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KANSAS GRAIN SORGHUM
ANNUAL REPORT



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KANSAS SORGHUM AT A GLANCE



Farmers planted **2.6 million** acres of sorghum in Kansas



Area for sorghum harvest reached **2.4 million** acres



204 million bushels of grain sorghum were produced



Farmers harvested an average of **85 bushels** per acre



\$3.19

Farmers received an average farm price of **\$3.19** per bushel



This has been a challenging year in many ways but this farmer leadership commits to get better and design outcomes for producer dollars. We must see results, and we will steward checkoff dollars in ways appropriate to our farmers.

STEPHEN BIGGE, CHAIRMAN & FARMER, STOCKTON, KANSAS



INVESTING IN KANSAS

Kansas growers **gave \$3,501,042.35** in assessments to the Sorghum Checkoff in 2019.

Kansas **received \$851,106.33** in passback dollars to invest in additional research, market development and education.

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To date, Kansas sorghum farmers have graduated from Leadership Sorghum

Alumni are currently board or staff members of state or national organizations

LEADERSHIP SORGHUM

The Sorghum Checkoff is developing the next generation of leaders for the sorghum industry with its Leadership Sorghum program. Throughout the program, class members are exposed to various aspects of the sorghum industry from basic and applied research to international marketing. Through both hands-on and classroom-style education, participants gain an understanding of how sorghum moves through the value chain, how checkoffs and interest organizations interact on behalf of the industry and what the future holds for the crop. The program also provides professional development training and networking opportunities. Class IV graduated eight Kansans:

- » John Bergkamp, Garden Plain
- » Jon Berning, Scott City
- » Matthew Davis, Manhattan
- » Jaden DeVore, Cheney
- » Jace Gibbs, Dighton
- » Larry Kendig, Osborne
- » Cole Rohr, Quinter
- » Tony Watson, Healy

KANSAS GRAIN SORGHUM COMMISSION BOARD



Left to right: Clark Bibb, Coldwater; Clayton Short, Vice Chairman, Assaria; Kevin Kniebel, White City; Stephen Bigge, Chairman, Stockton; Lonnie Wilson, Colby; Nathan Larson, Sec./Treas., Riley; Jay Zimmerman, South Haven
Not pictured: Greg Graff, Leoti; Mike O'Brate, Ingalls

SORGHUM CHECKOFF BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Five Kansans are on the Sorghum Checkoff Board of Directors working to increase producer productivity and profitability:

- » Craig Poore, Alton, Chairman
- » Boyd Funk, Garden City, Treasurer
- » Kendall Hodgson, Little River
- » Shayne Suppes, Scott City
- » Jeffrey Zortman, Fowler

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

In 2019, the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission board invested half-a-million dollars in research and projects with the ultimate goal of helping Kansas farmers gain more value.

- » Improving chilling tolerance in grain sorghum with genomics-assisted breeding: **\$94,300**
- » Breeding sorghum for improved dryland productivity and utilization: **\$75,000**
- » Development of sorghum parental lines with enhanced drought and cold tolerance: **\$50,000**
- » Development of high yielding cold tolerant sorghum adapted to Kansas: **\$42,600**
- » Discovery and design of highly efficient sorghum haploid inducers for doubled haploid breeding system: **\$40,000**
- » Physiological and genetic characterization of grain sorghum for enhancing early season chilling and terminal drought stress resilience: **\$35,000**
- » U.S. Grains Council – Finding new demand globally: **\$44,000**
- » International Grains Program Market Development: **\$30,000**
- » Mechanism of mesotrione tolerance in sorghum and screening sorghum germplasm for tolerance to synthetic auxins: **\$25,000**
- » Sorghum Schools: **\$12,080**

TRAIT MAP
(Crop Model)

TRAIT MARKER
(Genetic Marker)

TRAIT DONOR
(Elite Sorghum Background)



DROPXL SORGHUM

DropXL Sorghum is a State of Kansas effort managed by the Collaborative Sorghum Investment Program (CSIP). The Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission, Sorghum Checkoff and Kansas State University formed CSIP to tackle the advancement of demand, yield and value for sorghum. Leveraging CSIP is support by the Kansas Department of Agriculture and industry partners. DropXL Sorghum is a trait technology package working toward providing farmers with tools to achieve higher productivity under moderate water limitation. To attain this, DropXL is identifying optimal trait combinations for water productivity across Kansas' target environments as well as genetic markers for targeted trait in field trials, and developing improved trait donor lines to facilitate water-optimized sorghum hybrids. Simulation modeling in 2019 suggests DropXL technology conserves soil moisture while increasing grain yields by four percent in Kansas environments. Completion of DropXL Sorghum is expected in 2024, where trait technology will be transferred to the seed industry.

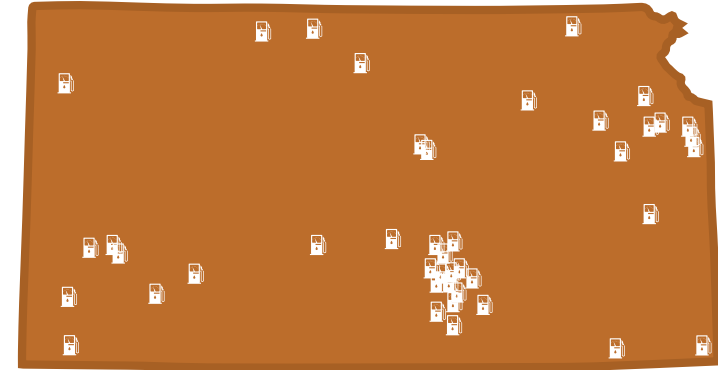
ESTABLISHING GREATER VALUE

The market for sorghum is diverse. Traditionally, demand centers around three areas: one-third ethanol, one-third livestock feed and one-third export. In recent years, at least half of Kansas sorghum production has gone into the export market, largely to China to feed livestock, ducks and to make baijiu. There is also an increasing demand for food-grade sorghum as consumers are attracted to its naturally gluten-free, nutritious benefits. Also, sustainability is becoming more important to buyers and the agriculture system.



FUELED BY ETHANOL

Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission and the Sorghum Checkoff remain committed to ethanol in Kansas. From supporting blender pump infrastructure and dispelling rumors and myths, to research designed to improve coproducts, Kansas sorghum farmers know ethanol demand remains pivotal to their bottom line. Nearly 50 Kansas gas stations sell ethanol blends higher than E15, and that number continues to grow.



GLOBALLY ENGAGED

Kansas hosted inbound international trade teams from Japan, China, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Philippines and Myanmar in 2019. Working with our partners at the U.S. Grains Council, Sorghum Checkoff and Kansas Department of Agriculture, these opportunities give buyers critical information and relationships to inform their purchases. During missions, attendees visited farmers' fields, ethanol plants, terminal grain facilities and inspection offices. Trade teams enjoy visiting Kansas because the state is the leading producer of grain sorghum and has exciting tour stops as well as travel ease aided by great volunteers.

AN INTEREST IN BAIJIU

In June 2019, Kansas sorghum staff traveled throughout China fighting to maintain those hard-earned markets. Baijiu, distilled from fermented sorghum, provides ease of distillation and fermentation while providing unique tastes. The Sorghum Checkoff is working with a university and key companies in China to develop a niche supply chain extending into Kansas fields. Sampling and testing is promising to dedicate certain hybrids and grower production to hit this huge market. Theoretically, the industry could use another two million tons of imported sorghum. Baijiu continues to be a premium market for sorghum.



SORGHUM STATE PODCAST

The Sorghum State Podcast was launched in late 2018 and explores the exciting people and issues affecting Kansas sorghum. Full episodes can be found at ksgrainsorghum.org

GROWERS WORKING TOGETHER



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