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## NEWS FROM NAFA



# NAFA Keeps Makin' Hay

**M**omentum keeps building as NAFA continues to gain recognition for the alfalfa and forage industry. "Even though NAFA is still a very young organization, we've been able to establish ourselves as the leading voice for the alfalfa and forage industry," said Beth Nelson, NAFA President. "Although more work needs to be done, we've made tremendous strides in raising the awareness of the role alfalfa and forages play in America's agricultural landscape."

The following are a few snippets from NAFA's 2009-2010 Annual Report providing a glimpse of the important initiatives NAFA is involved with on behalf of the industry.

### Prosser Funding

Thanks to Washington's Senator Murray and Congressman Hastings, ag appropriators allocated \$200,000 for Forage Crop Stress Tolerance and Virus Disease Management at Prosser. The funding will be used to hire a post doc to work on abiotic and biotic stresses of alfalfa. ARS has committed to collaboration between the Prosser post-doc and ARS scientists at St. Paul, MN, industry scientists, and the Noble Foundation in Ardmore, OK.



Senator  
Patty Murray (D-WA)



Congressman  
Doc Hastings (R-WA)

### Pollinator Funding

NAFA joined others in a request for funding from ag appropriators for pollinator research. The Pollinating Insects—Biology, Management, and Systematics Research Unit, USDA-ARS, in Logan, UT, received \$350,000 of the \$1.5 million appropriation. The funds will be used to study a number of issues such as improving the understanding of immunity in bees and how grazing management strategies might improve forages for bees. Managed bees are vital to alfalfa and alfalfa seed production.

### CSP Webinar

Due to NAFA's efforts in educating Congress about alfalfa's environmental benefits, the 2008 Farm Bill included a new Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) with supplemental payments to producers agreeing to adopt "resource-conserving crop rotations." In September 2009, NAFA hosted a webinar featuring USDA-NRCS's Steven Parkin and Norm Widman, detailing the purpose and scope of the new program. The webinar is archived on the NAFA website.

### NAFA, NCGA Host Alfalfa/Corn Rotations for Sustainable Biofuels Production

To address concerns of using food for fuel and to demonstrate alfalfa's potential for cellulosic ethanol production, particularly in rotations with corn, NAFA and the National Corn Growers Association hosted Alfalfa/Corn Rotations for Sustainable Cellulosic Biofuels Production in Johnston, IA, on June 29-30 at Pioneer's Carver Center.

### NAFA Signs on to BIO Amicus Brief, Supreme Court Rules on RRA

In March, NAFA signed onto an amicus brief filed by BIO and the American Farm Bureau Federation for the Supreme Court's review of the Roundup® Ready Alfalfa case. The brief supported the following: 1) the extent of abuse by lower courts in presuming harm in environmental cases; 2) the harm to developers and growers that arises from such a presumption of harm; and (3) the need for a full evidentiary hearing prior to a court issuing an injunction in the specific circumstances of the Alfalfa Case.

### NAFA Urges Vilsack To Rely On Sound Science Regarding RRA

NAFA wrote a letter to Secretary Vilsack urging him to allow the science-based process to proceed free from political interference and to allow the information provided in the EIS to guide him in his decision regarding the RRA regulatory status. NAFA cited its own work in developing co-existence strategies (archived on the NAFA website) that have been widely accepted by the industry and allow for RRA use by those who desire it, while at the same time protecting the market interests and product integrity of those who need such protection.

### Alfalfa Intensive Training Seminar (AITS)

NAFA's highly respected AITS was held in November 2009 in Indianapolis, IN. AITS features nationally recognized speakers and is intended to give participants the knowledge they need to make the most of their alfalfa investment. To register for the 2010 AITS (November 16-18), visit the NAFA website.

**National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance**  
2009-2010 Annual Report  
now available at:  
[www.alfalfa-forage.org](http://www.alfalfa-forage.org)