

# Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission

## 2014 Annual Report



**Vision:** The Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission is focused on increasing grain sorghum profitability and being recognized as a valuable asset by the Kansas grain sorghum producer.

**Mission:** The Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission directs the investment of funds generated by the grain sorghum check-off to enhance the profitability of the Kansas grain sorghum producer.

**From the Chairman of the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission:** Clayton Short, second generation sorghum producer from Assaria, KS. Clayton states, "Grain sorghum farmers had a great year in 2013. Acres planted increased and grain production per acre was up. It continues to be the crop of choice in water stressed environments in Kansas. Grain sorghum production is not without challenges. Increasing yields and herbicide options are still common themes in sorghum grower's conversations. The Kansas Commission continues to direct its funds toward these and other research priorities. Additional research funds are needed to continue improving this crop, and to keep adding acres in drought stressed areas of Kansas."

### Kansas Passback Dollars

The United Sorghum Checkoff Program (USCP) distributes national checkoff dollars based on a percentage of production to those states that have been approved by the USDA as qualified state organizations. These states use the funds for additional research, market development and education. Kansas works in conjunction with USCP to benefit the local producer. Kansas remains the largest collection state after five years of the sorghum checkoff. Collection is based on the amount collected during the fiscal year, which is October 1 to September 30. The sorghum assessment is 0.6 percent of the net market value of the grain sorghum.

Fiscal Year	Kansas Passback	Kansas Total Collection Percentage
FY2013	\$781,105.00	39%
FY2012	\$863,052.00	51%
FY2011	\$1,110,049.67	52%
FY2010	\$855,655.59	54%
FY2009	\$557,104.00	43%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,136,963.26</b>	

### Kansas Investment

The KGSC approved \$713,831.00 for research, market promotion, and education. A full funded project listing can be found on page three. Research contracts follow the Commission's fiscal year, starting on October 1, 2013 and will be completed on September 30, 2014.

The Commission works to ensure reserves for continual sorghum research in years when yields are reduced such as a drought year. This year the Commission used reserve funds to continue funding research projects important to the sorghum industry. The Board will continue to be diligent to prepare for crop year hardships and provide for continued research investment.

***Kansas continues to rank first in grain sorghum production in the United States with over 43 percent of the production. Kansas production totaled 165 million bushels in 2013, an increase from last year. The Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission continues to work with research partners to increase sorghum production in Kansas, as it is a vital part of the Kansas economy.***



### **Leadership Sorghum**

Last December the United Sorghum Checkoff (USCP) graduated the first Leadership Sorghum Class. This program was developed to cultivate the next generation of leaders for the sorghum industry. Leadership Sorghum exposes sorghum farmer participants to various aspects of the industry through hands-on and classroom style education. Participants gain a better understanding of how sorghum moves through the value chain, industry interaction with checkoffs and interest organizations, and the industry's future direction. The Leadership Sorghum Class was a sixteen month program with five sessions. It began in

September of 2012 and ran through December 2013. Kansas is proud to have been well represented in a very strong first class. Class I Kansas participants are Tanner Ehmke, Healy; Stephen Bigge, Stockton; Josh Levin, Kensington; Pat Damman, Clifton; Matt Splitter, Lyons; Martin Kerschen, Garden Plain; and Shayne Suppes, Dighton. Leadership Sorghum graduate, Martin Kerschen states, "The Leadership Sorghum Class I showed 15 producers how the sorghum industry can and will grow. Seeing the seed productions, exports, research and other key parts of our industry prepared me to be a more effective industry leader. Now, as a USCP board member, I can assist in making decisions that drive producer profitability and productivity." Several Kansas class members are working on committees and other boards to increase sorghum awareness. Leadership Sorghum Program is taking application for Class II starting in March 2014. Class II session will begin in September 2014.

### **Referendum**

The USDA Sorghum Promotion, Research and Information Order requires a referendum be conducted no later than three years after the beginning of assessments. The order requires a simple majority vote in favor of the program for USCP to continue. Sorghum producers had the opportunity to vote in the month of February 2011 to continue the program. The next referendum will be in 2015.

### **United Sorghum Checkoff Program (USCP)**

The USCP board is comprised of 13 sorghum growers with five Kansas board members. The Kansas board members are Adam Baldwin, McPherson; Bill Greving, Prairie View; Martin Kerschen, Garden Plains; Greg Shelor, Minneola; and Clayton Short, Assaria. USCP Kansas board members serve in other areas throughout the industry. There are two serving as KGSC board members Clayton Short, Chairman from Assaria and Bill Greving, Prairie View. Greg Shelor from Minneola serves as President of the Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association board. Kansas is fortunate to have our leaders involved at the national level. USCP has two staff members in Kansas: Jesse McCurry and Sarah Bowser. USCP staff work very closely with the commission in promoting and marketing sorghum in the state. Bowser serves in a dual role working for both the Commission and USCP.

Kansas is well represented on USCP Committees through external committee member seats.

- Crop Improvement Committee – Dr. Rob Aiken, Kansas State University, Colby, KS
- Renewables Committee – Matt Durler, Conestoga Energy Partners, LLC, Liberal, KS; Scott Anderson, Pratt Energy, LLC, Pratt, KS; and Steve Seabrook, POET Ethanol Products, Wichita, KS
- High Value Committee – J.J. Jones, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Topeka, KS; and Dr. Timothy Dalton, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS

<b>Research Project Title</b>		
Remote Sensing Screening Tools for Sorghum Breeding Programs	KSU - Aiken, Price, Co-Merwe, Tesso, Perumal	\$ 36,000.00
Screen Exotic Sorghum Germplasm to Identify New Sources of Stalk Rot Resistance	KSU - Little, Perumal, Tesso	\$ 39,785.00
Expansion and Validation of an Automated Trapping System for Monitoring Sorghum Headworm	KSU - McCornack	\$ 10,000.00
Maximizing Sorghum Yield and Profitability through Efficient N Fertilization	KSU – Mengel	\$ 31,956.00
Comparison of Yield, Water Use, and Profitability of Grain Sorghum and Drought-Tolerant Corn in Dryland and Limited Irrigation Systems in Central Kansas	KSU - Nelson, Cramer	\$ 30,066.00
Evaluation of Nitrogen and Iron Use Efficiency in Advanced Sorghum Lines	KSU - Obour, Perumal, Prasad	\$ 37,221.00
Development of sorghum parental (A/B and R) lines with enhanced drought and cold tolerance	KSU - Perumal, Aiken, Little	\$ 98,000.00
Improving Yield Potential of Grain Sorghum through Drought and Heat Tolerance	KSU -Prasad, Tesso, Perumal	\$ 52,000.00
Sorghum Hybrid and Wheat Variety Traits for Planting Wheat after Sorghum in No-Till	KSU - Roozeboom, Jennings	\$ 18,835.00
Effect of Chinch Bug Feeding and Drought on Sorghum Stand Establishment and Yield	KSU - Smith, Whitworth, McCornack	\$ 22,344.00
Development of genomic tools to facilitate drought tolerance and ALS resistance breeding in sorghum	KSU - Tesso, Prasad, Jugulam	\$ 57,250.00
Breeding Sorghum for Improved Production and Utilization	KSU - Tesso, Prasad, Roozeboom	\$ 83,200.00
Development of Utilization of Sorghum as Feedstock for Biofuel Production	KSU - Wang, Tesso	\$ 25,000.00
Diagnosing Sorghum Production Problems in Kansas	KSU - Ciampitti	\$ 8,000.00
Center for Sorghum Improvement	KSU	\$ 50,000.00
Sorghum Doubled Haploid Technology for Kansas Farmers	Heartland Plant Innovations	\$ 25,000.00
USDA - Development of a Long Term USDA ARS PSGD Sorghum Breeding Presence in Kansas	USDA ARS Lubbock, TX	\$ 21,500.00
<b>Total Research</b>		<b>\$ 646,157.00</b>
<b>Market Promotion</b>		
US Grain Council		\$ 20,000.00
International Grain Program	KSU - Fowler, Oneil, Campabadal	\$ 30,000.00
Kansas FFA Foundation		\$ 3,000.00
<b>TOTAL Market Promotion</b>		<b>\$ 53,000.00</b>
<b>Education</b>		
Sorghum Production Schools for Kansas	KSU - Ciampitti, Thompson, Roozeboom	\$ 12,174.00
Kansas Foundation for Ag in the Classroom		\$ 2,500.00
<b>TOTAL Education</b>		<b>\$ 14,674.00</b>

\*Commission may approve additional research, market promotion, or education items during fiscal year.

### **Sorghum Market Distribution**

The U.S. sorghum industry is comprised of a variety of markets. The U.S. sorghum crop usage is dominated by ethanol, feed and exports. Sorghum used for ethanol production has increased to 31 percent and sorghum used for livestock feed has maintained at 27 percent. Export markets have showed a huge increase to 40 percent with 100 million bushels estimated to be sold to China in 2013-2014 marketing year (as of January 9, 2014). The four percent balance of the market is food industry market share.

### **International Grain Program (IGP)**

The IGP mission is to provide innovative and relevant education and technical programs to enhance the market preference, consumption and utilization of U.S. cereal grains, oilseeds and their value-added products for the global grain industry. KGSC continues to support IGP in its activities. In 2013, IGP hosted 47 courses with 1072 participants from 34 different countries. These numbers include onsite and outreach programs. Program topics fall in 3 different categories: Flour Milling and Grain Processing, Grain Marketing and Risk Management, and Feed Manufacturing and Grain Management. The KGSC is on the IGP Advisory Board. In addition, IGP hosted several courses in partnership with the U.S. Grains Council, of which KGSC is a member.

### **U.S. Grain Council (USGC)**

The growing global middle class continues to permeate business for the primary target opportunity for growth. As global economies improve, commodities like sorghum will prove to be a valuable resource. All over the world, people are switching from a plant starch based diet to an animal protein based diet. Kansas sorghum producers are uniquely positioned to capitalize on this rapidly growing trend. Intense market education and trading sophistication is necessary to elevate new and old partners alike for them to take advantage of the US farmers' incredible productivity. In mid-October, the KGSC was joined by the Sorghum Checkoff and U.S. Grains Council in hosting a Latin American trade team. This team



had representatives from Ecuador, Colombia, Panama, Perú, and Venezuela. The team's primary interest was with feed grain nutrition for poultry and swine. The Sorghum Checkoff sponsored Dr. Scott Beyer, Kansas State poultry nutritionist to provide technical information on sorghum ration inclusion. The trip's highlight was visiting Commissioner Jeff Casten's farm. Casten highlighted his field management and the team valued the chance to see sorghum in the field.

### **Kansas Commissioners**

District 1 – Lonnie Wilson, Colby; District 2 - Greg Graff, Leoti; District 3 - Boyd Funk, Garden City, Secretary / Treasurer; District 4 - Bill Greving, Prairie View; District 5 – Clayton Short, Assaria, Chairman; District 6 - Dennis Siefkes, Hudson; District 7 – Nathan Larson, Riley; District 8 - Jeff Casten, Quenemo, Vice-chairperson; District 9 - Gary Kilgore, Chanute Administrator - Jill Barnhardt, [jill@ksgrainsorghum.org](mailto:jill@ksgrainsorghum.org)

