SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2025

GRAIN CRAFT

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GRAIN CRAFT **AT A GLANCE**

As the largest independent flour miller in the nation, Grain Craft offers premium bulk and bagged grain products for the baking, culinary, food service, tortilla, and pizza industries.

With a heritage in wheat milling, we operate both Grain Craft Wheat Milling and Central Milling organic flour. In addition, we recently welcomed Grain Craft Corn Milling into our operations. Grain Craft proudly serves customers coast to coast with 21 milling locations and three Innovation R&D Centers.

HONORING THE PAST WITH A FOCUS ON THE FUTURE.

With over 100 years of history, we share the tradition of working with American farmers to grow and harvest the best varieties of corn and wheat; while also promoting and advancing long-term sustainable farming practices.

We take great pride in nurturing industry partnerships and many of these partnerships have grown with our company over time. Across our business and every part of our operations, the perspectives, ideas and needs of our customers, our growers, our team members, and our partners drive our commitment to ongoing research.

From partnering with growers and wheat researchers; advancing sustainable wheat farming practices; and enhancing our own operations, transportation and packaging — our sustainability commitment is driven by a focus on the future.

Our 2025 sustainability summary[1] is centered around our Upstream Innovation® initiatives with a focus on the Regenerative Agriculture program. The summary captures three areas of environmental optimization that our RA growers are evaluating and prioritizing:

- **Soil Health**
- **Water Use**
- **Energy Use**

[1]*Our 2025 Sustainability Report will focus on our Grain Craft Wheat Milling farms and practices. A summary of the latest Grain Craft Corn Milling Regenerative Agriculture Program report is available upon request.*

UPSTREAM INNOVATION®

GROWING TOGETHER

Upstream Innovation® is a commitment to work together with a common goal – to continue the strong heritage of our families and to grow together.

We are focused on supporting and driving the long-term improvement of wheat quality, flour quality and consistency through ongoing innovation opportunities. While innovation at all levels of the company is inherent through our pillar of “Driven with Purpose”, Grain Craft has integrated a significant focus on Upstream Innovation.

This commitment to Upstream Innovation unifies our initiatives throughout the entire chain - from the formation of the wheat berry to the grain-based foods today’s consumers enjoy.

Grain Craft is working behind the scenes through the following Upstream Innovation initiatives:

- GC Preferred Variety Program
- Grain Craft Innovation & Quality (GCIQ) Lab
- Research Partnerships for soil health and varietal studies
- Building Grower Relationships
- GC Regenerative Agriculture Program

UPSTREAM INNOVATION

GRAIN CRAFT **PREFERRED VARIETY PROGRAM**

Our Preferred Variety Program includes varieties that have been thoroughly tested and selected based on key milling and baking characteristics.

Beginning in Idaho in the early 2000's, year after year, we work behind the scenes to identify wheat varieties that result in excellent milling and baking qualities. These varieties have been thoroughly tested and selected based on key milling and baking characteristics and have shown successful yield and end-use performance.

While the Grain Craft Preferred Variety program was developed in the Pacific Northwest in the early 2000's, it wasn't until 2014 that the program began to take shape in the southern plains. These deep connections throughout our value chain allow us to directly support our growers and have meaningful grower engagement around stewardship and progressive agronomic practices.

In 2025, the preferred variety program included more than 74,000 acres planted and more than four million preferred variety bushels harvested.

EARLY 2000'S
HISTORICAL SUCCESS

Began working with wheat breeders to develop a preferred variety program in the PNW for top quality wheat.

2013
WHY KANSAS?

High yielding varieties were most widely grown in Kansas at this time, but quality concerns created the need for a preferred list that provides both yield and quality.

2014
CALL TO ACTION

Met with Kansas Wheat Commission to discuss need for enhanced wheat quality.

Grain Craft preferred variety list introduced.

2019
PROGRESS

Grain Craft "Preferred" SY Monument bumps Everest for most planted acreage in KS.

2020
IMPACT

20% of all Kansas wheat planted is Grain Craft preferred variety.

2023
PROGRESS

50% of Kansas Top 15 HRW Varieties planted are Grain Craft preferred variety.

Launched Regenerative Agriculture (RA) Pilot Program.

2024
PROGRESS

Top three HRW Varieties planted in Kansas are Grain Craft preferred variety.

RA Pilot Program doubles in participants.

2025
PROGRESS

More than 50% of Kansas Top 15 HRW Varieties planted are a Grain Craft preferred variety.

RA Program is officially launched with more than 50 participants.

2025 GC **PREFERRED VARIETY PROGRAM DATA**

QUALITY	WHEAT PROTEIN ANALYSIS	FLOUR WATER ABSORBTION	FLOUR STABILITY ANALYSIS
2025 PREFERRED VARIETY CROP HRW	**12.3**	**59.0**	**14.2**
2025 ORDINARY CROP HRW	*12.1*	*58.8*	*9.4*
2024 PREFERRED VARIETY CROP HRW	**14.0**	**59.0**	**16.0**
2024 ORDINARY CROP HRW	*12.4*	*58.0*	*10.0*

OUR PREFERRED VARIETY GROWERS ACHIEVED

GREATER YIELD

BETTER QUALITY

12% GREATER YIELD THAN THE 2025 KANSAS STATE AVERAGE (3% IN 2024)

GCIQ LAB

GRAIN CRAFT INNOVATION & QUALITY (GCIQ) LAB

The Grain Craft Innovation and Quality (GCIQ) Lab serves as a centralized point for driving and coordinating Grain Craft's upstream innovation activities. The GCIQ lab features analytical, milling, rheological and application capabilities along with a complete bake lab.

Some primary functions of the lab include:

- GC wheat variety and quality analysis
- test plot wheat evaluations for industry partners
- new crop wheat evaluation for industry partners
- customer formulation collaboration
- wheat and flour training
- community and industry tours and demonstrations
- field to fork experience and education for partners throughout the wheat value chain
- hands-on milling science and baking science student develoment

With its location at the Kansas Wheat Innovation Center in Manhattan, KS; the GCIQ lab positions Grain Craft on the frontline of discussions and initiatives for the future of HRW wheat breeding along with a direct look at innovative opportunities for new varieties, soil management studies and potential collaborations.

UPSTREAM INNOVATION

RESEARCH **PARTNERSHIPS**

A Network of Industry Partners

University Research Programs

We support and fund research at universities to discover impacts to quality and help identify potential solutions that support quality varieties and sustainable farming practices.

Wheat Partners

We collaborate with public and private wheat-breeding programs and provide feedback on the milling and baking quality of potential new releases.

State Commissions & Producer Groups

Our frequent interaction with wheat commissions, growers and extension experts allows us to collaborate on initiatives and research for long-term quality and yield improvement, new crop evaluations and soil health management.

Baking Partners & Organizations

These groups are critical to understand flour performance needs and for us to be a resource in trouble-shooting and product development. They are also a feedback loop that inform wheat breeding efforts.

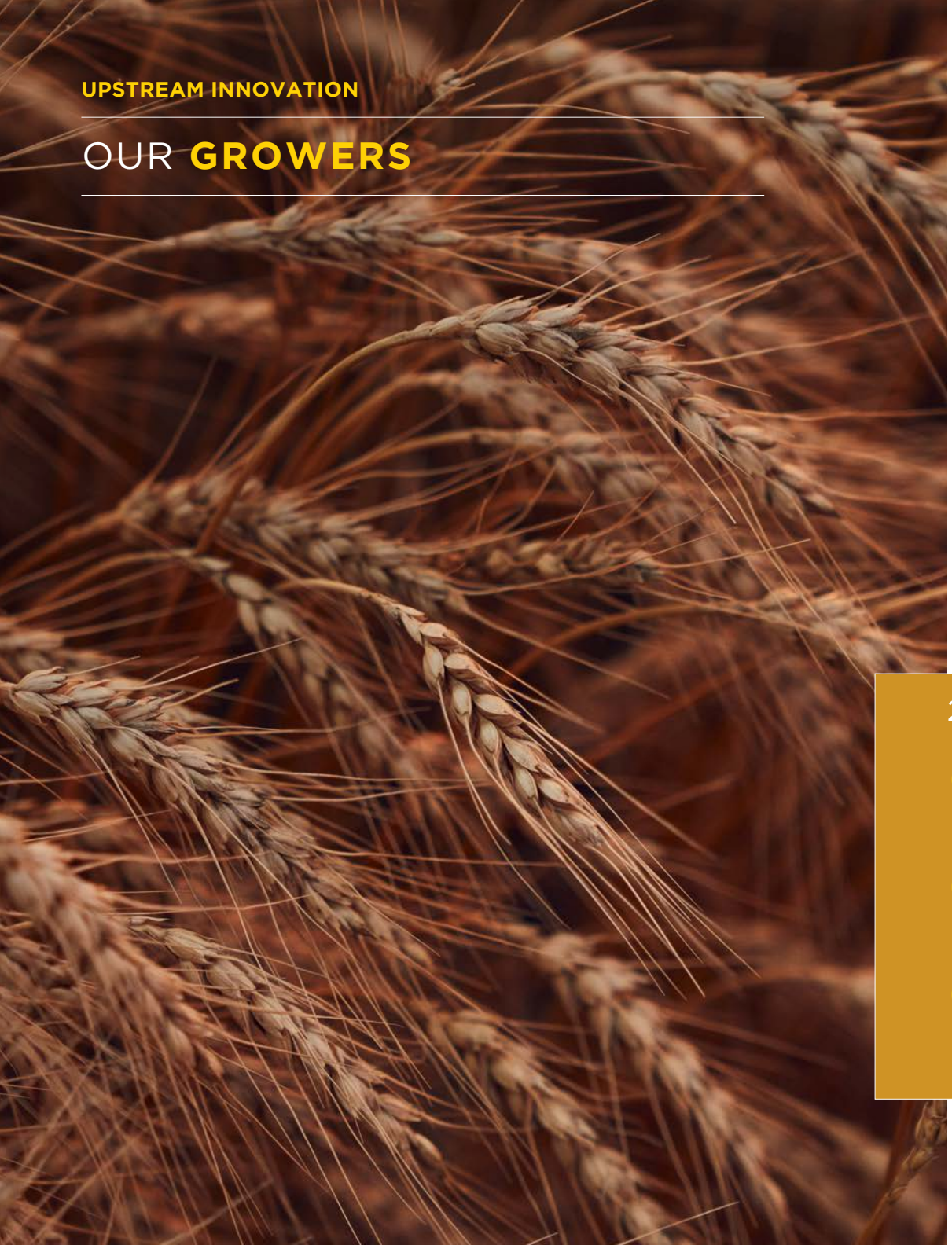
In the wheat industry, we're all working to advance farming practices in ways that are better for the land - preserving natural resources and ultimately delivering better products for generations to come. Through collaborative industry research we are fully committed to improving the quality of wheat long-term.

By cultivating a network of partners across the supply chain, from varietal research to farming and production partners, we are able to keep up with the latest sustainable practices and innovations as well as ensure the continued strength of the industry as a whole. **Here are some of areas in which Grain Craft supported research partners in 2025:**

- More than **30%** of the wheat samples that were tested at our GCIQ lab in 2025 were part of various university and university extension program studies.
- Grain Craft has helped fund and perform key baking quality assessments for a long-term study being conducted by Dr. Romulo Lollato, Wheat Production Extension Specialist at Kansas State University, in which he is working to understand the ideal ratio of nitrogen and sulfur to optimize the soil and produce both a high yielding and high-quality wheat crop.
- Grain Craft is a founding partner of Wheat Rx, a research hub that provides recommendations related to optimal fertility and soil health management practices for hard winter wheat.
- We are annual sponsors of the Wheat Quality Council Meetings both nationally and regionally.
- Grain Craft is a founding member of the National Wheat Foundation Wheat Yield Contest. We also participate in the expert panel to evaluate the quality component of the contest.

"Preliminary results from the research indicate there is a strong correlation between proper fertility management of wheat by farmers and not only the quantity, but quality of the protein produced. The recent collaboration we have had with Grain Craft helped us reach that next level on making recommendations."

DR. ROMULO LOLLATO
WHEAT PRODUCTION EXTENSION SPECIALIST
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY



UPSTREAM INNOVATION

OUR **GROWERS**

Many of our grower families have been caretakers of the land for over 100 years. It is more than a job; it is their passion and livelihood.

By cultivating lasting relationships with our growers, we learn best practices that we can share and implement across our grower network.

Some of our grower-focused programs include:

- On-farm visits and soil testing
- GC Producer Events hosted across the country
- Direct farm to mill wheat deliveries
- GCIQ Lab Grower's Workshop
- Annual farmer visits prior to harvest
- Annual Regenerative Ag Symposium

2025 RA PROGRAM SUMMARY

74,628 TOTAL ACRES PLANTED 2024

AVERAGE YIELD: **57** BUSHELS PER ACRE

1/2 OF OUR MILLS UTILIZE DIRECT FROM FARM SHIPMENTS OF WHEAT

GROWER DATA
This data collected represents a sample of Grain Craft growers who provided information on their sustainable argiculture practices.

UPSTREAM INNOVATION

GRAIN CRAFT **RA PROGRAM**

Wheat is a tried-and-true product that has been cultivated for centuries, but the process is continually being evaluated and improved by our growers to reduce environmental impacts by reducing land disturbance, conserving energy, minimizing inputs, supporting biodiversity and enhancing soil health.

We proudly support growers that are good stewards of the land and who conduct their farming practices to promote longevity of crop land. Grain Craft officially launched the Regenerative Agriculture Program for the 2025 harvest season. With more than 50 participants, the RA Program includes farms from the Midwest and Western areas of the United States.

In addition to planting certified preferred varieties and conducting annual soil tests, all RA participants must incorporate a **minimum of four regenerative agriculture practices** from the list below:

- Tillage practice of either no till or minimum till
- Crop rotation
- Cover crops
- Managed Grazing
- Manure or alternative fertilizer usage
- Use of nitrogen stabilizer
- Use of biological supplement
- Variable rate seeding
- Variable rate fertilizer application
- Irrigation technology and efficiencies

"I think one of the main focuses we have on our farm and one of the main goals we should have on our farm is leaving the land in better condition than when we received it."

JARIS REGIER
REGIER GRAIN

REGEN AG **EDUCATION EVENTS**

2025 RA SYMPOSIUM

Farmers and industry partners gathered in McPherson, KS for a workshop focused on soil health and nutrient cycles. Speaker, Jay Young, shared the science behind RA and soil biology. In addition, distinguished professor of agronomy at K-State and co-winner of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize, Dr. Chuck Rice discussed soil microbiology and soil organic carbon. The event included an open forum for growers to ask questions and share best practices with each other.

HIGHLIGHT:
Dr. Chuck Rice, Distinguished Professor of Agronomy - K-State

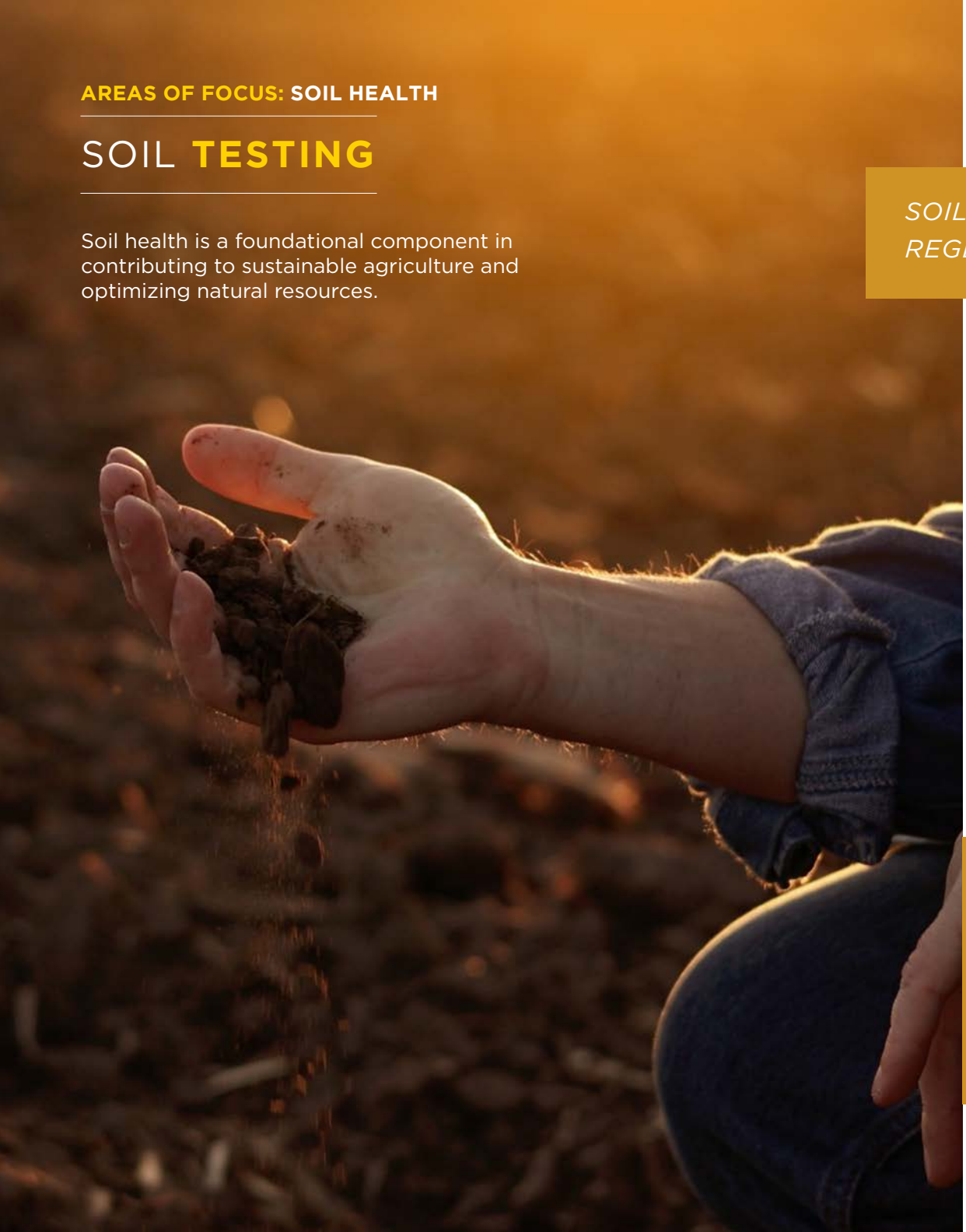
In his studies of soil health and regenerative agriculture Dr. Rice is measuring both visible and invisible outcomes as soil health improves. Indicators include:

- Microbial activity
- Soil structure
- Organic carbon changes
- Water availabilty (the key visible change)
- Water infiltration rates
- Nutrient availability
- Aggregate stability
- Gas exchange

Dr. Rice reviewed the K-State Regenerative Agriculture Initiative's Regenerative Model Farm which is designed to study multiple test fields using various combinations of regen ag practices. It also includes opportunities to test new products, tools and systems.

SOIL **TESTING**

Soil health is a foundational component in contributing to sustainable agriculture and optimizing natural resources.



SOIL TESTING IS A KEY ELEMENT IN OUR REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE PROGRAM.

ELEMENTS OF SOIL

Soil is a thriving ecosystem which performs essential functions for a healthy crop.

Some of these functions include water regulation, erosion control, organism support, filtering pollutants, cycling nutrients, and providing a stable support for plants to grow.

When conducting soil tests, farmers are measuring the essential elements found in the soil. These elements, along with the pH and soil organic matter, can have a tremendous effect on the health of a crop.

GC HIGHLIGHT: SOIL MICROBIAL SAMPLES

Grain Craft is supporting K-State's Soil Microbial Agroecology Lab through sample evaluation in the study of the Impact of RA Practices on Wheat Quality Parameters.

SOIL TESTING DATA

Macronutrients are elements that are required by crops in larger amounts to be healthy. Macronutrients include Nitrogen, Phosphorous, Potassium, Sulfur, Calcium and Magnesium. Each of these can contribute to key plant functions such as photosynthesis, moisture loss, plant stress and nutrient transport.

Micronutrients are minerals needed by crops in low quantities, however they contribute greatly to the overall health of the plant. Micronutrients include Iron, Manganese, Zinc, Boron, Copper and Molybdenum. Some of the functions of micronutrients include sugar transport, cell division support, disease resistance, chloroplast production and enzyme support.

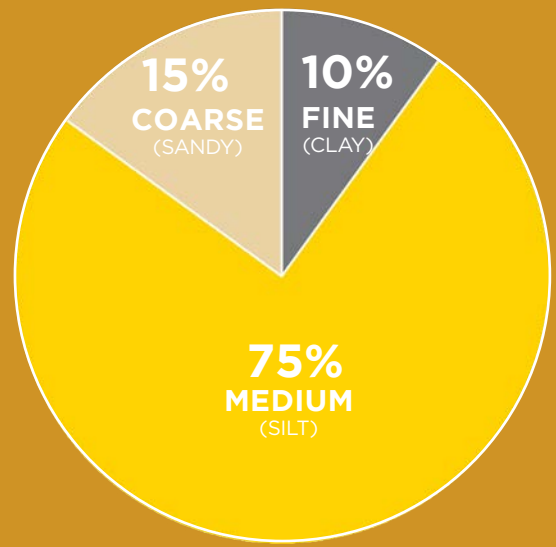
SOIL TESTS CONDUCTED

% of total acres surveyed

- ✓ MACRONUTRIENTS (N, P, K)
- ✓ MICRONUTRIENTS (Ca, Mg, Zn, Cu, Bo, Mn, Fe, S)
- ✓ pH
- ✓ ELECTRICAL CONDUCTIVITY (EC)
- ✓ CATION EXCHANGE CAPACITY (CEC)
- ✓ SOIL ORGANIC MATTER

SOIL TYPE

% of total acres surveyed



2.31% AVERAGE SOIL ORGANIC MATTER (SOM)*ACROSS FARMS SURVEYED

Soil organic matter varies by region and soil type. The amount of organic matter in sand, loam, or clay soils range from very low being 1% by weight, to average being 2 to 4%, and high being greater than 5%.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

BUILDING A HEALTHY SOIL BASE

Nutrient management is key to helping growers understand the optimal scenarios of macronutrients and micronutrients, pH levels and soil organic matter. By optimizing inputs of nutrients and incorporating various practices, growers can build a healthy soil base that promotes sustainable longevity and enhances economic benefits. Nutrient management incorporates understanding the right amounts, the right types, and the right timing for each of these for a particular crop year.

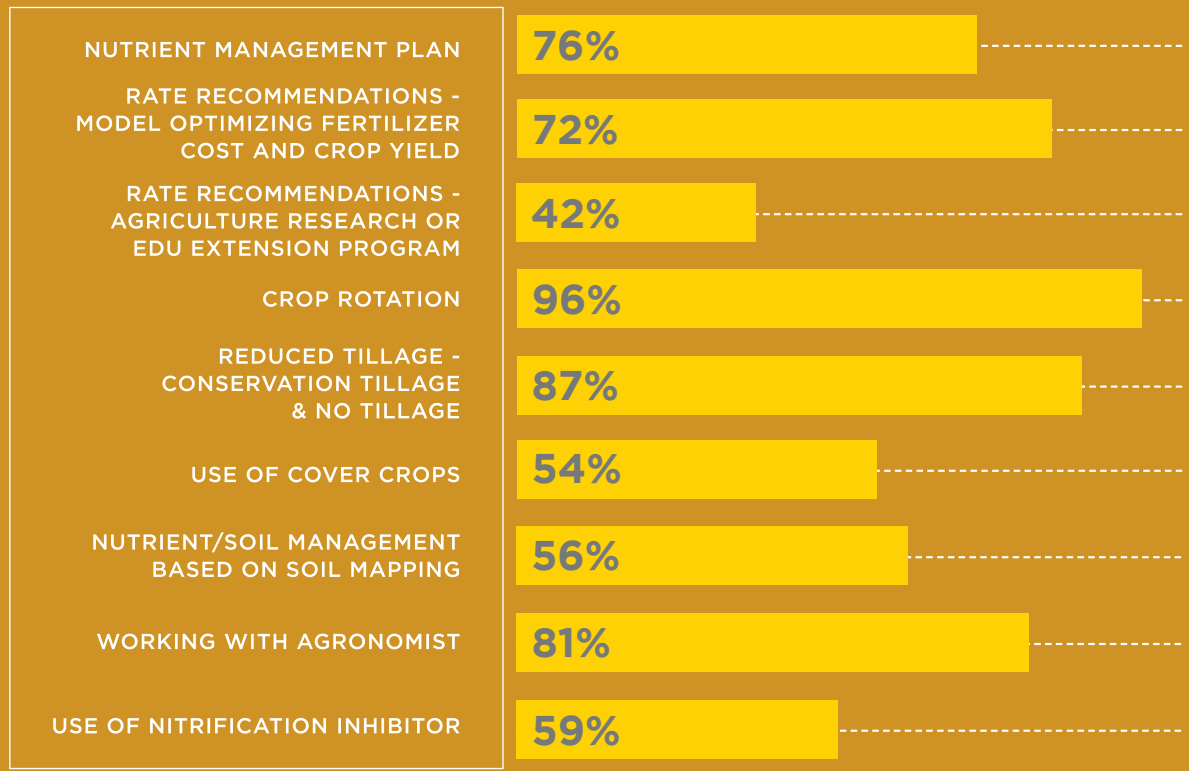
Soil organic matter, a component of nutrient management, is the area of the soil that contains plant residues and microorganisms that contribute to the productivity of the soil. Benefits of maintaining stable soil organic matter include: enhanced stability of the soil, stronger water holding capacity, longer retention of nutrients, and enhanced microbial diversity to fight crop diseases and pests.

There are a variety of practices that can promote healthy soil organic matter. Minimum till or no till maintains organic matter, lessens erosion, and keeps nutrient and pH more stable than tillage. Another practice to support soil organic matter is crop rotation and cover crops. By incorporating these varied crops, farmers can reduce erosion and cycle nutrients through the soil with diverse organic matter.

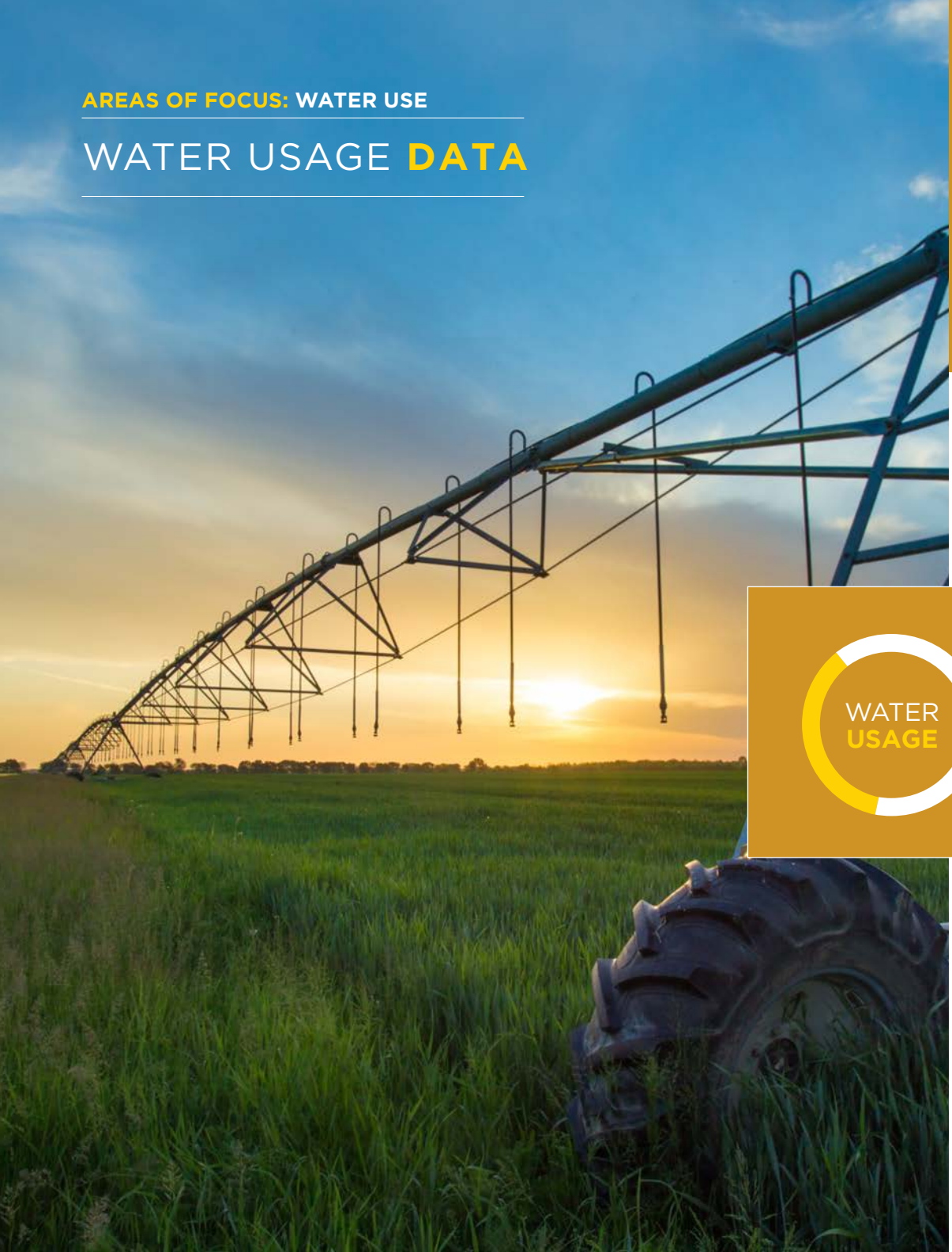
NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT DATA

FARMER PRACTICES

% of total acres surveyed



61% OF TOTAL ACRES SURVEYED HAVE INCORPORATED NO TILL OR MINIMUM TILL FOR 10 OR MORE YEARS



AREAS OF FOCUS: WATER USE

WATER USAGE **DATA**

"A healthier soil is likely going to make the wheat crop go through less drought stress and less nutrient stress because the organic matter can provide more water and nutrients to the

DR. ROMULO LOLLATO
WHEAT PRODUCTION EXTENSION SPECIALIST
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Wheat is inherently a water efficient crop. In many wheat growing regions, with soil management practices in place, growers can minimize evaporation and sustain ideal moisture levels without the need for irrigation.

74% ACRES NOT IRRIGATED

26% ACRES IRRIGATED
growers that irrigate use 13.37 ac/in

GEOGRAPHICAL WATER USE

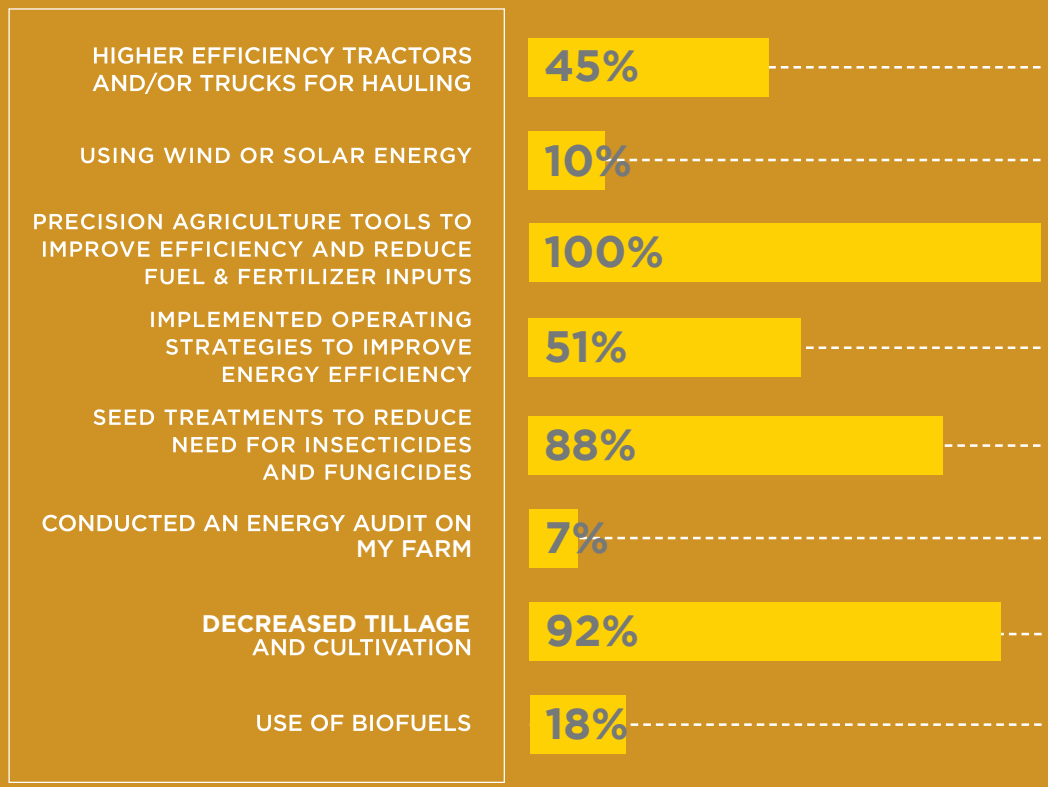
Supplemental irrigation is core component of overall farm management in certain geographies including the pacific northwest and western Kansas, while other areas such as central and eastern Kansas are primarily rainfed crops.

ENERGY USE DATA

Many growers have invested in practices and technologies over the past 20 or more years to achieve both energy efficiency and energy conservation on their farms. Both focuses are critical to sustainable agriculture and both contribute to reduction of fossil fuels—the primary source of greenhouse gas emissions.

WHAT MEASURES GROWERS ARE USING TO MAXIMIZE ENERGY USE EFFICIENCY

% of total acres surveyed



TECHNOLOGY IN THE FIELD

Many new agricultural technologies are emerging or have been introduced over the last few years:

- Precision Agriculture for efficient and effective inputs
- Drones to monitor crop health and map fields
- Robots specialized in seeding, weeding and harvesting
- Autosteer tractors

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

SUSTAINABILITY **REVIEW**

SOIL HEALTH

Nutrient Management Practices are key in achieving a healthy soil which optimizes nutrients, water, and erosion. In order to determine nutrient needs, soil testing is an important element in the Grain Craft Regenerative Agriculture Program.

The primary practices used by our growers for nutrient management include:

- Crop rotation
- Reduced tillage including conservation tillage and no-till
- Working with an agronomist to evaluate and improve nutrient use efficiency
- Developing a nutrient management plan
- Rate recommendation based on model optimizing nutrient cost and crop yield

WATER USE

Wheat is inherently a water efficient crop. 74% of acres surveyed are rain-fed and don't rely on irrigation.

ENERGY USE

Energy efficiency and energy conservation are significant in sustainable agriculture. The primary measures growers are taking to maximize energy efficiency on their farms include:

- Precision Agriculture tools to improve efficiency and to reduce fuel inputs and optimize nutrient inputs
- Decreased tillage and cultivation
- Seed treatments to reduce the need for post emergent applications
- Implementing operating strategies to improve energy efficiency

GRAIN CRAFT

Throughout our industry, from wheat to consumer baked goods, we are all working together with a common goal – to progress and to ensure the practices we are using today are bettering our land, bettering our natural resources, and bettering our products for generations to come. We also strive to be a leader, a resource, and a collaborator on wheat quality improvement. The journey starts upstream and that is why we are working behind the scenes with wheat breeders, growers and universities that support sustainable agriculture and the longevity of quality wheat.

Sustainability is driven by a focus on the future, and to us, there is no finish line. We are already preparing for our next report that will expand on our initiatives and will lay out our vision for positive change on behalf of our planet, our people, and the communities and customers we serve.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Our report features data captured from January 1 – October 30, 2025. The content focuses on information provided from a selection of Grain Craft Preferred Variety Growers.

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