

Alfalfa Informational Resources: Staying Current

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The publications, “Grazing Alfalfa” and “Alfalfa for Beef Cows,” have recently been updated by the National Alfalfa and Forage Alliance (NAFA). This organization is steadily adding to their portfolio of publications for alfalfa producers and for producers that utilize alfalfa in the U.S. and around the world. These publications contain practical management guidelines like successfully dealing with bloat potential when grazing alfalfa and how the nutritional status of alfalfa allows it to be an important supplement for beef cattle, not just dairy cattle. In *Grazing Alfalfa*, the authors include a leading alfalfa scientist in Argentina, where alfalfa is the primary grazed legume. In *Alfalfa for Beef Cows*, the authors emphasize that alfalfa is not just an important source of dietary protein, but also of energy, vitamins and minerals. Even with the recent release of these publications, they have already been highlighted in major trade magazines, state forage newsletters, and regional radio broadcasts. We are highlighting these two publications at the World Alfalfa Congress to bring them to the attention of alfalfa researchers, extension personnel and industry leaders. Additionally, other recently updated NAFA publications include *Alfalfa Bermudagrass Management Guide*; *Alfalfa: The High-Quality Hay for Horses*; and *Alfalfa, Wildlife and the Environment*. All of these publications can be downloaded as pdf’s or hardcopies purchased at alfalfa.org. There are several other alfalfa publications written 20 to 30 years ago including *Alfalfa Analyst*; *Alfalfa: The Crop for the Soil*; *Alfalfa Hay Quality*; and *Alfalfa for Dairy Animals*. We encourage alfalfa scientists to consider updating these publications and work to develop new publications and other media resources that emphasize the value of alfalfa for cropping and feeding systems.

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