

Sorghum Dollars At Work

LUBBOCK, TEXAS

The Sorghum Checkoff is using producer dollars to boost profits for sorghum growers with new market development, research and education. Since the establishment of the program, your checkoff board has worked diligently to create an organization with a single-minded focus on improving the profitability of the sorghum industry.

The Sorghum Checkoff is generating new interest in sorghum research by awarding more than \$1 million in sorghum research projects. Producers can see the first product of checkoff research efforts in the form of regional handbooks that show producers best management practices for sorghum production in their area. The Mid-South Production Guide is now available and can be obtained via the Contact Us form on our website, www.sorghumcheckoff.com.

Nationally, the Sorghum Checkoff is sponsoring field trials for DuPont's over-the-top herbicide technology. Through checkoff funding, Kansas State University has identified traits

that are resistant to herbicides in some sorghum varieties. The incorporation of these traits into cultivated sorghum would produce an ALS and ACCase resistant plant.

This new technology will provide producers with outstanding weed control and flexibility in crop rotations. Herbicides used for weed control in other crops make the rotation to sorghum difficult because sorghum has little resistance to these products. The development of a resistant variety will allow growers the option of planting sorghum following other crops.

Regionally, the Sorghum Checkoff has partnered with BioDimensions, a Memphis-based firm that is coordinating efforts to build a bioeconomy in the Mid-South. Currently, the group is conducting a development trial in Tennessee where juice extracted from sweet sorghum can be converted to ethanol for use as a biofuel. The goal of the project is to form new ventures supplying farm-grown products to local industries. For more information about the Sorghum Checkoff, visit www.sorghumcheckoff.com. △