



National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Alfalfa Checkoff Funds New Research Projects *Research Projects Funded from California to Kentucky*

The U.S. Alfalfa Farmer Research Initiative (USAFRI), better known as the Alfalfa Checkoff, recently awarded funding to projects submitted by researchers from across the country in response to NAFA's latest request for proposals. Alfalfa researchers from California to Kentucky were the beneficiaries of funding generated by the Alfalfa Checkoff.

"It's exciting to see NAFA's Alfalfa Checkoff program continue to attract new researchers," said Beth Nelson, NAFA President. "Revitalizing the alfalfa research community is an important byproduct of the Alfalfa Checkoff Program. It is building a strong foundation for the future."

NAFA's Alfalfa Checkoff request for proposals generated 13 research projects from a broad geographic area demonstrating continued demand among researchers for alfalfa research funding. Proposals addressed a wide range of topics intended to drive innovation and profitability in the alfalfa industry - from developing an open-source web-based tool for predicting alfalfa yield and quality to improving irrigated alfalfa yield and water use efficiency - all intended to enhance alfalfa and alfalfa seed production throughout the country. Research projects in California, Kentucky, North Dakota, Utah, and Wisconsin were funded. They include: *(project objectives can be viewed on the [NAFA website](http://www.nafa.org)):*

- Identification of Rhizobium Inoculants Tailored for Performance with New Alfalfa Varieties and Diverse Soil Types
 - Barney Geddes, North Dakota State University
- Using Pesticide Fate Models to Guide Application Timing and Improve Alfalfa Seed Yields
 - Kelsey Graham, USDA-ARS
- Producer and Consumer Survey: Increasing Alfalfa Hay Sales to Horse Owners
 - Ray Smith, University of Kentucky
- Development of an Open-Source Web-Based Tool for Alfalfa Yield and Quality Prediction
 - Zhou Zhang, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The NAFA review committee selected projects that best met established research priorities, including: feed value consistency (i.e., harvest, storage, digestibility, sampling); forage quality improvements; new uses and market development; and yield improvements. Proposals were scored on industry need (alignment with USAFRI research priorities); scientific merit; direct benefit to farmers, cost effectiveness; and partnerships.

The Alfalfa Checkoff call for proposals is released twice a year, in May with proposals due in June, and in November with proposals due in December. Final reports continue to roll in and reveal important data and information. Those reports are available at http://alfalfa.org/USAFRI_FinalReports.php. Be sure to bookmark this page and continue to monitor it for continuing results throughout the year.

NAFA strongly encourages alfalfa farmers to patronize checkoff-facilitating alfalfa seed brands to support the Alfalfa Checkoff:

Alfalfa Partners – S&W Seed
Alforex Seeds
America's Alfalfa
Channel
CROPLAN
DEKALB
Dyna-Gro
Fontanelle Hybrids
Forage First

FS Brand Alfalfa
Gold Country Seed
Hubner Seed
Invictis Seed Solutions
Jung Seed Genetics
Kruger Seeds
Latham Hi-Tech Seeds
Legacy Seeds
Lewis Hybrids

NEXGROW
Pioneer
Prairie Creek Seed
Rea Hybrids
Specialty
Stewart
Stone Seed
W-L Alfalfas

(If your favorite alfalfa brand is not on the list, contact NAFA at 651.484.3888 for information on how a seed marketer can become a participating brand.)