

# Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission

## 2015 Annual Report



**Vision:** The Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission (KGSC) 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 another great year in 2014. Grain sorghum production increased by almost 19% over 2013 and on average the yields were up by about 15 bushels per acre compared to last year also. I feel that we are going to continue to see an increase in sorghum acres in the state. We have a lot of factors playing in to this. Exports markets increasing and the topic of water is on everyone's mind now as we learn more about the Kansas Water Vision."

### 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 six 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
FY 2014	\$934,107.00	40%
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>\$ 5,101,073.26</b>	

### Kansas Investment

The KGSC approved \$759,783 for research, market promotion, and education. Research contracts follow the Commission's fiscal year, starting on October 1, 2015 and will be completed on September 30, 2016. See insert for a list of current KGSC projects.

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 40 percent of the production. Kansas production totaled 200 million bushels in 2014, 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**

In September of 2014 the United Sorghum Checkoff (USCP) started the second session of the 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 II is a sixteen month program with five sessions beginning in September of 2014 and running through December 2016. Kansas has a very strong second class of leaders. Class II Kansas participants are Dan Atkisson, Stockton; Kelsey Baker, Scott City; Casey Crossland, WaKeeney; Nathan Larson, Riley; Craig Poore, Alton; Lance Russell, Hays and Jessica Wyrill, Kirwin. Leadership Sorghum Class II member, Nathan Larson says, "As a grain sorghum producer this program has introduced me to the full spectrum of our industry, knowledge of seed production, domestic and foreign markets and the opportunity to learn more about the government's role. This is making me a better producer while developing my leadership skills in the industry." Several current and past Leadership Sorghum Class members hold leadership roles in Kansas sorghum. Leadership Sorghum Class I - Martin Kerschen is serving on the USCP board, Stephen Bigge is a commissioner on the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission (KGSC) and is on the National Sorghum Producers (NSP) legislative committee, and Pat Damman was recently hired as the director of Kansas Grain Sorghum. Leadership Sorghum Class II – Nathan Larson is a commissioner on the KGSC, Craig Poore and Lance Russell serve on the Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association (KGSPA) board, and Dan Atkisson is serving on the NSP board of directors. Leadership sorghum is growing leaders in Kansas.

### **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 Spring 2015.

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

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

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

- Crop Improvement Committee – Dr. Gary Pierzynski, Kansas State University, Manhattan
- Renewables Committee – Matt Durler, Conestoga Energy Partners, LLC, Liberal, KS; Derek Peine, Western Plains Energy, LLC, Oakley
- High Value Committee – Kerry Wefald, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Topeka, KS; and Dr. Timothy Dalton, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS

### **Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission, Association Joined in Cooperative Agreement**

The Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission (KGSC) and the Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association (KGSPA) joined into a cooperative agreement that allows the two organizations to share office space and staff effective May 1, 2014. Discussions between the leaders of the two groups began in January 2014. KGSC will be the administrator of the two organizations. The two groups operate as Kansas Grain Sorghum.

The association was established by Kansas grain sorghum growers to represent members in legislative and regulatory issues. The commission and association continue to have separate boards and budgets.



The KGSPA has shared staff and office space with the Kansas Corn Growers Association for several years.

“Corn and sorghum are both feed grains with our main customers being livestock, ethanol and exports. Because of our shared customers and issues, this has been a good fit,” according to KGSPA President Greg Shelor of Minneola. “The Kansas Grain Sorghum

Commission offered an opportunity to bring both of our sorghum groups under one roof.”

KGSC Chairman Clayton Short of Assaria said the Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association and Commission are joining efforts to improve production and profitability for Kansas growers.

“I expect this partnership to function as a very efficient group with joint staff, focused research projects, and provide a unified voice for sorghum growers,” Short said. “Grain Sorghum has several traits and characteristics that allow it to excel in the tough Kansas water and heat stressed environments. I look forward to working together with the association, commission and all Kansas growers to improve profitability of grain sorghum.”

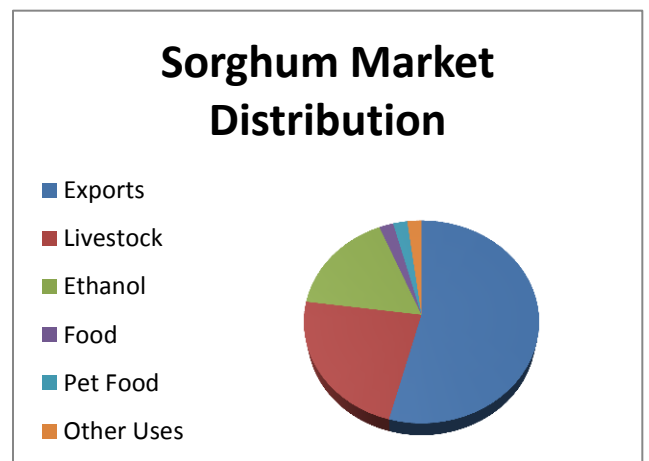
Check out Kansas Grain Sorghum website at [www.ksgrainsorghum.org](http://www.ksgrainsorghum.org).

### **Sorghum Market Growth Driven by Exports**

The market place for sorghum both domestically and internationally has steadily increased within the last five years. Demand for the 2014 crop has exploded. In fact, it took only four months into the 2014-2015 marketing year for exports of U.S. grain sorghum to surpass last year’s total.

“Demand for sorghum is at an all-time high,” said Florentino Lopez, Sorghum Checkoff executive director. “This demand is revealed through the purchasing patterns of the export market.” Commitments for U.S. grain sorghum have already surpassed last year’s total by 28 percent at 291.4 million bushels. China currently has imported 64.7 percent of total U.S. sorghum production totaling 280 million bushels.

Five years ago, the export sector accounted for 30 percent of the U.S. grain sorghum market. At that time, an additional 30 percent went into livestock feed and 30 percent into ethanol with the remaining going to end uses such as food aid, pet food and the food industry. However, in 2013 sorghum exports skyrocketed when Gun Jen Juee Agriculture Trading Company became the first company to import U.S. sorghum into China. China purchases have exceeded 60 percent of the 2014 sorghum crop and new crop bids are reflecting continued demand for the 2015 crop.



This record demand has increased basis across the sorghum belt by a documented 43 cents per bushel. Lopez said demand today exceeds supply, and the Sorghum Checkoff will continue to maintain and increase opportunities for producers to strengthen supply and fill the growing demand for sorghum in all marketplaces.

### **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 2014, IGP hosted 62 courses with 1687 participants from 45 different countries. These numbers have increased significantly since 2013, this includes onsite and outreach programs. New in 2014, IGP offered on-location courses to better accommodate participants. 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 host several course in partnership with the U.S. Grains Council, of which KGSC is a member.

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



The US Grain Council (USGC) hosted visitors from China to learn more about Kansas sorghum. On October 24 a Chinese delegation touring the US sorghum belt visited central Kansas. During their Kansas visit, they toured Kansas Ethanol LLC, ADM in Hutchinson and United Sorghum Checkoff Program (USCP) Board Member and Kansas grower Adam Baldwin's farm. The highlight for the group was visiting the Baldwin's sorghum fields where they saw an excellent crop followed by dinner and conversation about sorghum production. The Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission sponsored lunch.

As Chinese demand continues to surge the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission is receiving a significant volume of interest. The USGC continues to develop markets; enabling trade and improving lives as stated in the mission statement. They have 10 international offices, one being in China.

### **Kansas Commissioners**

District 1 – Lonnie Wilson, Colby; District 2 - Greg Graff, Leoti; District 3 - Boyd Funk, Garden City, Secretary / Treasurer; District 4 - Stephen Bigge, Stockton; District 5 – Clayton Short, Assaria, Chairman; District 6 – Jay Zimmerman, South Haven; District 7 – Nathan Larson, Riley; District 8 - Jeff Casten, Quenemo, Vice-chairperson; District 9 - Gary Kilgore, Chanute.

### **Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission Staff**

Administrator - Jill Barnhardt, Lebo, KS; [jill@ksgrainsorghum.org](mailto:jill@ksgrainsorghum.org)

Director - Pat Damman, Clifton, KS; [pat@ksgrainsorghum.org](mailto:pat@ksgrainsorghum.org)





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## 2015 - 2016 Priorities

1. Weed Control
  - a. Research focusing on the identification of new genetic sources for resistance to available grass control herbicides.
  - b. Management research addressing herbicide treatment and farm based weed control.
2. Yield
  - a. Genetic and breeding research targeted towards increased yields in both high yielding and limited resource environments.
  - b. Research focusing on best farm management practices for top yields. This priority can include but is not limited to: farm trials, extension meetings and on-farm management case studies.
  - c. Identify best management practices for both full and limited irrigation practices.
3. Standability
  - a. Researching the key components attributed to standability.
  - b. Proposal directed toward ensuring genetics in producers' fields have strong standability.
4. Sorghum Economics and Profitability
  - a. Production economics focusing on farm profitability and sorghum return relative to other crops.
  - b. Water economics to include but not limited to: water response curves and limited irrigation returns.
  - c. Basis drivers evaluating the impact of ethanol, feed markets, exports and other market drivers on interior Kansas basis markets.
5. Disease Control
  - a. Evaluate how plant health and disease resistance are influenced by management including but not limited to fertilizer, seed treatment, and seeding rates.
  - b. Genetic research targeted toward plant health and disease resistance.
6. Insect Control
  - a. Evaluation of economic threshold for treatment and insect control related to profitability.
  - b. Chinch bug management and control.

Research proposals outside of these priorities will be considered. Strong proposals will provide a linkage and vision for commercialization of project outcomes. For further clarification or questions regarding your proposal please contact the commission.

## Research, Market Promotion and Education Funded - Oct 2015 to Sept 2016

Research Project Title	PI	Amount
Remote Sensing Screening Tools for Sorghum Breeding Programs	KSU - Aiken, Co- Prasad, Merwe, Tesso, Perumal, Price (RoboFlight)	\$ 36,000.00
Best Management Practices for Top-Yields in Sorghum	KSU - Ciampitti, Diaz, Adee, Cramer	\$ 16,725.00
Sorghum Yield and Profitability Response to Water Supply and Irrigation Management	KSU - Cramer, Kisekka, Golden, many other co Pis	\$ 149,982.00
Germplasm Screening Host-Plant Interactions and Inoculation Techniques for Sorghum Stalk Rot Diseases in Kansas	KSU - Little, Permual, Tesso	\$ 39,867.00
Evaluation of Sorghum Germplasm for Herbicide Tolerance (KGSC and United Sorghum Checkoff has jointly funded this project.)	KSU - Jugulam, Prasad, Thompson	\$ 30,000.00
Improved Genomic Mapping and Marker-Assisted Selection for Cold Tolerance in Grain Sorghum	KSU - Morris, Perumal, Tesso, Prasad	\$ 79,000.00
Evaluating Nitrogen and Iron Use Efficiency in Advanced Sorghum Lines	KSU - Obour, Schlegel, Diaz	\$ 48,620.00
Development of sorghum parental (A/B and R) lines with enhanced drought and cold tolerance	KSU - Perumal, Aiken, Little	\$ 99,000.00
Improving Yield Potential of Grain Sorghum through Drought and Heat Tolerance	KSU - Prasad, Tesso, Perumal	\$ 52,000.00
Breeding Sorghum for Improved Production and Utilization	KSU - Tesso, Prasad, Roozeboom, Little	\$ 89,700.00
Effect of Chinch Bug Feeding and Drought on Sorghum Stand Establishment and Yield	KSU - Smith, Whitworth, McCornack	\$ 22,344.00
KSU - Center for Sorghum Improvement	KSU	\$ 50,000.00
Development of Long-Term USDA ARS PSGD Sorghum Breeding Presence in Kansas	USDA- Hayes	\$ 21,500.00
Sorghum Double Haploid Technology for Kansas Farmers	Heartland Plant Innovations	\$ 25,000.00
<b>Total Research</b>		<b>\$ 759,738.00</b>
<b>Market Promotion</b>		
US Grains Council		\$ 20,000.00
International Grains Program		\$ 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, Diaz	\$ 12,188.00
Kansas Foundation for Ag in the Classroom		\$ 2,500.00
<b>Total Education</b>		<b>\$ 14,688.00</b>
*Commission may approve additional research, market promotion, or educational items during fiscal year.		