



National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ALFALFA SPROUTS INTEREST IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

St. Paul, MN – The National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance (NAFA) captured the attention of lawmakers during its inaugural legislative “Fly-In” in Washington, DC, February 14-17. In what turned out to be an extremely successful week, NAFA members took to Capitol Hill to meet with members of Congress (focusing on House and Senate Agriculture and Agriculture Appropriations Committee members), the U.S. Trade Representative’s Office (USTR), EPA, and USDA’s ARS, RMA, NIFA, and NASS. In total, nearly 100 meetings were scheduled, giving NAFA members ample time to educate Congressional members about the importance of the nation’s 3rd most valuable field crop and the urgency in being recognized in policy and research funding decisions.



Pictured L to R: Robin Newell, Pioneer; Dave Miller, Pioneer; Mark McCaslin, Forage Genetics; Maria Monteros, Noble Foundation; Beth Nelson, NAFA; Congressman Tim Walz-MN; Dan Miller, MFA; Clint Allaman. John Deere.

In addition to congressional visits, NAFA held concurrent House and Senate staff briefings giving staff members a primer on alfalfa and forage. Presentations included:

From Lab to field: Toolbox for Decoding Alfalfa’s Secrets

Maria Monteros, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation – Ardmore, OK

Invigorating America’s Rural Communities: Alfalfa as a Feed, Fuel & Industrial Feedstock

Neal Martin, U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center – Madison, WI

Not Your Grandparents’ Alfalfa: 20 Million Acres of Private & Public Benefits

Dan Putnam, University of California – Davis, CA

Firmly Rooted: Alfalfa Helps Protect the Nation’s soil, Air & Water Resources

Michael Russelle, USDA-ARS – St. Paul, MN

However, the week’s highlight may have been NAFA’s “*Alfalfa on the Hill: Bluegrass Style*” reception which gave members of Congress and their staffs the opportunity to visit informally with NAFA members about alfalfa and forage crops.

NAFA members who participated in the event were extremely pleased with the positive response they received on Capitol Hill. A total of 29 states were represented by NAFA members in its inaugural fly-in.