

2026 Contest Rules

Please read contest rules carefully before completing the entry form.

Email all entries and harvest reports to yieldcontest@sorghumgrowers.com

CONTEST DEADLINES

A Harvest Report Form will be made available to the contestant starting May 1, 2026. **HARVEST:** You are no longer required to wait 10 days after entering the contest to harvest. **Entries must be submitted by Nov. 24, 2026. All forms must be completed and received by the NSP office no later than Dec. 2, 2026.**

There will be no extension of deadlines.

CONTESTANT QUALIFICATIONS

Contestant must be a paid member of NSP at the time of entry and judging. More than one member of a family may enter, but each contestant must have a separate membership. Contestant must be a certified FSA owner/operator (or child of owner/operator) of the entry plot. **FSA Form 578 Producer Print (showing all farms in the operation) required with entry**, showing a minimum of 50 sorghum acres in an operation. Multiple at least 1.5 acre entries may be entered on a farm, but each entry must be on a separate entry form. Partnerships can enter under the partnership name if the partnership holds a membership. Contestants must be at least 14 years of age at the time of entry. Only one winner per FSA tract number is eligible to be a state and national winner. NSP directors, employees and spouses are prohibited from entering the contest.

CONTEST REGIONS-EAST/WEST

The contest is divided into an East Region and West Region, with the dividing line following the east-ern state borders of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. The field state, not the residence of the contestant will deter-mine the region qualification of the entry. Regions do not apply to the food grade division.

CONTEST DIVISIONS

Irrigated
Dryland No-Till
Dryland Tillage
Food Grade

No-Till means the soil is left undisturbed from the harvest of the previous crop to the harvest of the next crop with the exception of the injection of nutrients with knives or coulters, not sweeps.

Tillage refers to any disturbance of the soil beyond the injection of nutrients at any time during the year.

FIELD QUALIFICATIONS

The aerial map must be included with the entry and the harvest report. Each plot's harvest report will be limited to a single harvest per year. High-tannin sorghum varieties will not be accepted.

NSP may cross-check contest yields with RMA-reported data, and only one harvest report per field is allowed each year.

ELIGIBILITY & REPORTING

To enter the National Sorghum Producers Yield Contest, participants must follow one of two protocols.

Protocol One: Market-Based Verification involves harvesting and delivering the entire field (5-640 acres) to market, may verify yield using elevator or purchaser tickets. These tickets must clearly show the gross weight, tare weight, and moisture percentage. A signed RMA Insured Production Report (IPR) is not required however the NSP reserves the right to request one to confirm yield. If all required documentation is complete and accurate, no supervisor is needed. Entries must also include the original FSA Form 578 verification map with clearly marked field boundaries, along with an aerial map of the field. If utilizing on-farm storage, participants are not eligible for Protocol One.

Protocol Two: Supervised On-Farm Verification applies to entries that use on-farm weighing methods or involve harvesting a designated ≥ 1.5 -acre section of a larger field. All entries under this protocol must be overseen by an approved supervisor, like previous years, who is responsible for ensuring full compliance with contest rules and verifying the accuracy of yield reporting. Producers are not permitted to conduct moisture testing themselves.

To comply with **Protocol Two**, the supervisor must be present during the entire harvest of the contest plot, must make all field measurements and computations, oversee the weighing, INCLUDING LOADING AND UNLOADING, moisture testing, verify the date of harvest, report location of the contest field, and specify the tillage method.

Detailed rules for measuring, weighing, moisture testing and calculating the yield results will be mailed to the contestant upon receipt his/her entry.

Under Protocol Two, Supervisors MUST be from FFA Advisers the following list:

- Vocational Agricultural Instructor
- County Extension Agent or Assistant
- NRCS Employees
- FSA CED/Loan Manager/Officer
- SWCD Employees
- College of Agriculture Instructor
- American Society of Farm Managers
- Accredited Farm Manager
- Crop Insurance Agents/Adjusters (not contestant's agent or adjuster)
- Farm Credit Services Officers (not contestant's service officer)
- Bank Ag Loan Officer (not contestant's loan officer)

Supervisors from the following list will NOT be accepted and the entry will be disqualified:

- Private crop consultants or agronomist
- Anyone who has a financial or direct business tie to a company that sells agribusiness supplies (i.e. seed or chemical representatives, farm equipment sales men, etc.)
- Employee/relative of the contestant lending agencies
- The contestant himself/herself
- Producers serving on boards of NSP, USCP or state sorghum producer NSP affiliated boards

JUDGING

All division places will be determined by yield only. In the event of a tie, the contestant harvesting and reporting the largest acreage will be declared the winner. If a second tie-breaker is needed, the contestant with the longest time between the entry date and the harvest date will be named the winner. Any entry is subject to further review. Any contestant committing fraud will be barred from the contest for three years.

CONTEST WINNERS

The contestant with the highest yield in the county will be named the county winner.

First, second, and third place state winners in each division will be determined by yield. Entries will not be entered into state and national competition if the yield is below the national average (as published in the November WASDE report). Only one state award in each division will be given per membership with the entry with the highest yield considered for state awards.

The first, second, and third place national winners in each division by region will be named from the first, second, and third place state winners based on yield. Only one national award will be given per membership, with only the entry with the highest yield being considered for national honors. There will be only one national food grade winner.

Hall of Fame: Beginning with the 1997 national winners, contestants who win National 1st Place three times in a division will be inducted into the Hall of Fame and will not be eligible to enter that division again.

AWARDS

County and state winners will receive certificates by mail. National winners will receive trophies. No cash awards will be given by NSP in any division.

Bin Buster Award: Each year the entry with the highest yield will be recognized as the Sorghum Bin Buster winner.