



WESTERN ALFALFA SEED GROWERS 2024 WINTER SEED CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Premier Conference Sponsor: **Forage Genetics International**



Sunday, January 28

5:00 PM – 7:00 pm – Opening Social *Sponsored by – Allied Seed*

Monday, January 29

7:30 AM – **Registration Desk Opens** – Trade Show Ongoing

8:30 AM – **Conference Kickoff** – Shane Johnson, Western Alfalfa Seed Growers Association

8:40 AM – **Intelligent Precision Spraying** – Tom Gauthier, Founder & CEO, AgTechLogic

9:30 AM – **Precision Agriculture through Drone and AI Technology** – Justin Clune, Skysense

10:10 AM – **Let's Talk About Alfalfa Seed – Using Social Media to Tell Your Farms Story** – Bethany Jones, Communications Director, Ag Association Management

10:40 AM – **Break – Raffle Drawing – Coffee and Breaks Sponsored by – DSV/Northstar Ltd.**

11:00 AM – **NAFA Update** – Beth Nelson, President, National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance

11:30 AM – **Grower and Industry Survey** – Doug Walsh, Washington State University

12:00 PM – **Lunch & Raffle Drawing – Sponsored by – Legacy Seeds**

Research Session – Moderated by

1:20 PM – **Testing the safety for alfalfa leafcutting bees of a new insecticide useful for Lygus bug control** – Diana Cox-Foster, USDA-ARS PIRU, Logan, UT

1:40 PM – **Pathogen and pesticide screening in managed Nomia melanderi populations** - Diana Cox-Foster, USDA-ARS PIRU, Logan, UT

2:00 PM – **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

2:20 PM – **Identifying wild populations of alkali bees (Nomia melanderi) to support sustainable development of managed populations with genetic analysis** - Jon Koch, USDA-ARS PIRU, Logan, UT

2:40 AM – **Break – Raffle Drawing – Coffee and Breaks Sponsored by – DSV/Northstar Ltd.**

3:00 PM – **Enhancing & Protecting Populations of Alfalfa Seed Pollinators** - Doug Walsh, WSU, Prosser, WA

3:20 PM – **Pesticide Transfer in Alfalfa Leafcutting Bee Nests** – Calvin Luu, Utah State University

3:40 PM – **Investigating botanical derivatives for chalcid wasp control in alfalfa leafcutter bee incubators** – Jennifer Retzlaff, Research & Extension Manager, Alberta Alfalfa Seed Commission

4:00 PM – **Raffle Drawing/Announcements**

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM – **Presenter's Meet and Greet Social & Researchers Poster Panel** –
Sponsored by – Mr. Pollination Systems

Tuesday, January 30

7:00 AM – **WASGA Board of Directors Meeting**

8:30 AM – **Registration Desk Opens** – Trade Show Ongoing

9:00 AM – **Welcome** – Shane Johnson, Western Alfalfa Seed Growers Association

9:10 AM – **DLF Seed Company** – Doug Gross, Director, North America Production, DLF

9:50 AM – **Alfalfa Seed Production in Australia** - Ben Farmer, Wilkei Seeds, Keith, South Australia

10:30 AM – **Break – Raffle Drawing – Coffee and Breaks – Sponsored by – DSV/Northstar Ltd.**

10:50 AM – **Canadian Seed Report: "Current State of Alfalfa Seed in Alberta"** – Jennifer Retzlaff, Research & Extension Manager, Alberta Alfalfa Seed Commission

11:20 AM – **US State of the Industry Report** – Dr. Emily Meccage, Research & Development Lead, Forage Genetics International

12:00 PM – **Raffle Drawing/Announcements/Conference Adjournment**