www.alfalfa.org

Alfalfa:
Not the Little Rascal You Remember

Forages are the 3rd most valuable field crop in the US!

National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance
4th Annual D.C. Fly-In

Tuesday, February 11 - Thursday, February 13, 2014

Alfalfa is key to sustainable agricultural systems and is an economic engine in rural communities - its value for soil conservation, nitrogen fixation, energy savings, crop rotation, and wildlife habitat is unsurpassed.

Alfalfa must offer a competitive value for farmers in order to provide these benefits and maintain or expand its acreage base. Being recognized in policy and research funding decisions is critical in keeping pace with other cropping choices.

NATIONAL ALFALFA & FORAGE ALLIANCE

NAFA®

NAFA Strategies & Policy Issues

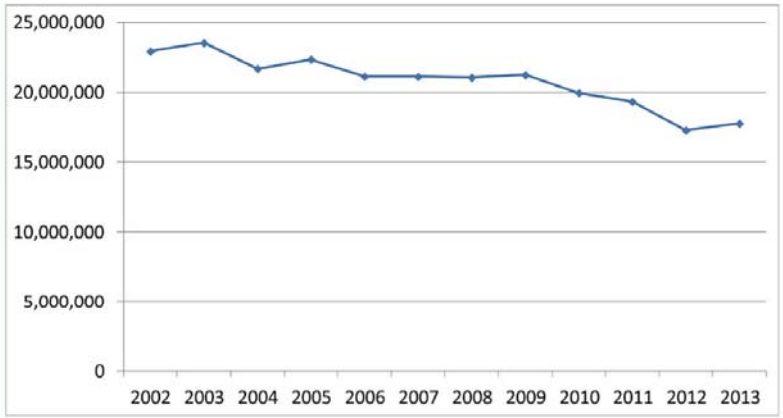
NAFA requests agencies use sound science in policy development and adhere to established comment procedures.

- **Alfalfa Safety Net**
  - Forage Crop Insurance (enhance existing program; new revenue & quality policies)
  - Title 1 status
- **Public Research**
  - ARS
  - Request continued support for U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center; hire new director
  - Request continued support for St. Paul ARS Forage Unit (i.e., fill vacant positions)
  - Request continued support for Logan ARS Units (Bee Lab & Forage Unit)
  - Maintain support for Prosser position
  - Reestablish the research money administered through the Logan Bee Lab
  - Establish two western positions to work in collaboration with the USDFRC
  - NIFA
  - Request reauthorization of Alfalfa & Forage Research Program in Farm Bill; seek funding
  - Work with NIFA on land grant commitment to forages (i.e., fill vacant forage positions)
  - Continue to work with NIFA on grant opportunities (similar to BRAG offering)
- **NASS Data**
  - Secure value reporting for green chop/haylage
  - Improve accuracy of alfalfa yield reporting (i.e., survey questions)
- **Assist in Establishing LLP Tolerances in Key Export Markets**
  - When appropriate, work with ASTA, agencies and other national associations
- **Crop Protection Tools**
  - Continue to work with EPA to support and maintain seed industry crop protection tools
  - Continue to work with EPA to support and maintain forage crop protection tools
- **Miscellaneous**
  - Maintain NRCS CSP language designating alfalfa as a "resource-conserving" crop
  - Work with EPA on RFS2 certification
  - Monitor the Endangered Species Act (ESA)

NATIONAL ALFALFA & FORAGE ALLIANCE

NAFA®

U.S. Acreage 2002-2013 (-22.5%)



Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

FY '12 USDA Research Expenditures by Crop

Crop	$million	Scientist Years	# of Projects
Corn	44.6	109.9	108
Cotton	42.6	104.2	68
Wheat	42.1	95	145
Soybean	34.5	82.9	84
Apple	9.9	24	26
Tomato	8.5	19.7	43
Sorghum	8.4	22.3	27
Greens/leafy veg	6.9	15.4	19
Alfalfa	3.7	9.9	14
Sunflower	3.2	8.1	8
Carrot	0.8	1.6	5
Canola	0.7	1.6	5

Source: Agricultural Research Information System

SUCCESS!

RMA developing Revenue & Quality Insurance Programs

NATIONAL ALFALFA & FORAGE ALLIANCE

NAFA®

SUCCESS!

ARS hires U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center Director, Mark Boggess

NATIONAL ALFALFA & FORAGE ALLIANCE

NAFA®

SUCCESS!

Alfalfa Pollinator Research Initiative Receives $100,000

NATIONAL ALFALFA & FORAGE ALLIANCE

NAFA®

SUCCESS!

Alfalfa Forage Research Program receives $1,350,000

NATIONAL ALFALFA & FORAGE ALLIANCE

NAFA®

Authorizing Language

Located in the *"High Priority Research and Extension Areas"* of the 2008 Farm Bill (Section 7204):

"(50) ALFALFA AND FORAGE RESEARCH PROGRAM. Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purpose of studying improvements in alfalfa and forage yields, biomass and persistence, pest pressures, the bioenergy potential of alfalfa and other forages, and systems to reduce losses during harvest and storage."

Forage is the 3rd most valuable field crop in the US!

AFRP Model

2014 North Central Canola Research Program

INTRODUCTION

The North Central Canola Research Program (NCCRP) is a multi-disciplinary, multi-state effort to enhance canola production and utilization. The NCCRP provides a framework for research and outreach activities in canola for the states of Minnesota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and North Dakota. The NCCRP provides funding for scientists to address research needs and issues that will increase canola productivity and profitability. Research on new or expanded areas of canola seed, oil, and meal will help address the major impediments to the expansion of canola acreage and production. Novel research will also expand market potential.

The goal of the NCCRP is to identify and address the major limitations to the expansion of canola acreage and production. Listed below are the priority areas for research considered for funding in 2014 (not listed in order of importance):

1. Production practices that optimize yield, quality, and profit
2. Disease management with emphasis on blackleg.
3. Insect management, identification and control
4. Straight-harvest canola research, including the use of desiccants
5. Rotation studies that determine optimal crops to precede or follow canola
6. Reduction of pod shattering, including identification of varieties resistant to shattering
7. Increase oil yield per acre in canola
8. Nitrogen/sulfur fertility management, including use-efficiency studies
9. Other traditional or non-traditional research that has potential to increase canola acres and production
10. Evaluating and improving canola production on marginal lands (e.g., saline soils).

RATIONALE AND SIGNIFICANCE

Priority Setting Process. The North Central Region currently includes the states of ND, SD, MN, and WI. Since the majority of canola acres are in ND and MN, only those states have formal grower organizations. Board members from these organizations consist of farmers, industry representatives, and university personnel. Each year the lead institution (NDSU) sends a request to all states for comments on research priorities. Research priorities are established based on experience and input from farmers, industry, and university representatives. An RFP is drafted based on these comments and distributed to Experiment Station Directors in each state. A technical review committee is organized to review research proposals to ensure they are consistent with research priorities and are scientifically sound. This committee consists of grower board members; seed, chemical, and processor industry representatives; and university personnel.

Multi-State Cooperation. Collaboration with other states is common where research priorities and common problems or growing conditions exist. For example, NSDU and University of Minnesota (UM) collaborate with the University of Georgia on disease research. Collaboration is on-going with Kansas State University to identify winter canola germplasm that may be used in the more harsh climates of the northern plains. NDSU and Montana State University are collaborating on canola desiccation and harvest method research. The University of Minnesota is collaborating with the University of Wisconsin on Outreach activities. Rutgers University will participate in 2014 with pollination studies.

Involvement of USDA-ARS and Land-Grant Universities. The extent of involvement with USDA-ARS currently is through an indirect collaboration and complementary research. For example, NDSU and UM are conducting long-term crop rotation studies to determine the influence of preceding crops on canola as well as the impact of canola on following crops. USDA-ARS in Mandan, ND also has long-term crop sequence studies. NDSU, UM, and USDA-ARS scientists have exchanged information on these studies through direct discussions, field days, and publications. Collaboration between land-grant institutions within and outside the region is common. The North Central Region includes the states of ND, SD, MN, and WI. Researchers in these states have on-going collaborative research with several other states and Canada as well.

SELECTION PROCESS FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS

A call for proposals was sent to universities in the region on December 6, 2013. Eight proposals were received and reviewed by the NCCRP technical review committee in March 2014. The goal of the NCCRP is to identify and address the major limitations to the expansion of canola acreage and production. The committee selected proposals that had the greatest potential to address major canola production issues. The projects selected will focus on 1) optimizing nitrogen use, 2) canola desiccation and straight combining, 3) management strategies for canola diseases, 4) the impact of fungicides and flea beetles on blackleg, 5) developing canola varieties with better disease resistance, higher yield, and higher oil content, 6) determining if optimal canola pollination is occurring and develop management strategies to ensure optimal pollination, 7) managing aster yellows, and 8) identifying the impact on canola and soybean yields when grown in a tight rotation. The proposals identified for funding represent studies that can be completed in one year as well as more long-term research requiring multiple years such as canola breeding. However, each researcher understands that actual funding is for one year only even though the proposed research may require multiple years. Each research project will have to be submitted anew each year with future approval based on demonstration of sufficient progress.

The 2014 projects approved by the NCCRP committee can be grouped into the following objectives: 1) agronomic methods that will enhance production, 2) management strategies for canola diseases, and 3) development of canola varieties with more disease resistance and higher oil content. Although the projects can be placed into these three categories, they are led by six separate researchers from various disciplines including plant breeding, plant pathology, entomology, weed science, and general agronomy. The projects do not necessarily fit into one unified, cohesive effort to enhance canola production, but represent attempts to address distinct issues that currently impede canola production. Because each research project is distinct, we believe it is best to address them separately in this proposal.

House Ag Approps Mark

Alfalfa Research.—The Committee supports research into alfalfa seed and forage systems which hold the potential to increase yields and milk production and improve genetics.

Senate Ag Approps Mark

Alfalfa and Forage Research.—The Committee notes that research into alfalfa seed and alfalfa forage systems holds the potential to increase yields, increase milk production, and improve genetics. The Committee recommendation includes $1,350,000 to support research into the improvement of yields, water conservation, creation of new uses, and the development of new storage and harvest systems.

Alfalfa Forage Research Program (AFRP)

The Alfalfa and Forage Research Program (AFRP) supports integrated, collaborative research and technology transfer to improve the efficiency and sustainability of conventional and organic forage production systems. AFRP encourages projects that establish multi-disciplinary networks to address priority national or regional science needs of the forage industry. By bringing together expertise from multiple organizations and states, these projects will have greater impact and will enhance the effectiveness of limited state, federal and industry resources.

AFRP Priorities

1. Improving alfalfa forage and seed yield through better nutrient, water and/or pest management;
2. Improving persistence of alfalfa stands by lessening biotic or abiotic stresses;
3. Improving alfalfa forage and seed harvesting and storage systems to optimize economic returns;
4. Improving estimates of alfalfa forage quality as an animal feed to increase forage usage in animal feeds; and/or
5. Breeding to address biotic and abiotic stresses that impact forage yield and persistence and the production of seed for propagation.

AFRP Collaboration

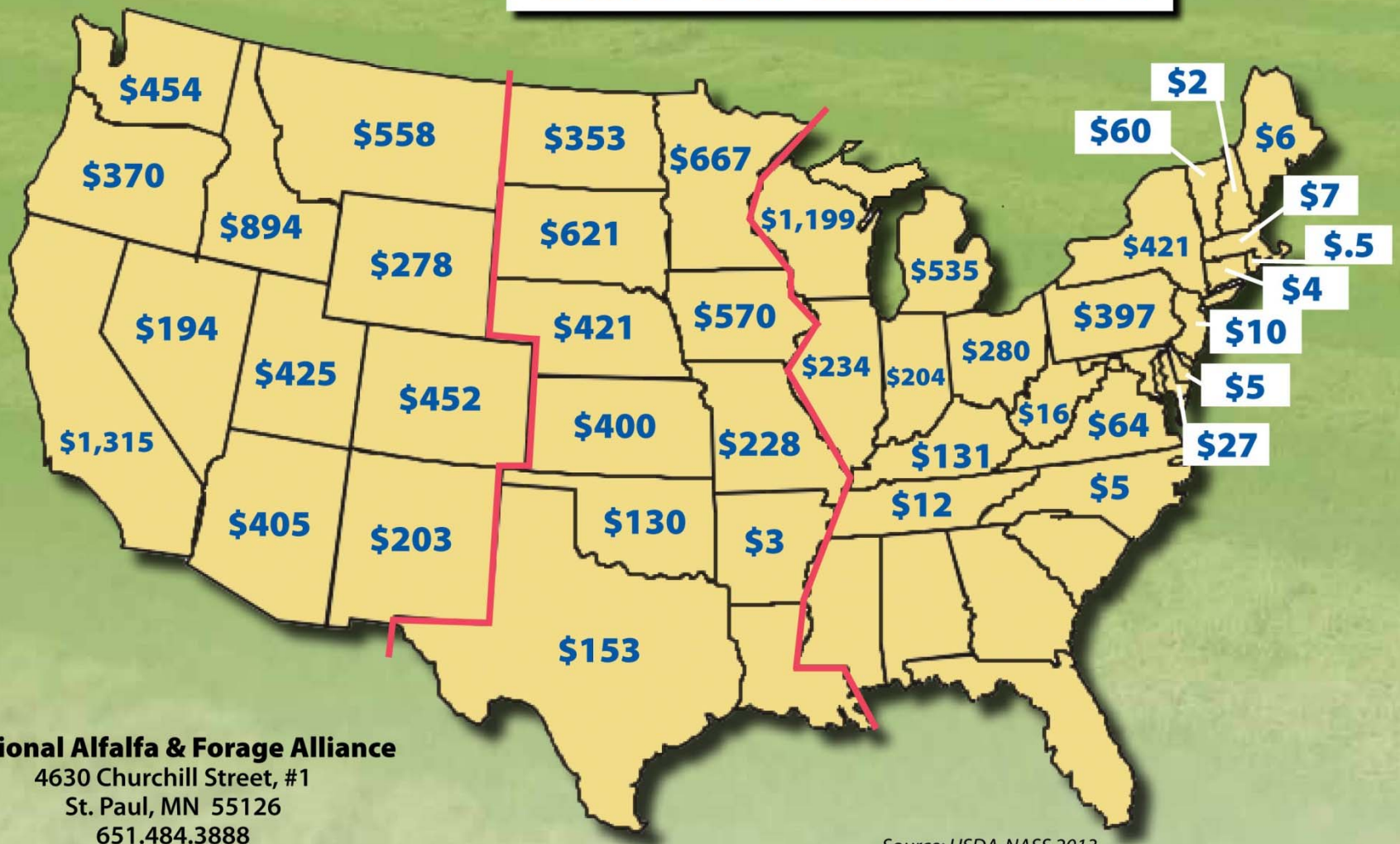
C. Project Types

Only projects that integrate research and extension objectives will be considered. Projects must be collaborations of at least three states and at least two of the states must be from the same region (See table in Part I B). Multiple applications can be accepted from each region and awards may or may not be distributed equally among the three regions. Applications may request a project period of up to three years. The total project budget cannot exceed a maximum of $165,000 for the entire project period.

Value of Alfalfa Production

$12.7 billion in 2013

Numbers listed in millions (000,000)



National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance
4630 Churchill Street, #1
St. Paul, MN 55126
651.484.3888
nafa@comcast.net

Source: USDA-NASS 2013

(Includes dry hay & haylage for CA, ID, IL, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, NM, NY, OH, PA, SD, TX, VT, WA, and WI.)

AFRP Funding Restrictions

D. Funding Restrictions

Section 716 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (P.L. 113-76) limits indirect costs to 30 percent of the total Federal funds provided under each award. Therefore, when preparing budgets, applicants should limit their requests for recovery of indirect costs to the lesser of their institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 30 percent of total Federal funds awarded.

Funds awarded under this program may not be used for the renovation or refurbishment of research, education, or extension space; the purchase or installation of fixed equipment in such space; or the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of buildings or facilities.

AFRP Evaluation Criteria

B. Evaluation Criteria

We will use the evaluation criteria below to review applications submitted in response to this RFA:

1. Potential of the project to improve alfalfa forage and seed production systems as earlier described under program priorities (20 points)
2. Potential that the project objectives can be successfully achieved during the project time line (10 points)
3. Conceptual adequacy of the proposed methods and procedures (40 points)
4. Appropriate plans are in place to deliver usable information to end-users (20 points)
5. Appropriate team members are in place to achieve project objectives (10 points)

NAFA Exploring Additional Research Funding

Checkoff

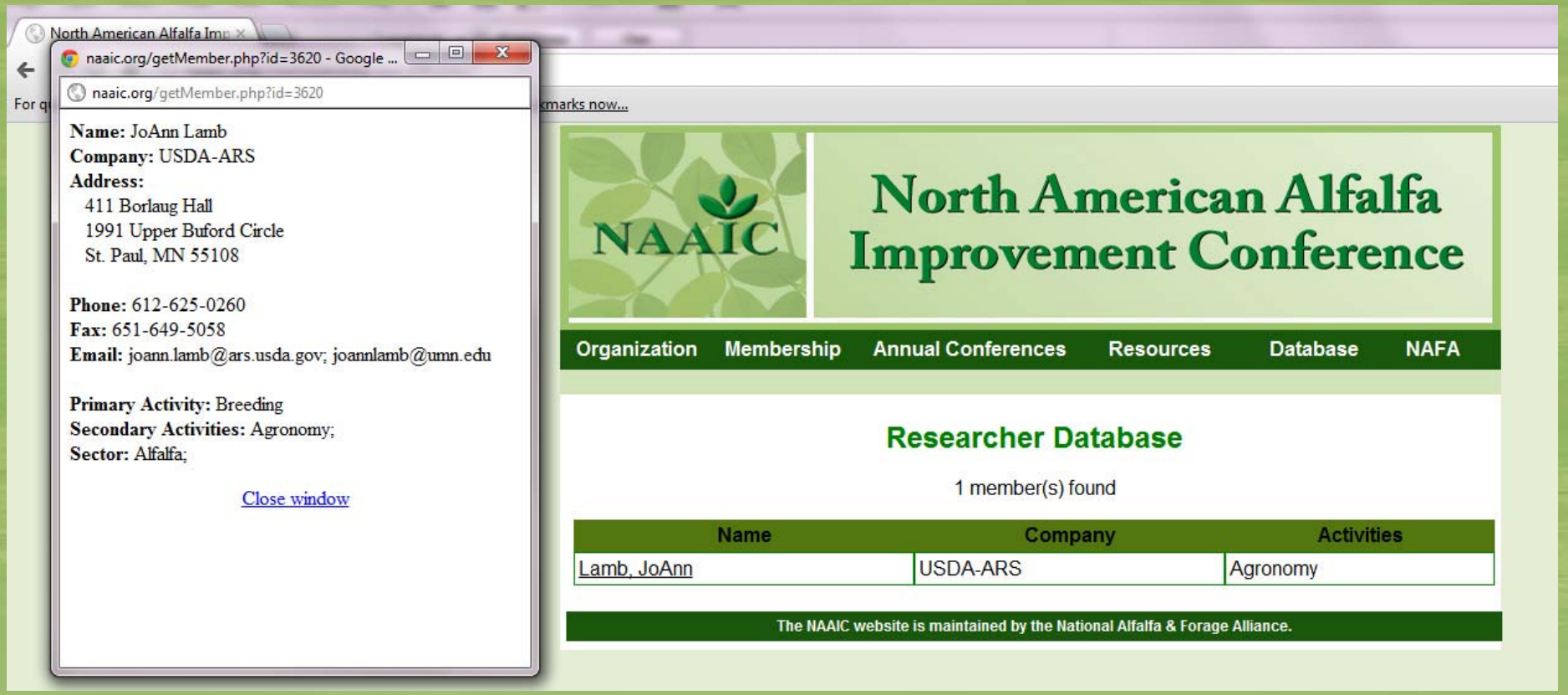
Foundation for Food & Agriculture - $200 million

$50,000 for Prosser

Other NAFA Initiatives

- AITS – Bloomington, MN • November 2014
- Variety Leaflet – HFG/PFG & new online searchability
- Disease Compendium Sponsor
- Coexistence Strategy
  Successful BMP Review & 16 GE; 2 APS GOZs
- Coalition for Safe and Affordable Food
- Forage Shortage Strategy


NAAIC
North American Alfalfa Improvement Conference
Organization
Membership
Annual Conferences
Resources
Database
NAFA
Researcher Database
Last Name:
Company/Agency/University:
Sector:
Primary Research Activity:
Secondary Research Activities:
Search
The NAAIC website is maintained by the National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance.



naaic@naaic.org