

ALFALFA.ORG

Thanks to our MEMBERS!

DIAMOND - \$20,000+

Corteva Agriscience Forage Genetics International Legacy Seeds

PLATINUM - \$10,000 - \$19,999

Alforex Seeds America's Alfalfa CROPLAN Hay & Forage Grower NEXGROW W-L Alfalfas

GOLD - \$5,000 - \$9,999

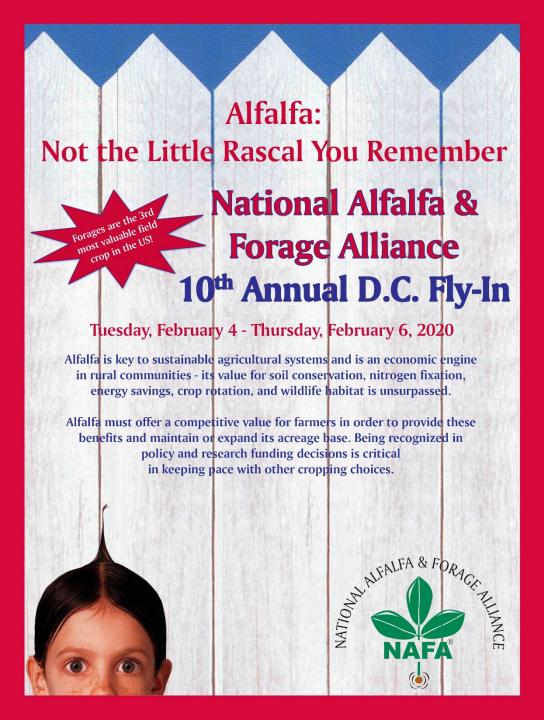
Alfalfa Partners - a brand of S&W Co.
Bayer Crop Science
California Alfalfa Seed Production Research Brd.
John Deere
Pioneer
Summit Seed Coatings
Western Ag Enterprises

SILVER - \$1,500 - \$4,999

California Alfalfa & Forage Association
Harvest Tec
Idaho Alfalfa & Clover Seed Commission
Idaho Hay & Forage Association
Innvictis Seed Solutions
Kansas Forage & Grassland Council
MacDon Industries Ltd.
Midwest Forage Association
Nebraska Alfalfa Marketing Association
Nelson Irrigation Corporation
Nevada Alfalfa Seed Commission
Utah Farm Bureau Hay Committee
Washington Alfalfa Seed Commission
Washington State Hay Growers Association
Wyoming Alfalfa Seed Growers Association

ASSOCIATE - \$500 - \$1,499

Anderson Hay & Grain Co.
Border Valley Trading
HayDay Farms Inc.
Jones Twine & Net Wrap
Kentucky Forage & Grassland Council
Michigan Forage Council
Montana Alfalfa Seed Committee
New Mexico Hay Association
Novozymes
Oregon Hay & Forage Association
San Joaquin Valley Hay Growers Association
Seed Sales International
The Gombos Company







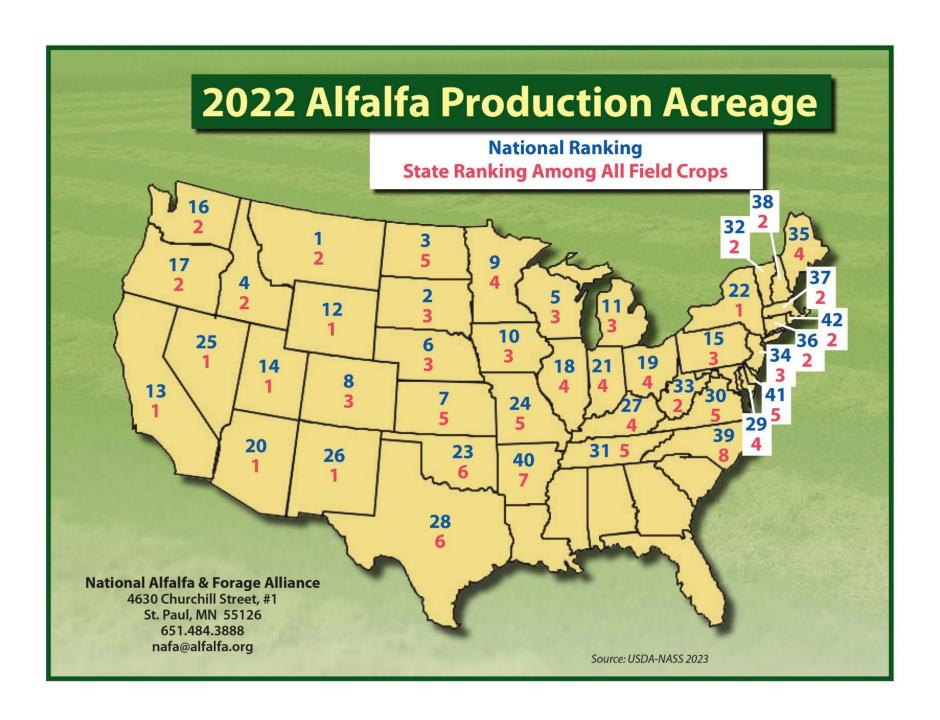






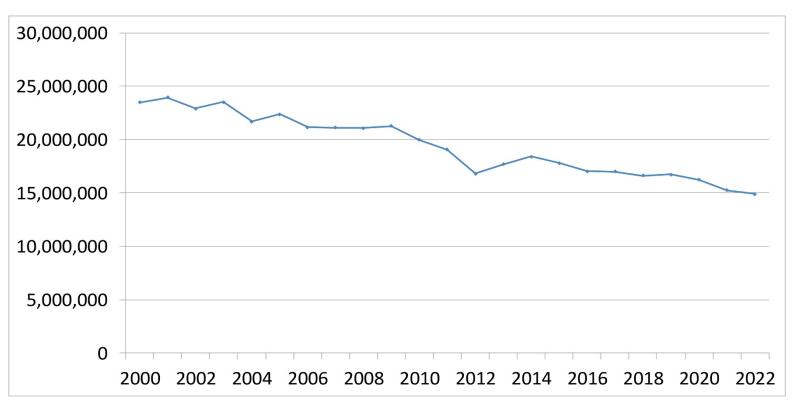
Lorsban has been on the chopping block for some time. NAFA was part of a coalition of ag groups objecting to EPA's final rule issued August 30, 2021, to revoke all tolerances.

Earlier this month, EPA convened a Zoom to update interested parties of its next steps in light of the recent decision from the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals to vacate the 2021 EPA final rule effectively prohibiting the use of chlorpyrifos on food or feed crops. EPA shared that all tolerances of chlorpyrifos will be reinstated. However, they expect to expeditiously propose a new rule to revoke the tolerances associated with all but the 11 uses referenced by the court, one of which is alfalfa.



ALFALFA

U.S. Acreage 2003-2022 (-36.6%)



Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

Alfalfa is key to sustainable agricultural systems and is an economic engine in rural communities - its value for soil conservation, nitrogen fixation, energy savings, crop rotation, and wildlife habitat is unsurpassed.

However, alfalfa must offer a competitive value for farmers in order to provide these benefits and maintain or expand its acreage base. Being recognized in policy and research funding decisions is critical in keeping pace with other cropping choices.

\$14.5 billion - Wheat ARS - \$61.3 million (76 SY)

\$6.4 billion - Cotton ARS - \$46.5 million (76 SY)



\$3.1 billion - Rice ARS - \$13.3 million (21 SY)







\$12.9 billion - Alfalfa ARS - \$10.6 million (16 SY)





\$91.7 billion - Corn ARS - \$47.5 million (77 SY)

\$61.1 billion - Soybean ARS - \$37.1 million (67 SY)

ASAFS – Alfalfa Seed & Alfalfa Forage Systems

Administered through USDA's NIFA* competitive grant research program



Nearly \$26 million devoted to alfalfa research since 2014



www.alfalfa.org

Researcher Please Select University/Entity Please Select ▼ Year Please Select ▼ Categories Please Select ▼
Year Please Select ▼
Categories Please Select ▼
Categories Teaco colott
Research Program Please Select ▼



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OBJECTIVES - 2023 Alfalfa Seed and Alfalfa Forage Systems Research Program (ASAFS)

- Developing, Testing, & Implementing Improved Alfalfa Varieties for a Water-Challenged Future
- Charles Brummer, University of California-Davis (\$946,349)
- Solving the Mystery of Alfalfa Autotoxicity: Causes & Solutions
- Kim Cassida, Michigan State University (\$946,349)
- <u>Drought Resilient Alfalfa Production (D-Rap) Using Digital Agriculture & Machine Learning Techniques</u>
 Gaurav Jha, Kansas State University (\$946,348)
- Novel Approaches for Pest Management & Pollinator Protection During the Production of Alfalfa Grown for Seed
- Kelsey Graham, USDA-Agricultural Research Service, PIRU (\$880,275)

OBJECTIVES - 2022 Alfalfa Seed and Alfalfa Forage Systems Research Program (ASAFS)

- Establishing Alfalfa in Intercropping with Sunflower and Sorghum to Improve Alfalfa Yield and Profitability.
 Marisol Berti, North Dakota State University (\$587,671)
- Forage: Fall Armyworm Outreach and Research for Alfalfa Growers and Educators
- Andrew Michel, Ohio State University (\$868,104)
- The Compatibility and Contribution of Natural Enemies in Western U.S. Alfalfa Management
 - Ricardo Ramirez, Utah State University (\$855,164)
- A Novel Approach to Expand Our Understanding of Alfalfa Hay Spoilage and Improve the Efficacy of Hay Preservatives
 - Juan Romero, University of Maine (\$668,456)
- Dissecting Effects of Insect-Transmitted Viruses on Yield and Quality of Forage Alfalfa Crops
- Erik Wenninger, University of Idaho (\$299,965)

OBJECTIVES - 2021 Alfalfa Seed and Alfalfa Forage Systems Research Program (ASAFS)

Improving Profitability and Reducing Producer Risks of Alfalfa-Grass Bicultures with Low-Cost NIRS

2023 AFRP Research Project Objectives

Novel Approaches for Pest Management & Pollinator Protection During the Production of Alfalfa Grown for Seed USDA-Agricultural Research Service, PIRU - Graham Washington State University - Walsh

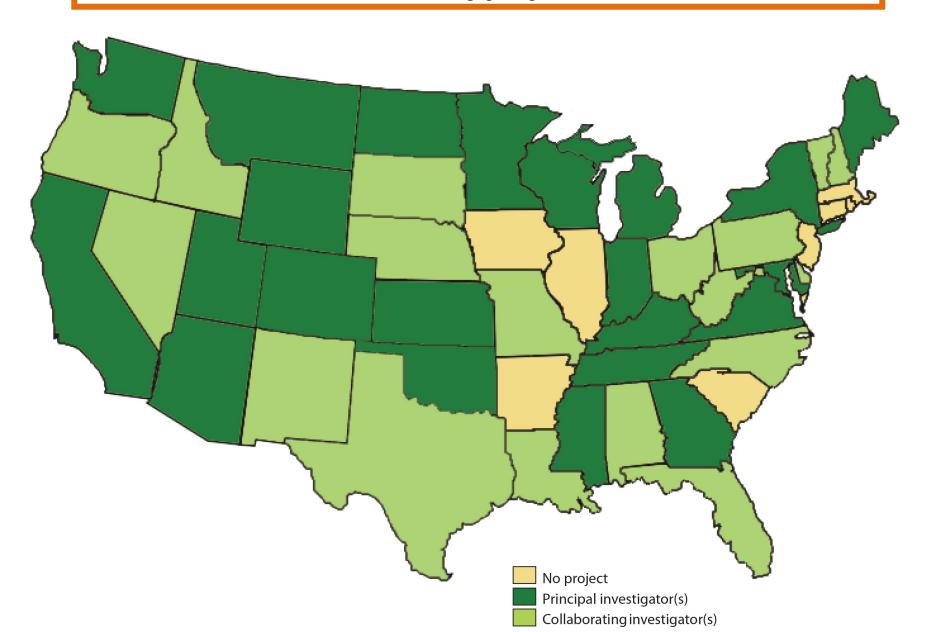
Project Award: \$880,275

Objectives:

• The objectives of the project are to: 1) Test chemical alternatives for Lygus bug control without the use of chlorpyrifos (We will examine both registered and unregistered but commercially viable insecticide compounds for their efficacy against Lygus bugs, as well as optimize timing and rates of insecticide application. This will be completed using a combination of both field and laboratory studies.); 2) Test the establishment of physical barriers to prevent adult migration of Lygus from fields of alfalfa produced for forage into fields of alfalfa produced for seed (This simple but effective method has been demonstrated to reduce the migration of pentatomid stink bugs in orchard systems in Washington State (Marshall 2020) and from forage alfalfa into cotton in the Southwest. By erecting temporary barriers when alfalfa forage hay is swathed, we may prevent a substantial number of Lygus adults from migrating into alfalfa seed fields. An additional benefit is that we will be able to quantify the migration of other beneficial, pest, or benign arthropods when they are captured in these passive barrier traps.); 3) Develop IPM strategies to increase efficacy of biological control measures for Lygus bug control (We will measure the efficacy of commercially available biological control measures including Anaphes spp. (parasitic wasps) and entomopathogenic fungi Beauveria bassiana, Isaria fumosorosea, and Metarhizium brunneum, all of which have been suggested as biorational and useful pathogens for Lygus bug control. We will also test the safety of selective versus broad-spectrum insecticides for natural enemies.); 4) Determine the safety for alfalfa leafcutting bees of insecticides useful for Lygus bug control (We will measure the sublethal effects from multiple insecticide chemistries used for Lygus bug control on alfalfa leafcutting bees, the most important managed pollinator in alfalfa seed production systems in the western region.); 5) Complete a comprehensive annual survey to provide insight on Integrated Pest Management practices employed to control problematic insect pests of alfalfa while protecting pollinators and other beneficial arthropods (Developing an appropriate integrated pest management program can be complicated and has become even more challenging as chemistries become unavailable. We will annually survey alfalfa seed producers regarding the timing of pesticide inputs, pollinator management, and production guidelines and analyze this information toward developing best management practices to be used in alfalfa seed production. The development and focus of this survey and subsequent analyses will be guided by grower stakeholders.); and 6) Conduct an annual project evaluation with a focus group to quantify project value, assess grower behavior change, and pilot the subsequent year's research priorities based on project performance. (Where the aforementioned survey in Objective 5 is largely quantitative, collecting many data points from a large number of growers, this follow-up objective is qualitative in nature, involving in-depth discussion with a highly engaged subset of stakeholders.)

Alfalfa Seed & Alfalfa Forage Systems Research Program (ASAFS)

Research Funding going to 40 states



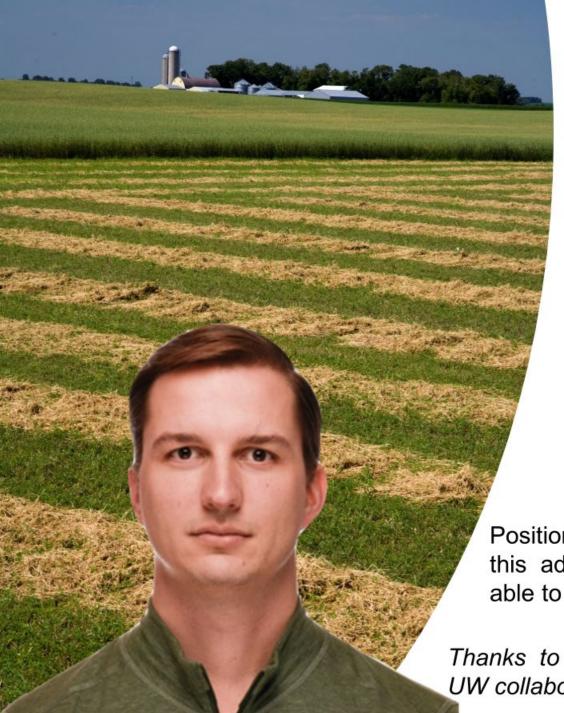
ARS Report Language for 2018-2021 Recurring Budgets

Alfalfa Research. The Committee notes that research into alfalfa seed and alfalfa forage systems holds the potential to increase yields, increase milk production, and improve genetics, and the Committee recommendation includes an increase of \$1,000,000 to support research focused on alfalfa improvement.

Research should focus on using tools to accelerate and enhance existing breeding programs focused on improving yield and quality parameters; developing innovative harvesting and utilization systems; developing new markets for co-products; and quantifying environmental benefits from alfalfa-based systems.

ARS Language for 2023 Recurring Budget

The agreement provides funding increases for ... Alfalfa Research; Alternative Protein Research ... Bee Genomics; Biotechnology Innovation ... Cover Crops; Crop Production Systems and Genetic Research; Dairy Forage ... \$1 Million



NEW! Alfalfa Outreach Specialist Scott Newell

- ARS/UW-Madison collaboration.
- Extension position.
- Focused on alfalfa & alfalfa/forage systems outreach.
- Interaction at the national, regional, and lucky for us ... the primary focus is on the local level.

Position funding came through some of this additional base funding NAFA was able to secure for ARS.

Thanks to Dennis Hancock for getting the UW collaboration pulled together!

Alfalfa Pollinator Research Initiative

2023 Alfalfa Pollinator Research Initiative (APRI)

- Pathogen Screening in Managed Nomia melanderi Populations
 - Diana Cox-Foster, USDA-ARS PIRU, Logan, UT (\$25,000)
- Testing the Safety for Alfalfa Leafcutting Bees of a New Insecticide Useful for Lygus Bug Control
 - Kelsey Graham, USDA-ARS PIRU, Logan, UT (\$25,000)
- Identifying Wild Populations of Alkali Bees (Nomia melanderi) to Support Sustainable Development of Managed Populations with Genetic Analysis
 - Jonathan Koch, USDA-ARS PIRU, Logan, UT (\$24,851)
- Assessment of Seasonal and Yearly Variability of Alfalfa Leafcutting Bee (Megachile rotundata) Parasite Infestation in Seed Production Fields
 - Lindsie McCabe, USDA-ARS PIRU, Logan, UT (\$24,986)
- Enhancing and Protecting Populations of Alfalfa Seed Pollinators
 - Doug Walsh, Washington State University (\$17,618)

2022 Alfalfa Pollinator Research Initiative (APRI)

- Pathogen and Pesticide Screening in Managed Nomia melanderi Populations
 - Kelsey Graham, Diana Cox-Foster, USDA-ARS PIRU, Logan, UT (\$35,000)
- <u>Informing Effective Alkali Bee (Nomia melanderi) Management Decisions with Novel Microsatellite Markers</u> and <u>Population Genetic Analysis</u>
 - Jonathan Koch, USDA-ARS PIRU, Logan, UT (\$15,000)
- <u>Assessment of Seasonal and Yearly Variability of Alfalfa Leafcutting Bee (Megachile rotundata) Parasite</u> Infestation in Seed Production Fields
 - Lindsie McCabe, Theresa Pitts-Singer, USDA-ARS PIRU, Logan, UT (\$28,401)
- Enhancing and Protecting Populations of Alfalfa Seed Pollinators
 - Doug Walsh, Washington State University (\$21,398)



- First ever alfalfa checkoff initiated in 2017
- Seed brands volunteer to collect and contribute \$1/bag
- Calls for proposal with farmer-directed research priorities
- Priorities include new uses and market development

Please support these participating seed marketer Alfalfa Checkoff Program brands!

Alfalfa Partners - S&W

Alforex Seeds

America's Alfalfa

Channel

CROPLAN

DEKALB

Dyna-Gro

Fontanelle Hybrids

Forage First

FS Brand Alfalfa

Gold Country Seed

Hubner Seed

Innvictis Seed Solutions

Jung Seed Genetics

Kruger Seeds

Latham Hi-Tech Seeds

Legacy Seeds

Lewis Hybrids

NEXGROW

Pioneer

Prairie Creek Seed

Rea Hybrids

<u>Specialty</u>

Stewart

Stone Seed

W-L Alfalfas

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY RECAP



USAFRI (aka checkoff)

- •Supported by farmers through alfalfa seed purchases from facilitating marketers.
- •Administered by NAFA; NAFA decides what gets funded.

ASAFS

- •Supported by Congressional appropriation to NIFA \$4M.
- •Administered by NIFA; NIFA decides what gets funded.
- •NAFA requests the funding.
- NAFA has input into research priorities/some RFA aspects.

ARS

- •Supported by Congressional appropriation to ARS \$5M.
- Alfalfa Pollinator Research Initiative (APRI) \$100K.
- Administered by ARS.
- •NAFA has significant input into what projects get funded.

NAFA Priorities

NAFA requests agencies use sound science in policy development and adhere to established comment procedures.

· Sustainable Agriculture

Alfalfa in the farm landscape provides many ecosystem services like improving soil health and water quality, minimizing
crop rotation N use, reducing CHC emissions, enhancing carbon sequestration, and increasing biodiversity. We encourage
NRCS and other agencies to heighten awareness of alfalfa's contribution as one of the most sustainable crops by building
programs for use at the farm level.

· Alfalfa Safety Net

- Since the Nation's 3rd most valuable field crop does not receive program crop benefits, NAFA requests additional public investment in alfalfa research to help keep this sustainable crop competitive with other cropping choices
- Forage Crop Insurance (enhance existing APH and Forage Seeding programs; work with developers to craft new revenue and/or quality policies available in other major field crops)
 - Develop a reliable and accurate system for alfalfa price discovery (NASS/AMS)
- Include alfalfa in any national ad hoc disaster or assistance programs for agriculture

· Public Research

- ARS Request parity in research funding with other major crops
 - · Request an additional \$15 million investment in ARS alfalfa research
 - Request continued support for U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center
 - · Request continued support for St. Paul ARS Forage Unit
 - Request continued support for Logan ARS Units; Bee Lab & Forage Unit
 - Request continued support for Parlier ARS Unit
 - Maintain support for Research Geneticist position
 - Request continued funding for Alfalfa Pollinator Research Initiative (APRI)

NIFA - Request \$5 million in funding for ASAFS

- Work with NIFA on land grant commitment to forages (i.e., fill vacant land grant forage positions)
- Continue to work with NIFA on grant opportunities (e.g., BRAC, new investigator)

NASS/AMS Data

- Develop a reliable and accurate system for alfalfa price discovery
- Continue and enhance statistical reporting for alfalfa

Maintain and Enhance Key Export Markets

Work with agencies and other associations to establish LLP tolerances, synchronized registrations, etc.

Crop Protection Tools

 Continue to work with EPA to support and maintain alfalfa seed crop protection tools (seed industry has non-food use status)

Omnibus Report Language — New in FY '23...

(RMA) Alfalfa. — The Committee recognizes alfalfa to be an important domestic forage crop valued for nitrogen fixation, soil conservation, crop rotation, and as a natural habitat. From 2002 through 2021, alfalfa acreage has declined 33.4 percent. The Committee encourages RMA to explore the creation of a revenue and/or quality alfalfa crop insurance policy to ensure producers have a safety net that they need to produce this important crop.

(NRCS) Alfalfa Utilization. — The Committee recognizes alfalfa as one of the most environmentally friendly crops which can be grown on the landscape. Alfalfa is valued for its ability to fix atmospheric nitrogen, protect, and conserve soil, protect water quality, provide a habitat for pollinators, and generate a multitude of ecosystem benefits. The Committee recognizes alfalfa as a 'climate-smart' commodity with an exceptional capacity for carbon sequestration and decreased reliance on synthetic nitrogen fertilizers. However, alfalfa is not well-utilized in conservation programs at USDA's NRCS. The Committee urges the Secretary to incentivize the use and integration of alfalfa in NRCS programs to capitalize on the unique environmental and conservation benefits it brings to the agricultural landscape.

Crop Insurance Participation Rates

• Corn 92%

• Soy 80-82%

• Wheat 98%

• Cotton 99%

• Alfalfa 7%

Not available in some areas

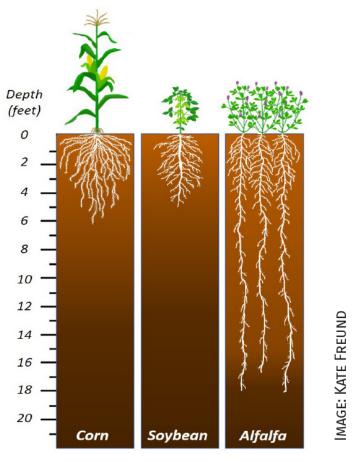
- Pasture, Rangeland & Forage Based on county rainfall
 - Not available in some areas

Source: Watts & Associates Inc.

- Alfalfa Seed Insurance Program
- Forage Seeding Program







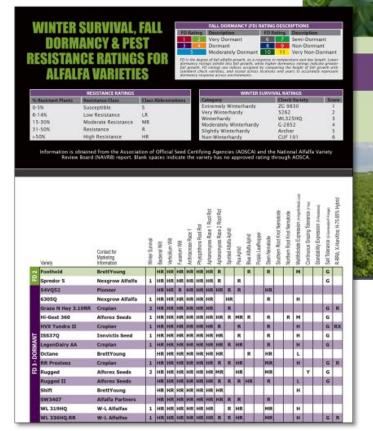
Alfalfa roots commonly extend up to 16 feet into the soil, much deeper than other crops. The deep root system holds soil in place and creates channels that promote water infiltration, biological activity in the root zone, and improved nutrient cycling.

Some NRCS offices recently added some NRCS offices recently added some scenario for their 328 Practice for Conservation Crop Rotation to include a "Short Term Perennial" option.

This has been added in Minnesota and Michigan. Minnesota's unit cost is \$49.92 and Michigan's is \$48.03. In Minnesota, that is more than what is being offered for cover crops in 2024.

NAFA Publications: NAFA has online and hard copy resources for forage production. This includes the free downloadable Alfalfa Variety Ratings Guide at alfalfa.org – then under the

'Education' tab.





Ratings

2024

Alfalfa

Winter Survival. Fall Dormancy & Pest Resistance Ratings for Alfalfa Varieties

This National Alfalfa & Farage Alliance publication is intended for use by Extension and agri-business personnel to satisfy a need for information on characteristics of certified-eligible alfalfa varieties. NAFA

MARKETERS

09-581-5619

w.dynagroseed.com

raffer Listing: Pionee hoston, IA 50131

Story City, IA 50248 515-733-2203

referred Alfalfa Genetics

dan, MN 55352

w.alforexseeds.com

Leaflet Listing: America's Alfalfa Hampa, ID 83653 100-406-7662

Leaflet Listing: BrettYoung Winnipeg, MB R3V 1L5 800-665-5015

Dairyland Seed

caffet Listing. Dairylan Vest Bend, WI 53095

den Hills, MN 55126

NAF

Leaflet Listing: La Crosse Seed La Crosse, WI 54603 800-356-7333

egacy Seeds LLC Leafler Listing: Legacy Seeds Scandinavia, WI 54977 715-467-2555

Leafter Listing: LG Seeds Nestfield, IN 46074

Leaflet Listing: Nergrow Alfall West Salem, WI 54669

Farm Science Genetics

RR-252-7573



eafter Listing: W4 Alfalfus irden Hills, MN 55126 00-406-7662

Grover on the distribution of its "Winter Surviv Fall Donnancy & Pest Resistance Ratings

Vinter Survival, Fall Dormancy & Pest Resistance Ratings for Alfalfa Varieties" 2024 Edition is a publication of the National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance and cannot be reproduced without prior written permission from NAFA

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	2024 "Alfalfa Variety Ratings" Searchable Database
Variety Name:	
Marketer:	v
Fall Dormancy:	•
Winter Survival:	•
Bacterial Wilt:	v
Verticillium Wilt:	·
Fusarium Wilt:	· ·
Anthracnose Race 1:	· ·
Phytophthora Root Rot:	· ·
Aphanomyces Race 1:	·
Aphanomyces Race 2:	- Alfalfa
Spotted Alfalfa Aphid:	Variety
Pea Aphid:	V
Blue Alfalfa Aphid:	Ratings
Potato Leafhopper:	2024
Stem Nematode:	· ·
Southern Root Knot:	Winter Survival, Fall Dormancy &
Northern Root Knot:	Pest Resistance Ratings for
Multi Foliolate Expression:	Alfalfa Varieties an Author Affal & comp Alling Advance Advance Advance to the Model of comp Alling Advance to the Model of Company Advance to th
Continuous Grazing Tolerance:	word for extracting or characteristics. The state of the
Standability Expression:	~
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Technology:	<u> </u>
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Alfalfa Intensive Training Seminar

November 8-9, 2023 Land O'Lakes Headquarters Arden Hills, Minnesota

2023 Nationally Recognized AITS Instructors



Charlie Brummer University of California-Davis



Kim Cassida Michigan State University



Dennis Hancock USDFRC



Dan Putnam University of California-Davis



Deborah Samac USDA-ARS



Craig Sheaffer University of Minnesota



Joe Waldo FGI Retired



Jessica Williamson AGCO Corporation



Over \$48 Million In Research Funding

Alfalfa is the nation's 4th most valuable field crop, behind corn, soybean, and wheat, but for a long time alfalfa lacked an advocate on the national scale. In 2008, NAFA was successful in having the word "alfalfa" mentioned in the farm bill, for the first time ever. Using that recognition, NAFA has helped secure millions of dollars annually of federal research funding since 2014.

NAFA has also been successful in establishing the first Alfalfa Checkoff program in 2017, which is used to supplement federal funding.

While forage research funding was once hard to come by, researchers can now take advantage of:

U.S. Alfalfa Research Initiative (aka Alfalfa Checkoff)

Alfalfa Seed & Alfalfa Forage Systems Research Program, which was started in 2014 at \$1.35 million and has grown to \$4 million annually

Alfalfa Pollinator Research Initiative



Mission

Ensure the ability of all segments of the alfalfa and forage industry to compete effectively while maintaining access to global markets and meeting the requirements of those markets.

Objective

To be a forum for consensus building among the various stakeholders and to be an effective advocate on behalf of the alfalfa and forage industry.

\$19 Million Increase to ARS Alfalfa Research

Thanks to the advocacy and education work of NAFA, the disparity in ARS funding for alfalfa forage systems has been acknowledged with reoccurring increases to ARS's base budget for alfalfa improvement. This has turned into \$19 million in funding. This money has supported existing and new projects, including a new project on irrigation water use efficiency, production, handling, and utilization of alfalfa for dairies.

Education

NAFA hosts the **Alfalfa Intensive Training Seminar** (AITS), giving participants the knowledge they need to capitalize on their alfalfa investment. This annual education opportunity attracts participants from around the world.

NAFA maintains a **publication library** of forage information with free download and purchase options. This includes publications like Alfalfa Variety Ratings Winter Survival, Fall Dormancy & Pest Resistance Ratings for Alfalfa Varieties (updated annually); Alfalfa for Profit, Understanding Forage Quality; and Alfalfa, Wildlife and the Environment.

NAFA maintains **Coexistence Documents** for best management practices for growing GE and APS alfalfa. These documents are reviewed annually.

Additional Advocacy

NAFA has several priorities to help keep alfalfa a viable crop for the landscape. This includes work with Risk Management Agency (RMA) to improve crop insurance options; work with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on crop protection tools; work with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for better recognition in conservation programs; facilitating meetings to help with trade issues, and advocating for the inclusion of forages in federal programs (i.e., CFAP 2).

By Working Together...



We Can Achieve More!