

FIVE PROJECTS RECEIVE ALFALFA POLLINATOR RESEARCH INITIATIVE FUNDING

The Alfalfa Pollinator Research Initiative (APRI) awarded \$100,000 in funding to five 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 Diana Cox-Foster of USDA's Agricultural Research Service (located at the Logan Bee Lab in Logan, UT).

Projects funded for 2019 include:

- ***Impact of Immune Stress on Pathogen Susceptibility & Life History Traits in *Nomia melanderi****
- Karen Kapheim, Utah State University (\$24,983)
- ***Enhancing & Protecting Populations of Alfalfa Seed Pollinators***
- Doug Walsh, Washington State University (\$25,000)
- ***Impact of Organosilicone Spray Adjuvants Upon the Health and Reproduction of the Alfalfa Leaf Cutting Bee***
- Diana Cox-Foster, USDA-ARS, Logan, UT (\$19,739)
- ***Chalkbrood Control Potential of Hypochlorous Acid in Managed Alfalfa Leafcutting Bee Populations***
- Ellen Klinger, Diana Cox-Foster, USDA-ARS, Logan, UT (\$9,961)
- ***Study of Life Cycles of *Melittobia* and *Pteromalus* in Populations of *Megachile rotundata* in Summer, Fall & Winter***
- Theresa Pitts-Singer, USDA-ARS, Logan, UT (\$20,317)

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 Diana Cox-Foster 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.