



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Sarah Huckabee Sanders
Governor

1 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205
agriculture.arkansas.gov
(501) 225-1598

Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

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Contact: Ayden Duncan, 501-813-6012
ayden.duncan@arkansas.gov

Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board Approves \$1.26 Million in Funding

LITTLE ROCK, AR – The Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board approved \$1,266,859 in funding for 28 research and promotion projects at its February 2–3, 2026 meeting. The approved projects will support the growth and market development of Arkansas’s corn and grain sorghum industries.

“The Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board plays a vital role in supporting our state’s corn and grain sorghum farmers,” said Trent Dabbs, Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board Chair. “By investing assessment dollars into research and promotion efforts, the board helps provide the tools and resources producers need to improve profitability and long-term sustainability.”

The board received 46 total proposals requesting more than \$2.1 million in funding. Of those, eight promotion projects totaling \$180,182 and 20 research projects totaling \$1,086,677 were approved for fiscal year 2027. The request for proposals was open from December 5, 2025, to January 9, 2026. Funding decisions are made by board members at open public meetings.

Promotion projects selected for funding are as follows:

- **National Corn Growers Association – \$29,500**
Supports research, promotion, and education efforts to expand domestic and international markets for U.S. corn, including ethanol, trade, and emerging uses.
- **U.S. Meat Export Federation – \$8,600**
Supports international market development for U.S. beef and pork, strengthening global demand for livestock products that rely heavily on U.S. corn.
- **U.S. Grains & BioProducts Council – \$77,082**
Supports international market development for U.S. corn, ethanol, and related products through education, trade promotion, and relationship-building in more than 70 countries.
- **University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture – Arkansas Irrigation Yield Contest – \$10,000**
Provides cash awards to recognize efficient irrigation practices and promote water conservation among Arkansas producers.
- **University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture – Arkansas Future Ag Leaders Tour – \$5,000**
Supports a statewide leadership and professional development program for high school students interested in agricultural careers.
- **Ag Learning Center at Four States Fairgrounds – \$10,000**
Expands hands-on agricultural education programs that increase student awareness of corn and grain sorghum production and economic impact.
- **Arkansas FFA Foundation – Investment in the Future of Arkansas Agriculture – \$25,000**
Supports agricultural education, career readiness, and leadership development programs for Arkansas FFA members and students.

- **Arkansas 4-H Foundation and Arkansas FFA Foundation – Joint Education Program – \$15,000**
Supports youth participation in the 2027 Commodity Classic to enhance student understanding of crop production, innovation, and advocacy.

Research projects selected for funding from the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture are as follows:

- **Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Performance Test – \$42,491**
Provides unbiased performance data on corn and grain sorghum hybrids to support informed variety selection and improved yields.
- **Arkansas Discovery Farm Program – \$33,526**
Supports water quality monitoring and conservation research to evaluate best management practices and develop educational resources.
- **Comparison of Corn Management Production Systems – \$51,000**
Evaluates low-, medium-, and high-intensity management systems to identify practices that maximize yield and economic returns.
- **Agricultural Biologicals for Arkansas Crop Production – \$23,948**
Supports development and evaluation of microbial biofertilizers and biopesticides tailored to Arkansas production systems.
- **Stand Counting Application Using Drone Imagery – \$19,674**
Develops and validates digital tools to improve stand assessment and replant decision-making using aerial imagery.
- **Refining Corn Hybrid Maturity and Planting Date Recommendations – \$32,537**
Improves guidance on hybrid selection and planting timing to help producers manage weather-related planting delays.
- **Management Options for Corn Nematodes – \$60,856**
Evaluates treatment strategies and monitoring tools to reduce yield losses caused by corn nematode infestations.
- **Corn and Grain Sorghum Research Verification Program – \$138,500**
Verifies research-based production recommendations through on-farm trials and economic analysis.
- **Research Studies Series Publication – \$4,800**
Supports publication of an annual summary of board-funded research projects for producer and public access.
- **Corn Gluten Meal for Sustainable Food Packaging – \$45,900**
Develops biodegradable food packaging materials using corn by-products as alternatives to PFAS-based products.
- **Improving Nitrogen Management – \$82,078**
Evaluates nitrogen application rates and timing to improve fertilizer efficiency and reduce production costs.
- **Fine-Tuning Potassium Recommendations – \$77,437**
Refines potassium fertilizer guidelines and tissue testing methods to support sustainable nutrient management.
- **Disease Resistance in Corn and Grain Sorghum Hybrids – \$25,000**
Identifies high-yielding, disease-resistant hybrids to reduce fungicide use and improve profitability.

- **Insect Pest Management Strategies – \$39,989**
Develops control strategies for soil-borne and invasive insect pests, including the corn leafhopper.
- **Sorghum Bran Wax Development – \$43,267**
Explores environmentally friendly methods to produce industrial wax products from sorghum bran.
- **Weed Control in Short-Stature Corn Hybrids – \$83,840**
Evaluates herbicide programs to manage resistant weeds and prepare for emerging corn hybrid technologies
- **Biological Control of Aflatoxin – \$43,000**
Develops improved biological control tools to reduce aflatoxin contamination in corn production.
- **Improving Irrigation Technology – \$198,834**
Enhances irrigation scheduling and monitoring systems using soil moisture sensors and digital tools.
- **Gossypol for Feral Swine Control – \$30,000**
Evaluates fertility control methods to reduce feral swine populations and minimize crop damage.
- **Corn and Grain Sorghum Enterprise Budgets – \$10,000**
Develops flexible enterprise budgets to help producers evaluate alternative production practices.

The board is funded through a one-cent-per-bushel assessment on corn and grain sorghum grown in Arkansas. The assessment is collected at the first point of sale or when grain enters the U.S. Department of Agriculture loan program.

The board consists of seven members who are practical producers of corn or grain sorghum in Arkansas. Members are appointed to two-year terms by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

Learn more about the Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board on the Department's website [here](#).

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About the Arkansas Department of Agriculture

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture, forestry, and natural resources to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while conserving natural resources and ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation. For more information, visit agriculture.arkansas.gov/.