

CHECKOFF APPROVES NINE RESEARCH PROJECTS IN LATEST ROUND OF FUNDING

The proposals of nine researchers were approved in the latest round of U.S. Alfalfa Farmer Research Initiative (USAFRI) funding, a farmer-funded investment in alfalfa-related research.

Better known as the Alfalfa Checkoff, NAFA's USAFRI recent request for proposals garnered 16 proposals requesting more than \$650,000, demonstrating the high demand for alfalfa-related research funding.

Proposals covered a wide range of topics intended to drive innovation and profitability in the alfalfa industry, as well as a broad geographic area. Research projects in California, Kansas, Minnesota, Mississippi, Washington, and Wisconsin are being funded. Project objectives can be viewed on the [NAFA website](#). Funded projects include:



- **Maximizing Alfalfa's Yield Potential**
 - *Charles Brummer, University of California-Davis*
- **Characterizing Benefits of Alfalfa in Rotation & Communicating Value of Environmental Services to the Public**
 - *Dan Putnam, University of California-Davis*
- **Impact of Poultry Litter Application on Yield & Quality of Alfalfa Grown in Mississippi**
 - *Brett Rushing, Mississippi State University*
- **"Alfalfa, Wildlife, and the Environment" Publication Update**
 - *Craig Sheaffer, University of Minnesota*
- **Identifying Optimal Alfalfa Germplasm Types & Characteristic for Compatibility & Performance in Mixed Cropping Systems**
 - *Brandon Schlautman, The Land Institute*
- **Spring Black Stem & Stemphylium Leaf Spot Resistance Screening in the USDA-ARS National Plant Germplasm System's *Medicago spp.* Genetic Resources**
 - *Brian Irish, USDA-Agricultural Reserach Service*
- **Developing Practical Phosphorus & Potassium Tissue Test Recommendations & Utilizing Struvite in Modern Alfalfa Systems**
 - *Steve Norberg, Washington State University*
- **Integrated Pest Management of Weevils 2019**
 - *Doug Walsh, Washington State University*
- **Enzyme-Assisted Protein Isolation from Alfalfa Leaves**
 - *Matt Digman, Youngmi Kim, University of Wisconsin-River Falls*

Project funding was determined by a NAFA-appointed panel which reviewed, scored, and discussed proposals to determine which projects best met NAFA's research priorities, including: new and updated NAFA publications; agronomic management; feed value consistency; forage quality improvements; new uses and market development; fertility, soil management, soil health, macro/micro nutrients; and yield improvements. Additionally, proposals were scored on methodology and analytical approaches; industry need; cost effectiveness/budget/matching funds; partnerships; and outreach.

NAFA strongly encourages alfalfa farmers to patronize the following checkoff-participating alfalfa seed brands to support the U.S. Alfalfa Farmer Research Initiative:

Alforex Seeds
America's Alfalfa
Channel
CROPLAN
DEKALB
DuPont Pioneer
Dyna-Gro
Fontanelle Hybrids
Forage First

FS Brand Alfalfa
Gold Country Seed
Hubner Seed
Jung Seed Genetics
Kruger Seeds
Latham Hi-Tech Seeds
Legacy Seeds
Lewis Hybrids
NEXGROW

Prairie Creek Seed
ProHarvest Seeds
Rea Hybrids
S&W Seed Co.
Simplot Grower Solutions
Specialty
Stewart
Stone Seed
W-L Research

(If your favorite alfalfa brand is not on the list, contact NAFA at 651.484.3888 for information on how a seed marketer can become a participating brand.)