



2023

KANSAS GRAIN SORGHUM COMMISSION
ANNUAL REPORT

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Chairman's Letter: A New Era

From the challenging year of 2022 to the challenging year of 2023, Kansas farmers have had to make on-the-fly changes to work through many issues. Nevertheless, a new era within the sorghum industry has risen. Despite all doubts, sorghum acres were up 13% from last year. With this excitement and faith surrounding the sorghum crop, we knew a successful year was waiting for us. As a native of western Kansas and a fifth-generation farmer, I know how vital this crop is to our state.

One of the goals of the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission is to cultivate relationships with overseas partners and stakeholders. This June, along with the Sorghum Checkoff and U.S. Grains Council, we assisted in the successful execution of Export Sorghum, a summit focused on connecting buyers and merchants from multiple countries, including China, a leader in U.S. sorghum exports. Nearly 30 attendees visited the operations of sorghum leaders and were able to have a firsthand glimpse of Kansas agriculture, and it was clear they were very excited about sorghum. This was the largest delegation in several years.

Team Sorghum is at the forefront of the conservation and sustainability movement. Kansas sorghum is the poster child for sustainability, with

its power to sip water and withstand even one of history's scorching droughts. The Sorghum Checkoff presented a video series this year that further highlights sorghum's abilities in the areas of water usage, soil health, and more.

As always, the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission continues to partner with the Center for Sorghum Improvement in order to assist in the center's goals of increasing the yield, demand, and value of sorghum. We would like to congratulate the CSIP team on the grant they received earlier this fall so they can continue to provide innovative ways to allow for breakthroughs within the sorghum industry.

A few months back, I mentioned on the Sorghum State Podcast how it is such an exciting time to be involved with sorghum and how the wind is at our backs and the sun is in our eyes. I am excited for my new role as chairman and the opportunity to lead the commission forward to continuing to promote sorghum's success in and out of the field.



Sincerely,

Brant Peterson
Chairman & Farmer
Johnson, Kansas

2023 Kansas Sorghum at a Glance

3.3
million acres

3.3 million acres
were harvested

185
million acres

185 million bushels
of grain sorghum
were produced

56
bu per acre

Farmers harvested an
average of **56 bushels**
per acre

\$1.48 B

The Kansas Department of Agriculture's 2023 Growth Sector document indicates the Kansas sorghum industry has created over **3,100 job opportunities** + creates an approximate **direct output of \$1.48 billion**

Market Usage



- 109 MBU Exports
- 60 MBU Feed + Residual
- 42 MBU Food, Seed + Industrial



Exports represent **58 percent** of U.S. sorghum production during 2017-2024

Kansas growers **gave \$4,273,226** in assessments to the Sorghum Checkoff

Kansas **received \$1,046,887** in passback funds from the Sorghum Checkoff



KGSC Board of Directors

The Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission Board is committed to sorghum promotion, research, and information designed to strengthen, expand and develop new foreign and domestic markets for sorghum.

- Brant Peterson, *Chairman*, Johnson
- Jon Berning, Scott City
- Kevin Kniebel, *Vice Chair*, White City
- Matt Benoit, Damar
- Kevin Harris, *Secretary/Treasurer*, Abilene
- Max Tjaden, Clearwater
- Nathan Larson, Riley
- Clark Bibb, Coldwater
- Evan Lesser, Palco
- Blake Connelly, Offerle

Sorghum Checkoff Board of Directors

Five Kansans currently serve on the Sorghum Checkoff Board of Directors:

- Kendall Hodgson, *Vice Chairman*, Little River
- Jeff Zortman, *Treasurer*, Fowler
- Macey Mueller, Halstead
- Kim Baldwin, Inman
- David Schemm, Sharon Springs

Leadership Sorghum

Three Kansans are members of Leadership Sorghum Class VI:

- Jeremiah Nicholson, Dodge City
- Clint France, Scott City
- Brad Haynes, Hays



Stay in the Know

Hear our monthly industry Sorghum State Podcast on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music, or any other platform you choose to listen.

Subscribe to our free monthly e-newsletter, the Kansas Sorghum Leader, at KSGrainSorghum.org/Subscribe.

Top 5 Sorghum Exporters by Bushels + Value



1

China

34 MBU
\$708,003,537



2

Mexico

3.2 MBU
\$60,507,230



3

Sudan

1.9 MBU
\$41,202,150



4

Eritrea

1 MBU
\$18,423,000



5

Djibouti

894,628 BU
\$18,936,322

\$1.1 B

The value of sorghum exports from Kansas was **\$1.1 billion**



KGSC WIN: Chinese Trade Team

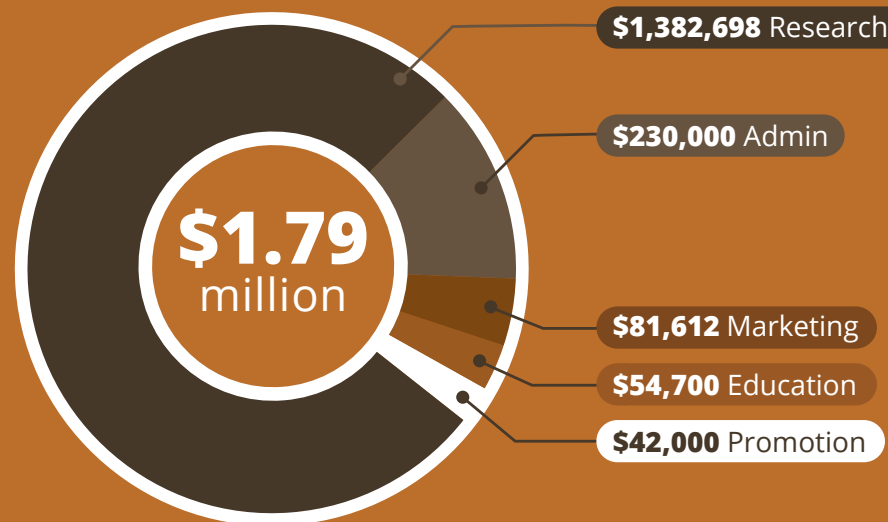
In June, in partnership with the U.S. Grains Council and the United Sorghum Checkoff Program (USCP), the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission hosted a trade team from China—the largest since 2020. Here, they are pictured with KGSC Vice Chairman Kevin Kniebel on his operation in White City.



KGSC WIN: Supporting Youth AG Education

The Commission strives to enhance agricultural education opportunities for students across the state through the support of programs such as the Kansas FFA Foundation and the Kansas Foundation for Ag in the Classroom.

2023 KGSC Budget



Kansas Sorghum Investments

In 2023, the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission board invested in the following research and projects to help Kansas farmers gain more value.

- Optimization of in-vitro regeneration to create sustainable sorghum weed management and controlling traits, led by Jugulam and Trick.
- The Felderhoff lab has developed a sorghum (sugarcane) aphid tolerance marker, which will be found in over 60 percent of new U.S. sorghum hybrid seeds that will be in production this year.
- Research conducted by Shi develops markets for waxy sorghum with high-pasting viscosity.
- Studies on sorghum-based feed for shrimp and tilapia in comparison to wheat-based feeds, which in turn, have adopted sorghum as an ingredient in feeds for larger aquaculture industries such as in Norway.

GROWERS WORKING TOGETHER



FOR MORE INFO:

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