

EIGHT AFRP PROJECTS TO RECEIVE NIFA FUNDING

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has awarded funding to eight projects in the Alfalfa Seed and Forage Systems Research Program (AFRP).

Now in its fourth year, the AFRP was created to support integrated, collaborative research and technology transfer to improve the efficiency and sustainability of alfalfa forage and seed production systems. It encourages projects that establish multi-disciplinary networks to address priority national or regional science needs of the alfalfa industry.

The National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance (NAFA) was successful in working with Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS) and others to secure program funding. Thanks to Senator Moran, the AFRP was appropriated \$2.25 million in 2017, \$2 million in 2016, and \$1.35 million in both 2014 and 2015.

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) awarded funding to the following 2017 recipients:

AFRP Project Title	Principal Investigator	Collaborators	Award
Developing Regionally-Adapted, Resilient Alfalfa Germplasm Pools	E. Charles Brummer, Univ. of California	Cornell University US Dairy Forage Res. Ctr.	\$290,000
A Decision Support Tool for Predicting Alfalfa Yield and Quality to Enhance Resource Use Efficiency	Isaya Kisekka, Kansas State University	University of Arizona University of Florida Montana State University	\$253,825
Development of Grazing Recommendations and On-Farm Decision Tools for Managing Alfalfa-Grass Mixtures in the Southeastern U.S.	Jennifer Tucker, University of Georgia	Auburn University University of Florida	\$250,000
Bacterial Stem Blight of Alfalfa: Connection with Frost Damage, Development of Resistant Germplasm, and Mapping Resistance Genes	Deborah Samac, USDA-ARS (MN)	University of California USDA-ARS, (WA)	\$250,000
Developing an Attractant for <i>Lygus hesperus</i> Derived from Host Plant Volatile Compounds	Zainulabeuddin Syed, Notre Dame	Utah State University of Wisconsin USDA-ARS (WI)	\$250,000
Proximal and Remote Sensing of Alfalfa Canopies for Early Detection of Insect Stress and Rapid Integrated Pest Management Decision Making	William Lamp, University of Maryland	Ohio State University West Virginia University	\$290,000
Determining Genetic Factors that Influence Forage Quality in Alfalfa	Steve Norberg, Washington State Univ.	University of Idaho Oregon State University USDA-ARS (WA) University of Wisconsin	\$250,000
Identifying Factors to Optimize Establishment of Alfalfa Interseeded in Corn	Mark Renz, Univ. of Wisconsin	Michigan State University Penn State University US Dairy Forage Res. Ctr.	\$250,000

AFRP funds are collaborative in nature meaning each project submission must include a collaboration among organizations in at least three states as a requirement of funding. Researchers from 19 states will share in this funding. AFRP supports the development of improved alfalfa forage and seed production systems. Its focus areas include: 1) increasing 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) improving alfalfa forage and seed harvest and storage systems to optimize economic returns to alfalfa producers as well as end-users including milk producers; 3) developing methods to estimate alfalfa forage yield and quality to support marketing as a livestock feed and instruments to reduce producer risks; and 4) exploring new uses for alfalfa such as in fish feeds, nutritive supplements, high-value chemical manufacturing, or other novel uses.

To keep tabs on the progress of these projects, be sure to check out [NAFA's research database](#) to find comprehensive information regarding two of the alfalfa industry's most important research programs – the Alfalfa and Forage Research Program (AFRP) and the Alfalfa Pollinator Research Initiative (APRI). Information with regard to these programs is available including individual project objectives, program priorities, and information regarding each program's request for applications.

Also available is a search tool which allows users to search for projects based on keywords, researcher, university/entity, year of project, category, or research program.

As these projects reach completion, results and conclusions will be posted to the site as they become available. Please take a moment to visit the site (<http://alfalfa.org/research.php>) for more information.