

ARKANSAS CORN & GRAIN SORGHUM PROMOTION BOARD MEETING  
Zoom Option

Minutes

November 5, 2025  
1:00 p.m.

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

Members Present via Zoom: Patrick Matt Smith

Members Absent: Kenny Falwell, Jason Felton

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

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

**PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

The previous meeting minutes were presented to the board for review.

**Motion to approve the previous meeting minutes from July 8, 2025. Moved by Perry Galloway; seconded by Tommy Young. Motion carried.**

**CORN CROP UPDATE FROM University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture (UADA)**

Dr. Jason Kelley from the UADA was invited to provide the board with a corn crop update for the 2025 season. **ATTACHMENT 1**

Dr. Kelley discussed heavy rainfall throughout the year, mentioning that 31% of corn was planted in Arkansas by April 7, 2025, with ~50,000 acres being replanted.

Dr. Kelley mentioned seeing fields with good, adequate stands, but also witnessed situations of plants falling over from softer ground conditions due to heavy rainfall.

Dr. Kelley reported the total corn acreage planted in Arkansas in 2025 to be around 810,000 acres, which is the fourth highest planting year since 1992. He remarked that he was surprised at how high this number was, considering the tough growing season with heavy rainfall.

He briefly addressed 2024 planted acreages versus 2025 planted acreages, remarking that corn is up in 2025 by 62%, which is up compared to other planted commodity acreages. He also addressed corn planting acreages from county to county in Arkansas and remarked on

how growers were heavily reliant on high-speed planters due to small planting windows from heavy rainfall.

Dr. Kelley mentioned the Arkansas average corn yield, saying that in the 2025 season, 178 bushels per acre on average was yielded.

Dr. Kelley inquired Member Young about his irrigation practices this season. Member Young mentioned his farm only saw a few rain events, which resulted in him irrigating more, further mentioning that he had to buy an 8-foot wide bushhog to help get irrigated, prompting some discussion.

Kelley briefly addressed a newer issue being observed called “tassel wrap,” which is when the upper leaves of the corn plant wrap around the upper tassel of the plant. Discussion ensued.

Kelley asked if there were any questions. Member Smith inquired about when the board can expect the results of the variety trial research to come out. Kelley mentioned that the small plot official variety trial (OVT) has been published, saying that he could search for “Arkansas corn hybrid testing” online to locate the newest publication.

#### **THE COMMUNICATIONS GROUP REPORT**

Carson Horn with the Communications Group provided a brief update on the group’s marketing work and practices on behalf of the board. **ATTACHMENT 2**

Horn mentioned that there was an overall decrease in sessions on the board’s website, further explaining that Search Engine Optimization (SEO) is changing and updating, which may affect the decrease in sessions. He remarked on a high bounce rate for the website, which is generally an indication to improve visitor engagement on the webpage, but serves the purposes of what the board is trying to accomplish.

Horn also addressed a small glitch found on the board’s website after a health audit was conducted, adding that the issue should be addressed quickly.

Horn asked if there were any further questions and there were none.

#### **FUNDING DISCUSSION**

Chairman Dabbs launched into a discussion regarding the need for a comprehensive list of state corn and grain sorghum vendors to address general inquiries from interested buyers.

Discussion ensued. Arkansas Department of Agriculture staff mentioned that a list of licensed Arkansas Grain Dealers is publicly available on the Department’s website, prompting further discussion.

The discussion ended with the Department verifying that they will investigate options on this front and will follow-up.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Fred Wiedower from the Arkansas Department of Agriculture presented the board's latest financial report. **ATTACHMENT 3**

Wiedower mentioned that the board, since the beginning of Fiscal Year 2026 on July 1, has collected approximately \$422,000. He went on to say that the board has an unobligated fund balance of \$1.9 million available to fund future projects.

Wiedower briefly discussed next fiscal year projections, putting the projected figure at just over one million dollars available for next fiscal year project funding.

Member Young inquired about the UADA carryover that should have been credited to the board, prompting discussion.

Wiedower asked if there were any further comments or questions—Members requested that the next financial report list out the \$400,000 on account of the UADA for informational purposes.

### **FUNDING DISCUSSION (CONTINUED)**

Chairman Dabbs inquired members on any known issues or areas of concern that they as a board would like research projects to be focused on.

Member Smith mentioned commercial seed variety verification and cross-referencing, particularly for corn and soybeans. Member Galloway mentioned nematode issues were a problem on his farm this season, with other members agreeing.

A brief discussion regarding crop budgets and modifying rental agreements ensued.

Regarding a funding target for future projects, the board mentioned that they do not traditionally set this amount this far in advance. Discussion ensued.

Discussion ensued regarding scheduling next meeting dates, request for funding proposal deadlines, and presentation time limits.

The board decided on 10-minute time limits for hearing new proposal presentations and 5-minute time limits for renewals or continuation proposal presentations.

The board decided to tentatively set the 2-day funding meeting dates for February 2 and 3, 2026.

Member Young requested a Department representative to be present for the members' dinner that night.

The board decided on a request for funding proposal deadline of January 9, 2026. UADA mentioned that their internal request for funding proposal deadline is December 18, 2025.

The board decided on a tentative summer meeting date of July 8, 2026, as well as a tentative winter meeting date of November 4, 2026.

UADA mentioned that they may recommend a specific research station closer to the summer meeting date.

Chairman Dabbs addressed a submitted proposal for the board to consider from Arkansas FFA and 4-H, requesting \$15,000 for officer Commodity Classic sponsorships.  
**ATTACHMENT 4**

Member Young mentioned his continued desire to support this promotion project.

**Motion to sponsor Arkansas FFA and 4-H officers to attend Commodity Classic in 2026 for \$15,000. Moved by Tommy Young. Discussion ensued. Seconded by William Perry Galloway. Motion carried.**

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Inoussa Zaki provided a brief follow-up presentation on the board's financial report.

Zaki mentioned that the board has approximately \$1.9 million available to fund future research and promotion projects. He went on to say that if the board funds projects at the same rate they did last year, the board would still have one million dollars in reserve.

Member Young mentioned the \$400,000 on account with UADA. Zaki said he will add a supplemental funding column to the board's future financial reports noting this amount.

Member Galloway provided a brief report on his trip to Corn Congress in Georgia. Member Young mentioned his attendance at the US Grains Council's annual meeting, noting that they have changed the name of the entity, which is now called US Grains and Bioproducts Council. He mentioned that Asia and China were the most discussed topics this year.

Chairman Dabbs reviewed a thank you letter to the board from Wes Ward, Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture, for sponsoring the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) conference held in Rogers, AR, which was attended by 33 foreign agricultural leaders from 23 countries.

Dr. Nathan Slaton mentioned that the university will report on the 24-25 funding cycle carryovers at the next funding meeting.

Dr. Slaton addressed the need for a formal process for UADA to submit letters of support to the board for review and endorsement of future federal funding proposals.

The Department's Legal Section advised that the full board would need to review, discuss, and consider the proposals at a public meeting to issue formal letters of support.

Dr. Slaton considered the possibility of researchers preparing one-page executive summaries for board review. Member Young mentioned that special called zoom meetings could be scheduled to contemplate such proposals.

Member Young reminded the board that Commodity Classic 2026 was coming up in San Antonio, TX. He requested someone from the Department to manage travel arrangements for board members.

**ADJOURNMENT**

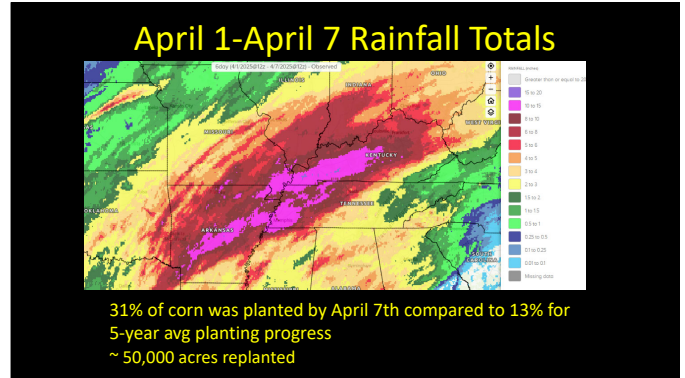
Meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.

  
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Trent Dabbs, Chairman

ATTACHMENT 1



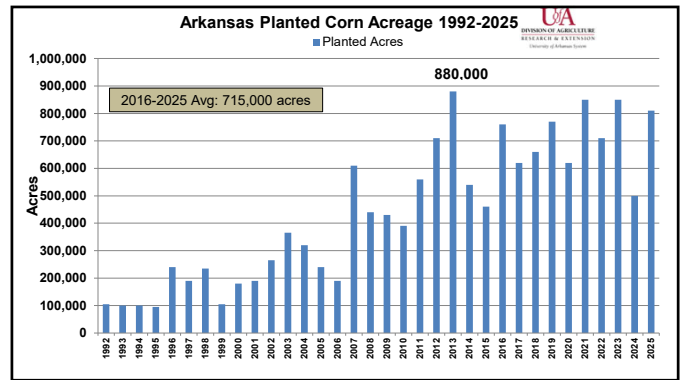
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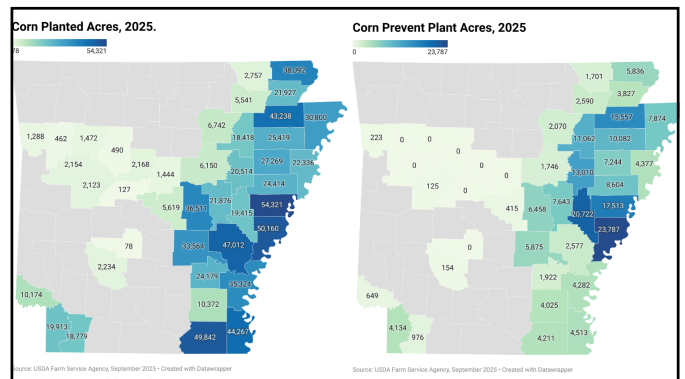


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2024 vs 2025 Planted Acreage				
	2024 Acres	2025 Acres	Acre Change	% Change
Corn	500,000	810,000	+310,000	+62
Cotton	650,000	520,000	-130,000	-20
Peanuts	45,000	48,000	+3,000	+1
Rice	1,448,000	1,284,000	-164,000	-11
Soybean	3,050,000	2,600,000	-450,000	-15
Wheat	130,000	110,000	-20,000	-15
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,823,000</b>	<b>5,372,000</b>	<b>-451,000</b>	<b>-7</b>

USDA September 2025 Crop Production Report

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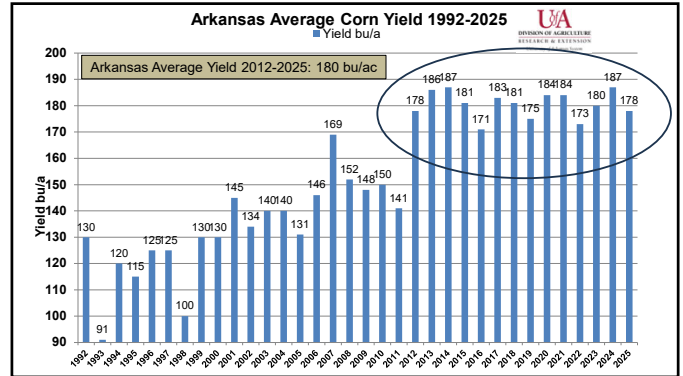
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### Limited Days to Get Corn Planted

- After April flooding – most corn was planted April 12-20 and April 25-30 – very short time periods
- “We would never have gotten finished if we didn’t have high speed planters”
- Corn planted in small windows
- Narrow window for spraying and fertilizing as well



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### May and June Rainfall – Good and Bad!

- Good
  - Less irrigation – saved money – dryland corn, 200 bu/a
  - Activated herbicides and fertilizer
- Bad
  - Not able to get fertilizer and herbicides out timely – lower yields
  - More expensive crop – had to use a plane instead of ground rigs for spraying and fertilizer applications
  - Poorly drained/flat fields yields were down
  - Not able to replant or planted later than desired



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### Foliar Diseases with Ample Rainfall



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### Tassel Wrap – New Issue in 2025



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### Tassel Wrap – New Issue in 2025



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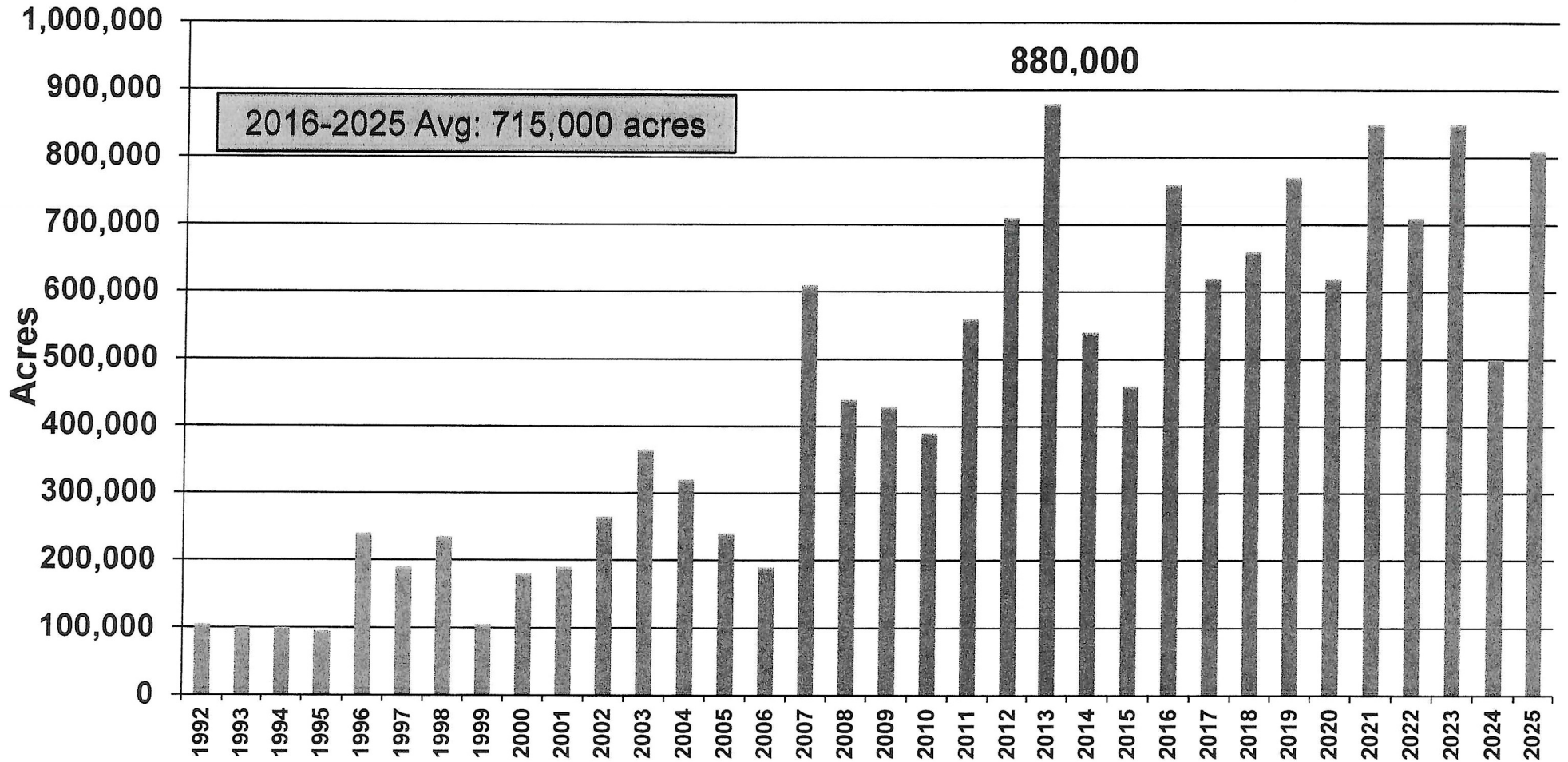
## Prospects for 2026?

- Initial thoughts for Corn
  - Same or increased acres compared to 2025
  - \$4.50+ corn for Sept. 2026
  - Will soybean, cotton, rice prices increase?
  - Will China buy sorghum again?
  - Fertilizer prices?

# Arkansas Planted Corn Acreage 1992-2025



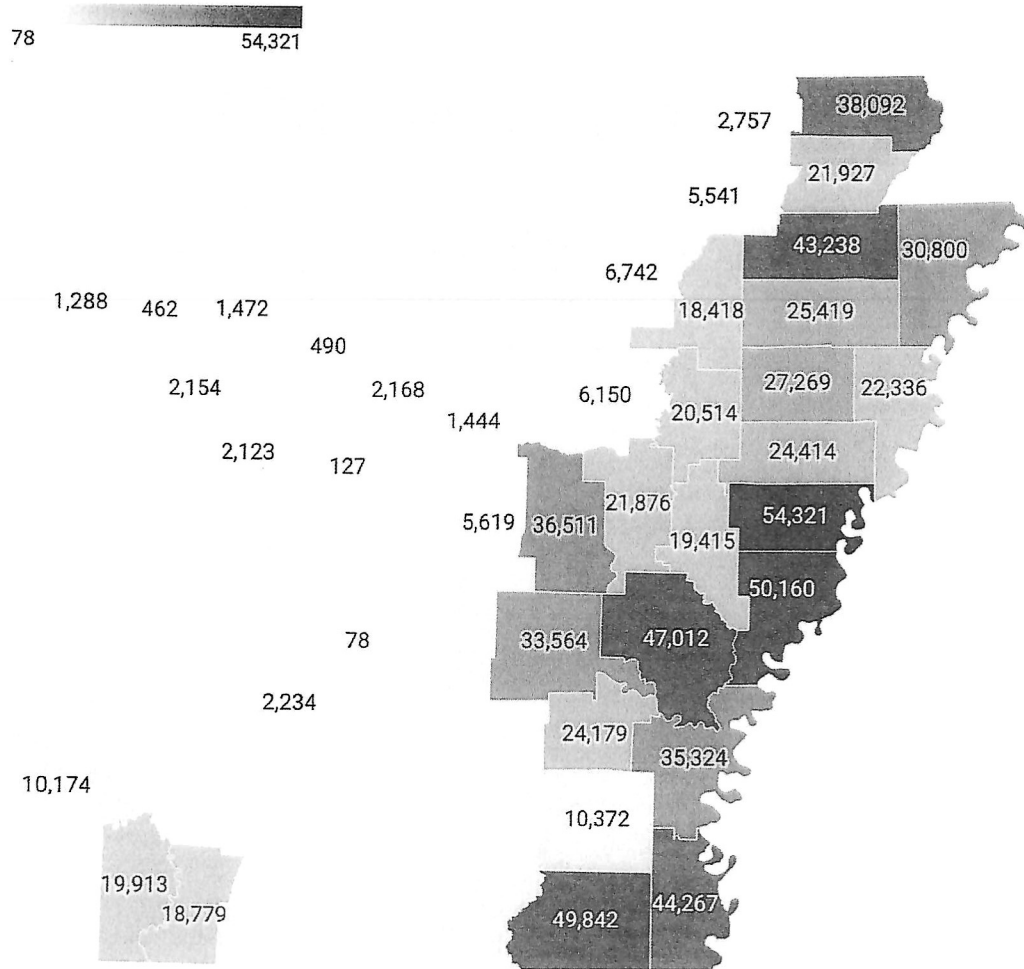
■ Planted Acres



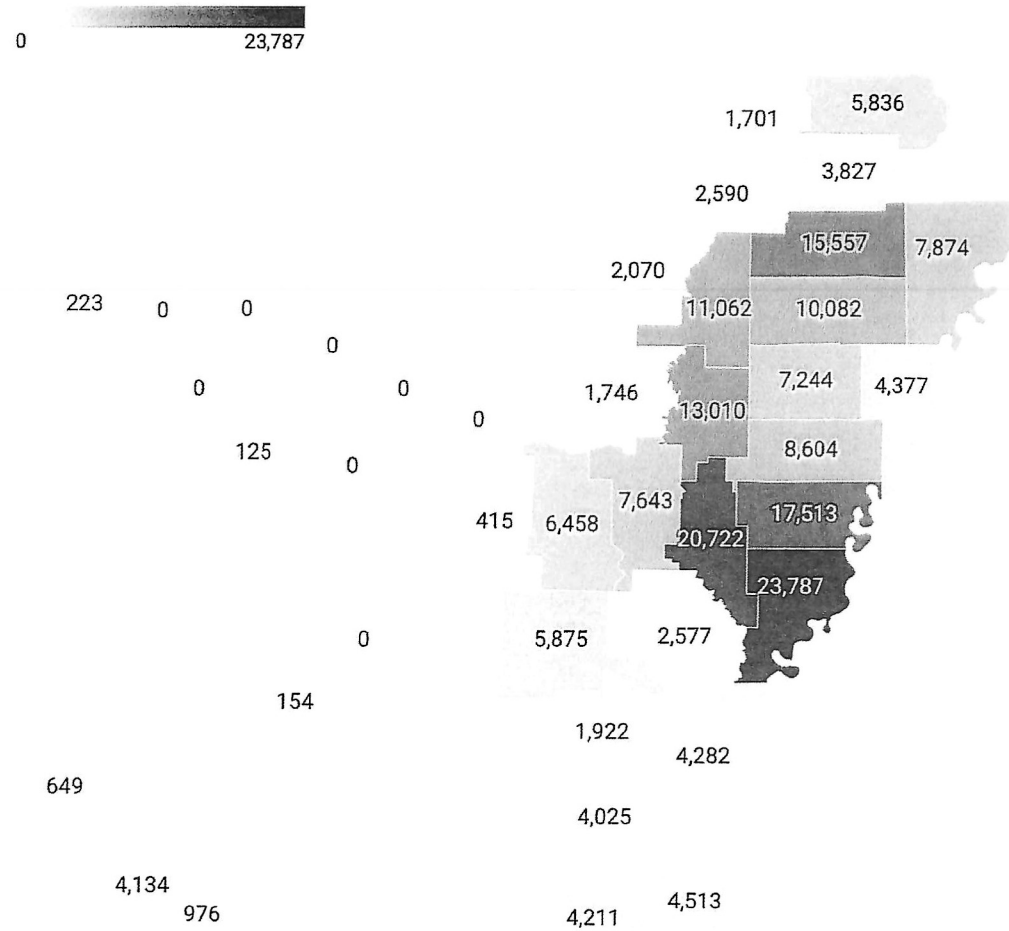
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## Corn Planted Acres, 2025.



## Corn Prevent Plant Acres, 2025

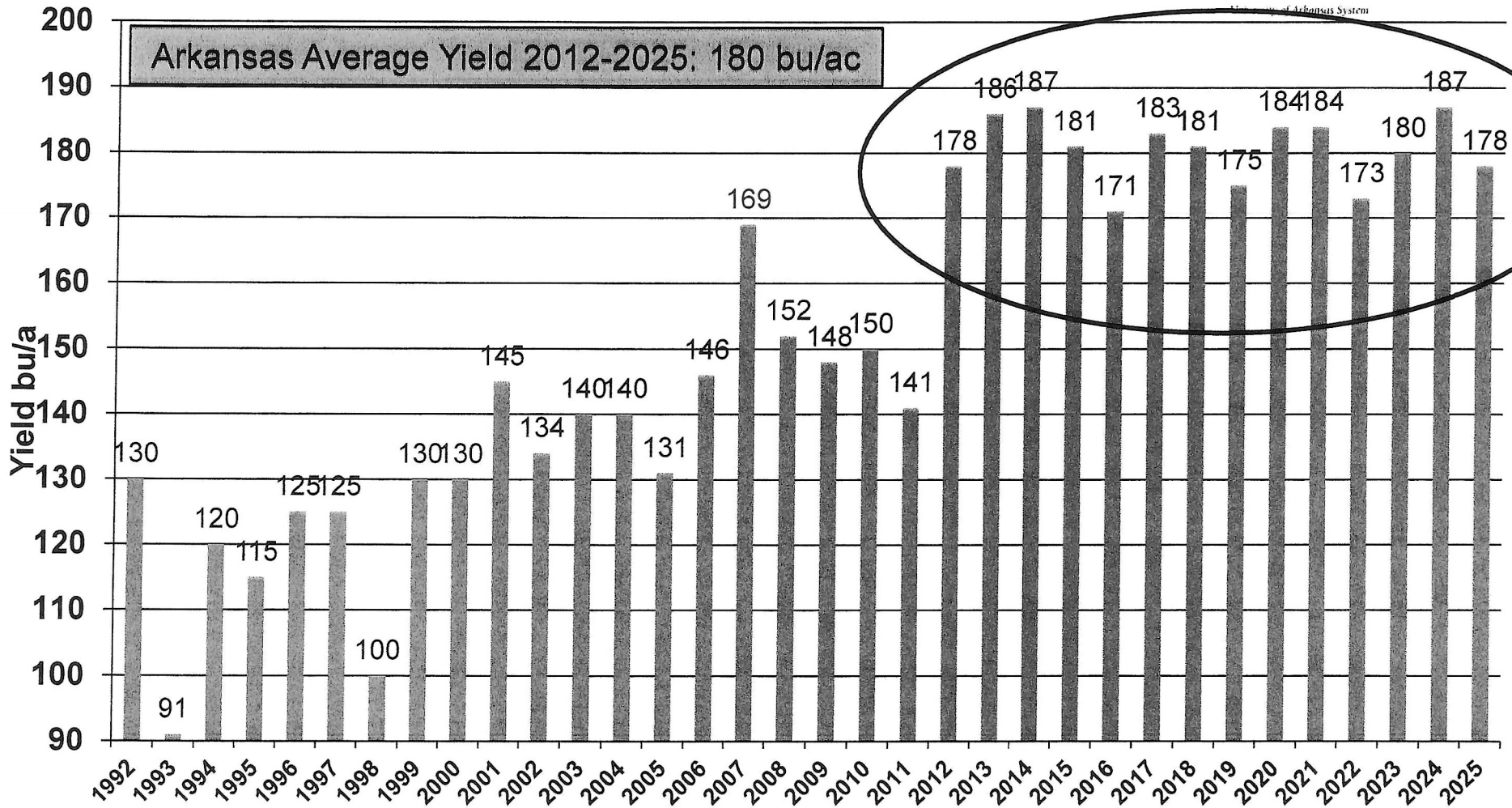


Source: USDA Farm Service Agency, September 2025 • Created with Datawrapper

Source: USDA Farm Service Agency, September 2025 • Created with Datawrapper

# Arkansas Average Corn Yield 1992-2025

■ Yield bu/a





[www.corn-sorghum.org](http://www.corn-sorghum.org)

# Arkansas

## Corn & Grain Sorghum Board

### Communications Report

Q1 | November 2025

*Presented by The Communications Group*

# Website

## Overview July 1 - Sept. 30, 2025

**590 Sessions**

*936 Sessions July-September 2024*

### Most Visited Pages:

1. About - Board Members
2. Contact
3. About
4. Board Members - Jason Felton
5. Trent Dabbs

### 9.20 Pages viewed per Session

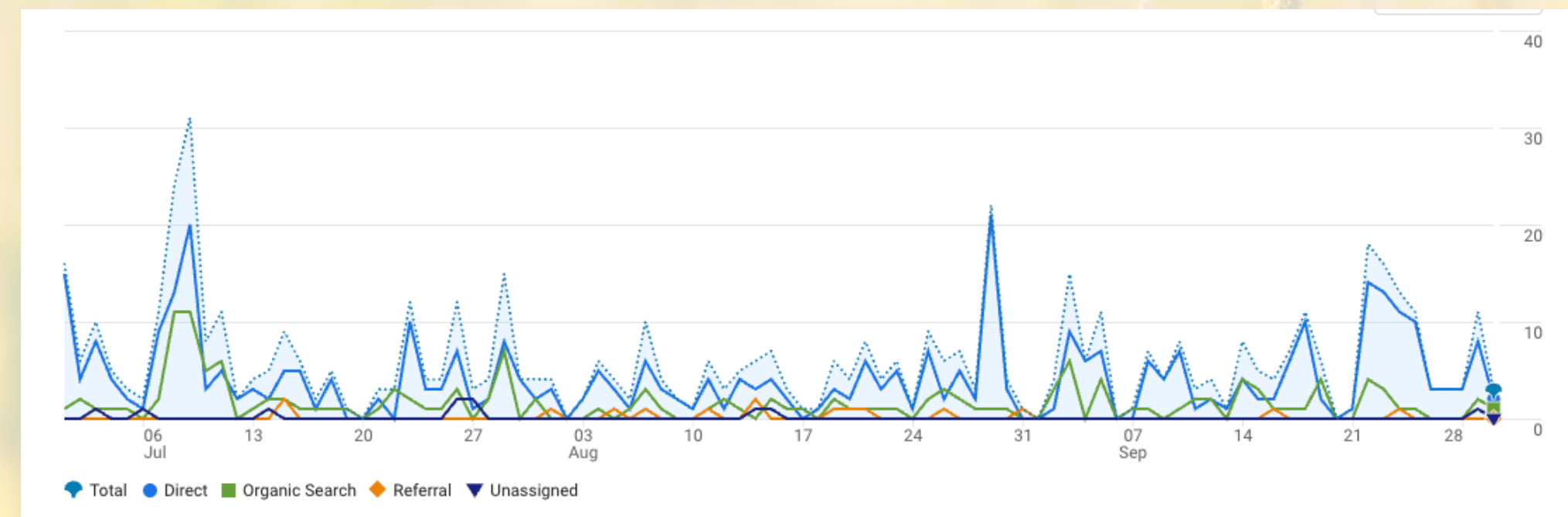
#### Updates:

- Board Member Photos
- Board Member Titles
- Contact Us Page - Amy's Contact
- Resources Tab - Meeting Minutes

**57.47% Bounce Rate** - A bounce rate above 55% may indicate the need to improve visitor engagement.

### Top Sources:

1. Direct
2. Google/Organic
3. Bing/Organic





COMMUNICATIONS GROUP  
Marketing | Public Relations  
**POWERING INSIGHT**

**Carson Horn, APR**

**chorn@comgroup.com**

**501-515-0849**

**ATTACHMENT 3**

**Corn and Grain Sorghum Board Financials  
Total Annual Collections**

	June 2021	June 2022	June 2023	June 2024	June 2025	November 2025	Forecast 2026
<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 787,097</b>	<b>\$ 1,386,425</b>	<b>\$ 2,156,313</b>	<b>\$ 2,483,014</b>	<b>\$ 1,792,074</b>	<b>\$ 1,709,810</b>	<b>\$ 1,563,516</b>
Revenue							
Gross Collections	\$ 1,257,966	\$ 1,516,473	\$ 1,050,172	\$ 1,295,693	\$ 1,028,188	\$ 435,766	\$ 1,028,188
Corn	\$ 1,244,519	\$ 1,450,919	\$ 1,044,635	\$ 1,288,120	\$ 1,010,873	\$ 433,918	\$ 1,010,873
Grain Sorghum	\$ 13,447	\$ 65,554	\$ 5,538	\$ 7,574	\$ 17,315	\$ 1,848	\$ 17,315
Rev. & Treas. Dept. 3%	\$ 40,255	\$ 48,527	\$ 33,606	\$ 40,521	\$ 31,009	\$ 13,073	\$ 30,846
Other Income	\$ -	\$ 5,538	\$ -	\$ 22,843	\$ 10,900	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Transfers to CGSPB (Net)</b>	<b>\$ 1,217,711</b>	<b>\$ 1,473,485</b>	<b>\$ 1,016,567</b>	<b>\$ 1,278,016</b>	<b>\$ 1,008,079</b>	<b>\$ 422,693</b>	<b>\$ 997,342</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 2,004,807</b>	<b>\$ 2,859,909</b>	<b>\$ 3,172,880</b>	<b>\$ 3,761,030</b>	<b>\$ 2,800,153</b>	<b>\$ 2,132,503</b>	<b>\$ 2,560,858</b>
Expenses							
Payments to Research	\$ 482,275	\$ 492,117	\$ 965,315	\$ 1,292,298			
Payments to Research			\$ 492,117	\$ 10,000	\$ 541,484	\$ -	\$ 1,111,659
Payments to Research			\$ 351,470	\$ 600,000	\$ 403,801	\$ -	
<b>U S Grains Council</b>							
Membership	\$ 66,352	\$ 67,679	\$ 68,525	\$ -	\$ 71,266	\$ -	\$ 74,117
Export Exchange-Medallion	\$ 12,000			\$ -	\$ 7,274	\$ -	\$ 15,000
U.S. Grains Meeting			\$ 1,169				
<b>National Corn Growers Association</b>							
Membership	\$ 12,000	\$ 22,000	\$ 28,000	\$ 28,000		\$ 28,500	\$ 28,500
Promotion	\$ 10,000						
Commodity Classic			\$ 2,438			\$ -	\$ 8,000
<b>Arkansas Farm Bureau Foundation</b>							
County Meetings	\$ 3,228	\$ 10,000				\$ -	\$ 5,001
Ag in the Classroom		\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ 15,000
Producer Conference						\$ -	\$ 5,001
Other Promotion	\$ 30,000	\$ 94,000	\$ 271,500		\$ 20,161	\$ -	\$ 40,000
<b>Total Promotion</b>	<b>\$ 133,580</b>	<b>\$ 203,679</b>	<b>\$ 381,632</b>	<b>\$ 37,000</b>	<b>\$ 113,701</b>	<b>\$ 28,500</b>	<b>\$ 190,619</b>
Board Travel Lodging	\$ 528	\$ 6,301	\$ 4,133	\$ 6,718	\$ 9,480.60	\$ 844.88	\$ 7,001
Board Travel Meals			\$ 1,771	\$ 3,995	\$ 2,089.28	\$ 151.82	\$ 10,001
Board Travel Other				\$ 5,438	\$ 9,723.71	\$ 2,761.47	\$ 6,500
Board Travel Mileage				\$ 811	\$ 2,030.08	\$ 416.00	
Office Supplies				\$ 45			
Postage				\$ -			
Admin Expenses				\$ 4,423	\$ 32.59		
<b>Board Exp.</b>	<b>\$ 528</b>	<b>\$ 6,301</b>	<b>\$ 5,904</b>	<b>\$ 21,430</b>	<b>\$ 23,356</b>	<b>\$ 4,174</b>	<b>\$ 23,502</b>
Website	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 9,000	\$ 8,229	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 17,000
<b>Total Board Exp.</b>	<b>\$ 2,528</b>	<b>\$ 7,801</b>	<b>\$ 14,904</b>	<b>\$ 29,659</b>	<b>\$ 31,356</b>	<b>\$ 12,174</b>	<b>\$ 40,502</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 618,383</b>	<b>\$ 703,597</b>	<b>\$ 2,205,438</b>	<b>\$ 1,968,956</b>	<b>\$ 1,090,342</b>	<b>\$ 40,674</b>	<b>\$ 1,342,780</b>
Outstanding Commitment					\$ 146,294	\$ 117,794	\$ 156,294
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 1,386,425</b>	<b>\$ 2,156,313</b>	<b>\$ 967,442</b>	<b>\$ 1,792,074</b>	<b>\$ 1,563,516</b>	<b>\$ 1,974,035</b>	<b>\$ 1,061,784</b>



**Joint Funding Proposal for Promotion of Education on Corn, Sorghum, and Soybeans  
for Arkansas 4-H and FFA Youth**  
September 25, 2025

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**From:** Arkansas 4-H Foundation  
Arkansas FFA Foundation

**To:** Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Board  
Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board

**Support Level:** Up to \$15,000 per commodity board

**Program of Support:** 2026 Commodity Classic (San Antonio, Texas)

**Impact:** Arkansas State 4-H and State FFA Officers

**Dates:** February 25-27, 2026

**Proposal**

- The Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Board and the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board jointly and equally provide funding to sponsor each state officer delegation, 4-H and FFA, including up to seven state 4-H officers and six state FFA officers, staff, or chaperones, to attend the 2026 Commodity Classic.
- Funding will cover transportation, lodging, meals, registrations, tours, admissions, and other related expenses necessary to achieve the goals of this proposal.
- The Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Board and the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board will each receive a summary and receipts of expenses incurred. These expenses will be divided equally between the boards not to exceed \$15,000 per board. Unused expenses will not be transferred to the following year.
- State 4-H and State FFA officers will be available to attend each commodity board’s meeting after the event to present on their time at the 2026 Commodity Classic.



*2025-2026 Arkansas 4-H and FFA State Officers*



*2024-2025 State FFA Officers presenting to the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board about their time at the 2025 Commodity Classic.*

## Importance

By supporting this proposal, the Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Board and the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board will directly invest in preparing the next generation of advocates, producers, and leaders for your industries.



Arkansas 4-H has over 130,000 Arkansas youth who participate in 4-H programs per year in all 75 counties in the state.

Arkansas FFA has over 18,000 FFA members and is in 80% of school districts in the state. Arkansas FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

The Commodity Classic is unlike any other event in agriculture. Your support ensures Arkansas 4-H and FFA officers are among the select few student leaders nationwide who experience this event and return ready to share that knowledge across our state. This investment not only develops future agricultural leaders but also creates ambassadors for corn, sorghum, and soybeans who will share their Commodity Classic experiences with thousands of peers when they return to Arkansas.

4-H and FFA pride themselves in a learning by doing model, where members actively participate in projects, events, competitions, and real-world experiences. Attending the Commodity Classic provides members a rare opportunity to witness grassroots advocacy and agricultural innovation firsthand. It provides excellent networking among agricultural industries. It showcases the most up-to-date technology. This show is the premier, production agriculture focused event showcasing how an idea, need, or a problem can be addressed through partnership, collaboration, and advocacy.

According to the most recent Census of Agriculture, the average age of an Arkansas farmer is 57.6, an increase from the previous census.<sup>1</sup> The membership of both 4-H and FFA are increasing. These members are developing a love of agriculture and rural Arkansas. By engaging them at the Commodity Classic and having them subsequently attend the respective Commodity Board Meetings will inspire career paths in farming and agriculture—helping ensure a strong future workforce as today’s farmers age.



Commodity Classic is unlike any other event in agriculture. With your support, the state officers will experience:

- **Incredible insight** through a full slate of educational sessions designed to showcase efficiency, profitability, and continual improvement.
- **Eye-opening innovation and technology** showcased in the huge trade show—where they will see the latest advancements and understand the wide variety of careers in agriculture.

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<sup>1</sup> USDA NASS 2022 Census of Agriculture, [https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2022/Full\\_Report/Volume\\_1,\\_Chapter\\_1\\_State\\_Level/Arkansas/st05\\_1\\_052\\_052.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2022/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_1_State_Level/Arkansas/st05_1_052_052.pdf).

- **Visionary thought leaders** and innovators in agriculture who will challenge the way they think about and advocate for agriculture.
- **The spectacular energy** of being around thousands of positive, talented farmers who share a passion for agriculture and knowledge.



## Conclusion

Thank you for your previous support, allowing the 4-H and FFA state officers to attend the 2025 Commodity Classic. We respectfully request your investment of up to \$15,000 per commodity board to make this opportunity possible for 2026.

Together, we can prepare the next generation of leaders who will champion Arkansas corn, sorghum, and soybean industries in Arkansas.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Debbie Nistler*

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*Taylor Wiseman*

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