



## South Dakota Corn Growers Association

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3/04

### SOUTH DAKOTA CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

#### Showplot Rules

##### Determination of Allowable Showplot Entries:

1. Each seed company may submit 1 to 3 hybrids (of their own brand) for each showplot. Available space of any individual plot location may be limiting and thus dictate the need to refuse a number of submitted entries. The cooperators may resolve this problem by either:
  - limiting the allowable number of entries per seed company to 1 or 2 from the beginning, or
  - accepting entries on a first-come, first-serve basis.
2. Submitted hybrids must meet the maturity restrictions put forth by the showplot cooperator to be allowed entry. Maturity restrictions may be based only on Harvest Moisture Relative maturity (HM RM). Restrictions based on Black Layer (BL) RM or Growing Degree Units (GDU's) to BL are not allowable. If a cooperator wants to refuse a hybrid that meets his own restrictions, or to accept a hybrid, which falls outside his restrictions, this decision can be made with the approval of the SDCGA.
3. The Harvest Moisture RM must be clearly printed or stenciled on the seed tag or bag lip.
4. Each seed company is **REQUIRED to provide one full unit (80,000 kernels or more)** of seed for each hybrid entry.
5. **Each seed unit must meet the seed size requirements put forth by the showplot cooperator.** Cooperators may refuse seed that they feel they cannot accurately plant.

##### B. Showplot Design:

1. The showplot design will be a strip plot including a check hybrid. Strip lengths must be a minimum of 500 feet long. Strips must be at least 4 but no more than 12 rows wide. At least 12 rows of border corn should be planted on both sides of the plot - allows for damages caused by wind, etc. Border strips are in addition to check strips. **Plot design would begin and end with a check, and would require a check frequency at least every fourth strip** (every other or every third strip is acceptable also). Sample design:

12 rows	1 strip	3 strips	1 strip	3 strips	1 strip	(etc.)	12 rows
border	check	hybrids	check	hybrids	check		border

2. Number of rows in each check strip and each hybrid strip are the same. (The SDCGA strongly **encourages** planting 6 or 8 rows per strip. Four-row or 12-row strips are allowed, however.)
3. The check hybrid will be selected and supplied by the showplot cooperator.
4. Plot layout, the number of entries per seed company, and the necessary refusal of submitted entries should be done before planting of the plot. Should the need to eliminate some entries arise after planting of the plot begins, this decision should be made at that time between the cooperator and the SDCGA directors present.
5. All current and previous year cultural practices and cropping history must be uniform across the entire plot area.
6. All entries will be planted with the same planter and planter settings (seeding rate), as selected by the cooperator.
7. The planting order of the plot will be determined by a random drawing. The cooperator has discretion to plant the same company's hybrids in a block.

**C. Harvest Rules:**

1. An SDCGA director (non-industry rep) or other SDCGA approved representative (FFA advisor, County extension agent, independent crop consultant, etc.) will directly supervise operations of both the weigh wagon and moisture tester. The company whose wagon is being used may have a representative present to operate their equipment but may not directly determine weights and moistures.
2. **All the hybrids (including the testers) have to be weighed and moisture tested.**
3. **One moisture tester will be used to determine grain moisture content for all the hybrids in the entire plot.** If the cooperator's combine is equipped with an accurate moisture sensor, that moisture result may be used.

4. The entire Showplot must be combined with one combine with the same combine settings, run by the same combine operator.
5. If two wagons are used to weigh a plot, they should be calibrated before the plot is combined. The SDCGA recommends the use of only one wagon.
6. Harvest results will be recorded on SDCGA harvest forms ONLY. No seed company will be allowed to copy these results onto their own forms or to take an unauthorized copy of the harvest results from the showplot location. (We rely on the honesty and integrity of all persons involved to protect the data collected for the benefit of SDCGA members and associates.)
7. All grain harvested from the test plot will be property of the showplot cooperator.
8. **All SDCGA Showplots must be harvested by Nov. 10.**

**D. Distribution Rights and Format for Harvest Results:**

1. The SDCGA holds the exclusive rights to the information obtained from these showplots. However, the SDCGA authorizes participating seed companies to publish SDCGA show plot results in their own promotional materials only if they follow these rules:
  - ⇒ No seed company will have access to a recorded copy of the harvest results until after December 10th.
  - ⇒ Once the SDCGA Showplot data has been adjusted, participating seed companies may use the information in their own promotional materials provided they publicize the results from the entire plot and do not delete or alter any of the recorded varieties presented. Companies must also identify these results in their promotional materials as coming from a SDCGA showplot.
  - ⇒ Seed companies must publish **entire plot results in SDCGA format only.**
  - ⇒ The SDCGA will distribute its Showplot Results book within 3 or 4 weeks of the last plot harvested.
2. The identity of the check hybrid will not be made known in the SDCGA Showplot, or the Showplot Results book. Only the results of the tested entries will be published. The check hybrid must be submitted as a separate entry if performance results of that hybrid are desired to be published.
3. The only purpose of the check hybrid is to remove field variability by using the variation among check strips to adjust yields of the tested entries. **Raw** yield data of all hybrids and checks will be published for sequential results. **Adjusted** yield data for hybrids, and **average** yield data for checks, will be published for ranked results.

4. An explanation and description of the adjusting procedure will be printed in the SDCGA Showplot Results book. Adjustments to yield will be made utilizing the relative (%) difference between a tested entry and the tester, not the absolute (bushels) difference.
5. Adjusted yield will be presented in bushels per acre as well as percent of tester average. Results will be published in descending order based on gross income per acre.
6. The results will be available after December 10th.

**E. Seed Company Responsibilities/Involvement:**

1. The entry fee is \$75 per hybrid per location. The money will be used to cover the expenses of printing and distributing a showplot directory as well as other related administrative expenses.
2. No seed company will be allowed to enter more than the maximum number of hybrids per showplot.
3. Each seed company will be provided space at key Showplot Field Days tours (if held) to hand out materials and visit with the farmers.
4. Each company will be responsible for signing their own hybrids.
5. All companies participating in a plot will be encouraged to be present at planting and harvesting of the showplots, and at Showplot Field Days if held.
6. Each company will be asked to provide the name and phone number of their district sales manager, local sales representative, or other contact person who will be responsible for the plot.
7. **Seed of accepted entries needs to be delivered to the showplot cooperator by April 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**F. Involvement of Other Agricultural Companies:**

1. If a company/dealer is willing to provide herbicide, insecticide, or fertilizer for the showplot free gratis, that company and/or dealer will be allowed to place a promotional sign at the plot location. That company and/or dealer will also be provided space at the field day to hand out materials and visit with the farmers. Recognition will be given in the Showplot Results book, also.

2. Companies that do not provide inputs to be used on the showplot cannot erect any signs at the plot location, but can rent space at the field day to hand out materials and visit with farmers for \$50.
3. All agricultural businesses are encouraged to financially help sponsor the field days and the printing and distribution of the SDCGA Showplot Results book. Sponsors will be appropriately recognized at the field days and in the plot book.

#### **G. SDCGA Involvement and Responsibilities:**

1. At least one SDCGA director or an approved liaison will be assigned responsibility for each showplot.
2. All planting and harvest operations of the showplot can be implemented with the presence and direct supervision of a SDCGA Director or appointed representative.
3. After all plots have been planted, the SDCGA will mail plot descriptions to participating seed company representatives.
4. An SDCGA representative will be the contact person, acting as liaison between showplot cooperators and industry participants.
5. The same assigned SDCGA representative will be responsible for lining up a weigh wagon for harvest.

#### **H. Responsibilities of the Showplot Cooperator:**

1. The showplot cooperator is expected to arrange for the performing of every field operation (tillage, chemical application, planting, cultivation, headlands preparation for display of showplot, harvesting, etc.) involved.
2. The cooperator should measure the plot area in order to determine the maximum plot size (number of strips possible) and the number of entries per seed company to allow.
3. The plot layout should be drawn out prior to the actual planting of the plot.
4. The cooperator should keep the assigned SDCGA representative up-to-date on planting and harvest date intentions. It is the responsibility of that SDCGA representative to contact seed company personnel and inform them of the planting and harvest times and dates.
5. The SDCGA requests that Showplots stand alone. Other types of advertising (election signs) should not be displayed in the SDCGA Showplot.
6. The cooperator must be a current SDCGA member.

7. The cooperator must not have applied for a corn checkoff refund for the previous 12 months.

**I. Failed Plots:**

Any act of God, which prevents a plot from being harvested, will result in a 50% refund of entry fees.

**J. Specialty Corn Plots**

1. Each type of specialty corn planted (hi-oil, white, etc.) must be treated separately.
2. If more than one type of specialty corn is planted by the same cooperator in the same location, the types should be separated by adequate isolation blocks of the specialty corn.
3. Separate records for each type of specialty corn must be kept (example, planting records for hi-oil hybrids and waxy hybrids would be on separate pages).

**K. Violations of Any of the Above Rules:**

1. All rules are subject to modification prior to planting of the showplot.
2. All rules are subject to the interpretation of the SD Corn Growers Association Board of Directors.
3. Any violation of the above rules will be reviewed by the SDCGA Board of Directors. If deemed appropriate, refunds will be granted by the SDCGA Board of Directors at the next board meeting following the receipt of a written request and explanation. Refunds granted will result in the omission of that company's entries from being harvested and published in the SDCGA Showplot Results book.
4. Violations by seed companies will be reviewed by the SDCGA Board of Directors and handled at their discretion according to the nature and severity of the violation.