



**WESTERN ALFALFA SEED GROWERS
2025 WINTER SEED CONFERENCE
PROGRAM**

Premier Conference Sponsor:



Sunday, January 26

5:30 PM – 7:00 pm – Opening Social *Sponsored by – Allied Seed*

Monday, January 27

8:00 AM – **Registration Desk Opens** – Trade Show Ongoing

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

9:10 AM – **Supporting Wild & Managed Bee Populations to Improve Alfalfa Seed Pollination** - Michelle Kirchner, USDA, Pollinating Insects – Biology, Management, & Systematics Research Unit, Logan, UT

9:40 AM – **Grower and Industry Survey** – Doug Walsh, Professor of Entomology at Washington State University, Prosser, WA

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

10:30 AM – **Evaluating Plant Growth Regulators and Desiccation Products for the Harvestability of Alfalfa Seed under Irrigation in Southern Alberta** – Jennifer Retzlaff, Research & Extension Manager, Alberta Alfalfa Seed Commission

10:50 AM – **Keynote Speaker - Weather and Ag Policy Outlook, What's in Store for 2025** – Shawn Hackett

11:50 PM – **Lunch & Raffle Drawing** – *Sponsored by – Legacy Seeds LLC*

Research Session

1:20 PM – **NAFA Update** – Chelsea Russell, Outreach & Communications Director, National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance

1:40 PM – **Impacts of Transform on alfalfa leafcutting bee health**– Kelsey Graham, USDA, Pollinating Insects – Biology, Management, & Systematics Research Unit, Logan, UT

2:00 PM – **Balancing Pollinator Protection & Pest Control in Alfalfa Seed Crops** – Calvin Luu, Utah State University

2:20 PM – **Examining the likelihood that nest-adjacent siblings have the same diapause fate in alfalfa leafcutting bees** - Lindsie McCabe, USDA, Pollinating Insects – Biology, Management, & Systematics Research Unit, Logan, UT

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

3:00 PM – **Pollination Genomics of Alkali Bees (*Nomia melanderi*) to Support Sustainable Development of Managed Populations** – Jon Koch, USDA, Pollinating Insects – Biology, Management, & Systematics Research Unit, Logan, UT

3:20 PM – **Enhancing & Protecting Populations of Alfalfa Seed Pollinators** – Doug Walsh, Department of Entomology, Washington State University, Prosser, WA

3:40 PM – **The alkali bee and its closest relatives—what can we learn from a family tree of *Nomia melanderi*** – Silas Bossert, Washington State University, Prosser, WA

4:00 PM – **Alfalfa Weevil Resistance Monitoring and Monitoring Parasitoids in Southern Alberta** – Boyd Mori, Assistant Professor Agricultural and Ecological Entomology, University of Alberta

4:20 PM – **Raffle Drawing/Announcements/Day One Adjournment**

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM – **Presenter's Meet and Greet Social & Researchers Poster Panel**
Sponsored by – Forage Genetics International

Tuesday, January 28

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 – **Hay and Forage Outlook** – Josh Callen, Hoyt Report

9:50 AM – **Canadian Seed Report** – Brett Wilson, DSV Northstar

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

10:50 AM – **US State of the Industry Report** – Doug Gross, Director, North America Production, DLF

11:30 AM – **Raffle Drawing and Concluding Announcements**

11:40 AM – **Conference Adjournment**

Noon – Focus Workgroup – Conducted by Doug Walsh & Kelsey Graham

******Program Subject to Change******