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Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture



Arkansas Corn & Grain Sorghum Promotion Board Summer Meeting
Lon Mann Cotton Research Station
3121 Highway 1 South
Marianna, AR
Zoom Option
Meeting Agenda

July 8, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.

1. University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture field tour (9:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.)
2. Call to order
Trent Dabbs, Chairman
3. Reports
 - Completed reports (11:00 – 11:50)
 - Lunch (11:50 – 12:40)
 - Completed reports (12:30 – 1:20)
 - Crop planting report and status (1:20 – 1:35)
 - Communications Group report update (1:35 – 1:45)
 - Board discussions (1:45 – 3:00)
4. Administrative reports
 - Consider meeting minutes
 - January 15, 2026
 - February 2, 2026
 - February 3, 2026
 - February 19, 2026

Appendix 01

Appendix 02

Appendix 03

Appendix 04
5. Election of officers
6. Approve board reimbursements for 2026
7. Financial report – Inoussa Zaki
8. Other business
 - Set meeting dates for the winter meeting, funding meeting, and summer meeting
9. Adjourn

Appendix 01

ARKANSAS CORN & GRAIN SORGHUM PROMOTION BOARD
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
Zoom Only
Minutes

January 15, 2026
3:30 p.m.

Members Present via Zoom: Patrick Matt Smith, Trent Dabbs, Matt Gammill, Tommy Young, Jason Felton, William Perry Galloway

Members Absent: Kenny Falwell

The Arkansas Corn & Grain Sorghum Promotion Board met via Zoom only, in a joint meeting with the Arkansas Beef Council, Arkansas Catfish Promotion Board, Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board, Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board, and the Arkansas Wheat Promotion Board.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Dabbs welcomed all members and guests. With six members present via zoom, a quorum was established and confirmed by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture.

LETTER OF SUPPORT CONSIDERATION

Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture, Wes Ward, provided an update on the America First Trade Promotion Program and outlined the Department's proposal to apply for funding to support inbound and outbound trade missions with five partner countries: Guatemala, Portugal, the United Kingdom, Israel, and Morocco.

Secretary Ward highlighted that the program provides \$285 million in trade-promotion funding, with an estimated 60 entities expected to receive awards. He requested that the board consider issuing a formal letter of support to accompany the state's application.

Chairman Dabbs asked if there were any questions, and there were none.

Motion to authorize the Board to issue a letter of support for the Arkansas Department of Agriculture's application to the America First Trade Promotion Program; Moved by Tommy Young, seconded by Jason Felton. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the special called meeting; Moved by Jason Felton, seconded by Patrick Matt Smith.

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Meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

Trent Dabbs, Chairman

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Appendix 02

ARKANSAS CORN & GRAIN SORGHUM PROMOTION BOARD MEETING

Zoom Option: Day 1 of 2
Minutes

February 2, 2026
3:00 p.m.

Members Present In-Person: Kenny Falwell, Tommy Young, Patrick Matt Smith, Trent Dabbs, Matt Gammill, William Perry Galloway

Members Present via Zoom: Jason Felton

Members Absent: None

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dabbs welcomed all members and guests. With six members present and one online via Zoom, a quorum was established and confirmed by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture (Department).

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The board's previous meeting minutes were presented for review.

Motion to approve the board's November 11, 2025, meeting minutes; moved by Tommy Young, seconded by William Perry Galloway. Motion carried.

Chairman Dabbs then called for a motion to approve all the board's travel for the calendar year.

Motion to approve all board travel for 2026 calendar year; moved by Patrick Matt Smith, seconded by Matt Gammill. Motion carried.

Inoussa Zaki, Chief Financial Officer for the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, presented the board's financial report through January 31, 2026. **ATTACHMENT 1**

Zaki stated that the board started the 2026 calendar year with a balance of \$1.7 million. Gross collections between July 1 and January 2026 totaled \$779,766.

Zaki stated that the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture (UADA) set aside money totaling \$400,000 and \$86,000 in interest since the certificate of deposit was established.

Zaki stated that total expenditures during this reporting period totaled \$115,176 with \$43,000 in outstanding commitments, leaving the board with approximately \$2.8 million to fund future projects.

Appendix 02

Zaki stated that the department's 2024 legislative audit report findings showed that there was a data breach incident concerning payroll, but the department is already establishing procedures and policies to prevent something similar happening in the future.

Member Smith asked how much the board spent funding projects last year. Zaki answered that the board spent around \$1.3 million in the funding meeting last year.

Member Falwell asked UADA where the \$486,000 in unspent funds were being kept. Dr. Slaton provided an explanation and mentioned he was still investigating the matter.

Member Smith asked how often UADA pulls money out of these accounts, and Dr. Slaton indicated that they do not touch the account, further adding that they would consult the board prior to spending those funds. Discussion ensued.

Motion to approve the board's latest financial report prepared by the department; moved by Kenny Falwell, seconded by William Perry Galloway. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS GROUP REPORT

Jacquelynn LaBeff with the Communications Group provided the board with a marketing update report, addressing website traffic, website bounce and timing rates, pending updates, and campaign summaries. **ATTACHMENT 2**

Member Young asked about the mobile website issue their webpage was experiencing. LaBeff answered that the issue has been resolved.

PROMOTION PROJECT FUNDING PRESENTATIONS

Chairman Dabbs called for a promotion project presentation from Ouachita Baptist University, but the presenter was unavailable.

Ashley Wardlow with the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks requested \$12,500 as an initial funding request for Year 1/1 for "Promoting Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Through Regional Culinary Education." **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 42**

Members of the Arkansas FFA provided a brief presentation, requesting \$50,000 as an initial funding request for Year 1/1 for "Investment in the future of Arkansas Agriculture – Agricultural Education, Career Success, and FFA." **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 44 & ATTACHMENT 4**

Member Falwell inquired about how much support in agriculture they have in Camden, and the presenter answered that timber is the largest industry in their area, with little row crop farmers. Discussion ensued.

Appendix 02

Stacy Witcher with the Cross County Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee requested \$10,000 as an initial funding request for Year 1/1 for "Cross County Youth Ag Day." **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 47**

Member Falwell asked how the project has performed in neighboring counties. The presenter indicated strong results, noting participation has grown to approximately 550 students this year.

Member Galloway asked about the AR Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom project. The presenter answered that the goal with their project is to reach additional students, as the current program struggles to meet demand.

The National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) requested \$29,500 in total funding as a recompetes/new cycle funding request for Year 1/1 for "NCGA Base and Action Team Funding." **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 48 & ATTACHMENT 5**

Member Young asked Member Galloway which NCGA action team specialty area he felt was best to fund for Arkansas. Galloway mentioned that he had considered joining the 'production & sustainability' action team.

John Hinnners with the U.S. Meat Export Federation requested \$8,600 as an initial funding request for Year 1/1 for "USMEF Membership: A U.S. Red Meat Promotion Partnership." **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 49 & ATTACHMENT 6**

Member Falwell asked why they are not exporting to China. Hinner explained that a government-to-government issue has affected entities previously exporting beef to China.

Member Young noted that producers need increased consumption of the corn being grown. He also asked whether the other checkoff commodity boards have provided funding. Hinner answered that fifteen boards contribute to funding, representing approximately 7-8% of their portfolio.

Kristin Larey with the Ag Learning Center and the Four States Fair & Rodeo requested \$20,000 as a recompetes/new cycle funding request for Year 1/1 for "Ag Learning Center Educational Program." **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 2 & ATTACHMENT 7**

Rebecca Starrett with the US Grains & Bioproducts Council requested \$77,082 as a recompetes/new cycle funding request for Year 1/1 for "The Time is Now: FY2026 Request for Funding." **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 3 & ATTACHMENT 8**

Appendix 02

Member Young noted that the promotion project offers a way to invest corn board funds at a national level and estimated a 3:1 return on investment. Starrett stated that they would gather the supporting figures and report back to the board.

Chris Henry with the UADA requested \$10,000 as a recompute/new cycle funding request for Year 9 of “The Arkansas Irrigation Yield Contest.” **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 35 & ATTACHMENT 9**

Julie Robinson with the UADA requested \$5,000 as a continuous funding request for Year 2/3 for the “Arkansas Future Ag Leaders Tour.” **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 36 & ATTACHMENT 10**

RECESS

Motion to recess the funding meeting until tomorrow morning at 9:00am; moved by Tommy Young, seconded by William Perry Galloway. Motion carried.

Trent Dabbs, Chairman

Appendix 03

ARKANSAS CORN & GRAIN SORGHUM PROMOTION BOARD MEETING

Zoom Option: Day 2 of 2

Minutes

February 3, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Members Present In-Person: Kenny Falwell, Tommy Young, Trent Dabbs, Patrick Matt Smith, Matt Gammill, William Perry Galloway

Members Present via Zoom: Jason Felton

Members Absent: None

CALL TO RECONVENE

Chairman Dabbs welcomed all members and guests. With all members present, a quorum was established and confirmed by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture (Department).

RESEARCH PROJECT FUNDING PRESENTATIONS

Zach Reynolds and Jason Krutz with Chicot Insights LLC provided presentations on the following initial funding requests for the following research projects:

- “Developing Overhead Irrigation Recommendations for Arkansas Corn Production” for \$41,020, Year 1/3. **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 40 & ATTACHMENT 11**
- “Structural Irrigation Strategies that Improve Corn Productivity, Profitability, and Aquifer Stability” for \$70,020, Year 1/3. **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 37 & ATTACHMENT 11**
- “Utilization of Precision Agricultural Technology Along with Machine Learning to Optimize Fertility Applications While Improving Corn Productivity and Profitability at the Field Scale” for \$38,320.60, Year 1/3. **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 41 & ATTACHMENT 11**
- “Automated Irrigation Technologies that Improve Corn Productivity, Profitability, and Aquifer Stability” for \$60,992, Year 1/3. **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 38 & ATTACHMENT 11**

Member Young asked how the group’s findings would be shared. The presenter said they would be communicated through formal reports to the board and through peer-reviewed publications.

Dr. Della Lunga with the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture (UADA) requested \$10,476 as an initial funding request for Year 1/1 for “Cover crop and biochar impact on nutrient uptake in corn production systems.” **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 4 & ATTACHMENT 12**

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Member Falwell asked about the current availability of biochar currently in the state. The presenter answered that they have a facility in Monticello that can provide biochar.

Dr. John Carlin (UADA) requested \$42,491 as an initial funding request for Year 1/1 for “Arkansas Corn and grain sorghum performance test.” **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 5 & ATTACHMENT 12**

Members asked several questions prompting discussion.

Mike Daniels (UADA) requested \$33,526 as a recompetete/new cycle funding request for Year 1/3 for “Arkansas Discovery Farm Program.” **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 7 & ATTACHMENT 12**

Helene Amorium (UADA) requested \$42,086 as an initial funding request for Year 1/3 for “Soil health and corn yield responses to animal waste amendments.” **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 8 & ATTACHMENT 12**

Dr. Elvis Elli (UADA) requested \$51,576 as an initial funding request for Year 1/3 for “Agronomic comparison of fixed, flex, semi-flex, and short-stature corn hybrids across plant densities.” **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 9 & ATTACHMENT 12**

Dr. Elvis Elli (UADA) requested \$32,537 as a continuous funding request for Year 2/2 for “Refining recommendations of corn hybrid relative maturity and planting dates in Arkansas.” **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 19 & ATTACHMENT 12**

Sungil Ferreira (UADA) requested \$48,868 as an initial funding request for Year 1/3 for “Adding value beyond the kernel – (myco)protein and bioproducts from corn and grain residues.” **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 10 & ATTACHMENT 12**

Dr. Jason Kelley (UADA) requested \$51,000 as an initial funding request for Year 1/3 for “Comparison of Low, Medium, and High Intensity Corn Management Production Systems.” **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 11 & ATTACHMENT 12**

Board took a break for five minutes. Meeting resumed.

Dr. Jonathan Kubesch (UADA) requested \$31,889 as an initial funding request for Year 1/3 for “Corn as a conversion crop within integrated crop-livestock systems.” **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 12 & ATTACHMENT 12**

Dr. T. Tsai (UADA) requested \$76,000 as an initial funding request for Year 1/3 for “Evaluating the influence of high-fiber grain coproducts on slowing the growth of gilts during the

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development period: impacts on iron status, microbiome, and reproductive efficiency.”
ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 13 & ATTACHMENT 12

Dr. Nathan Slaton (UADA) explained that the \$76,000 request may be shared with other checkoff commodity boards, which have not met yet. The presenter noted that the project would require the support of at least two boards before moving forward.

Dr. Kaushik Luthra (UADA) requested \$59,703 as an initial funding request for Year 1/3 for “Field-To-Storage Strategies for improving corn grain quality and storage safety in Arkansas.” **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 14 & ATTACHMENT 12**

Dr. Mark McDonald (UADA) requested \$46,962 as an initial funding request for Year 1/3 for “Evaluating the relationship between corn productivity and the soil microbiome.” **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 15 & ATTACHMENT 12**

Members asked several questions prompting discussion.

Dr. Mahfuzur Rahman (UADA) requested \$61,405 as an initial funding request for Year 1/3 for “Exploring plasma technology for enhanced biocontrol of aflatoxins and diseases in corn plants.” **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 16 & ATTACHMENT 12**

Dr. Mahfuzur Rahman (UADA) requested \$55,900 as a continuous funding request for Year 2/2 for “Innovative application of Arkansas Corn: Replacement of Forever chemicals in food packaging with corn gluten meal.” **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 23 & ATTACHMENT 12**

Dr. Jason Kelley (UADA) requested \$60,856 as a continuous funding request for Year 2/3 for “Evaluate Management Options for Corn Nematodes in Arkansas.” **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 20 & ATTACHMENT 12**

Dr. Jason Kelley (UADA) requested \$138,500 as a continuous funding request for Year 3/3 for “Corn and grain sorghum research verification program.” **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 21 & ATTACHMENT 12**

Chairman Dabbs called for a lunch break at 11:40AM. Meeting reconvened at 12:15PM.

Dr. Jason Kelley (UADA) requested \$4,800 as a continuous funding request for Year 3/3 for “Arkansas Corn & Grain Sorghum Research study series publication.” **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 22 & ATTACHMENT 12**

Dr. Burt Bluhm (UADA) requested \$23,948 as a continuous funding request for Year 2/3 for “Development, Evaluation and production of agricultural biologicals for Arkansas corn crop production.” **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 17 & ATTACHMENT 12**

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Dr. Trent Roberts (UADA) requested \$82,078 as a continuous funding request for Year 3/3 for “Improving nitrogen management for Arkansas corn production.” **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 24 & ATTACHMENT 12**

Dr. Trent Roberts (UADA) requested \$77,437 as a continuous funding request for Year 2/3 for “Fine-tuning potassium recommendations and investigating intensive tissue analysis for sustainable corn production.” **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 25 & ATTACHMENT 12**

Member Falwell asked whether Dr. Roberts and his team conduct economic analyses to determine the feasibility of their research. Dr. Roberts replied that this would be the next step and would help determine what recommendations to make and at what rates. He noted that the data set would be provided to another researcher to help identify when the practice is optimal and when it is not.

Dr. Jason Kelley (UADA) requested \$25,000 as a continuous funding request for Year 3/3 for “Determining disease resistance and susceptibility of corn and grain sorghum hybrids.” **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 26 & ATTACHMENT 12**

Dr. Glenn Studebaker (UADA) requested \$39,989 as a continuous funding request for Year 2/3 for “Developing effective insect pest management strategies for Arkansas corn and grain sorghum.” **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 27 & ATTACHMENT 12**

Dr. Ali Ubeyitogullari (UADA) requested \$43,267 as a continuous funding request for Year 3/3 for “Generating a high-value wax material from sorghum bran using an innovative green approach.” **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 28 & ATTACHMENT 12**

Dr. Jason Kelley (UADA) requested \$83,840 as an initial funding request for Year 1/3 for “Weed control evaluation and herbicide program comparison with short-stature corn hybrids.” **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 29 & ATTACHMENT 12**

Dr. Burt Bluhm (UADA) requested \$43,000 as an initial funding request for Year 1/3 for “Improving and optimizing biological control of aflatoxin in corn.” **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 30 & ATTACHMENT 12**

Member Falwell asked how long it would take for the product to become commercially available. The presenter explained that the project is still in early stages, but if the biology cooperates and the compound can be identified, commercialization could begin in roughly five to six years.

Dr. Chris Henry (UADA) requested \$198,834 as a recompute/new cycle funding request for Year 1/3 for “Improving irrigation technology for corn production in Arkansas.” **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 31 & ATTACHMENT 12**

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Dr. Brittni Littlejohn (UADA) requested \$90,000 as a recompute/new cycle funding request for Year 1/3 for “Use of gossypol to inhibit reproduction as a model for feral swine control.”

ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 32 & ATTACHMENT 12

Member Falwell noted that it appears they are starting their research over and asked what they accomplished in their first three years. The presenter stated that they proved their proof of concept, that the model works, but now they need to develop the additives and suitable source of alternative oil. Members asked several questions prompting some discussion.

The presenter noted that the \$90,000 amount is intended to be split between three commodity checkoff boards.

Dr. Trent Roberts (UADA) requested \$54,005 as an initial funding request for Year 1/3 for “Cover crops and soil health in Arkansas corn production.” **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 33 & ATTACHMENT 12**

Breana Watkins (UADA) requested \$10,000 as a recompute/new cycle funding request for Year 1/3 for “Corn and grain sorghum enterprise budgets and production economic analysis.” **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 34 & ATTACHMENT 12**

Dr. Jason Kelley (UADA) requested \$18,288 as an initial funding request for Year 1/3 for “Establishing a long-term rotational study.” **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 6 & ATTACHMENT 12**

Dr. Jason Davis (UADA) requested \$19,674 as a continuous funding request for Year 3/3 for “Development and verification of a stand counting application using drone imagery for research and production decision support.” **ATTACHMENT 3, PROJECT 18 & ATTACHMENT 12**

This concluded the research project presentations. A short break was called. Meeting resumed.

PROMOTION PROPOSALS FUNDING DECISIONS

The board reviewed each promotion proposal and chose to either pass, fund, or table it. Tabled proposals were then revisited and were decided to ‘pass’ or ‘fund’. Discussion ensued.

Motion to fund the following promotion projects for \$195,182.00 total:

- “Investment in the Future of Arkansas Agriculture – Agricultural Education, Career Success, and FFA” from Arkansas FFA for \$25,000;
- “Base Funding” from the NCGA for \$14,500;
- “Action Team Funding: Production & Sustainability” from the NCGA for \$15,000;

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- **“USMEF Membership: A U.S. Red Meat Promotion Partnership” from the U.S. Meat Export Federation for \$8,600;**
- **“Ag Learning Center Educational Program” from the Ag Learning Center and Four States Fair & Rodeo for \$10,000;**
- **“The Time is Now: FY2026 Request for Funding” from the US Grains & Bioproducts Council for \$77,082;**
- **“Export Exchange” from the US Grains & Bioproducts Council for \$15,000;**
- **“The Arkansas Yield Irrigation Contest” from the UADA for \$10,000;**
- **“Arkansas Future Ag Leaders Tour” from the UADA for \$5,000; and**
- **“2027 Commodity Classic for Arkansas 4-H Foundation and Arkansas FFA Foundation” for \$15,000.**

Moved by Tommy Young, seconded by Patrick Matt Smith. Motion carried.

RESEARCH PROPOSALS FUNDING DECISIONS

The board indicated that they would like to support all the renewing research projects.

The board reviewed each new research proposal and chose to either pass, fund, or table it. Tabled proposals were then revisited and were decided to either ‘pass’ or ‘fund’. Discussion ensued.

Motion to fund the following continuous or ongoing research projects for \$832,820 total:

- **“Development, Evaluation and Production of Agricultural Biologicals for Arkansas corn production” from UADA for \$23,948;**
- **“Development and verification of a stand counting application using drone imagery for research and production decision support” from UADA for \$19,674;**
- **“Refining recommendations of corn hybrid relative maturity and planting dates in Arkansas” from UADA for \$32,537;**
- **“Evaluate management options for corn nematodes in Arkansas” from UADA for \$60,856;**
- **“Corn and Grain Sorghum Research Verification Program” from UADA for \$138,500;**
- **“Arkansas Corn & Grain Sorghum Research Studies Series Publication Program” from UADA for \$4,800;**
- **“Innovative application of Arkansas corn: replacement of forever chemicals in food packaging with corn gluten meal” from UADA for \$45,900;**
- **“Improving nitrogen management for Arkansas corn production” from UADA for \$82,078;**
- **“Fine-tuning potassium recommendations and investigating intensive tissue analysis for sustainable corn production” from UADA for \$77,437;**
- **“Determining disease resistance and susceptibility of corn and grain sorghum hybrids” from UADA for \$25,000;**

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- **“Developing effective insect pest management strategies for Arkansas corn and grain sorghum” from UADA for \$39,989;**
- **“Generating a high-value wax material from sorghum bran using an innovative green approach” from UADA for \$43,267;**
- **“Improving irrigation technology for corn production in Arkansas” from UADA for \$198,834;**
- **“Use of gossypol to inhibit reproduction as a model for feral swine control” from UADA for \$30,000; and**
- **“Corn and Grain Sorghum enterprise budgets and production economic analysis” from UADA for \$10,000.**

Moved by Patrick Matt Smith, seconded by Tommy Young. Motion carried.

Motion to fund the following new research proposals for \$253,857 total:

- **“Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Performance Test” from UADA for \$42,491;**
- **“Arkansas Discovery Farm Program” from UADA for \$33,526;**
- **“Comparison of Low, Medium, and High Intensity Corn Management Production Systems” from UADA for \$51,000;**
- **“Weed control evaluation and herbicide program comparison with short-stature corn hybrids” from UADA for \$83,840; and**
- **“Improving and Optimizing Biological Control of Aflatoxin in Corn” from UADA for \$43,000.**

Moved by Tommy Young, seconded by William Perry Galloway. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Member Young noted the importance of engaging Arkansas Department of Agriculture staff with national industry organizations. He stated that the board should authorize a Department of Agriculture representative, designated by the department, to attend national meetings alongside the board, with expenses paid by the board. He then moved that the board formally approve this practice.

Motion to authorize a representative designated by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture to attend national industry checkoff meetings or conferences on behalf of the board; moved by Tommy Young, seconded by William Perry Galloway. Motion carried.

Member Young asked whether the board could write a letter to federal senators regarding specific policy efforts. Several members agreed that writing such a letter would likely fall under lobbying restrictions. Member Young mentioned that Member Galloway should take the policy effort message through the NCGA.

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Dr. Slaton with the UADA mentioned that board members and staff participated in a program review with the Technology Commercialization Office, including discussion of the Green Seeker project and related MOUs. An external review team is preparing a report, which will be shared with the board once received.

Dr. Slaton mentioned that approximately eight projects will provide completed update reports to the board at the next summer meeting.

It was mentioned that the next board meeting would be Wednesday, July 8, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

**Motion to adjourn the meeting; moved by Kenny Falwell, seconded by Tommy Young.
Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 3:49pm.

Trent Dabbs, Chairman

Appendix 04

ARKANSAS CORN & GRAIN SORGHUM PROMOTION BOARD SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
Zoom Only
Minutes

February 19, 2026
10:00 a.m.

Members Present via Zoom: Patrick Matt Smith, Trent Dabbs, Tommy Young, Jason Felton, William Perry Galloway, Kenny Falwell

Members Absent: Matt Gammill

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dabbs welcomed all members and guests. With six members present online via Zoom, a quorum was established and confirmed by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture (Department).

ALLOCATION OF FUNDING TO NATIONAL CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION (NCGA)

Discussion ensued regarding additional funding to the NCGA given the current challenging state of the agriculture industry. Discussion included the need for earmarking where additional funds will go, as well as how to go about obtaining additional corn delegates to represent Arkansas in NCGA's Corn Congress. **ATTACHMENT 1**

Amy Lyman, Promotion Board Administrator for the Department, mentioned that for Arkansas to obtain an additional delegate at NCGA Corn Congress, Arkansas would have to meet additional corn production criteria as calculated by NCGA. This includes 1) the number of grower association members in the state (as of September 30 for previous year), 2) the state corn production on a three-year average basis at the end of the previous crop year, and 3) the checkoff dollars invested by the state in the NCGA (as of September 30 for previous year). The Corn Board of the NCGA then takes these factors into account when establishing delegate numbers.

Member Galloway asked who established the base funding amount for NCGA. Member Young answered that it was established by the NCGA.

Motion to fund the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) for an additional \$50,000 as a special contribution earmarked for Biofuels promotion for Fiscal Year 2026; moved by William Perry Galloway, seconded by Kenny Falwell. Motion carried.

2026 EXPORT EXCHANGE UPDATE

Member Young provided an update regarding the board's \$15,000 funding of the U.S. Grains Council (USGC) for their Export Exchange event.

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He mentioned that the council appreciated Arkansas reaching out proactively, noting Arkansas's longstanding role as the farmer representative at the event. The early coordination with the Council led to the opportunity for the board to sponsor the event's lanyard badges, creating a cost-effective promotional opportunity for the event's attendees.

Motion to approve the USGC discussion regarding 2026 Export Exchange; moved by Kenny Falwell, seconded by Jason Felton. Motion carried.

THE COMMUNICATIONS GROUP SERVICES CONSIDERATION

Chairman Dabbs mentioned that the board needs to contemplate another year of funding for the Communications Group, prompting some discussion.

Motion to approve funding for the Communications Group website and additional maintenance for \$8,000; moved by Jason Felton, seconded by Tommy Young.

Member Young asked for an update from the Department regarding the publishing of a corn sellers list on their board website.

Motion carried.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn the special called meeting; moved by Tommy Young, seconded by William Perry Galloway. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Trent Dabbs, Chairman