before year's end. Negotiations are intensifying, with members of both chambers working to expand the framework established under OBBBA to include all the programs normally covered by a five year farm bill.

Through it all, National Sorghum Producers continue to make sorghum's voice heard in Washington. NSP is engaging directly with congressional offices and USDA leadership to push for swift action to restore government operations and prioritize farmers in any end-of-year legislative package. As Washington works to reopen and refocus, NSP remains committed to ensuring producers have the stability, certainty, and support they need to keep America's sorghum industry moving forward.



▲ NSP BOARD MEMBER Barry Evans talking with Senator Cornyn (R-TX) about trade needs for sorghum.



▲ NSP LEADERSHIP meets with Senator Marshall (R-KS).

D.C. Fly In

In early October, NSP mobilized sorghum leaders from across the country for a critical advocacy push in Washington, D.C. With Farm Bill discussions in limbo, trade opportunities stalled and pressing needs in bio-fuels and input costs, the timing could not have been more urgent.

Sorghum producers, many already harvesting, left their fields to make their voices heard.

“When growers take time away from harvest, it means the need is urgent,” said NSP Chair Amy France. “We carried that urgency into every meeting in Washington—talking trade, biofuels, and farmer aid. From South Texas to South Dakota, sorghum farmers made sure our voices were heard.”

Over the course of the week, NSP members met face-to-face with lawmakers, sharing firsthand the challenges sorghum growers are navigating and the policy solutions they need to move forward.

This kind of boots-on-the-ground advocacy is only possible because of dedicated members and supporters who make it a priority to be involved. Thank you to every grower who walked the halls of Congress and helped tell the story of U.S. sorghum. Your voice matters, and your presence makes a difference. All policy starts at the local level. If you’d like to get more engaged in our advocacy work at home or in D.C., please connect with me and we will plug you in. Someone is always telling your story, and it should be you! 🌾

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It's Time for Year-Round E15

By John Duff, Serō Ag Strategies

Just down the road from my parents' farm outside Levelland, Texas, stands a mountain of grain. It's a million bushels of sorghum piled sky-high. It includes some from my dad's 49th harvest; and it has nowhere to go. This isn't just a local problem. Piles like this can be found across the Sorghum Belt. We urgently need markets, and we need them right now.

Our lifeblood has been the global market for years. In the past decade, more than 70 percent of U.S. sorghum has typically shipped overseas, mostly to China. In a good year, those exports generated over \$2 billion for our industry. But this year, that market has collapsed. Exports to China are down a staggering 97 percent compared to last year, and the value of all U.S. sorghum exports has fallen by 81 percent. This situation looks just like 2018-2019, when trade investigations by China nearly wiped us out. Once again, demand has simply vanished.

The numbers paint a clear picture. We've already lost nearly \$2 billion in demand compared to 2020-2021. Acres are holding, and production will be the highest in several years. Yet our farmers are receiving prices far below their cost of production. USDA is projecting a national average price of \$3.70 per bushel, but bids in the country have been reported as low \$2.35. That could spell disaster for many operations, including my family's.

This crisis isn't limited to sorghum. USDA is projecting the largest corn crop in U.S. history, and it's not even close. We're staring at more than two billion additional bushels compared to last year. Storage was already tight, so we have to find a home for all this grain.

There are many potential answers, but the most straightforward and immediate one is E15. We must have year-round access to E15. We can't wait until next year or five years from now. Action must be taken immediately.

The Roadblocks to E15

E15 is simply gasoline blended with 15 percent ethanol. For over a decade, the EPA

has approved it for cars 2001 and newer, which covers more than 95 percent of the vehicles on the road today. Retailers have shown they can sell it, and consumers have shown they will buy it because of its lower price tag. Yet E15 is not available everywhere, and in many places, it's only available seasonally.

The roadblock stems from a technicality in EPA regulations tied to fuel volatility in the summer months. Rather than fixing the rule years ago, Washington has kept farmers and their ethanol producer partners in limbo. So every summer, stations in much of the country are forced to take E15 out of their lineup. It makes no sense. Consumers end up paying more, farmers lose a vital market, and the U.S. relies more on imported oil when we could be using renewable fuel produced right here in America.

With states like California already taking action, the U.S. Congress has finally begun to act to change things at the federal level. Earlier this year, a bipartisan group



▲ PILES OF SORGHUM outside an ethanol plant in Levelland, TX.

of lawmakers introduced a bill to allow year-round E15 nationwide. It's the right move, but the clock is ticking. We can't afford to wait another year. Lawmakers must move this bill or find another legislative vehicle before the year is over. With an additional two billion bushels of feedgrains on hand and the 2026 planting season just around the corner, burning another year will be tough for U.S. agriculture.

The Benefits of E15

The benefits of E15 are clear, and it all starts with demand. Moving the national fuel supply from E10 to E15 could mean up to seven billion gallons of additional ethanol demand every year. That's the equivalent of more than two billion bushels of grain. For sorghum farmers staring at grain piles with no home, that would be a lifesaver.

But the benefits extend further than just demand. Ethanol is the cheapest source of octane on the planet. It allows refiners to produce lower octane gasoline and then blend it with ethanol to reach the level they need for regular unleaded. That saves refiners money, and it saves consumers money. It's rare that farmers, refiners, and drivers all win at the same time, but this is one of those rare cases.

The value at the pump is obvious. Ethanol has been lowering the cost of gasoline for years. The last time I filled up my truck here in Lubbock, Texas, ethanol-free gas was 75 cents more expensive than regular unleaded E10. If E10 saves me nearly a dollar a gallon, imagine what E15 can do. Multiply that across millions of cars and trucks, and you are talking billions of dollars in consumer savings.

E15 is also a major win for American energy security. Every extra gallon of ethanol blended into our fuel supply is a gallon of oil we don't have to import. It means more of our fuel dollars stay here at home, less volatility from global oil markets, and critically, more stability for rural economies and the families who depend on them.

E15 Is Crucial Now

As a farmer's son, I view E15 through a different lens than the average consumer. When I see my dad's grain stacked in a pile, I know exactly what's at stake. We can produce a crop, but we can't control what happens to it once it leaves the field. This year, the export market failed us, prices are below the cost of production, and demand is in free fall.

E15 can fix that. Not by itself and not as soon as we might like, but as part of a larger strategy to build markets here at home. We can't rely on a single foreign customer to keep our industry afloat. China's demand for sorghum has always been volatile. Australia is taking market share, Brazil is gaining ground, and the global

market is shifting. If we want stability, we need domestic demand, and ethanol is the fastest path to that demand.

It is important to remember that ethanol is not just another market. Rather, it's already one of our most important. Up to one-third of the U.S. sorghum crop goes into fuel ethanol today. Every time we expand that market, sorghum farmers benefit directly.

The urgency could not be greater. Without new demand, sorghum prices will remain below the cost of production. Grain piles will get bigger, and rural communities across the Sorghum Belt will see more farms fail.

It's also not complicated. Year-round E15 is the fastest, simplest, and most effective way to increase demand for American grain. It lowers fuel costs for consumers, gives refiners a cost-effective source of octane, strengthens American energy independence, and keeps farmers in business. It's a rare win-win-win.

The choice is in front of our lawmakers. They can keep talking about rural America, or they can actually do something for rural America. They can pass year-round E15 and give us the market we need. Farmers, consumers, and America all win. Let's get it done. 🌾



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RAILWAY

Focused on Farmers

By Carly Watson and Kyra Holt

National Sorghum Producers is building momentum across the industry, from championing policy priorities in Washington, D.C., to supporting producers through harvest and preparing for a major milestone at the 2026 Commodity Classic. This fall, NSP remains focused on delivering meaningful results for its members by advocating on Capitol Hill, investing in the next generation of leaders and recognizing grower achievements in the field.

It's a season of reflection, preparation and progress.

New Board Members

NSP is proud to introduce three new members to its board of directors. These individuals bring decades of experience in agriculture, business and community leadership. As stewards of NSP's mission, they will help guide the organization's strategic direction and ensure it continues to serve the best interests of U.S. sorghum producers.



James (Jim) Sipes - A fifth-generation farmer from Manter, Kansas, Sipes brings deep experience in production agriculture, agronomy and policy advocacy to the NSP Board. With 16 years on the Kansas Farm Bureau Board, he has championed issues affecting rural communities and testified on national ag policy.

He is passionate about expanding sorghum trade, protecting herbicide access and supporting the next generation of producers.



David Drinnon - From Vega, Texas, Drinnon brings three decades of experience in the sorghum seed industry to the NSP Board. With a background in accounting, finance and global agribusiness leadership, he offers insight into both the challenges and opportunities facing producers. He is focused on advancing trade, supporting effective policy and promoting the resilience and sustainability of sorghum.



John Browning - Hailing from Plainview, Texas, Browning brings a strong background in forage sorghum breeding and production to the NSP Board. With extensive experience in the dairy and cattle feeding sectors, he offers a valuable perspective on a key segment of the sorghum industry. Serving on the

board holds deep personal meaning for him, as it honors the encouragement and belief of his late wife, Alicia, who inspired him to share his knowledge and leadership with the industry. He is proud to bring his voice to the board and is grateful for the trust placed in him by his peers.

With deep appreciation, NSP recognizes the service of Kent Martin and Doug Keesling, who recently completed their terms. Their leadership, insight and commitment have helped shape NSP's direction and strengthen its voice on behalf of U.S. sorghum producers. Even though his term has concluded, the board of directors asked Larry Richardson to continue to serve on the NSP board in an ex officio capacity as chair of the NSP subsidiaries. His years of service and industry knowledge will continue to help shape the next generation of sorghum leaders.

Commodity Classic

National Sorghum Producers is gearing up for a landmark appearance at the 2026 Commodity Classic, scheduled for February 25–27 in San Antonio, Texas. This year's theme, "Honoring Our Past, Growing Our Future," marks a major milestone: 70 years of NSP.

As one of agriculture's premier events, Commodity Classic offers a platform to celebrate the sorghum industry's legacy while looking forward to its bright future.

Attendees can expect meaningful opportunities to network and learn about the progress of sorghum. The anniversary will serve not only as a tribute to those who built the industry, but also as a launching point for what comes next.



▲ NSP AND USCP booth in 2025 at Commodity Classic in Denver, CO.



SCAN HERE TO ENTER

2025 National Sorghum Yield Contest

Entry Deadline:
November 26, 2025

“This is a chance to pause and recognize how far we’ve come while also setting our sights on the future,” said NSP Chair Amy France. “We’re celebrating more than a crop, we’re celebrating a community of people who’ve worked together to grow something great.”

As part of the celebration, NSP will host the Annual Yield Contest Award Gala and PAC Casino Night on Thursday, February 26, bringing together members, partners and supporters for an evening of fun, recognition and fundraising.

NSP also plans to recognize longtime leaders and voices in the industry, offering a platform for growers, partners and stakeholders to share their stories and visions for the future. With a focus on both reflection and forward momentum, the organization is committed to ensuring the next generation of sorghum producers is equipped to thrive. Make sure to save the date for February 25-27 so you can join us in San Antonio.

Yield Contest

With harvest underway in many parts of the country, now is the time to enter the 2025 NSP Sorghum Yield Contest. This annual competition showcases the outstanding efforts of producers in both irrigated and dryland categories across multiple regions.

The contest not only honors high yields but also promotes innovation, stewardship and production practices that push the boundaries of what’s possible with sorghum.

This year, NSP has introduced a more flexible yield verification process. Growers now have two options to verify their yields, including one that does not require a supervisor to be physically present during harvest. This change is designed to increase participation and reduce logistical barriers for busy producers.

The entry deadline is November 26, 2025, and winners will be recognized at the 2026 Commodity Classic NSP Annual Yield Contest Awards Gala in San Antonio on Thursday, February 26.

Beyond trophies and recognition, the yield contest is a chance to inspire others and share insights into what’s working in the field.

“The yield contest reflects the spirit of the sorghum industry- hard work and pride in what we grow,” said Tim Lust, CEO. “It’s more than numbers. It’s about pushing the crop to new heights and learning from each other.”

70 Years of NSP

This December marks 70 years of work and progress for NSP. Since 1955, NSP has played a consistent role in shaping policy, building markets and ensuring a strong future for sorghum growers nationwide. Reaching this milestone offers an opportunity to acknowledge the legacy of work and ongoing commitment of our members and partners who have contributed to the growth and resilience of sorghum production.

Over the coming months, NSP will be sharing stories, highlighting the people who shaped our industry and looking ahead to what the next 70 years will bring.

What has NSP meant to you, your operation, or your community? Share your stories, memories, and reflections by reaching out to ericw@sorghumgrowers.com.



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INGREDIENTS

2 cups cooked Pearled Sorghum Grain
7 Roma Tomatoes, diced
1 can Pinto Beans, drained & rinsed
1 can Black Beans, drained & rinsed
1 can Corn, drained
1 medium Purple Onion, diced
1 Green Pepper, diced
1 Orange Pepper, diced
2 Avocados, diced
1 Jalapeno, diced

DRESSING

½ cup Vinegar
½ cup Oil
½ cup Sugar
1 tsp Salt
1 tsp Pepper
1 tsp Garlic Powder



Nu Life Market's gluten free Pearled Sorghum Grain is an excellent alternative to couscous, quinoa, and pasta.

INSTRUCTIONS

In a small bowl, mix together all of the dressing ingredients and set aside. Mix together the cooked *Pearled Sorghum Grain*, tomatoes, pinto beans, black beans, corn, onion, green pepper, orange pepper, avocado, and jalapenos. Pour dressing over sorghum mixture and stir until well combined. Refrigerate and serve cold.

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▲ PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP signed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act into law on July 4, 2025. Official White House Photo.

Shielding Sorghum Farmers for the Future: What the One Big Beautiful Bill Delivers

By Eric Washington

While the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) delivers meaningful progress for U.S. agriculture, much of its impact will be felt beginning next year. National Sorghum Producers continues to push for immediate action on trade expansion, price relief, and disaster assistance to meet growers' needs today. This legislation is an important win for the long-term stability of the farm economy—but it's only part of the work ahead.

Higher Reference Prices and Smarter Support

For sorghum, the statutory reference price under the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program climbs from \$3.95 to \$4.40, with the effective reference price rising to \$4.67—reflecting today's higher input costs. These updated values mean stronger price protection for growers facing market volatility and drought-driven swings. The bill also ensures that for the 2025 crop year, producers receive the

higher of their PLC or Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) payment—removing the need to choose between programs during the transition year.

Enhanced ARC and Insurance Options

The ARC guarantee increases from 86% to 90% of benchmark revenue, with the payment cap expanding from 10% to 12%. These changes, coupled with enhanced crop insurance premium support—80% for Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) and 65% for Enhanced Coverage Option (ECO)—make risk management more affordable and flexible. Beginning farmers and ranchers will also benefit longer, as their premium discounts now extend from five to ten years.

Marketing Loan Improvements

Marketing loan rates are climbing as well, with sorghum's loan rate increasing from \$2.20 to \$2.42 per

	Statutory Reference Price Under 2018 Farm Bill	Increased Statutory Reference Price Under OBBBA	2025 Effective Reference Price Under 2018 Farm Bill	Increased 2025 Effective Reference Price Under OBBBA
Grain Sorghum	\$3.95	\$4.40	\$4.51	<u>\$4.67</u>

*bolded, underlined values reflect the highest applicable reference price for crop year 2025

	2025 ARC Benchmark Price Under OBBBA	Estimated Average Max Payment Rate Under OBBBA
Grain Sorghum	\$5.30	\$44.37

	Marketing Loan Price Under 2018 Farm Bill	Increased Marketing Loan Price Under OBBBA
Grain Sorghum	\$2.20	\$2.42

▲ INCREASES IN PLC/ARC payments as well as Marketing Loan Price under OBBBA.

bushel beginning with the 2026 crop year. These changes strengthen the loan program as a tool for managing cash flow and maintaining competitiveness in volatile markets.

Expanded Base Acres and Payment Limits

Producers can now establish new base acres using the five-year average of 2019–2023 planted acres, giving many operations long-needed program access. The payment limit for individuals rises to \$155,000, with future

increases tied to inflation, providing added flexibility for family partnerships and LLCs.

Investments in Trade, Conservation, and Research

Beyond Title I, the OBBBA commits to long-term investments that will boost demand for U.S. sorghum. A new supplemental trade promotion program begins in 2027 with \$285 million in funding to expand export markets alongside the Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development Program (FMD). Conservation programs also receive historic funding increases, including a jump in Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) support from \$2.025 billion to \$2.65 billion in 2026, ensuring working lands programs remain accessible to producers focused on soil and water stewardship.

Bottom Line

For sorghum farmers, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act delivers meaningful improvements where it counts, on the balance sheet and in the field. With higher reference prices, expanded coverage, and new investments in trade and conservation, this legislation strengthens the foundation that keeps U.S. sorghum competitive and resilient for years to come. 🌾



▲ NSP LEADERSHIP meeting with Senator Moran (R-KS).

Stronger Together: Prioritizing Mental Health on the Farm

By Eric Washington

At National Sorghum Producers, we know farming isn't just a job. It's a calling. It's the early mornings, the long days, the end-less problem-solving, and the deep pride that comes with producing something real. But we also know those same demands can take a toll. Agriculture is one of the most rewarding careers there is, and one of the most stressful.

Markets rise and fall. Weather shifts without warning. Costs go up while margins tighten. For many producers, these pressures pile up quietly. The weight can be heavy, and it's not always easy to talk about. But no one in this community should ever carry that burden alone.

The truth is, mental health is farm health. The same care and attention we give to our crops, livestock, and land must also extend to ourselves and our families. Taking time to check in, to rest, and to ask for help when we need it are acts of strength, not weakness.

Across the sorghum industry, we've seen the power of connection firsthand. When producers come together, whether at meetings, field days, or over a cup of coffee, something changes. Conversations open up. Support grows. That sense of shared understanding is one of our community's greatest assets.

At NSP, our mission has always been to stand shoulder to shoulder with our growers in the good years and the hard ones. We'll continue to advocate for the markets, tools, and policies that keep operations strong, but we also want to remind every farmer and rancher that your well-being matters just as much as your yield.

If you're struggling or simply need to talk, please reach out. **You can always call us at 806-749-3478.** We'll listen, help connect you with the right support, and remind you that you are not alone in this.

The sorghum industry is built on resilience, but it's sustained by people. And when we take care of ourselves and each other, we're all stronger for it. 🌾

HELPFUL RESOURCES

- Rural Minds – A nonprofit dedicated to ending the stigma around mental health in rural America. Learn more or find support at ruralminds.org.
- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline – Call or text 988 for immediate, 24/7, free and confidential support.
- Farm Aid Hotline – 1-800-FARM-AID (1-800-327-6243) connects you with counselors who understand the challenges unique to agriculture.



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Weathering Change: Why Sorghum Endures

By Eric Washington and Jesse Harding Campbell, Marsh Wren Creative

Texas

For West Texas farmer Brandon Walker, rotating cotton acres to sorghum has been more than a practical choice—it's been a path to stability in a volatile market.

Walker farms near Spade, where he rents about 640 acres and custom-farms another 1,100 acres. After years of raising cotton, wheat, and cattle, he began expanding sorghum acres to cut costs and conserve water.

"The inputs on cotton just got too high," Walker said. "Sorghum lets me keep farming without burning through fertilizer, water, and chemicals. I can raise a crop at half the cost."

He estimates it takes \$800 to \$1,000 per acre to grow irrigated cotton in his area, compared with roughly half that for sorghum. The crop's shorter season and drought tolerance made it a natural fit for his rotation.

Walker said this year's timely rains and cooler early-summer temperatures brought one of his best dryland sorghum crops yet. "My April-planted milo did great," he said. "Less water, less fertilizer, and it still yielded strong."

One of the biggest advantages is proximity to the Levelland ethanol plant, just 25 miles away. Walker sells his grain directly, avoiding long hauls and capitalizing on local demand.

"The ethanol plants have been steady buyers," he said. "Even with prices where they are, around \$7.50 per hundredweight (\$4.20/bu), it helps when your trucking costs are low."

Sorghum's stubble also plays a key role in his conservation plan. "The residue keeps the soil from blowing all winter," Walker said. "It holds moisture and cuts down on fertilizer next year."



He plans to put in wheat directly behind his sorghum and rotate back next spring. "I'll go right back to milo," he said. "It's easier to manage than 1,000 acres of cotton, and with labor short, that matters."

For Walker, the shift to sorghum is also part of a bigger goal: regenerative farming. He's focused on keeping living roots in the soil, building organic matter, and reducing erosion to improve long-term productivity.

"Every acre I can keep covered and rooted helps our water table and cuts our carbon footprint," he said. "That stubble mulch holds rain where it falls instead of letting it run off, and it keeps the ground cooler and healthier. It's good for the soil—and it's the right thing to do."

Walker says sorghum will be in his rotation in 2026. "With cotton gins consolidating and weather patterns shifting, cotton's just not in a good place right now," he said. "Sorghum works, it fits our climate, it fits our costs, and it's keeping us going."

Kansas

For Amy Peterson, farming in Stanton County Kansas with her husband Brant, has always been about learning to adapt. The fifth-generation operation covers about 8,500 acres of corn, sorghum, and wheat, along with 2,600 acres of grass and CRP ground that supports their cow-calf herd. Like many across western Kansas, the Petersons have watched irrigation give way to dryland farming, and that shift has made sorghum a cornerstone of their rotation.

"We used to be mostly irrigated," Peterson said. "But as the Ogallala (Aquifer) declined, we had to start figuring out how to make dryland work. That's what really pushed us toward sorghum. It's water-efficient, it fits our rotation, and it just makes sense."

Sorghum has long been part of the Peterson rotation, but in recent years it has taken on a new level of importance. With more research and better hybrids, Peterson said the data now backs up what her husband's grandfather always believed: "Don't grow something a cow won't eat."



"That stuck with us," she said. "Sorghum checks a lot of boxes: it feeds our cows, it feeds people, it fits our ground, and it conserves water."

The Petersons have also carved out a niche in food-grade sorghum through Nu Life Market. Their naturally low-cadmium soils make their grain ideal for certain export markets and specialty uses. "We've had some of our sorghum go into baby food products and other food uses," Peterson said. "It's pretty incredible to see something you grew end up in that kind of market."

This year's crop has been especially strong after welcome rains. "It's one of the best dryland crops I've seen in a long time," Peterson said. "And our irrigated field looks excellent; we're entering it in the yield contest again. I'm really proud of how the crop turned out this year."

While markets remain tough, Amy remains optimistic about sorghum's long-term potential. "It hasn't been fun losing money the last few years," she said. "But I know what this crop can do—food, fuel, feed, even flour. It's nutritious, shelf-stable, and grown right here in the U.S. We just have to keep telling that story."

That story has taken the Petersons from southwest Kansas to national and international conversations. Earlier this year, they hosted a Chinese delegation at their farm in partnership with Export Sorghum, showcasing sorghum in every part of the meal. "I wanted to make sure they saw sorghum in all its forms," Peterson said. "It's important to be at the table, even if you don't always agree on everything. The excitement they had about what we grow reminded me why we do this."

Looking ahead, Amy sees opportunity in new varieties and technology, particularly equipment that improves sorghum processing for feed and dairy use. "We're sitting between three dairies here," she said. "Sorghum could fill an even bigger role in feed rations if we can make it easier to process. It's about bridging that gap."

Asked what she'd tell a grower considering sorghum, Peterson didn't hesitate. "You can't lose by trying it," she said. "It's affordable, it's user-friendly, and it uses less water. Just pick the right hybrid for your area, and give it a shot."

And if there's one thing she hopes more people realize? "That you can cook it and eat it," she said with a laugh. "It's beautiful, it's versatile, and it's grown in the U.S. Sorghum has been part of American farming for generations—we're just finally giving it the spotlight it deserves."

Nebraska

For third-generation farmer Tyler Bose of Arcadia, Neb., sorghum has become a key part of managing both his cattle and crop acres. What began as an experiment five years ago has grown into a dependable, profitable crop in his rotation.

Bose and his father run about 400 head of cow-calf pairs and raise roughly 790 acres of corn, soybeans and sorghum. “This year I had roughly 110 acres of sorghum, some forage but mostly grain,” he said.

The season started dry, prompting Bose to plant more forage sorghum to use as emergency feed or grazing if grass ran short. “I planted it in dust and didn’t think it would even grow, but we got well-timed rains.” This year brought nearly twice the rainfall he typically sees. “It’s been a great year for dryland sorghum. I’d almost consider it irrigated.”

The extra moisture helped support strong yields across his dryland acres. He expects his best grain sorghum fields to produce between 150 and 200 bushels per acre, while even the hail-damaged ground could make 80 to 150.



▲ TYLER BOSE, giving local FFA students a closer look at sorghum’s role in sustainable crop and livestock systems near Arcadia, Neb.

Sorghum’s value goes beyond yield for his operation. The stalks provide high-quality winter grazing, and Bose said his cows perform better on it than on corn residue. “They’re more digestible, and I usually get two to three times the grazing off them,” he said.

He markets most of his grain to the elevator in Elm Creek and sells some locally to livestock producers who use it for chicken and hog feed. “There’s a lot of new research showing benefits for gut health and overall animal performance,” Bose said. Even with softer cash prices and a weaker basis, he said good yields and local demand have helped.

Profitability remains a key reason sorghum will stay in his rotation. “As a young farmer, I’m always looking to keep my ROI high and my input costs low,” he said. “I can put sorghum in the ground for about \$234 an acre, and even at \$3 a bushel, I’m still profitable.”

This fall, Bose also hosted a field day for local FFA students to learn about sorghum production. The students toured Bose’s fields, learning about planting, forage management, harvesting and grain marketing. The hands-on experience gave them a practical view of how sorghum fits into a modern farming operation and the opportunities it can offer future producers.

“We wanted to show the next generation that there are options out there,” he said. “If they’re interested in growing it, there are people who can help.”

Looking ahead, Bose said sorghum will continue to play a central role in his operation. “No matter what else we plant, I’ll always keep sorghum in the rotation,” he said. “It’s profitable, it’s resilient, and it gives me flexibility with both feed and grain. It just makes sense.”

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NEWSLETTER

sorghumcheckoff.com | Fall Edition 2025

Sorghum Checkoff Drives Growth in Animal Feed Markets

The Sorghum Checkoff continues to make strong progress across animal feed markets, advancing research, technical engagement and education in dairy, poultry, swine and aquaculture. Through new resources, events and research partnerships, the organization remains committed to increasing demand and demonstrating sorghum's value as a dependable, cost-effective feed ingredient.

Dairy: Profit Focused Feeding

USCP partnered with Feed Strategy and Feed & Grain to host a "Profit-Focused Feeding" webinar showcasing sorghum's value in dairy nutrition. Speakers, including Dr. Brent Bean with the Sorghum Checkoff and DNMC (Dairy Nutrition and Management Consulting) Milk Consulting's Steve Martin and Macy Brown, explored ration strategies for optimizing milk performance while reducing water and feed costs.

Key points:

- Cows make milk from nutrients, not ingredients.
- Forage sorghum can match or exceed corn silage yield per unit of water in dry regions.
- Kernel processing of high-starch sorghums improves starch availability and reduces reliance on purchased grain.

The full webinar recording is available at [Sorghumcheckoff.com/industry/livestock-feed](https://sorghumcheckoff.com/industry/livestock-feed).

Poultry and Swine: Advancing Feed Research

USCP continues to invest in research that drives value for livestock producers. Working with Purdue University, the Sorghum Checkoff is evaluating Highly Digestible Protein and Enhanced Lysine (HDP) sorghum. Regional plots in Indiana, Kansas and Oklahoma will supply grain for 2026 swine digestibility and growth trials at Kansas State University. The project aims to improve sorghum's feed efficiency and protein utilization in monogastric diets.

Aquaculture: Strengthening Global Engagement

USCP is actively engaging aquaculture nutritionists, feed formulators and ingredient buyers to position tannin-free U.S. sorghum as a sustainable energy source and functional feed ingredient. These outreach efforts provide technical data and practical formulation insights that support sorghum's inclusion in commercial aquafeed programs.

New Online Resources

The Sorghum Checkoff has launched new animal feed mar-

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Registration Now Open for 2026 Global Sorghum Conference, Hosted by Texas Tech



ket landing pages featuring research, data and educational materials designed to support feed manufacturers, nutritionists and producers. Explore these resources at:

SorghumCheckoff.com/industry/markets-overview/
SorghumCheckoff.com/industry/aquaculture/
SorghumCheckoff.com/industry/poultry

Sorghum Experience: Training the Next Generation of Animal Nutritionist

In September, the Sorghum Checkoff hosted seven graduate-level students for the Sorghum

Experience in Colorado, one of the nation's top five sorghum-producing states. The three-day program gave students hands-on exposure to sorghum's diverse applications in livestock and pet nutrition, highlighting how U.S. sorghum serves as a sustainable, versatile feed ingredient in today's production systems.

Through continuous engagement, targeted research and resource development, the Sorghum Checkoff is paving the way for U.S. sorghum to meet evolving needs in the global feed industry. Learn more at SorghumCheckoff.com.

Sorghum Checkoff Partners to Launch Frozen, Cooked Sorghum for Food Industry

The United Sorghum Checkoff Program (USCP), in partnership with Riviana Foods Inc. and Harvest Food Group, has announced the launch of individually quick frozen (IQF) cooked whole grain sorghum, now available for purchase through Harvest Food Group.

This launch represents a major step in expanding sorghum's footprint in food manufacturing, foodservice and retail markets, offering a convenient, high-quality ingredient option that meets rising consumer demand for nutritious, sustainable grains.

"As an IQF ingredient specialist, Harvest Food Group is excited to offer IQF cooked sorghum for the first time," said John Vanek, director of sales, ingredients and co-manufacturing at Harvest Food Group. "Thanks to Riviana's innovation and processing capabilities, we can now provide IQF cooked sorghum and sorghum-based blends, side dishes and meals in a variety of pack sizes and styles for industrial, foodservice and retail applications."

"Riviana is proud to partner with the Sorghum Checkoff to launch Ready-to-Eat-grade IQF Sorghum," said Terry Stover, senior vice president of special markets sales at Riviana Foods Inc. "We've spent years perfecting the science of cooking and freezing both conventional and organic ingredients in a single, continuous process, and that expertise is what makes this new product an innovative and easy-to-use addition for restaurants and food manufacturers alike."

Lanier Dabruzzi, MS, RD, LD, director of nutrition and food innovation at USCP, said the new offering meets an important market need. "The

food industry is seeking nutritious, consistent and ready-to-use grains that meet both operational and consumer needs," Dabruzzi said. "IQF sorghum offers a convenient, high-quality solution while conserving resources, a win for both customers and the environment. For sorghum producers, this represents a new, high-value market opportunity that connects the farm to the food supply chain in meaningful ways."

Through collaboration with Riviana Foods and Harvest Food Group, the Sorghum Checkoff helped drive this product from concept to market. The partnership spanned taste testing, quality control, supply chain coordination and production scale-up, furthering the Checkoff's mission to expand market opportunities and drive innovation for U.S. sorghum.

To learn more about the Sorghum Checkoff's efforts to grow demand for sorghum in food, feed and industrial markets, visit SorghumCheckoff.com.



Export Sorghum 2025 Connects Global Buyers with U.S. Producers

Export Sorghum 2025 brought together more than 130 producers, exporters, international buyers, industry experts and government officials September 21–23 at the Westin Riverwalk in San Antonio, Texas. The event showcased U.S. grain sorghum's value and versatility in global markets while fostering new trade connections and business opportunities.

Hosted by the United Sorghum Checkoff Program (USCP), Kansas Grain Sorghum, Texas Grain Sorghum Producers and the U.S. Grains & Bio-Products Council (USGBC), the one-and-a-half-day educational seminar featured market updates, technical presentations and structured business-to-business meetings designed to strengthen international relationships.

"Export Sorghum is always an important event on the industry calendar, but with recent market challenges, it was particularly heartening to see strong customer interest at the meeting this year," said Stella Qian, USGBC director of global programs administration.

The event opened with a welcome reception followed by a full day of sessions covering market trends, sorghum grades and standards, sustainability, supply chain reliability and the grain's growing use in poultry, swine and pet food sectors. Featured speakers included USDA Under Secretary for

Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs Luke J. Lindberg, industry consultants, researchers and U.S. sorghum producers.

The program also included structured business-to-business meetings, allowing international delegations to meet directly with U.S. companies such as The Andersons, Inc.; ADM; Garden City Coop; Alliance Ag & Grain LLC; Central Prairie Coop; Weskan Grain; Pawnee County Cooperative Association; Mayaca Transload, LLC; LongRun Agri Group; NORAG LLC; Trans Globe; Merus, LLC; International Feed; TEMCO; Nu Life Market; and Hang Tung Resources (USA) Co., Ltd. Meetings were organized in 15-minute rotations to maximize opportunities for connection.

Following the San Antonio sessions, international teams traveled across the U.S. sorghum belt to visit ports, elevators, seed companies and farms, gaining firsthand experience with the U.S. sorghum value chain.

With strong program content, meaningful business engagement and immersive field tours, Export Sorghum 2025 reinforced sorghum's reputation as a reliable, sustainable and versatile grain for global markets.

Learn more about Export Sorghum 2025 at SorghumCheckoff.com.



Registration Now Open for 2026 Global Sorghum Conference, Hosted by Texas Tech

The Sorghum Checkoff is proud to support the 2026 Global Sorghum Conference, hosted by Texas Tech University Sept. 14–18, 2026, in Lubbock, Texas. The international event will bring together researchers, producers and industry leaders to explore sorghum's expanding role in food, feed and emerging markets worldwide.

The conference will feature sessions on sorghum breeding, agronomy, processing, nutrition and market development, as well as opportunities for collaboration across the global value chain.

Registration is now open, and a call for abstracts invites researchers and practitioners to submit a 300-word summary for oral or poster presentations by March 31, 2026.

An international art and photo contest will also celebrate sorghum's cultural and creative impact,

highlighting youth and adult entries that showcase the crop's role in agriculture, innovation and community. Selected works will be displayed and recognized during the conference.

As one of the nation's top sorghum-producing regions, Lubbock and Texas Tech provide the ideal backdrop for this event. The university's leadership in agricultural research and innovation underscores its role in advancing the future of sorghum.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available for organizations seeking to engage with a global audience and support the continued growth of the sorghum industry.

Learn more, register or submit an abstract at depts.ttu.edu/research/sorghum-conference.



SORGHUM INDUSTRY EVENTS

November 27-28 Thanksgiving
Office Closed

December 1-3 Leadership Sorghum VII – Session IV
New Orleans, LA

December 10-11 USCP Board Annual Meeting
Lubbock, TX

For more events, visit sorghumcheckoff.com/news-and-events/



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



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Sorghum Update

Brought to you by Kansas Grain Sorghum

Beyond the Bushel: How Sorghum Builds Relationships with International Customers

By Maddy Meier

As an industry, we understand that the true value of a sorghum crop extends far beyond the bushel weight recorded at the elevator. In a challenging global trade climate, we set our focus, as staff of the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission, on maximizing that value through robust market diversification and strengthening demand. This means actively working to ensure your crop achieves multiple competitive homes, both domestically and internationally. This fall, we executed a core piece of that strategy by hosting a suite of influential trade delegations from countries worldwide, showcasing the full scope of our state's sorghum production, research, and logistics capacities to secure new and expanded export opportunities.

Bookended by extensive travel across Kansas, the 2025 Export Sorghum Conference in San Antonio, Texas, provided a critical, centralized venue where our international customers transitioned from field observations to formal market discussion. State and national sorghum organizations and the U.S. Grains and BioProducts Council welcomed customers from nearly two dozen nations. Through a shared commitment between your sorghum staff, industry partners and merchandisers, and the sorghum growers who proudly hosted visits on their operations, we forged a key, tangible connection that moves bushels and builds market share for Kansas growers, and included welcoming new and existing trade partners into Kansas. We understand that in today's volatile global market, selling a commodity is not enough; we must sell trust, consistency, and quality: the entire American-grown sorghum story.

We guided the trade teams we hosted, representing a wide range of global markets from China, Mexico, Spain, Vietnam, and many others from every continent (excluding Antarctica), through the entire sorghum value chain. This transparency is fundamental to building lasting relationships and diversifying our market base. Kansas Sorghum's Andrew Le welcomed a team from Vietnam, where sorghum is a new product option for many companies and a nation where the Sorghum Checkoff worked to open market access for sorghum by 2020. Fluent in Vietnamese, Andrew provided cultural and language translation to create a personalized experience. This level of personal regard remains vital to turning a first-time buyer into a long-term partner.

Kansas Sorghum staff designed the field visits to provide customers with confidence in the quality, quantity, and the reliability of the Kansas supply. Kansas ranks number one with half of all U.S. sorghum production each year, consistently producing around 200 million bushels annually with an approximate yield of 65 to 70 bushels to the acre. Over two thirds of the Kansas sorghum crop in 2025 has ranked good to excellent nearly all season long.

The prospective buyers saw firsthand the logistical capacity of our state and region, experiencing the DeLong Company's multimodal export

facility in Edgerton and major state-of-the-art high-capacity terminals like Garden City Coop's River Valley Terminal near Holcomb. We provided assurance on quality control, with tours of the Kansas Grain Inspection Service headquarters where we overviewed state and federal inspection and quality standards. This comprehensive approach proves that we are a reliable source that can handle shipments on a scale nearly equal to what many Chinese companies typically purchase in a single market year.

The exchanges also firmly cemented the narrative of sorghum as a water-smart, innovative industry. Seasoned buyers from Mexico and Latin America visited Nicholson Ventures Farm near Minneola, where owner Jeremiah Nicholson highlighted the use of reclaimed municipal wastewater for irrigated sorghum production, a key sustainability story that enhances aquifer quality. The Vietnamese delegates explored the future of sorghum at K-State research plots, seeing elite varieties at the Ashland Bottoms research site and meeting with experts at the Department of Grain Science & Industry. These experiences are proof that the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission and your Sorghum Checkoff are constantly investing resources into advanced research to accelerate high-impact traits through commercial translation back to farms to meet end-users' preference and demand.

Furthermore, the delegations saw the immense potential of sorghum in value-added markets. Our seminal team of historically significant customers from China visited Arkalon Ethanol in Liberal to learn about sorghum's role in renewable fuel production. They explored growing consumer interest at Nu Life Market, the world's largest dedicated sorghum flour milling facility. Kansas Sorghum also ensured that each international delegation's visit highlighted sorghum as a culinary experience, enjoying meals featuring sorghum-centric menu applications prepared by local Kansas caterers using local Kansas-grown grain sorghum. These "red carpet" presentations for our many new and current international customers go far to demonstrate U.S. sorghum's versatility with desirable performance capable of meeting growing global demand across animal nutrition, renewable fuel, and consumer-grade food products, strengthening our overall market position.

Ultimately, these high-level visits are how we convert your high-quality bushels into high-value sales. When Commission Chairman Brant Peterson, Johnson City, hosts a farewell dinner at his family operation, or when Vice Chairman Kevin Kniebel, White City, shows buyers how sorghum fits into his diversified crop and livestock operation, we are not just selling grain; we are selling the trust, transparency, and generational commitment that underpins our Kansas and U.S. sorghum industry. By strengthening these relationships, we are actively paving the way for the competitive, diversified global market our growers expect, ensuring that the U.S. leads not just in sorghum production, but in global market opportunity for future years to come.

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Sorghum Shortcuts

Sorghum PAC Series

This year marks 15 years of Sorghum PAC, and we are gearing up for another successful PAC Series. You can look forward to NSP's online auction with BigIron, launching a week prior to Casino Night in conjunction with the events at Commodity Classic Feb. 26, including the NSP Yield Contest Gala that evening, and the Sorghum PAC Golf Tournament April 25 in Dodge City, Kansas.



New Staff

As the organization looks ahead to a pivotal year, NSP is pleased to welcome several new staff and interns to its team. Each brings valuable experience and a shared commitment to supporting NSP's mission of serving sorghum producers nationwide.



Elissa Gilliam

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

Elissa serves as Legislative Director for NSP, where she leads the organization's policy and advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C. Raised on a farm in Tennessee, she "got to Texas as quick as she could" and earned a master's degree in agricultural communications from Texas Tech University. She brings more than a decade of experience in agriculture, food and public policy, including work on the 2018 Farm Bill during her time in the U.S. House of Representatives. Most recently, she led federal advocacy for the American Frozen Food Institute.



Kelly Oswalt

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES MANAGER

Kelly brings degrees from Texas A&M and Texas Tech and experience across ag operations and customer service. She'll lead day-to-day member support, onboard new members and help elevate the value NSP delivers in a pivotal year for the industry. When she's not working with growers, you'll find her cheering on her two boys, helping her husband on the farm and staying active.



Adrian Thomas

ADMINISTRATIVE/HR INTERN

From Lancaster, Texas, Adrian is pursuing her MBA at Texas Tech University with a concentration in Human Resources. With a background in Human Development and Family Sciences, she is eager to gain hands-on experience in HR and administration. Her enthusiasm and professional focus has made her a valuable addition to team sorghum.



Kyra Holt

COMMUNICATIONS INTERN

A senior agricultural communications student at Texas Tech University, Kyra is originally from St. John, Washington. She has honed her skills through the Matador Institute of Leadership Engagement (MILE) program and internships with iCEV and the National Ranching Heritage Center. She brings a strong commitment to advocating for agriculture through strategic messaging and storytelling, and is thrilled to help tell the sorghum story.



Carly Watson

COMMUNICATIONS INTERN

A senior at Texas Tech University, Carly is majoring in agricultural communications with a minor in political science. She is originally from Gainesville, Texas, where her family raises livestock. Her diverse experience has led her to explore different parts of the industry, from research at the USDA ARS under Dr. Xin, to policy work during the 89th legislative session with Speaker Dustin Burrows in Austin.

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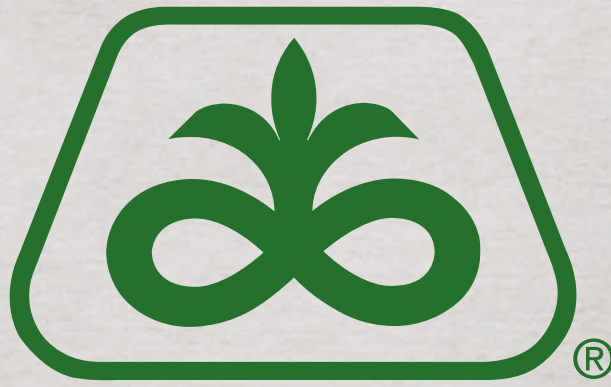
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