



# SORGHUM CHECKOFF

information

## United Sorghum Checkoff Program Background

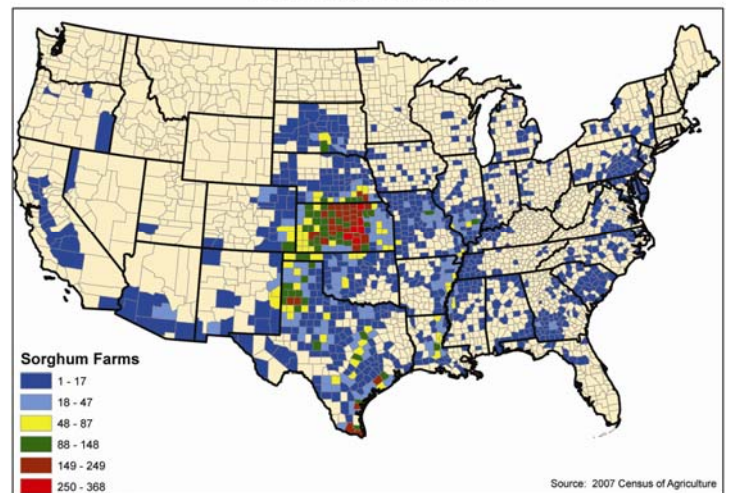
Declining sorghum acres and production over the past years have led to decreased private investment in sorghum. These declines brought about a “technology gap” between sorghum and other crops. The United Sorghum Checkoff Program is working to overcome this gap through producers in a national checkoff. USCP will work to better the sorghum industry through research, promotion and information.

- **Vision:** Sorghum producers profit from a progressive, competitive and adaptive industry.
- **Mission Statement:** The United Sorghum Checkoff Program commits to efficiently invest checkoff dollars to increase producer profitability and enhance the sorghum industry.
- **Strategic Plan:** A strategic plan has been developed that focuses USCP efforts on research, market development and education. The strategic plan is available on our Website: [www.sorghumcheckoff.com](http://www.sorghumcheckoff.com).

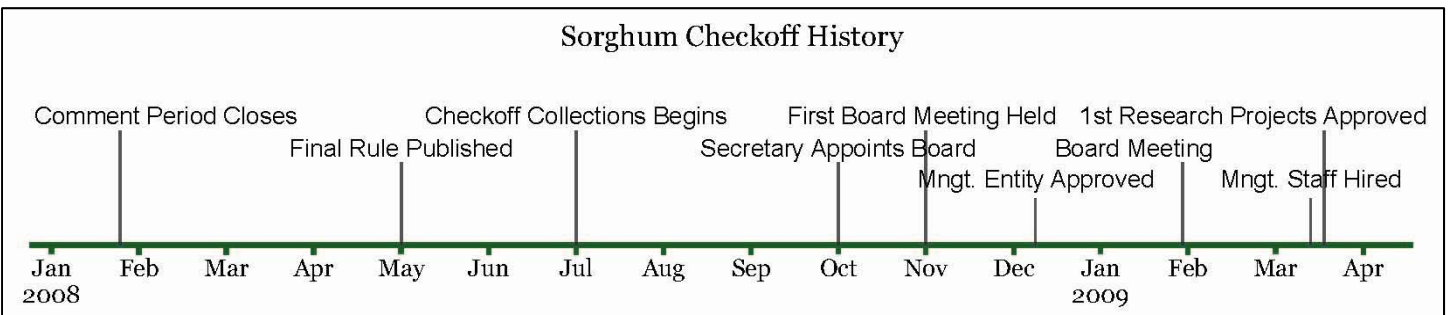
### History:

- The Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996 allows an organization to collect assessments on the production of a commodity.
- The money collected by a checkoff must be used to enhance the industry through research, information and promotion. The money may not be used for lobbying efforts.
- The checkoff approval process began for sorghum in February 2006. The proposed order was published in the Federal Register for public comment on November 23, 2007. The final order was published on May 6, 2008 (see timeline).
- Collections began July 1, 2008, and the USCP Board’s first meeting was held in November of 2008.
- Within three years of the start of collections, a referendum must be held for producers to vote on the checkoff. The checkoff program is managed by the National Sorghum Producers.

U.S. Sorghum Farms



### Sorghum Checkoff History





# **SORGHUM CHECKOFF**

*information*

- The Board is made up of 5 representatives from the largest sorghum production state (currently Kansas), 3 members from the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest production state (currently Texas), and one Board member will represent the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest sorghum production state (currently Nebraska). Four sorghum producers will serve as at-large representatives to the Board.

Your USCP Board of Directors is made up of:

**Chair** Bill Greving, Prairie View, Kansas  
**Vice Chair** Bill Kubecka, Palacios, Texas  
**Secretary** Jeff Casten, Quenemo, Kansas  
**Treasurer** Dale Artho, Wildorado, Texas

**Kansas** Gary Kilgore, Chanute  
Earl Roemer, Healy  
Greg Shelor, Minneola

**Texas** Billy Bob Brown, Panhandle

**Nebraska** James Vorderstrasse, Hebron

**At-Large** Troy Skarke, Claude, Texas  
Louise Rigdon, Blackwell, Oklahoma  
Stewart Weaver, Edmonson, Arkansas  
Jerry Van Zee, Platte, South Dakota

- USCP Program management has been hired, and programs began in March 2009.
- Many research projects have begun, and foreign market development programs are underway.
- Grower education and communication programs have also begun.
- Please visit our Web site at [www.sorghumcheckoff.com](http://www.sorghumcheckoff.com) for more information and news about the sorghum checkoff.