

Grain Sorghum Production in Southwestern North Dakota

The first reference to grain sorghum production at the Dickinson Station is found in the annual station report of 1918, where the author of the report said, "Three early selections of Brown Kaoliang were sown and failed to mature. Previous tests with grain sorghum varieties have given similar results indicating that the crop is not adapted to this climate." Trials in subsequent years produced similar results up to 1983, when performance trials of new grain sorghum hybrids were coordinated through the Carrington Branch Station.

In 1983, five grain sorghum hybrids in the Dickinson Station trial averaged 68.5 bushels per acre. In 1984 and 1985 grain sorghum did not mature a harvestable crop at Dickinson. Fairly good yields were obtained in 1986 but test weight per bushel was low. In 1987, once again, grain sorghum did not mature a harvestable crop. Yields for 1986 are shown in Table 25.

Table 25. 1986 Dickinson Hybrid Grain Sorghum Trial

Hybrid	Bu/A Avg.	Test Wt. Lbs.
Dekalb DK-18	52.2	44.0
Dekalb Esquirol	46.2	45.5
Pioneer 894	42.8	44.5
Northrup King 1210	32.8	42.0
Pioneer 8855	29.3	41.5
Fontanelle 2233	22.6	40.5
Seeding Rate: 45,000 plants/ac.		
Seeding Date: May 22		
Harvest Date: Sept. 30		
L.S.D. 5% = 8.0 Bu/A C.V. = 16.5%		