



NATIONAL ALFALFA & FORAGE ALLIANCE

Beth Nelson, President

St. Paul, Minnesota

The National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance (NAFA) was formed on April 6, 2006. Its membership consists of state/regional seed associations, **state/regional hay associations**, genetic suppliers, seed marketers, allied industry, and research/extension affiliates. Each of these industry segments has representation on the NAFA board of directors.

NAFA has two offices. The headquarters is in St. Paul, Minnesota under the direction of NAFA President Beth Nelson. The western office is in Kennewick, Washington under the direction of Executive Secretary Rod Christensen.

MISSION & OBJECTIVE

NAFA's mission is 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.

Training and Education – *providing solutions in training and educational materials*

- **The Alfalfa Intensive Training Seminar (AITS).** AITS is a 3-day seminar educating participants on topics such as variety testing, seed production, fertility, growth and development, irrigation, pest management, mowing and field drying, silage preservation, hay preservation, alfalfa in animal diets, and custom harvesting and economics.
- **Publications.** Publications are available at www.alfalfa-forage.org. Some of our many titles include: Growing Alfalfa in the South, Alfalfa the High Quality Hay for Horses, Understanding Forage Quality.
- **Variety Leaflet.** “Winter Survival, Fall Dormancy & Pest Resistance Ratings for Alfalfa Varieties” is published annually and is widely considered the most reliable source of information on the characteristics of over 250 alfalfa varieties.

Only varieties approved by the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA) and the National Alfalfa Variety Review Board are included in this publication.

Research & Policy Initiatives – *providing vision for a profitable future*

NAFA hosts a DC Fly-in in February to heighten the awareness of the **nation's 3rd most valuable crop** (to corn and soybean). Efforts are focused on enhancing research funding for this important crop and networking with congressional offices and regulators as they set agricultural, conservation and renewable fuel policies. Initiatives have included work on:

- ARS funding and projects
- Bioenergy
- Biotechnology
- Crop Protection Tools
- Farm Bill (CSP supplemental payments for Resource Conserving Crop Rotations)
- NIFA funding and projects
- Risk Management Agency – crop insurance issues

By working together we can accomplish more!