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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2026

Nebraska Sorghum highlights role in Renewable Fuels Month

LINCOLN, Neb. (May 1, 2026) – May marks Renewable Fuels Month, a time to recognize how Nebraska agriculture contributes to clean, homegrown energy, starting with crops like sorghum.

Grown across the state, sorghum is a resilient, resource-efficient crop that fits naturally into renewable fuel production. It requires less water and fewer inputs than many other crops, helping producers maintain productivity while advancing sustainability goals. That efficiency carries through to ethanol production, where sorghum serves as a valuable, locally grown feedstock, yielding approximately 2.7 to 2.8 gallons of ethanol per bushel.

Nebraska's biofuels industry is a key economic driver, creating demand for grain, supporting rural communities and providing consumers with affordable, cleaner-burning fuel options. Strong ethanol demand also gives growers a practical way to respond to both market opportunities and environmental pressures.

"Renewable Fuels Month highlights the direct connection between Nebraska farmers and the fuel Americans rely on every day," said Tracy Zink, chairwoman of Nebraska Sorghum Producers and sorghum representative on the Nebraska Ethanol Board. "Sorghum is well-suited for ethanol production because it requires fewer inputs while still delivering a strong, reliable crop. That allows our growers to be efficient with their resources while contributing to Nebraska's renewable fuels industry."

Expanding access to higher ethanol blends like E15 is a critical next step. E15, which contains 15% ethanol, offers a lower-cost, cleaner-burning option and is approved for the vast majority of vehicles on the road today. Allowing year-round, nationwide sales would give consumers consistent access at the pump while strengthening demand for American-grown crops like sorghum.

“We appreciate the continued work of Nebraska’s congressional delegation to expand access to year-round E15,” said Kristine Dvoracek Jameson executive director of Nebraska Sorghum Producers. “Their leadership helps ensure consumers have access to lower-cost fuel options while creating stronger, more reliable markets for Nebraska farmers, and we hope to see E15 legislation pass in the coming weeks.”

“For those of us farming here in Nebraska, year-round access to E15 helps create more reliable markets for the crops we grow,” said Zink, who farms in Indianola, Neb. “It’s a practical way to support rural communities, give consumers more options and build on agriculture’s role in U.S. energy independence.”

For Nebraska sorghum producers, Renewable Fuels Month is an opportunity to highlight a crop that delivers both in the field and beyond. From conserving water to contributing to domestically produced energy, sorghum remains an important part of Nebraska’s agricultural and energy future.

As the summer driving season begins, consumers are encouraged to choose renewable fuel blends and support the farmers who make them possible.

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The Nebraska Grain Sorghum Board administers the checkoff on sorghum sold in the state. The Board’s funds are invested in programs of international and domestic market development, research, policy development, and producer and consumer education. To learn more, visit www.nebraskasorghum.org.

Nebraska Sorghum Producers represents and advocates for sorghum growers across the state, providing a strong voice in legislative, regulatory and industry matters. To learn more, visit www.nebraskasorghum.org/nebraska-sorghum-producers/.