

UNITED SORGHUM CHECKOFF PROGRAM

LUBBOCK, TEXAS

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

AND

REPORT OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

BOLINGER, SEGARS, GILBERT & MOSS, L.L.P.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

LUBBOCK, TEXAS

UNITED SORGHUM CHECKOFF PROGRAM

LUBBOCK, TEXAS

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

AND

REPORT OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

**UNITED SORGHUM CHECKOFF PROGRAM
LUBBOCK, TEXAS**

**BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2023**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Statement Identification</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Independent Auditor's Report		1
<u>Basic Financial Statements</u>		
Statement of Net Position and Governmental Funds Balance Sheet	Exhibit A	4
Statement of Activities and Governmental Fund Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances	Exhibit B	5
Notes to Basic Financial Statements		6
<u>Required Supplementary Information</u>		
Budgetary Comparison Schedule – General Fund	RSI	11
<u>Supplemental Information</u>		
Supplementary Statement of Assessment Revenues by State	Schedule 1	12
<u>Internal Control and Compliance Section</u>		
Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of the Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>		13

BOLINGER, SEGARS, GILBERT & MOSS, L.L.P.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

PHONE: (806) 747-3806

FAX: (806) 747-3815

8215 NASHVILLE AVENUE

LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79423-1954

Independent Auditor's Report

Board of Directors
United Sorghum Checkoff Program
Lubbock, Texas

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and the governmental fund of the United Sorghum Checkoff Program (USCP), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2023, and the related notes to the basic financial statements, which collectively comprise USCP's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and general fund of the United Sorghum Checkoff Program as of September 30, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of United Sorghum Checkoff Program, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about USCP's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of USCP's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about USCP's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that budgetary comparison information on page 11 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Management has omitted management's discussion and analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise USCP's basic financial statements. The Supplementary Statement of Assessment Revenues by State is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. The Supplementary Statement of Assessment Revenues by State is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued a report dated December 4, 2023, on our consideration of the USCP's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of USCP's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering USCP's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss L.L.P.

Certified Public Accountants

Lubbock, Texas

December 4, 2023

UNITED SORGHUM CHECKOFF PROGRAM

EXHIBIT A

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION AND GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE SHEET
SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

	Major Fund General Fund	Adjustments (Note 2)	Statement of Net Position
ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,855,072	\$	\$ 1,855,072
Temporary Cash Investments	15,394,559		15,394,559
Accounts Receivable	1,963		1,963
Prepaid Expenses	34,805		34,805
Interest Receivable		10,475	10,475
Total Assets	<u>\$ 17,286,399</u>	<u>\$ 10,475</u>	<u>\$ 17,296,874</u>
LIABILITIES			
Accounts Payable - General	\$ 790,319	\$	\$ 790,319
Accounts Payable - Passback	2,511,304		2,511,304
Long-Term Commitments		6,504,562	6,504,562
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 3,301,623</u>	<u>\$ 6,504,562</u>	<u>\$ 9,806,185</u>
FUND BALANCE/NET POSITION			
Fund Balance:			
Committed for Managerial Reserve	\$ 2,500,000	\$ (2,500,000)	\$ 0
Committed for Projects	6,504,562	(6,504,562)	0
Unassigned	<u>4,980,214</u>	<u>(4,980,214)</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Fund Balance	<u>\$ 13,984,776</u>	<u>\$ (13,984,776)</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	<u>\$ 17,286,399</u>		
Net Position:			
Unrestricted		<u>\$ 7,490,689</u>	<u>\$ 7,490,689</u>
Total Net Position		<u>\$ 7,490,689</u>	<u>\$ 7,490,689</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

UNITED SORGHUM CHECKOFF PROGRAM

EXHIBIT B

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENTAL FUND
REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

	Major Fund		
	General Fund	Adjustments (Note 2)	Statement of Activities
REVENUES			
Assessments	\$ 8,088,795	\$	\$ 8,088,795
Refund of Duplicate Payments	(8,625)		(8,625)
Closed Contract Funds Returned	27,443		27,443
Other Income	11,000		11,000
Investment Income (Loss)	453,111	(9,290)	443,821
Total Revenues	\$ 8,571,724	\$ (9,290)	\$ 8,562,434
EXPENDITURES/EXPENSES			
Administrative	\$ 730,860	\$ 9,500	\$ 740,360
USDA Oversight and Reserves	162,004		162,004
Crop Improvement	2,888,814	(1,769,672)	1,119,142
Market Development	3,014,748	(887,495)	2,127,253
Collaborative Sorghum Investment Program	200,000	(200,000)	0
Regionalization	128,838	(128,838)	0
Sustainability	970,061	(214,823)	755,238
State Funding Passback	1,821,750		1,821,750
Total Expenditures/Expenses	\$ 9,917,075	\$ (3,191,328)	\$ 6,725,747
Excess (Deficit) Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	\$ (1,345,351)	\$ 1,345,351	\$ 0
Change in Net Position		1,836,687	1,836,687
Fund Balance/Net Position:			
Beginning of the Year	15,330,127	(9,676,125)	5,654,002
End of the Year	\$ 13,984,776	\$ (6,494,087)	\$ 7,490,689

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

UNITED SORGHUM CHECKOFF PROGRAM

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Nature of Operations

The United Sorghum Checkoff Program (USCP) was created by the Sorghum Promotion, Research, and Information Order (the Order) approved on May 6, 2008 and became effective on July 1, 2008. The Order was implemented under the authority of the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996. The Order established an industry-funded promotion, research, and information program for sorghum designed to strengthen the sorghum industry's position in the marketplace, as well as to maintain and expand markets and uses for sorghum.

USCP is financed by producers and importers of sorghum who pay assessments based on the value of the sorghum they produce or import. Grain sorghum is assessed at a rate of 0.60% of market value received by the producer and forage sorghum is assessed at a rate of 0.35% of the market value received by the producer. Total net assessments collected for the year ended September 30, 2023 totaled \$8,080,170.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Basis of Accounting and Presentation

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities display information about the government-wide entity as a whole. These statements report information on all of the nonfiduciary activities of USCP. The effect of interfund activity has been removed from these statements. Governmental activities, which normally are supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues, are reported separately from business-type activities, which rely to a significant extent on fees and charges for support. USCP currently does not have business-type activities.

These government-wide financial statements were prepared using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows.

The Statement of Activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function. Program revenues include charges to customers who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function or segment. USCP does not have any program revenues.

Fund Accounting

Separate financial statements are provided for the governmental fund. Major governmental funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements. USCP has only a single general governmental fund.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the

UNITED SORGHUM CHECKOFF PROGRAM

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

current period. For this purpose, USCP considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Miscellaneous revenues are recorded as revenue when received in cash because they are generally not measurable until actually received. Investment earnings are recorded as earned, since they are both measurable and available.

Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting.

USCP reports the following major governmental fund:

General Fund - Accounts for financial resources in use for general types of operations. This is a budgeted fund and fund balances are considered as resources available for use.

Explanation of Differences between the Governmental Fund Balance Sheet and the Statement of Net Position:

Fund Balance - September 30, 2023	\$ 13,984,776
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Net Position are different because:	
Interest receivable on investments is not recorded in the fund financial statements.	10,475
Long-term commitments are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the fund financial statements.	<u>(6,504,562)</u>
Net Position of Governmental Activities	\$ <u><u>7,490,689</u></u>

Explanation of Differences between the Governmental Fund Operating Statement and the Statement of Activities:

Change in Fund Balance - Year Ended September 30, 2023	\$ (1,345,351)
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities (SOA) are different because:	
The change in accrued interest income on investments is reflected only in the SOA.	(9,290)
The change in long-term commitments is reflected only in the SOA.	<u>3,191,328</u>
Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities	\$ <u><u>1,836,687</u></u>

B. Use of Estimates in the Preparation of Financial Statements

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

UNITED SORGHUM CHECKOFF PROGRAM
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

C. Cash and Cash Equivalents

For purposes of classifying investments, USCP considers all highly-liquid investments with a purchased maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents. Cash equivalents are recorded at cost.

D. Net Position and Fund Balance

Unrestricted net position represent amounts currently available for the use in USCP's operations. For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023, USCP has unrestricted net position of \$7,490,689.

USCP follows GASB Statement No. 54, which redefines how fund balances of the governmental funds are presented in the financial statements. Fund balances are classified as follows:

Nonspendable fund balance – amounts that are not in nonspendable form (such as inventory) or are required to be maintained intact.

Restricted fund balance – amounts constrained to specific purposes by their providers (such as grantors, bondholders, and higher levels of government), through constitutional provisions, or by enabling legislation.

Committed fund balance – amounts constrained to specific purposes by USCP itself, using its highest level of decision-making authority. To be reported as committed, amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless USCP takes the same highest level action to remove or change the constraint.

Assigned fund balance – amounts USCP intends to use for a specific purpose. Intent can be expressed by an official or body to which USCP delegates authority.

Unassigned fund balance – amounts that are available for any purpose.

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023, USCP only has committed and unassigned fund balances. USCP has committed fund balance in the amount of \$2,500,000 to set up a managerial reserve, and \$6,504,562 to fund long-term commitments disclosed in Note 6. This managerial reserve account is equal to 45% of the prior year's budget.

E. "Pass Back"

Under the Order, as described in Note 1, USCP is required to "pass back" a percentage of the assessments collected to the state from which the amount was collected. USCP agreed to pass back 25% of the collections to the states which amounted to \$1,821,750 for the year ended September 30, 2023.

UNITED SORGHUM CHECKOFF PROGRAM
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3. Cash and Investments

A. Cash

On September 30, 2023, the bank balances of USCP's deposits was \$1,855,072. As of September 30, 2023, USCP's bank balances were not exposed to custodial credit risk because they were secured and collateralized by securities held by the pledging financial institutions' trust departments.

B. Investments

USCP's investments are categorized based on criteria specified by GASB as follows:

- 1) Insured or registered, with securities held by the entity or its agent in the entity's name.
- 2) Uninsured and unregistered, with securities held by the counter party's trust department or agent in the entity's name.
- 3) Uninsured and unregistered, with securities held by the counter party or by the counter party's trust department or agent, but not in the entity's name.

At September 30, 2023, USCP had investments totaling \$15,394,559, including certificates of deposit at numerous separate financial institutions and government securities. These investments are considered "insured or registered" as they are secured and collateralized by securities held by the pledging financial institutions' trust departments.

The carrying value of investments at September 30, 2023 consist of:

	Cost	Market Value
Certificates of Deposit	\$ 245,000	\$ 245,000
U S Treasury Bills	14,166,549	14,166,549
U S Treasury Notes	998,594	983,010
	<u>\$ 15,410,143</u>	<u>\$ 15,394,559</u>

Investments, including derivative instruments that are not hedging derivatives, are measured at fair value on a recurring basis. Recurring fair value measurements are those that Governmental Accounting Standards Board require or permit in the statements at the end of each reporting period. Fair value measurements are categorized based on the valuation inputs used to measure an asset's fair value: Level 1 inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets; Level 2 inputs are significant other observable inputs; Level 3 inputs are significant unobservable inputs. USCP's investments as of September 30, 2023 were all considered Level 1 and 2.

UNITED SORGHUM CHECKOFF PROGRAM

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

4. Management Fee

USCP has entered into a management contract with National Sorghum Producers to provide day-to-day management of the operations of USCP and to facilitate a coordinated program of research, promotion, and information. These day-to-day operations will include assessment collection and coordination, compliance, and program oversight. For the year ended September 30, 2023, payments under this agreement totaled \$1,428,482.

5. Income Tax Status

USCP is classified as a tax-exempt entity that engages in activities under the aegis of the USDA.

6. Commitments and Contingencies

As of September 30, 2023, there were no claims or assessments nor any litigation pending against USCP.

Long-term commitments are recognized in the Government-Wide financial statements. Current year activity and the September 30, 2023 liabilities for these commitments are as follows:

Project	Beginning Balance 10/1/2022	Contracts Added	Payments/ Adjustments	Ending Balance 9/30/2023
Administrative	\$ 86,500	\$ 75,000	\$ 65,500	\$ 96,000
Crop Improvement	3,376,369	295,799	998,915	2,673,253
Market Development	2,118,061	1,029,560	1,917,055	1,230,566
Renewables				
ICE Shared	2,842,517	187,500	1,254,056	1,775,961
Collaborative Sorghum Investment Program	600,000		200,000	400,000
Regionalization	230,116		128,838	101,278
Sustainability	442,327	120,000	334,823	227,504
	<u>\$ 9,695,890</u>	<u>\$ 1,707,859</u>	<u>\$ 4,899,187</u>	<u>\$ 6,504,562</u>

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

UNITED SORGHUM CHECKOFF PROGRAM

RSI

BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
GENERAL FUND
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

	(Unaudited) Final Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
REVENUES			
Assessments	\$ 7,900,000	\$ 8,088,795	\$ 188,795
Refund of Duplicate Payments		(8,625)	(8,625)
Closed Contract Funds Returned		27,443	27,443
Other Income		11,000	11,000
Investment Income (Loss)		453,111	453,111
Total Revenues	\$ 7,900,000	\$ 8,571,724	\$ 671,724
EXPENDITURES			
Administrative	\$ 737,772	\$ 730,860	\$ 6,912
USDA Oversight and Reserves	200,000	162,004	37,996
Crop Improvement	1,517,288	2,888,814	(1,371,526)
Market Development	2,931,244	3,014,748	(83,504)
Collaborative Sorghum Investment Program		200,000	(200,000)
Regionalization		128,838	(128,838)
Unallocated Project Funding	130,375		130,375
Sustainability	1,418,321	970,061	448,260
State Funding Passback	2,250,000	1,821,750	428,250
Total Expenditures	\$ 9,185,000	\$ 9,917,075	\$ (732,075)
Excess of Revenues Over Expenditures	\$ (1,285,000)	\$ (1,345,351)	\$ (60,351)
FUND BALANCE			
Beginning of Year - October 1, 2022		15,330,127	
End of Year - September 30, 2023		\$ 13,984,776	

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

UNITED SORGHUM CHECKOFF PROGRAM

SCHEDULE 1

SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT
OF ASSESSMENT REVENUES BY STATE
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Assessment Revenues:

Qualified State Sorghum Producer Organizations	
Kansas	\$ 4,273,227
Texas	2,301,830
Nebraska	267,299
Oklahoma	231,176
Louisiana	32,308
Arkansas	22,595
New Mexico	4,683
Colorado	300,765
Kentucky	2,211
Total Qualified State Sorghum Producer Organizations	<u>\$ 7,436,094</u>
States Without Qualified State Sorghum Producer Organizations	
Illinois	\$ 13,939
Alabama	1,164
Missouri	85,037
Arizona	6,491
South Dakota	388,430
North Dakota	62
Oregon	121
Pennsylvania	2,115
Nevada	33
Florida	2
Mississippi	3,560
Tennessee	2,201
New Jersey	100
New York	502
Maryland	11,569
Iowa	4,054
Georgia	14,121
Ohio	2
South Carolina	1,327
North Carolina	25,929
Virginia	5,128
Indiana	42,992
Michigan	30
California	3,453
Delaware	1,220
Washington	2,137
Wyoming	57
Total States Without Qualified State Sorghum Producer Organizations	<u>\$ 615,776</u>
Imports	<u>\$ 2,391</u>
Late Fees	<u>\$ 25,909</u>
Total Assessment Revenues	<u><u>\$ 8,080,170</u></u>

INTERNAL CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE SECTION

BOLINGER, SEGARS, GILBERT & MOSS, L.L.P.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

PHONE: (806) 747-3806

FAX: (806) 747-3815

8215 NASHVILLE AVENUE

LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79423-1954

**REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON
COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

Independent Auditor's Report

Board of Directors
United Sorghum Checkoff Program
Lubbock, Texas

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities and governmental fund of the United Sorghum Checkoff Program (USCP), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise USCP's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated December 4, 2023.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered USCP's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of USCP's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of USCP's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency or combination of deficiencies in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of USCP's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether USCP's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, including: 1) whether funds were discovered to be used for influencing government policy or action, 2) whether the board adhered to the Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) investment policy or, alternatively, the exception to the Investment Policy as approved by AMS on July 12, 2017, 3) consideration of internal controls related to AMS guidelines, 4) whether funds were used only for projects and other expenses authorized in a budget approved by the USDA, and 5) whether funds were used in accordance with the Guidelines for AMS Oversight of Commodity Research and Promotion Programs, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of USCP's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss LLP

Certified Public Accountants

Lubbock, Texas

December 4, 2023