

ARKANSAS CORN & GRAIN SORGHUM PROMOTION BOARD MEETING
Zoom Only

Minutes

November 12th, 2024
9:00 a.m.

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

Members Absent: None

Chairman Kenny Falwell commenced the board meeting at 9:00am via Zoom. With seven members present, a quorum was confirmed by the Department.

Department staff, board members, and audience members/presenters introduced themselves.

Chairman Falwell presented the minutes from the previous meeting, requesting a motion to approve them.

Motion to approve July 23rd, 2024, meeting minutes; moved by Tommy Young, seconded by Jason Felton. Motion carried.

Chairman Falwell then introduced Mr. Corey Seats, Chief General Counsel for the AR Department of Agriculture, to present to members on the AR Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).
ATTACHMENT 1

Seats provided an overview of FOIA laws in Arkansas, discussing what qualifies as a “meeting” under FOIA and sharing general guidelines with members. He explained that any discussion of board matters between two or more members constitutes a meeting, requiring public notice, recording, and other compliance measures.

Seats invited questions from the board.

Administrator Scott Bray asked Seats to clarify how the Department could collaborate with members on a draft proposal form while following FOIA guidelines. Seats responded that as long as Bray works with members individually, without them communicating directly with each other, a recorded meeting is not required.

Chairman Falwell introduced Inoussa Zaki, Chief Financial Officer of the AR Department of Agriculture, to present the board’s financial report. **ATTACHMENT 2 & 3**

Zaki reviewed the financials for the period July 1, 2024, through October 31, 2024. The board started the fiscal year with a fund balance of \$1,792,074 and generated \$2,167,594 in total revenue during this reporting period.

Zaki reported total expenditures of \$491,489, leaving an ending fund balance of \$1,546,084 in reserve. He also provided an overview of the 2024-2025 projects funded by the board, noting that all the projects are funded except for a few to be finalized by the end of the month.

After concluding his financial report, Zaki invited questions from the members.

Chairman Falwell asked for clarification regarding the board's gross collections value, and Zaki explained that he expects it to increase as the fiscal year progresses.

Member Young mentioned the \$400,000 in an interest-bearing account at the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, which was not reflected in the financial report.

Chairman Falwell called for a motion to approve the financial report.

Motion to approve the financial report: moved by Jason Felton, seconded by Matt Smith. Motion carried.

Administrator Bray provided details on the AR Soil and Southern Health Alliance Conference scheduled for November 13 & 14, 2024, in Jonesboro, AR. The conference organizer had reached out to inquire if the board would consider sponsoring the event. **ATTACHMENT 4**

Chairman Falwell and Member Felton expressed that while they saw value in the sponsorship, they would have preferred earlier notice to allow for full board participation.

Member Young noted that the conference offers good visibility for the board's name and logo, though he acknowledged the last-minute nature of the sponsorship request.

Member Galloway asked about the history of the conference and indicated support for a bronze-level sponsorship of \$500, noting that setting up a booth on short notice would be difficult.

Bray sought feedback on how the board would like to handle future last-minute funding requests. Chairman Falwell suggested continuing to address such requests on a case-by-case basis. Some discussion followed.

Carson Horn from the Communications Group stated they could potentially represent the board at the conference with limited materials, prepared by the following day.

Member Felton indicated that he would support a bronze-level sponsorship.

Motion to sponsor the AR Southern Soil Health Conference as a bronze-level sponsor for \$500: moved by Jason Felton, seconded by Trent Dabbs. Motion carried.

Bray requested clarification on the Communications Group attending the conference on behalf of the board. Horn explained that while attending conferences would typically incur charges, they would include this last-minute event under the current contract. Horn added that if regular attendance at such events is desired, it may need to be specified in future contract terms.

Member Young briefly commented on the board's intent for these events, noting that a simple sponsorship is sufficient to show the board's support of the industry, rather than a full booth or extensive sponsorship.

Bray sought confirmation on whether the Communications Group should attend and set up a booth. Chairman Falwell expressed support for their attendance, recommending they report back on the event so the board can reassess future involvement.

Chairman Falwell transitioned to the next agenda item on funding proposals and asked Bray for an update.

Administrator Bray asked the board to suggest dates for their upcoming 2-day funding meeting. After some discussion, the board agreed on February 3-4, 2025.

Bray noted that the Department is expanding its advertising for research and promotion funding proposals and asked the board to suggest a deadline for proposal submissions. After discussion, Chairman Falwell recommended a January 15, 2025, deadline to allow sufficient time for review.

Chairman Falwell introduced Admin Bray to report on the 2024 Export Exchange Conference in Fort Worth, TX, and the subsequent tour in Northwest Arkansas.

Bray noted that the Department's booth at the Export Exchange was well-attended, with handouts on Arkansas agriculture and samples of Arkansas rice distributed to attendees.

Mike Stage, Quality Control & Compliance Section Manager for the AR Department of Agriculture, summarized the Northwest Arkansas agriculture tour. The group met in Bentonville, traveled to Van Buren for tours of the Van Buren Co-Op and Crabtree Farms, where they learned about local corn processing, observed a soybean harvest, and discussed Arkansas agricultural practices. After lunch, they visited the CGB Grain Elevator to discuss grain collection and the barge system.

The next day included a tour of Tyson Foods' Discovery Center, where a poultry nutritionist shared insights on poultry feed formulation and ingredient sourcing. They also toured the University of Arkansas's feed mill and poultry processing plant.

Stage added that the Department built a new contacts webpage to support the Export Exchange Conference and tour efforts, which had already resulted in one inquiry.

Member Young noted that Van Provence of Take The Vacation LLC is available to assist board members with travel arrangements for the Commodity Classic Conference in Denver, CO in March 2025.

Administrator Bray introduced the discussion regarding the 2025 Commodity Classic Conference in Denver, CO, reminding members they may arrange travel through Van Provence or make their own arrangements. **ATTACHMENT 5**

Bray reviewed term limit expirations, noting that members may serve as long as they are willing, and that the Governor is actively processing appointments.

Bray then invited Rebecca Williams of the U.S. Grains Council to present, but audio issues prevented her from being heard. Bray stated that USGC will report on Export Exchange at the next meeting.

Chairman Falwell asked if there was any other business, then called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion to adjourn: Moved by Jason Felton, seconded Matt Smith. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.


Kenny Falwell, Chairman



Arkansas Freedom of Information Act

FOIA's Purposes: Ark. Code Ann. § 25-19-102

- To ensure that electors (citizens) are fully advised of the activities and decisions of their public officials
 - Liberally construed in favor of openness
 - Exceptions are narrowly construed



Agenda

- Purposes
- The 3 Steps
 - Meetings
 - Records

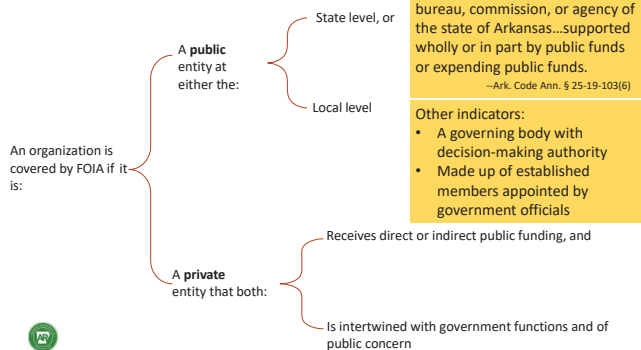


FOIA Overview—3 Step Approach

- **Question 1: Is the entity covered?**
- Question 2: If so, is the record or meeting covered?
- Question 3: If so, are there any exemptions?



Question 1: Who is covered by FOIA?



FOIA Overview—3 Step Approach

- Question 1: Is the entity covered?
- **Question 2: If so, is the record or meeting covered?**
- Question 3: If so, are there any exemptions?



What is a “meeting”?

- Statutory definition: “All meetings are public meetings.”
- Guidance from the Arkansas Supreme Court:
“The FOIA applies to a meeting called for the purpose of **DISCUSSING** or **TAKING ACTION** on a matter on which foreseeable action will be taken by the governing body.”
- A gathering may be considered “a meeting” for AFOIA purposes even though a quorum is not present.
- Conducting an email or telephone poll violates AFOIA.
- Determination of “a meeting” is a fact-specific inquiry that may ultimately be resolved by the court.



7

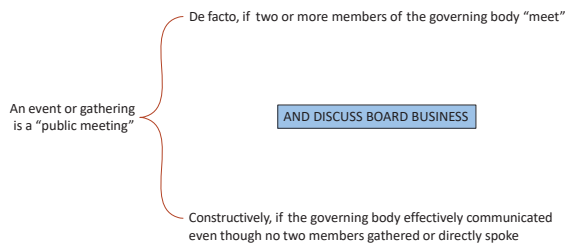
Are these items considered meetings?

- Social gatherings
- Chance encounter at the coffee shop
- Email or telephone poll
- Voting by secret ballot



8

Question 2: Is the meeting covered?



When the meeting is covered—Part 1

Notice Requirements

- Regular Meetings:
 1. Time, place and date – generally aim for at least 5 days notice
 2. to anyone who asks to be notified
 3. To news media
 - a. In the county where the meeting’s held, and
 - b. located elsewhere that cover the regular meetings
 4. And to those that have asked to be notified
- Special/Emergency Meetings:
 1. Time, place and date – at least 2 hours in advance...
 2. to news media that have requested notice



When the meeting is covered—Part 2

- **Attendance**, not just participation, recorded at meetings
- Recording—at least audio
- Public must be able to “see” how each individual voted

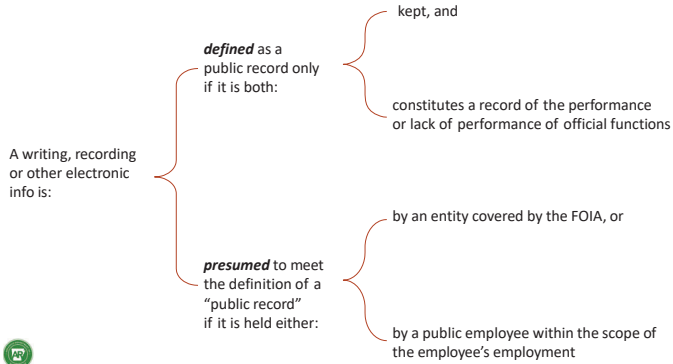


FOIA Overview—3 Step Approach


- Question 1: Is the entity covered?
- Question 2: If so, is the record or meeting covered?
- Question 3: If so, are there any exemptions?



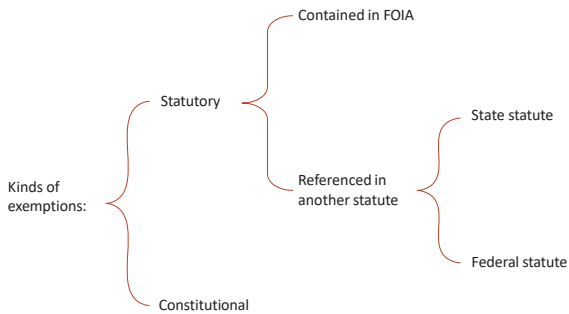
Question 2: Is the record covered?



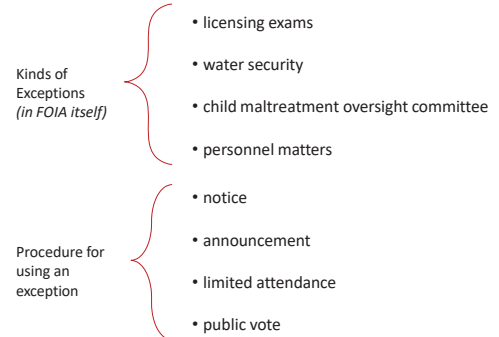
FOIA Overview—3 Step Approach

- Question 1: Is the entity covered?
 - Question 2: If so, is the record or meeting covered?
 - Question 3: If so, are there any exemptions?
- 

Is the record exempt?



Is the public meeting exempt?



Questions?



AR Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board November 12, 2024

Corn and Grain Sorghum Board Financials								
Total Annual Collections								
	June 2019	June 2020	June 2021	June 2022	June 2023	June 2024	October 2024	Forecast 2025
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 611,975	\$ 540,103	\$ 787,097	\$ 1,386,425	\$ 2,156,313	\$ 2,483,014	\$ 1,792,074	\$ 1,792,074
Revenue								
Gross Collections	\$ 1,068,141	\$ 1,155,588	\$ 1,257,966	\$ 1,516,473	\$ 1,050,172	\$ 1,295,693	\$ 387,135	\$ 1,070,077
Corn	\$ 1,060,950	\$ 1,141,977	\$ 1,244,519	\$ 1,450,919	\$ 1,044,635	\$ 1,288,120	\$ 372,981	\$ 1,063,230
Grain Sorghum	\$ 7,191	\$ 13,611	\$ 13,447	\$ 65,554	\$ 5,538	\$ 7,574	\$ 14,153	\$ 6,847
Rev. & Treas. Dept. 3%	\$ 34,181	\$ 36,979	\$ 40,255	\$ 48,527	\$ 33,606	\$ 40,521	\$ 11,614	\$ 33,172
Other Income	\$ 1,770	\$ 2,642	\$ -	\$ 5,538	\$ -	\$ 22,843	\$ -	\$ -
Transfers to CGSPB (Net)	\$ 1,035,730	\$ 1,121,251	\$ 1,217,711	\$ 1,473,485	\$ 1,016,567	\$ 1,278,016	\$ 375,521	\$ 1,036,905
Total Revenue	\$ 1,647,706	\$ 1,661,355	\$ 2,004,807	\$ 2,859,909	\$ 3,172,880	\$ 3,761,030	\$ 2,167,594	\$ 2,826,979
Expenses								
Payments to Research	\$ 943,000	\$ 764,633	\$ 482,275	\$ 492,117	\$ 965,315	\$ 1,292,298		
Payments to Research					\$ 492,117	\$ 10,000		
Preapproved Research					\$ 351,470	\$ 600,000	\$ 403,801	\$ 421,996
AMCOE								
U.S. Grains Council								
Membership	\$ 58,000	\$ 63,800	\$ 66,352	\$ 67,679	\$ 68,525	\$ -	\$ 71,266	\$ 142,532
Export Exchange-Medallion Sponsorship			\$ 12,000			\$ -	\$ 8,074	\$ 15,000
U.S. Grains Meeting					\$ 1,169			
National Corn Growers Association								
Membership	\$ 11,500	\$ 11,500	\$ 12,000	\$ 22,000	\$ 28,000	\$ 28,000		\$ 56,500
Promotion			\$ 10,000					
Commodity Classic	\$ 8,306	\$ 4,506			\$ 2,438			\$ 8,000
Arkansas Farm Bureau Foundation								
County Meetings			\$ 3,228	\$ 10,000				\$ 5,001
Ag in the Classroom			\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000	\$ 9,000		\$ 10,000
Producer Conference								\$ 5,001
Other Promotion	\$ 22,250	\$ 23,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 94,000	\$ 271,500			\$ 4,500
Total Promotion	\$ 160,056	\$ 102,806	\$ 133,580	\$ 203,679	\$ 381,632	\$ 37,000	\$ 79,340	\$ 246,534
Board Travel Lodging	\$ 1,677	\$ 3,348	\$ 528	\$ 6,301	\$ 4,133	\$ 6,718	\$ 2,794	\$ 7,001
Board Travel Meals	\$ 1,858	\$ 1,971			\$ 1,771	\$ 3,995	\$ 540	\$ 10,001
Board Travel Other						\$ 5,438	\$ 3,055	
Board Travel Mileage						\$ 811	\$ 427	
Office Supplies						\$ 45		
Postage						\$ 4,423	\$ 33	
Admin Expenses						\$ 21,430	\$ 6,848	\$ 17,002
Board Exp.	\$ 3,535	\$ 5,318	\$ 528	\$ 6,301	\$ 5,904	\$ 21,430	\$ 6,848	\$ 17,002
Website	\$ 1,011	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 9,000	\$ 8,229	\$ 1,500	\$ 17,000
Total Board Exp.	\$ 4,547	\$ 6,818	\$ 2,528	\$ 7,801	\$ 14,904	\$ 29,659	\$ 8,348	\$ 34,002
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,107,602	\$ 874,258	\$ 618,383	\$ 703,597	\$ 2,205,438	\$ 1,968,956	\$ 491,489	\$ 702,532
Outstanding Commitment							\$ 130,021	
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 540,103	\$ 787,097	\$ 1,386,425	\$ 2,156,313	\$ 967,442	\$ 1,792,074	\$ 1,546,084	\$ 2,126,447

2

2024-2025 Board Funding		2024-2025 Approved Board Amount	Paid To Date	Remaining
Promotion		192,666.00	80,839.95	111,826.05
AR Corn and Grain Sorghum Building in Jackson Campus		10,000.00		10,000.00
Export Exchange (Sponsorship)		15,000.00	8,073.95	6,926.05
National Corn Growers Association		28,500.00		28,500.00
Sign (Jackson County Ext. Center. AR Grain Building)		49,900.00		49,900.00
The Arkansas Irrigation Yield Contest (Year 7).		10,000.00	-	10,000.00
The Communications Group		8,000.00	1,500.00	6,500.00
US Grain Council		71,266.00	71,266.00	-
Research		1,021,996.00	1,003,801.00	18,195.00
Dean Robinson Seed Co Inc.		18,195.00		18,195.00
Arkansas Corn & Grain Sorghum Research Studies Series, an annual report and archival system		4,667.00	4,667.00	-
Arkansas Discovery Farms (Year 3 of 3).		5,000.00	5,000.00	-
Arkansas Future Ag Leaders Tour (Year 3 of 3).		5,000.00	5,000.00	-
Assess Management Options for Corn Nematodes in Arkansas (Year 3 of 3).		55,401.00	55,401.00	-
Assessing Susceptibility of Insect Pests of Corn in Storage to Selected Insecticides (Year 3 of 3)		41,305.00	41,305.00	-
Corn and grain sorghum enterprise budgets and production economic analysis (Ongoing)		10,000.00	10,000.00	-
Corn and Grain Sorghum Research Verification Program (Year 1 of 3).		130,000.00	130,000.00	-
Corn Yield Forecast System for the US Mid-South (New, Year 1 of 3).		-	-	-
Cover Crops in Corn Rotations- What Works and What Doesn't? (Year 2 of 3).		39,729.00	39,729.00	-
Determining disease resistance and susceptibility of corn and grain sorghum hybrids (New, Year 1 of 3).		40,000.00	40,000.00	-
Developing a satellite-based field scouting tool for corn (New, Year 1 of 3).		-	-	-
Development and verification of a stand counting application using drone imagery for research		19,660.00	19,660.00	-
Economic Analysis of Corn and Grain Sorghum Production and Marketing Practices (New, Year 1 of 3).		5,777.00	5,777.00	-
Evaluation of new herbicides, premixes, programs, and application methods for improved control		87,293.00	87,293.00	-
Exploring Plasma-Activated Water for Enhanced Biocontrol of Aflatoxins and Diseases in Corn		-	-	-
Fine-tuning Potassium Recommendations and Investigating Intensive Tissue Analysis for Sustained		56,395.00	56,395.00	-
Generating a high-value wax material from sorghum bran using an innovative green approach (New, Year 1 of 3).		42,761.00	42,761.00	-
Improving Irrigation Technology for Corn Production in Arkansas (Year 2 of 3).		185,280.00	185,280.00	-
Improving Nitrogen Management for Arkansas Corn Production (New, Year 1 of 3).		78,547.00	78,547.00	-
Optimizing Plant Population and Nitrogen Rate in Corn (Year 3 of 3).		34,000.00	34,000.00	-
Performance Crop Insurance as a risk management tool for corn and grain sorghum producers		29,486.00	29,486.00	-
Remote sensing-based mid-season corn nitrogen fertilizer rate recommendations and web-tool		56,000.00	56,000.00	-
Towards a comprehensive aflatoxin solution: Creating and integrating novel aflatoxin control re		45,000.00	45,000.00	-
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Feed Kits (New, Year 1 of 3).		2,500.00	2,500.00	-
Use of gossypol to inhibit reproduction in domestic hogs as a model for feral hog control (Year 2 of 3).		30,000.00	30,000.00	-
Utilizing Plasma Technology to Inhibit Tannin Effects in Grain Sorghum for Enhanced digestibili		-	-	-
Grand Total Promotion & Research		1,214,662.00	1,084,640.95	130,021.05

Sen. David Wallace
Senate Chair
Sen. John Payton
Senate Vice Chair



Roger A. Norman, JD, CPA, CFE, CFF
Legislative Auditor

Rep. Jimmy Gazaway
House Chair
Rep. Richard Womack
House Vice Chair

LEGISLATIVE JOINT AUDITING COMMITTEE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

TO: Auditee
FROM: ^{TB} Tom Bullington, CPA
Deputy Legislative Auditor
DATE: November 2, 2023
SUBJECT: Legislative Joint Auditing Committee Review Of:
Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board
June 30, 2023 and 2022

The enclosed report will be presented to the Standing Committee on State Agencies of the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee for its review at **1:30 p.m.**, on **Wednesday, November 8, 2023**, in Conference Room 130, State Capitol Building, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Since your report did not contain any findings, your presence at the meeting is not required. If you should have any questions or comments regarding this matter, please feel free to contact us.

Internal Control and Compliance Assessment

Arkansas Legislative Audit



Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board

For the Two-Year Period Ended June 30, 2023

INTRODUCTION

This report is issued to inform the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee of compliance with state fiscal laws and regulations as well as deficiencies in internal controls for the Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board. Assessment procedures disclosed no reportable items of noncompliance.

SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

We performed an internal control and compliance assessment of the Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board, a board of Arkansas state government, as of and for the two-year period ended June 30, 2023, and have issued our report dated September 21, 2023. Management of the Agency is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal controls and complying with applicable laws and regulations.

The assessment included cash on deposit, cash receipts, expenditures, liabilities, and data entry to the Arkansas Administrative Statewide Information System (AASIS). The assessment consisted principally of inquiries, observations, analytical procedures, and selected tests of internal control policies and procedures, accounting records, and other relevant documents. We relied on financial data in AASIS recorded by the Agency and audit work conducted in the fiscal years 2022 and 2023 State Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports (ACFRs) and Single Audit Reports.

RESULTS OF ASSESSMENT

Assessment procedures did not disclose instances of noncompliance considered reportable.

ENABLING LEGISLATION AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board was created by Act 271 of 1997. Its mission is to promote the growth and development of the corn and grain sorghum industries in Arkansas through research, extension, promotion, and market development, thereby promoting the general welfare of the people of Arkansas.

The Board is made up of seven members appointed by the Governor. Three are nominated by and represent the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation, while Riceland Foods, Inc., and the Agriculture Council of Arkansas each nominate two members to represent them. The Board is administered by the Executive Vice President of Arkansas Farm Bureau or his or her designee.

The Board administers a one cent per-bushel assessment on all corn and grain sorghum grown in Arkansas for market. The funds enter the State Treasury and are disbursed by the Board to fund research and promotion efforts. The Board's organizational chart in place at June 30, 2023, is presented in **Exhibit I on page 2**.

ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE AUDIT
500 Woodlane Street, Suite 172, Little Rock, AR 72201
Phone: 501-683-8600 Fax: 501-683-8605
www.arklegaudit.gov

Report ID: SR0930423

Report Date: September 21, 2023



Assets and Liabilities

Agency assets totaled \$2.22 million and \$2.48 million for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2022 and 2023, respectively. Assets are comprised solely of cash balances that were reconciled to the State Treasury without exception.

Agency liabilities totaled \$0 and \$18,737 for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2022 and 2023, respectively. Liabilities consisted of accounts payable to various vendors.

Asset and liability balances at year-end for fiscal years 2019 through 2023 are presented in Exhibit III.

Exhibit II

**Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board
Revenues, Expenditures, and Transfers
For the Years Ended June 30, 2019 through 2023**

	Fiscal Year				
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Revenues					
Corn and grain sorghum fees, net	\$ 1,018,344	\$ 1,468,200	\$ 1,218,109	\$ 1,120,254	\$ 1,035,517
Other income	0	5,538	0	2,642	1,760
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 1,018,344</u>	<u>\$ 1,473,738</u>	<u>\$ 1,218,109</u>	<u>\$ 1,122,896</u>	<u>\$ 1,037,277</u>
Expenditures					
Printing and advertising	\$ 10,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 0	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,250
Travel and subsistence	14,716	6,301	528	8,959	13,048
Assistance, grants, and aid	129,730	1,500	130,352	102,300	149,500
Other expenses	6,716	139,679	2,528	2,347	1,409
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 161,162</u>	<u>\$ 149,480</u>	<u>\$ 133,408</u>	<u>\$ 115,606</u>	<u>\$ 166,207</u>
Net Transfers In (Out)	<u>\$ (611,470)</u>	<u>\$ (492,117)</u>	<u>\$ (482,275)</u>	<u>\$ (764,633)</u>	<u>\$ (943,000)</u>

Source: Arkansas Administrative Statewide Information System Trial Balance (unaudited by Arkansas Legislative Audit)

Exhibit III

**Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board
Assets and Liabilities
For the Years Ended June 30, 2019 through 2023**

	Fiscal Year				
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,483,014	\$ 2,218,566	\$ 1,386,425	\$ 787,097	\$ 540,103
Liabilities					
Accounts payable	\$ 18,737	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 4,101	\$ 0

Source: Arkansas Administrative Statewide Information System Trial Balance (unaudited by Arkansas Legislative Audit)



United States Department of Agriculture

ATTACHMENT 4

Southern Soil Health Conference

"Profitability during Unprofitable Times"

A forum for farmers to exchange information, discuss opportunities for collaboration and learn about new and successful practices related to soil health and regenerative agriculture.

**November 13 & 14, 2024
First National Bank Arena
217 Olympic Drive
Jonesboro, AR**

Sponsored by the
Arkansas Soil Health Alliance,
Arkansas Association of
Conservation Districts, Arkansas
State University, and USDA Natural
Resources Conservation Service

12:30pm	Load bus for Field Tour 3350 Aggie Drive, Jonesboro, AR 72401 Arkansas State University AnyTour Virtual Tour & Interactive Map	Judd Hill Farmers Market
1:00pm	Depart for A-State University Farm Adam Chappell, President, Arkansas Soil Health Alliance Keith Scoggins, USDA - NRCS State Agronomist	
1:15pm	University Farm Tour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> University Farm Programs – Dr. Steve Green <i>Applied Adaptive Grazing</i> - Hugh Alijoe, Noble Research Institute <i>Powerflex Demonstration</i> Bryan Weech 	
2:15pm	Dan Dunkerson Farm Tanner Johnston, USDA-NRCS District Conservationist	3357 Hwy 135 South Black Oak, AR 72414
3:30pm	S & S Farms Keith Scoggins, USDA-NRCS State Agronomist	42 County Rd. 826 Lake City, AR
4:30pm	“Meat & Greet” Q & A Social Hour	Judd Hill Farmers Market



Field Tour Notes:

Park your vehicles in front of the Judd Hill Farmers Market for the field tour. Dress casual and wear comfortable walking shoes. The busses will not return until 4:30pm so bring whatever you need with you. The Embassy Suites and the First National Bank Arena are located across Red Wolf Blvd and can be seen from the Farmers Market.

Thursday

Agenda

November 14, 2024

8:00am	Registration Opens	First National Bank Arena (lower level facing Red Wolf Blvd)
8:45am	Opening Remarks & Welcome Adam Chappell, ASHA President Keith Scoggins, USDA-NRCS State Agronomist	Rooms A, B & C
9:00am	Understanding Plant Interconnectivity for Soil Care Rick Bieber	
10:00am	Building Regenerative Systems Seth Watkins	
11:00am	Soil Health and the Haney Test Lance Gunderson	
12:00pm	Luncheon with Sponsors	
1:30pm	How to Increase Soil Health and ROI Russell Hedrick	
2:30pm	Farming in a Non-Conventional Way Jason Mauck	
3:30pm	Questions & Answers - Wrap Up	



Arkansas Association
Of
Conservation Districts



CARGILL
REGENCONNECT

(Additional Sponsor logos to be added)



CEU Hours have been approved for this training.

Speakers



Rick Bieber has been no-tilling for more than 30 years on his Trail City, S.D., farm. In that time, he's found that listening to others and trusting his soil's biology has meant more for his farm's bottom line than anything else.



When Seth Watkins, a fourth-generation steward of his family farm in Clarinda, Iowa, began full time on the farm in 1994, raising and grazing cattle, he approached the land from a systems perspective which placed the ecological health of the land first.



Lance Gunderson is a founding member and the President of Regen Ag Lab. As a well-known promoter of soil health testing, Lance carries his passion for soil health testing into Regen Ag Lab. Lance is excited to continue to establish and promote newly developed agronomic tests designed to aid producers managing their operations under the regenerative ag model.



Russell Hedrick, JRH Grain Farms, operates on eight hundred acres, growing non-GMO corn, non-GMO soybeans, white wheat, black oats, triticale, and barley, and raising pasture cattle, pasture Katahdin sheep, and pasture Berkshire pigs. He also operates Southern Seeds and Feeds and partners with Seventeen Twelve Distillery.



Jason is obsessed with narrowing the gaps of agriculture. An apostle of relay cropping, Mauck, is blazing a new path using cash and cover crops in unison.



Hugh Aljoe serves as the director of ranches, outreach, and partnerships at Noble Research Institute, where he focuses on regenerative management of range and pasture, high stock density grazing and holistic ranch management.

**Thank you to the speakers, sponsors and advisors
who provided support and assistance.**

Southern Soil Health Conference

“Profitability during Unprofitable Times”

REGISTRATION FORM

November 13 – 14, 2024

First National Bank Arena, ASU, Jonesboro, AR

Name _____

First Name

Last Name

Preferred first name for name badge: _____

Job Title: (if applicable) _____

Company/Agency/Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

Phone: _____ **Cell:** _____

E-mail Address: _____

(Check all that apply)

Farmer _____ **Landowner** _____ **Rancher** _____

Poultry Producer _____ **Alternative Crops** _____ **Other** _____

REGISTRATION FEE:

_____ Full Registration (Wednesday & Thursday) \$75 per person \$ _____

_____ Thursday only \$50 per person \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Make checks payable to:

AACD

Please mail this form with payment to:

Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts

8100 Bicentennial Road

North Little Rock, AR 72118

OR: Enter credit card information below and email to: debbiepinreal@aol.com

Name on credit card _____ **card #** _____

Expiration date _____ **CCV# (3 digit # on back of card)** _____

Billing address zip code _____

Full Registration Fee includes:

- Wednesday, November 13, 2024 - Field tour departs at 1:00pm from Judd Hill Farmers Market (located across Red Wolf Blvd from First National Bank Arena)
- Thursday, November 14, 2024 – First National Bank Arena on lower level (Lunch, Break & Materials)

Thursday registration only includes:

- Lunch, Break & Materials – First National Bank Arena on lower level

SPECIAL NEEDS: If you have any special needs as a conference attendee, such as a special diet, or needs related to sight, hearing, or physical mobility, please attach a brief description of these needs to your registration form. Early notification will enable us to accommodate your needs more efficiently.

No refunds on cancellations received after November 5, 2024.

Walk-in registration will be accepted as space allows. Meals will not be guaranteed.

Cancellation Policy: The conference committee reserves the right to cancel or postpone this conference due to insufficient enrollment or other unforeseen circumstances. If the conference is cancelled or postponed, registration fees will be refunded, but the conference committee cannot be held responsible for other costs, charges, or expenses, including cancellation/change charges assessed by airlines, travel agencies and/or hotels.

All refunds will be processed after the conference.

Registration Questions: For assistance or information, contact Debbie Moreland, Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts, Phone (501) 425-2891, or email debbiepinreal@aol.com

More information can be found at www.aracd.org

Hotel Information

Jonesboro hosts numerous hotels near the Arkansas State University

- **Embassy Suites by Hilton Red Wolf Convention Center, 223 Red Wolf Blvd., ASU 72405**
[Hotel Amenities - Embassy Suites by Hilton Jonesboro Red Wolf Convention Center](#)
- **Hilton Garden Inn Jonesboro, 2840 South Caraway Road, Jonesboro, AR 72401**
[Hilton Garden Inn Jonesboro, Arkansas Hotel](#)

Sponsor Information Form

Thank you for agreeing to be a part of our conference! Please email back to: Debbie Moreland at debbiepinreal@aol.com no later than November 1, 2024

Date: November 13 – 14, 2024

Location: Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, AR

Full name	
Name as you would like on name tag	
Title	
Organization/Agency representing	
Address	
Cellular phone (or POC onsite)	
E-mail	
Office POC (during travel)	

Exhibit Space information

Do you need a table & chairs?	
Do you need electricity?	
Sponsor Status <input type="checkbox"/> I/ we plan to register for the conference as attendee. <input type="checkbox"/> I/ we plan to host an exhibit booth at the conference only.	Sponsor Needs Are there other needs for your exhibit? Please list.
Do you have materials to be included in the registration packet?	
Indicate level of support:	Platinum (\$2,500)_____ Gold (\$1,500)_____
Levels description on Page #2	Silver (\$1,000)_____ Bronze (\$500)_____

Describe your organization in 25 words or less

Southern Soil Health Conference
Sponsorship Levels

Platinum Sponsorship.....\$2,500.00

- *Sponsors at this level are recognized in all publicity with their logos prominently displayed. They receive three complimentary conference registrations, one exhibit space and logo in the conference program. Platinum Sponsors will be recognized at the opening welcome and during the luncheon.*

Gold Sponsors.....\$1,500.00

- *Sponsors at this level are recognized in all publicity and their logos are prominently displayed. They receive two complimentary conference registration, one exhibit space and logo in the conference program. Gold Sponsors will be recognized during the luncheon.*

Silver Sponsors.....\$1,000.00

- *These sponsors are recognized by name in all publicity. Silver Sponsors receive two complimentary conference registration, one exhibit space, and logo in the conference program. Silver Sponsors will be recognized at the opening welcome.*

Bronze Sponsors.....\$500.00

- *Bronze Sponsors will be recognized on signs throughout the Conference, and one complimentary conference registration, one exhibit space, and logo in the conference program.*

Trade show booth assignment will be provided prior to November 1, 2024. The assigned area will be open for booth set up on Wednesday 4:00pm, November 13, 2024. Displays may be removed after 3:00pm on Thursday, November 14, 2024. If your sponsorship level includes a complimentary registration(s) a registration form must be filled out for each person attending. More information can be found at **<http://www.aracd.org>**

Make check payable to: **Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts**

Or enter credit card information below and email to: debbiepinreal@aol.com

Name on credit card _____ card # _____

Expiration date _____ CCV# (3 digit # on back of card) _____

Billing address zip code _____

Mail completed form and payment to: **AACD/AR Soil Health Alliance**
8100 Bicentennial Road
North Little Rock, AR 72118

Thank you for supporting the Arkansas Soil Health Alliance and the Southern Soil Health Conference. If you have any questions, contact Debbie Moreland at debbiepinreal@aol.com or (501) 425-2891.

ELEVATING EXCELLENCE ◀ IN AGRICULTURE ▶

America's largest farmer-led, farmer-focused
agricultural & educational experience



DENVER | MARCH 2-4, 2025

#Classic25 • CommodityClassic.com



2025 Commodity Classic Schedule
Colorado Convention Center, Denver, Co.
****As of 9/13/24****

Saturday, March 1, 2025

All Day	Optional Tours
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration Open
4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	ASA Awards Celebration*

Sunday, March 2, 2025

All Day	Optional Tours
8:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Registration Open
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service
9:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Pancake Breakfast/Brunch
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Opening Education Session
1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	What's New Sessions
2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	What's New Sessions
3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Trade Show Open
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Welcome Reception

Monday, March 3, 2025

6:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration Open
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Early Riser Session
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Trade Show: Media-Only Preview
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Trade Show Open with Lunch (11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Main Stage Sessions
8:15 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	What's New Sessions
9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	What's New Sessions
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Mini What's New Sessions
1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	Learning Center Sessions
2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Learning Center Sessions
3:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.	Learning Center Sessions
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	In-Booth Receptions (invitation only)
4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	NCGA Winners Circle Celebration*

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

6:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Registration Open
7:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.	Early Riser Session
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Learning Center Sessions
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Trade Show Open with Lunch (11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Main Stage Sessions
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Learning Center Sessions
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Learning Center Sessions
2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Learning Center Sessions
3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	General Session
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Commodity Classic Closing Reception

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

All Day	Optional Tours
---------	----------------

*One ticket to either ASA's or NCGA's awards celebration is included with full registration and subject to availability (not guaranteed).

Please visit Association Events pages on CommodityClassic.com for
association meetings & events schedules.