

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.



Trent Dabbs, Chairman