

ALFALFA POLLINATOR RESEARCH INITIATIVE FUNDING DISTRIBUTED TO SEVEN PROJECTS

The Alfalfa Pollinator Research Initiative (APRI) recently awarded \$100,000 in funding to seven research projects focused on supporting the health of non-*Apis* alfalfa pollinators. APRI, a coordinated research effort managed by the Pollinating Insects Research Unit in Logan, UT, focuses on: management for crop pollination; population sustainability; environmental safety; epidemiology and disease management; and genetics. The program is managed by Theresa Pitts-Singer of USDA's Agricultural Research Service (located at the Logan Bee Lab in Logan, UT).

Projects funded for 2016 include:

- ***Fight Fire with Fire: Microbes and Parasites of Alfalfa Leafcutting Bees***
- Quinn McFrederick, University of California-Riverside (\$25,607)
- ***Effects of Pest Management Practices on Pests and Alfalfa Leafcutting Bees in Alfalfa Seed***
- Jim Barbour, University of Idaho (\$12,743)
- ***Enhancing Pollination by Attracting & Retaining Leaf Cutting Bees (*Megechile rotundata*) in Alfalfa Seed Production Fields***
- Zainulabeuddin Syed, University of Notre Dame (\$14,317)
- ***Development of Traps to Control Hymenopteran Pests of *Megachile rotundata* During Nesting, Storage, & Incubation***
- Theresa Pitts-Singer, USDA-ARS (\$5,860)
- ***Exploring Strategies to Control Bomber Flies That Attack Alkali Bees***
- James Cane, USDA-ARS PIRU, Logan, UT (\$5,400)
- ***Characterizing Microbial Associates of Alkali Bees***
- Karen Kapheim, Utah State University (\$18,122)
- ***Enhancing and Protecting Populations of Alfalfa Seed Pollinators***
- Doug Walsh, Washington State University (\$17,951)

Bees play a vital role in alfalfa seed production. Funding for the Alfalfa Pollinator Research Initiative provides valuable resources necessary to ensure the availability of healthy non-*Apis* pollinator populations essential for alfalfa seed production.

In an effort to make information about the APRI more assessable, NAFA has created a research database on its website. By clicking the **Research** tab at www.alfalfa.org you will find comprehensive information regarding the Alfalfa Pollinator Research Initiative, including a search tool which allows you to search for projects based on keywords, researcher, university/entity, year of project, category, or research program.

NAFA would like to specially thank ARS and Theresa Pitts-Singer for their diligent efforts in engaging NAFA and its seed producing members in the review of these proposals. It is this type of cooperation between government agencies and private industry that results in the most efficient and effective use of federal research funding and the best possible outcomes for all parties involved.