

2019 USAFRI Research Project Objectives

“Grazing Alfalfa” Publication Update University of Kentucky - Smith

Project Award: \$4,714

Justification:

- Originally produced by the Certified Alfalfa Seed Council in the late 1980's, *Grazing Alfalfa* aims to provide producers with a comprehensive guide to utilizing alfalfa as a standing forage crop. Topics covered in this publication include some recent history of the crop, growth and management, and integration into beef, dairy, sheep, and horse operations. Over 30 years old and with no equivalent national publication available, this publication desperately needs updating and the University of Kentucky is uniquely qualified to complete this. UK has been performing grazing tolerance trials on alfalfa and other forages since 1994 and has one of the largest forage variety testing programs in the country. Kentucky producers across the state successfully grow and graze alfalfa and have a close working relationship with the county extension offices and the three Forage Extension Specialists in the state. More importantly, alfalfa is the most productive forage legume and utilization by grazing offers cost savings to livestock producers. Updated information on how to manage alfalfa under grazing will encourage producers around the country to consider alfalfa as the best legume to plant for high quality pasture production.

Objectives:

- The objective of this project is to 1) Re-write the outdated national publication “Grazing Alfalfa” to include up-to-date data, recommendations, and products.

