



2024 KANSAS SORGHUM PRODUCERS ANNUAL REPORT

WHO WE ARE

Founded in 1976 and reincorporated in 1994 as the Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association, we are now known simply as Kansas Sorghum Producers (KSP) as of 2024. KSP empowers growers by advocating on legislative, regulatory, and industry issues, with efforts funded by membership dues and industry partnerships.

President:

Shane Ohlde, *Palmer*

Vice President:

Andy Hineman, *Scott City*

Treasurer:

Kelsey Baker, *Scott City*

Secretary:

Brian Younker,
Spearville

Immediate Past

President: Kent Winter,

Mount Hope

Bob Atkisson, *Stockton*

Dan Riffel, *Stockton*

Jim Harden, *Ashland*

Tom Willis, *Liberal*

FROM THE PRESIDENT: ACCELERATING PROGRESS

DEAR KSP MEMBER:

New Year's greetings from your executive committee and board of the Kansas Sorghum Producers, the largest state sorghum association in the nation. As I complete this year as your new association president, it is an honor and privilege to follow Kent Winter, immediate past president, whose steady leadership at the helm of our organization for nearly a decade helped shape it into the force it is today for the benefit of growers across the Sorghum State. As we embark on a new year with unlimited challenges and opportunities, your staff and board of directors remain committed to sharing your battles and paving the way for the crop's advancement through smart policies, both in Topeka and Washington, D.C.

As farmers, uncertainty is ever present, I find it important to reflect on what we can control, maintain, and accelerate. The same is true with KSP as we reflect on a year of engagement and new operations across the state, including:

- **Conducted two KSP Fly-Ins into Washington, D.C.**, bringing together farmhands in July and November to advocate alongside National Sorghum Producers (NSP) in a critical year to improve irrelevant and outdated farm safety net policies. We are pleased with the Disaster and Emergency Aid Congress passed at the eleventh hour in December.
- **Organized Sorghum Day at the Kansas Statehouse 2024**, where membership met with legislators in key sorghum production areas of the state.
- **Ensured strong representation at 11 out of 14 Water Local Consultation Meetings** between June and September. Hosted by the Governor's administration, we advocated for the sustainability of our rural economies.
- **Secured consistent, year-over-year state funding for sorghum research**, while commanding the lead to advance the U.S. Sorghum Industry's flagship crop improvement initiative, the **Collaborative Sorghum Investment Program (CSIP)**, to [increase research funding and commercialization of new crop technologies](#) into your seed bag. KSP successfully engaged the Kansas Department of Agriculture to [increase public investment into sorghum](#); our work continues through the legislative session in 2025 to unlock \$5.8 million for sorghum improvement through 2035 and beyond.

Looking ahead, we are ready to continue our fight for the future of sorghum and its growers in Kansas and across the region. With the support of your ongoing involvement, we will push forward on key issues: the critical need for a robust Farm Bill that meets the needs of sorghum producers; maintaining access to crop protection tools; and, ensuring policies that enable farmers to plant to the needs of their farms and the market.

Thank you for your valued membership in KSP and NSP. Together with our industry partners and elevator members, you stand with your peers as the united voice of the Kansas sorghum industry. Your membership amplifies that voice, giving us the strength to advocate for what matters most and to achieve the successes that benefit us all.

Sincerely,


Shane Ohlde,
KSP President



GRASSROOTS LEADERS AT HOME AND IN CONGRESS

Last July, KSP leaders Shane Ohlde, Kelsey Baker, Kent Winter, and CEO Adam York traveled to D.C. to meet with key Members of Congress in the Kansas delegation. These productive conversations focused on critical issues facing the sorghum industry, including Farm Bill priorities, maintaining crop protection tools, supporting federal sorghum research, and addressing regulatory and policy barriers.

Kansas farmers grow the largest sorghum crop in the U.S., and the state's Congressional Delegation plays a crucial role in supporting the industry. The Big First District of Kansas, represented by Congressman Tracey Mann, is the top sorghum-producing district in the nation, according to the USDA's latest Ag Census. The Fourth District, represented by Congressman Ron Estes, is the third.



In November, KSP staff, in conjunction with the Kansas Corn, Wheat, and Soybean Associations, took to Capitol Hill again to press the need with the Kansas Congressional delegation. The four associations together discussed a range of topics critical to our shared farmer, including disaster and economic assistance and the Farm Bill.



KANSAS SORGHUM PRODUCERS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

JAN. 30, 2025 AT 3:00 P.M.

Salina American AgCredit

KSP members should attend for timely policy updates, resolutions, and board elections.

[RSVP Here when you register for Kansas Commodity Classic](#)

GUEST SPEAKERS:



Florentino Lopez,
Consultant,
Creando Mañana



Verity Ulibarri,
Chairwoman,
U.S. Grains Council



Chris Cogburn,
NSP



Rep. Gary White,
Kansas House
District 115

AND MORE!

INDUSTRY PARTNER SUPPORT

GOLD

CONESTOGA

SILVER



BRONZE



PARTNER



CONTRIBUTOR



KSP raised **\$70,500** through our Industry Partner Program in FY2024*.

*July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

THANK YOU



ADAM YORK
CEO
Manhattan, KS



MADDY MEIER
Dir. of Comms. and Outreach
Wichita, KS

STAY CONNECTED WITH US!
FIND US ONLINE @KANSASSORGHUM