



EXPLORING Grain Sorghum



Let's
learn!

From the
Nebraska Grain Sorghum Board

Contact us at (402)471.4276

For More Information

nebraskasorghum.org

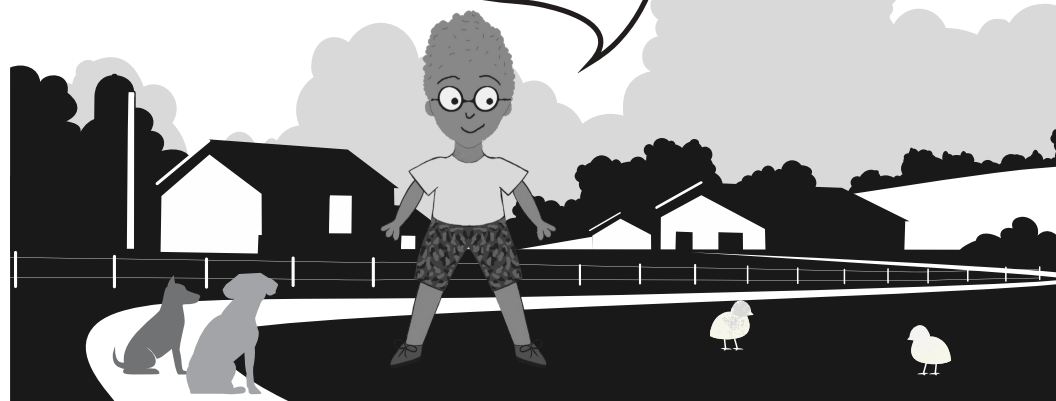
sorghum.board@nebraska.gov



MEET MILO!

Hello, I'm Milo!

I'll be your guide as we learn about sorghum and do some fun activities. Along the way we will learn what Sorghum is, how it is grown, how it is used, and why it is important for our planet.



WHAT IS SORGHUM?

Sorghum is an ancient grain that is grown in fields across the world.

A common variety is called "Milo".

Sorghum grows well in areas with little rain.

It is one of the oldest known grains originating in Africa and India.

Benjamin Franklin is credited with introducing the first crop to the United States in the 1700s.



AMERICA'S "SORGHUM BELT"

The states where most of the Sorghum in the U.S. is grown are collectively called the "Sorghum Belt". "The Sorghum Belt" is a part of a larger region in the U.S. called the Great Plains.

Can you match the states in the Sorghum Belt to their names? Draw a line from the state on the map to the correct name.



Sorghum Belt States

Colorado

Kansas

Louisiana

Missouri

Nebraska

New Mexico

Oklahoma

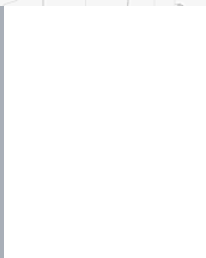
South Dakota

Texas



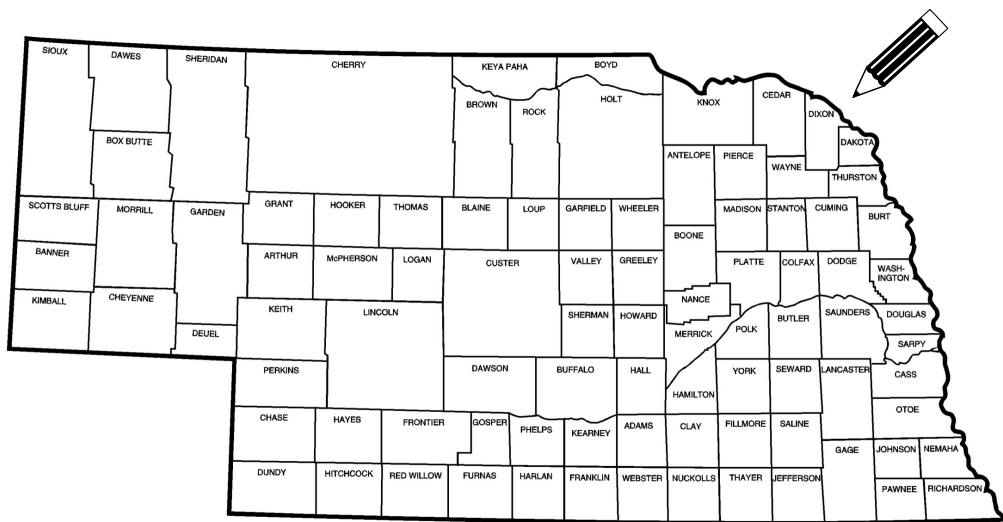
WHERE IS SORGHUM GROWN IN NEBRASKA?

**Sorghum is grown across the state of
Nebraska.**



WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

Nebraska is made up of 93 counties. Which county do you live in? Color in your county below and compare it to the map on page four.



Is there
Sorghum
grown in your
county?

Yes!

Not yet!



HOW IS SORGHUM USED?

Sorghum is a very versatile crop used for many different things. It is eaten by both people and animals including pigs, cows, chickens, fish and even household pets.

There is Sorghum flour for baking and cooking, cereal, popped Sorghum and a variety of other products like edible silverware and bio plastics.

It is also used to make ethanol, which is a type of fuel for cars.

Sorghum is used to make foam for packaging and insulation for houses to keep us warm and cool!



SORGHUM USES



WHY IS SORGHUM IMPORTANT TO OUR PLANET?

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Sorghum is a sustainable crop, making it good for the planet. Sorghum can grow the first grain with as little as 7 inches of water, which saves millions of gallons of irrigation water.

Ethanol produced using sorghum is good for the Earth's air and is a renewable fuel.

Sorghum also serves as food and habitat for wildlife like quail and pheasants.

Sorghum is good for the planet as well as our health. Sorghum is gluten-free, high in antioxidants, and a good source of protein.



WORD SEARCH

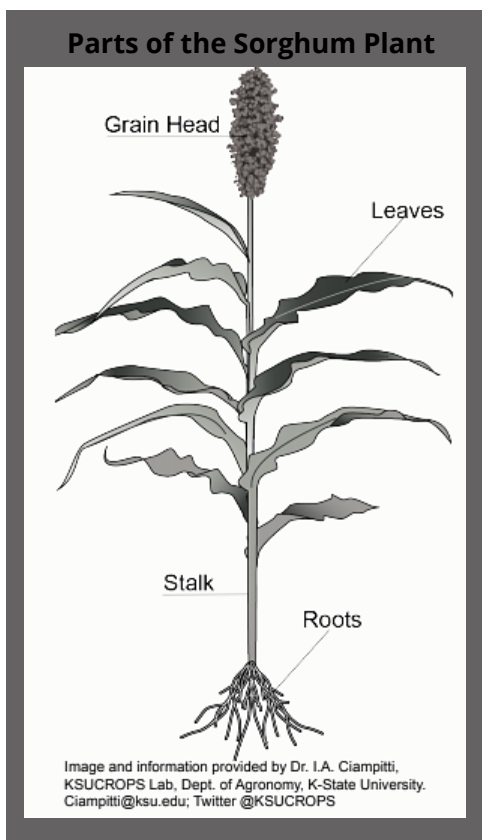
Sorghum Gluten Free Soil Ethanol Habitat Sustainable Bioplastic Tasty Milo

S	S	E	O	O	L	I	M	L	E	E	L	U	Y
Y	G	L	U	T	E	N	F	R	E	E	S	S	S
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L	I	L	A	E	N	T	I	H	I	S	F	R	O
L	E	S	T	N	E	H	A	A	H	R	I	L	L
T	I	H	T	N	U	I	A	H	S	L	R	E	L
N	T	O	I	P	T	A	T	I	B	A	H	O	O
L	T	T	S	B	I	O	P	L	A	S	T	I	C
A	A	S	O	T	I	O	T	I	L	H	A	L	I
O	H	G	O	Y	H	T	L	A	E	H	L	T	L
S	T	S	E	T	N	H	Y	T	S	S	T	E	U
O	S	H	A	E	L	U	R	T	U	T	N	S	G
P	L	O	N	A	H	T	E	H	T	E	Y	M	T
R	A	U	B	S	O	R	G	H	U	M	T	B	O



SOIL HEALTH

One way that Sorghum is good for our planet is through improving soil health. When planted, sorghum helps to conserve moisture in soil, prevent erosion, and suppress weeds all while improving the soil's structure. Sorghum is known for adding wanted organic matter to our valuable topsoil.



WATER

Sorghum is drought tolerant. If it does not rain for an extended amount of time, the plant will survive, by going dormant instead of dying. Sorghum plants have developed special techniques for dealing with drought. Their leaves hold water so when a drought occurs they curl upwards to conserve the water. This is partially a result of the plant's evolution in arid African climates.



WATER CONSERVATION

**Do you know any other ways we can
conserve water?**

How many can you list?



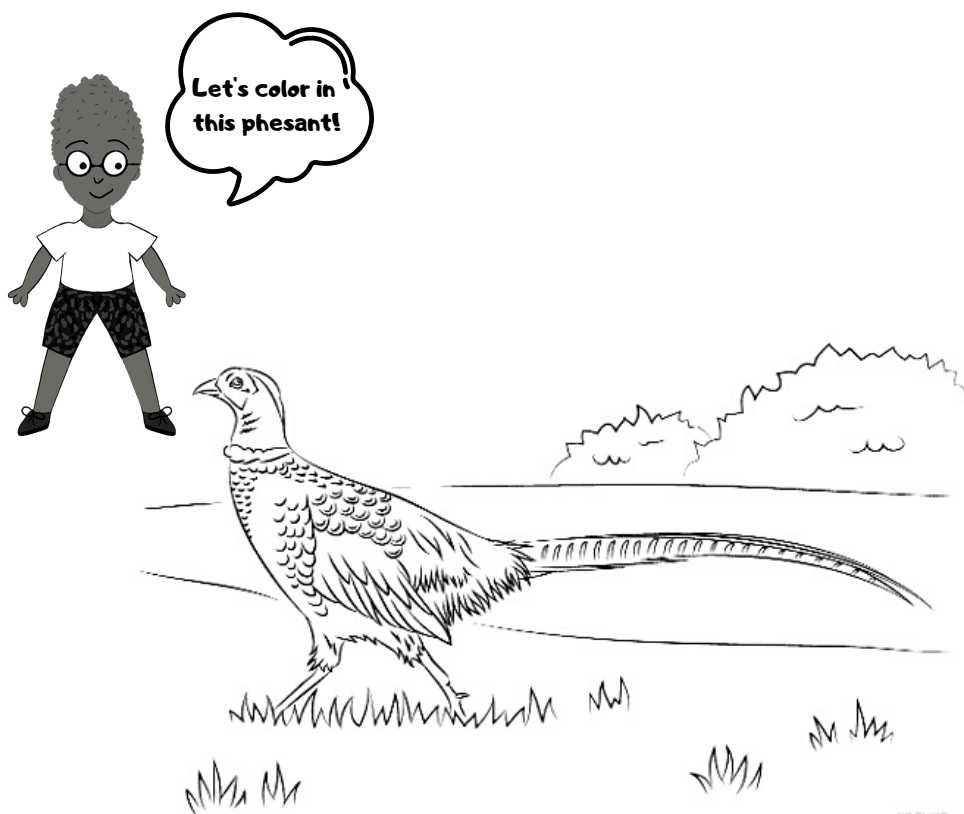






WILDLIFE AND LIVESTOCK

Sorghum is nutritious for many kinds of animals. It provides great forage and silage for pastured animals, as well as for wild fowl for game hunting.



SUMMARY



Let's
summarize
what we've
learned!

Sorghum is:

- **A Sustainable Crop**
- **Gluten-Free**
- **Drought Tolerant**
- **Used for Cooking and Baking**
- **Used to make Bio - Plastics and Ethanol**

Sorghum Does:

- **Provide Habitat and Food for Wild Animals and Livestock**
- **Provide nutrients for the soil it is planted in**
- **Conserve Irrigation Water**

Sorghum was:

- **Introduced to North America by founding father Benjamin Franklin around 1757**

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Fill in the blank

**Sorghum is primarily grown in the _____
_____ region of the United States.**

_____ is fuel made from Sorghum.

**_____ uses sorghum as habitat and
food to survive in the wild.**

True or False?

**Sorghum is used to make Bio-
Plastics.**

T F

Sorghum is bad for soil.

T F

Sorghum is Gluten-Free.

T F

 **CONGRATULATIONS!**  16

Now we know more about sorghum! You've earned this sticker. Show it off to all your friends!



FLAT SARGE

This is my buddy Sergeant Sorghum! He is the mascot for Nebraska Sorghum. Cut him out and take him with you on your adventures. Send us pictures of your adventures!

Email pictures to us or tag us on social media!

#FlatSarge

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