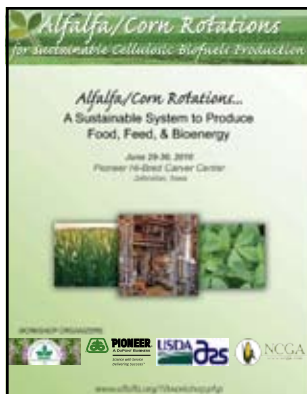




National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance 2009-2010 Annual Report



NAFA, NCGA Host Alfalfa/Corn Rotations for Sustainable Cellulosic Biofuels Production

In an effort to allay concerns of using food for fuel and to demonstrate alfalfa's potential for cellulosic ethanol production, particularly in rotations with corn, the National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance and the National Corn Growers Association hosted *Alfalfa/Corn Rotations for Sustainable Cellulosic Biofuels Production* in Johnston, IA, on June 29-30 at Pioneer's Carver Center.

Forage and corn agronomists from universities across the Midwest, researchers from USDA's Agricultural Research Service, industry representatives, and producers gathered to take in presentations from some of the foremost experts in agronomy and biofuels production who extolled the advantages an alfalfa/corn rotation has as a biofuel production system.

As a cellulosic biofuel feedstock, the alfalfa/corn rotation has inherent advantages. Alfalfa is widely grown throughout the U.S. corn belt, prevents erosion, provides a yield boost to corn, and provides the following year's corn crop with all of its nitrogen needs. Additionally, the leaves can be fractioned and

used as a high protein feed source, while the remaining stems can be used to produce cellulosic ethanol, diminishing the primary concern of many about diverting grain from food and feed uses for bioenergy production.

The program featured USDA and university researchers who discussed the agronomic, economic, and mechanical considerations of alfalfa/corn production systems, as well as the areas where further research is needed. The noted Ethanol Producer/Enzyme Panel discussion featured representatives from ADM, Genencor, Abengoa, and POET discussing their current activities and future plans relating to cellulosic ethanol.



Jeffrey Steiner
USDA-ARS

The event's featured speaker, Dr. Jeffrey Steiner, USDA-Agricultural Research Service National Program Leader for Biomass Production Systems, discussed USDA's strategy for 'Growing America's Fuels' and gave an overview of the Department's strategy for meeting the Renewable Fuels Standard of producing 36 billion gallons of biofuels by 2022.

A Steering Committee of key industry and academic professionals was appointed following the meeting and will now focus its efforts on activities including developing an action plan and building on the momentum created by this event. Proceedings are available at www.alfalfa.org.

Ethanol Producer/Enzyme Panel



Charles Abbas
ADM



Bob Randle
Genencor



Thomas Robb
Abengoa



Owen Shunkwiler
POET

NAFA Summer Tour, Board of Directors Meeting Held at Pioneer Headquarters

In conjunction with the Alfalfa/Corn Rotations workshop, Pioneer Hi-Bred International hosted the 2010 NAFA Board meeting and Summer Tour on June 28-29 at its headquarters in Johnston, IA, with a tour of its facilities and campus. The tour began with an in-depth look at Pioneer's research facilities, greenhouses, and research plots. Following the tour, NAFA began its board meeting at Pioneer's impressive Carver Center. It was the perfect venue for NAFA's Summer Board Meeting. Sincere thanks go to all the good folks at Pioneer who made the event possible, particularly Robin Newell, Jeff Johnson, and Dave Miller, for planning and coordinating the tour.



EDUCATION

2010 Variety Leaflet

NAFA continues to publish its listing of the winter survival, fall dormancy, and pest resistance ratings of alfalfa varieties eligible for certification by seed certifying agencies. The leaflet is a valuable resource for alfalfa producers looking for information on the varieties which may perform well in their particular region. It contains information on over 200 alfalfa varieties from 28 companies. In an effort to reach a much broader audience, this year, for the first time, the variety leaflet was published in the November issue of Hay & Forage Grower Magazine. With a circulation of more than 60,000, Hay & Forage Grower Magazine provided the opportunity for NAFA's 2010 Variety Leaflet to reach a larger audience than ever before. The Variety Leaflet is available for purchase or download on the NAFA website at www.alfalfa.org.



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Washington State University

MISSION STATEMENT

To ensure the ability of all segments of the alfalfa and forage industry to compete effectively and profitably, domestically and abroad. The objective of NAFA is to be a forum for consensus building among the various stakeholders and to be an effective advocate on behalf of the alfalfa and forage industry.

EDUCATION (continued)

AITS - Indianapolis, IN

NAFA's highly respected and popular Alfalfa Intensive Training Seminar (AITS) was held on November 17-18, 2009, at University Place Conference Center and Hotel in Indianapolis, IN. The 2009 edition of NAFA's AITS featured the latest information with regard to genetics, varieties, seed production, growth and development, soils, fertility, establishment, and a host of other topics intended to give participants the knowledge they need to make the most of their alfalfa investment. The 2009 seminar featured the following nationally recognized speakers: Dr. Garry Lacefield, University of Kentucky; Dr. Dan Undersander, University of Wisconsin; Dr. Glenn Shewmaker, University of Idaho; and Dr. Neal Martin, U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center, Madison, Wisconsin.

POLICY INITIATIVES

BIOENERGY (see cover article - NAFA, NCGA Host Alfalfa/Corn Rotations) Infocast's Cellulosic Ethanol Summit - Washington, D.C.

For the third consecutive year, NAFA participated as a "Supporting Sponsor" in Infocast's Cellulosic Biofuels Summit held on November 16-19 in Washington, D.C. ARS Research Animal Scientist Hans Jung, a specialist in the use of alfalfa for bioenergy and bioproducts, staffed the NAFA booth. The attendance was researchers and bioenergy industry professionals ranging from conversion companies (Iogen, Abengoa, Poet) to biotech plants (Monsanto, Mendel) and microbe/enzyme companies (Genecor, QTEROS, Novozyme) to end users (GM, National Association of Convenience Stores). There was a lot of enthusiasm and optimism about the biofuel industry.

BIOTECHNOLOGY

NAFA Signs on to BIO Amicus Brief, Supreme Court Rules on RRA

In March, NAFA was approached by the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) and asked to sign onto an amicus brief filed by BIO and the American Farm Bureau Federation in the matter of the Supreme Court's review of the Roundup Ready[®] Alfalfa case. The brief supported the following legal arguments: 1) the extent of abuse by lower courts in presuming harm in environmental cases; 2) the harm to developers and growers that arises from such a presumption of harm; and (3) the need for a full evidentiary hearing prior to a court issuing an injunction.

The following article appeared in John Deere's internal industry news bulletin:

US Supreme Court to Rule on Genetically-Modified Alfalfa

The US Supreme Court is expected to review in April a lower court ban on genetically-modified alfalfa. A coalition of ag organizations filed a joint friend-of-the-court brief on March 8 in support of the petitioners in "Monsanto Co. v. Geertson Seed Farms." The brief was submitted by the American Farm Bureau Federation, Biotechnology Industry Organization, American Seed Trade Association, American Soybean Association, National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance, National Association of Wheat Growers, National Cotton Council and National Potato Council. The groups say the lower court's decision to approve an injunction without adequately hearing the key evidence must be reversed "to protect the farmers who choose to grow genetically-engineered crops, as well as the public benefits that agricultural biotechnology brings to producers and consumers around the world." In the lower court case, environmental groups and individual organic alfalfa farmers sued the US Department of Agriculture, claiming that USDA's decision to grant deregulated status to glyphosate-tolerant (or "Roundup Ready") alfalfa violated the National Environmental Policy Act. The Ninth Circuit Court said the USDA should have completed an environmental impact statement before it decided to deregulate, and ultimately enjoined almost all planting and sale of Roundup Ready alfalfa pending the issuance of the EIS. [The Land, 3/10/10]

In June, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of Monsanto, overturning a judge's ban on the planting of alfalfa seeds engineered to be resistant to its Roundup herbicide. The 7-1 ruling shifts the focus of the environmental dispute to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which under the Supreme Court's ruling, has the discretion to allow limited planting prior to making a final determination regarding

Roundup Ready alfalfa's regulatory status. The justices said a federal judge in San Francisco went too far when he placed a nationwide ban on Roundup Ready alfalfa because of the possibility they would contaminate other alfalfa plants.

NAFA Urges Vilsack To Rely on Sound Science Regarding RRA

Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-OR) organized and sent a "Dear Colleague" letter to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, which was signed by 56 Congressmen, urging him to maintain regulated status for GE alfalfa citing "serious deficiencies" in APHIS' Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the danger GE alfalfa poses to the organic industry and the integrity of export markets.

In response, NAFA wrote a letter to Secretary Vilsack urging him to allow the science-based process to proceed free from political interference and to allow the information provided in the EIS to guide him in his decision regarding the regulatory status of Roundup Ready® alfalfa (RRA). NAFA cited its own work in developing co-existence strategies that have been widely accepted by the industry and allow for the use of RRA by those who desire it, while at the same time protecting the market interests and product integrity of those who need such protection. NAFA added that while it neither supports nor endorses any brand specific products, it strongly supports the availability and continued use of biotechnology in agriculture which allow American farmers to effectively compete in the world market and supply abundant, safe, high quality food, fiber and renewable fuel.

RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY

NAFA Meets with Risk Management Agency Officials

In December, a contingent of NAFA representatives met with RMA officials in Kansas City to discuss improvements to the Pilot Forage Seed Crop Insurance Program. NAFA members Jeff Yribarren (Fresno, CA), John Grover, (Powell, WY), and Todd Flick (Nampa, ID) joined President Beth Nelson and Associate Director Jon Dockter in a meeting with Terrance Katzer, Risk Management Specialist; Mary Alonzo, Director of RMA's Actuarial and Product Design Division; and Ron Lundine, Chief of RMA's Product Design Branch, to discuss how to improve the program prior to its transition to a permanent program, scheduled for 2012. The group discussed a number of issues including RMA's pricing formula, reporting deadlines regarding price and yield, insurability of older stands, dormancy ratings, stand counts, and conversion to a permanent program.

RMA officials were accommodating and clearly recognize there are issues with the current program which hinder greater participation among seed producers. The main issues of concern included: 1) fixing the timing issue with regard to price establishment by RMA; 2) improving communication between RMA and insurance companies; 3) production records availability; 4) dormancy ratings; 5) breaking up units by variety or planting dates; 6) stand counts; and 7) yield of fall vs. spring planted alfalfa.

EPA

NAFA continues to foster its relationship with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) officials and NAFA's official liaison Linda "Pineapple" Murray. NAFA, in an effort to enhance its oversight efforts, established two internal committees, hay and seed, to monitor product re-registration and phase-out activities at EPA. Both seed producers and forage producers are encouraged to contact NAFA with a list of crop protection tools important to their operation; NAFA will add those products to its list of products to be monitored and supported.

RESEARCH

NAFA RAISES AWARENESS IN D.C. STRESSING IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH FUNDING

Mark Wagoner, Beth Nelson, and Jon Dockter met with a number of Capitol Hill and agency officials on a variety of topics in November. The team met with House and Senate appropriators stressing the need for alfalfa/forage research funding including the Alfalfa & Forage Research Program (AFRP), Prosser Station, Dairy Forage Center and the Logan Bee Lab. In a meeting with representatives of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), NAFA put continued pressure on the agency to fulfill its commitment to establish western ARS dairy/forage research positions. Previously, ARS had vowed to "reallocate \$317,000 in the President's FY 2010 budget to expand ARS' alfalfa research capacity" in the west. In an effort to keep alfalfa front and center in the minds of policy makers as it relates to the production of cellulosic ethanol, the NAFA contingent also met with Colien Hefferan of the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA); Jeff Steiner, USDA's Advisor

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NAFA STAFF

Beth Nelson
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Headquarter Office

4630 Churchill Street, #1
St. Paul, MN 55126
Phone: 651.484.3888
Fax: 651.638.0756

Training/Education Office*

100 N. Fruitland, Suite B
Kennewick, WA 99336
Phone: 509.585.5460
Fax: 509.585.2671
nafa@comcast.net
www.alfalfa-forage.org

for Bioenergy; John Ferrell, Biomass Program Manager at the Department of Energy; Molly Jahn, USDA's Deputy Undersecretary for Research, Education and Economics; and Robert Bonnie, Senior Advisor to Secretary Vilsack on Climate and the Environment. In all, NAFA representatives held close to 30 meetings over the course of two days promoting alfalfa and forage crops.

Alfalfa & Forage Research Program

NAFA continues its efforts to secure funding for the Alfalfa and Forage Research Program (AFRP). After having secured language in the 2008 Farm Bill authorizing the Alfalfa and Foarge Research Program, NAFA has focused its efforts on working with lawmakers who are friends of the industry to request, through the appropriations process, funding for AFRP. For fiscal year 2010, NAFA was successful in securing appropriations requests from both Minnesota and South Dakota (unfortunately these requests were not yet funded).

Prosser Funding Request

NAFA was active in two appropriation requests for the Agriculture Research Station in Prosser, WA. The first request was for forage specific research. Thanks to Washington's Senator Murray and Congressman Hastings, Congress appropriated \$200,000 for Forage Crop Stress Tolerance and Virus Disease Management at Prosser. The funding will be used to hire a post doc to work on abiotic and biotic stresses of alfalfa. ARS has committed to close collaboration between the Prosser post-doc and ARS scientists at St. Paul, MN, industry scientists, and the Noble Foundation in Ardmore, OK.

NAFA also joined a \$3.9 million request by some 80 ag groups in the Northwest to ensure adequate funding for the USDA-ARS research site at Prosser, WA, to facilitate continuation of critical research support to all stakeholders. This request comprised two components: 1) enhancement to mitigate funding shortfalls for current research programs (no new positions), and 2) enhancement to mitigate the critical gap in research expertise to address emerging needs of stakeholders in the areas of (a) sustainable irrigated cropping systems/water use efficiency and water quality, and (b) integrated natural resources management for irrigated cropping systems (two new positions). Unfortunately the economic climate did not allow this request to be funded.

Pollinator Funding

NAFA joined others in a request for funding from ag appropriators for pollinator research. The Pollinating Insects – Biology, Management, and Systematics Research Unit (PIRU), of USDA's Agricultural Research Service in Logan, UT received \$350,000 of the \$1.5 million appropriation. The funds will be used to study a number of issues such as improving the understanding of immunity in bees and how grazing management strategies might improve forages for bees. Managed bees are vital to alfalfa and alfalfa seed production.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

State & Regional Meetings

NAFA staff makes an effort to attend/speak at as many of our affiliate association's winter meetings as possible. The meetings prove to be an excellent opportunity to learn more about our affiliates and the issues they face. The 2009-2010 meetings included:

December 3	Western Hay Assn & Western Alfalfa Seed Growers Assn in Reno, NV
January 13	Washington State Hay Growers Association in Kennewick, WA
January 14	Idaho Alfalfa & Clover Seed Commission in Caldwell, ID
January 19	Western Alfalfa Seed Growers Assn in Las Vegas, NV
January 26	Midwest Forage Association in Wisconsin Dells, WI
February 2	Mid-America Alfalfa Expo in Kearney, NE
February 3	Wyoming Alfalfa Seed Council in Powell, WY
February 4	Montana Alfalfa Seed Committee in Billings, MT
February 8-12	Midwest Forage Association in Detroit Lakes/Cromwell/Avon/Lamberton/Rochester, MN

Hay & Forage Grower Magazine

NAFA renewed its relationship with Hay & Forage Grower magazine as its official publication. A column is featured four times a year with news relating to current NAFA initiatives and interviews with national policymakers. 2009-2010 articles included:

- Excerpts from the NAFA 2008-2009 Annual Report (*August*)
- CSP Offers Attractive Incentives for Alfalfa/Forage Producers (*November*)
- Salazar's Love of Agriculture on Display in His Washington Office (*March*)
- Congressman Hastings Talks Agriculture with NAFA (*May*)



NAFA's CSP Webinar Available Online!

Valuable Information on Supplemental Payments for Resource Conserving Crop Rotations. To listen to the archived webinar, visit www.alfalfa-forage.org.



Mark Wagoner, Congressman John Salazar (D-CO), Beth Nelson, and Jon Dockett



Congressman Doc Hastings (R-WA)