

2009 Contest Rules

Please read contest rules carefully before completing the entry form. Changes are in bold.

Contest Deadlines

Regular Entries must be postmarked at least 30 days prior to harvest of the contest acreage. Express Entries must be sent via **overnight delivery** at least 10 days prior to harvest of the contest acreage.

Harvest Rules, a Harvest Report Form and a Management Information Form will be mailed to the contestant as soon as the entry is received. The forms must be completed and **in the NSP office no later than December 1, 2009**. There will be no extension of deadlines.

Contestant Qualifications

Contestant must be a paid member of NSP at the time of entry and judging. More than one member of a family may enter, but each contestant must have a separate membership.

Contestant must be a certified FSA owner/operator of the entry plot. **A copy of FSA Form 578, including farm summary, must be submitted with the contest entry form.**

Contestants can enter more than once, but each entry must be on a separate entry form.

Partnerships can enter under the partnership name if the partnership holds a membership.

Contestants must be at least 14 years of age at the time of entry.

NSP directors, employees and spouses are prohibited from entering the contest.

Contest Divisions

- Conventional-till Irrigated
- Conventional-till Non-irrigated
- Reduced-till Irrigated
- No-till Non-irrigated
- Mulch-till Non-irrigated

Conventional: Any management or cultural practice excluding no-till, ridge-till or mulch-till.

No-Till: No-till means the soil is left undisturbed from the harvest of the previous crop to the harvest of the next crop with the exception of the injection of nutrients with knives or coulters, not sweeps.

Reduced-Till: No-Till as defined above **OR** Ridge-Till **OR** Strip Till, each as defined here. **Ridge-Till:** The soil is left undisturbed from harvest to planting except for nutrient injection. Planting is completed in a seedbed prepared on ridges with sweeps, disk openers, coulters, or row cleaners. Residue is left on the surface between ridges. Weed control is accomplished with herbicides and/or cultivation. **Strip Till:** The soil is left undisturbed from harvest to planting except for tillage of a strip of soil no more than 10 inches wide (with or without nutrient injection). Planting is completed in the prepared strip. Residue is left on the surface between the strips. Weed control is accomplished with herbicides and/or cultivation.

Mulch-Till: This may include Mulch-till **OR** Strip Till, each as defined here. **Mulch-till:** The soil may be disturbed one time prior to planting and will have a minimum of 30% residue remaining. Tillage tools such as chisels, field cultivators, disks, sweeps or blades

are used. Weed control is accomplished with herbicides and/or one cultivation. **Strip Till:** The soil is left undisturbed from harvest to planting except for tillage of a strip of soil no more than 10 inches wide (with or without nutrient injection). Planting is completed in the prepared strip. Residue is left on the surface between the strips. Weed control is accomplished with herbicides and/or cultivation.

Irrigated: Any field receiving any supplemental water since the last harvest or during the current growing season.

Non-irrigated: Any field that has not received any supplemental water since the last harvest or during the current growing season.

Field Qualifications

A complete field of 5 or more continuous acres, planted in the sorghum seed variety named on the entry form, will be designated as the contest field. The contest field must be designated on an aerial map. The aerial map must be included with the entry and the harvest report. Each plot's harvest report will be limited to a single harvest per year. High-tannin sorghum varieties will not be accepted.

Supervisor Qualifications

A qualified supervisor must be present during the entire harvest and weighing. The supervisor must complete and sign the Harvest Report Form. The supervisor must specify the tillage method. Supervisors must be from the following list and may not be a relative of the contestant or a company representative of any product used in the contest field: (Private crop consultants, elevator employees, or officials of commercial banks or other lending agencies will not be accepted.)

- * Vocational Agricultural Instructor
- * Extension Director or Assistant Director
- * Senior NRCS staff person
- * FSA Office Manager, Field Supervisor or Compliance Technician

Harvesting Rules

The supervisor must be present during the entire harvest of the contest plot and must make all field measurements and computations, oversee the weighing, **INCLUDING LOADING AND UNLOADING**, and moisture testing, verify the date of harvest, and report location of the contest field.

The contestant must harvest and report at least 5 continuous acres from the same contest field that was designated on the entry form. The entire field may be harvested and reported.

A load's gross weight must be determined first, followed by empty or tare weight on the same date. Determination of a load's gross weight **must occur before** determination of tare weight. If time and date of weighing are not automatically stamped on weight ticket(s), supervisors must note both time and date of both weighings on weight ticket(s).

Detailed rules for measuring, weighing, moisture testing and calculating the yields will be mailed to con-

testant on receipt of his/her entry.

Reporting Results

Harvest Reports, aerial map, weight tickets and management information are to be completed and sent to the NSP office **postmarked no later than 15 days after the date of the final weight ticket** on the specific contest plot. All harvest information must be in the NSP office by December 1. Harvest information arriving after close of business on December 1 will not be eligible for competition. NSP is not responsible for contest reports that are lost in the mail. Reports may be mailed by certified mail to ensure delivery.

Judging

The contestant's score will be the amount in bushels by which his yield exceeds the 5-year county average for that division as determined by USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service. (If an entry is received from a county that does not have NASS yields, the average of the NASS yields of all states that are represented in the contest will be used.)

In the event of a tie, the contestant harvesting and reporting the largest acreage will be declared the winner. If a second tie-breaker is needed, the contestant with the longest time between the entry date and the harvest date will be named the winner.

Any entry is subject to further review. Any contestant committing fraud will be barred from the contest for three years.

Contest Winners

The contestant with the highest score in the county will be named the county winner.

First, second and third place state winners in each division will be determined by score. Scores below zero (0) will not be eligible for state and national competition. Only one state award in each division will be given per membership with the entry with the highest score considered for state awards.

The first, second and third place national winners in each division will be named from the first-place state winners based on score. Only one national award will be given per membership, with only the entry with the highest score being considered for national honors.

Recognition will be given for the highest irrigated yield and the highest dryland yield.

Two \$250 cash awards will be given for the highest irrigated and highest non-irrigated food-grade, tan-glume, tan-plant sorghum scores in the contest.

Hall of Fame: Beginning with the 1997 national winners, contestants who win National 1st Place three times in a division will be inducted into the Hall of Fame and will not be eligible to enter that division.

Awards

County winners will receive certificates by mail. State winners will receive plaques or certificates. National winners will receive trophies. Except where noted, no cash awards will be given by NSP.