Momentum keeps building as NAFA continues to gain recognition for the alfalfa and forage industry. “Even though NAFA is still a very young organization, we've been able to establish ourselves as the leading voice for the alfalfa and forage industry,” said Beth Nelson, NAFA President. “Although more work needs to be done, we've made tremendous strides in raising the awareness of the role alfalfa and forages play in America’s agricultural landscape.”

The following are a few snippets from NAFA’s 2009-2010 Annual Report providing a glimpse of the important initiatives NAFA is involved with on behalf of the industry.

**Prosser Funding**

Thanks to Washington’s Senator Murray and Congressman Hastings, ag appropriators allocated $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 collaboration between the Prosser post-doc and ARS scientists at St. Paul, MN, industry scientists, and the Noble Foundation in Ardmore, OK.

**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, USDA-ARS, 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.

**CSP Webinar**

Due to NAFA’s efforts in educating Congress about alfalfa’s environmental benefits, the 2008 Farm Bill included a new Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) with supplemental payments to producers agreeing to adopt “resource-conserving crop rotations.” In September 2009, NAFA hosted a webinar featuring USDA-NRCS’s Steven Parkin and Norm Widman, detailing the purpose and scope of the new program. The webinar is archived on the NAFA website.