

### CALLING ALL RESEARCHERS! ASAFS REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Alfalfa researchers are urgently asked to complete requests for applications (RFAs) for the Alfalfa Seed and Alfalfa Forage Systems (ASAFS) Research Program. The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has released the [FY 2022 ASAFS RFA](#) with a deadline of 5 p.m. EST, Thursday, June 2. It is anticipated NIFA will have \$3,000,000 in available funding with a maximum award of \$300,000 per year for a maximum of 3 years.

Applications must be submitted to [Grants.gov](#), using the funding opportunity number USDA-NIFA-OP-009108. “We strongly encourage all alfalfa researchers to consider submitting proposals to the ASAFS grant program,” said Beth Nelson, NAFA President. “Doing so demonstrates the strong demand for these funds nationwide and supports our efforts to maintain and enhance funding for the program in future years.”

The ASAFS is an integrated research and extension program that supports technology transfer to improve overall agricultural productivity, profitability, and conservation of natural resources through conventional and organic alfalfa seed and forage production systems. It encourages applicants to establish interdisciplinary and multi-location regional research and extension networks to address national priorities or regional science needs of the U.S. alfalfa industry. By bringing together expertise across multiple university, federal agency, and industry organizations and states, ASAFS projects seek to enhance the effectiveness of limited state, federal, and industry resources and so produce greater long-lasting impacts.

Proposals submitted to the ASAFS research program in FY 2022 should address one or more of the following priorities: (1) Increase alfalfa forage and seed yields and forage quality through improved management practices, plant breeding, and other strategies to reduce biotic and abiotic stresses and costs of production; (2) Improve alfalfa forage and seed harvest and storage systems, including automation that reduces labor costs, to optimize economic returns to alfalfa producers as well as end-users including milk producers; (3) Develop methods to estimate alfalfa forage yield and quality to support marketing as a livestock feed and instruments to reduce producer risks; (4) Explore new uses for alfalfa such as in fish feeds, nutritive supplements, alternative protein sources for human consumption, high-value chemical manufacturing, or other novel uses; (5) Develop improved insect, disease and weed management strategies, including spotted aphid in alfalfa seed production and potential herbicide carry-over issues; and/or (6) Document the contribution of alfalfa production systems to climate-smart agriculture, including the sequestration of carbon.

Only projects that integrate research and extension objectives will be considered. NIFA requires regional coordination and encourages national coordination. For projects with the goal of regional coordination, at least two states from the same region must have significant involvement in the project. For projects with the goal of national coordination, states from at least two regions must have significant involvement in the project and at least two states from each participating region must be involved (see RFA for list of states in each region).

[The Grants.gov AFRP Synopsis/Application Page](#) includes a synopsis of the funding opportunity, a link to the full announcement (RFA) and the application package. This page also links to the application instructions and the application package.

#### Other Useful Links:

[NIFA ASAFS Grant Application Information](#)

Grants.gov Support: [www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html](http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html)

The [NAFA website](#) now includes information about ASAFS RFA as well (or simply [click here](#) for a copy of the RFA).