



MFA Membership Great Return on Investment!

Join at midwestforage.org

Member Benefits

MFA gets its grassroots support from individual members and our local councils. Membership supports efforts to increase the profitability and productivity of the industry and has several direct benefits:

Forage Focus Magazine

Clippings Newsletter

Money Saving Coupons - let your membership make you money! Coupons are sent to all farmer members.

Discounts to MFA Events

Members Only Research Database - review archived articles from the MFA publications and results from MFA's Midwest Forage Research Program projects.

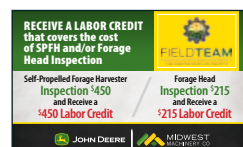
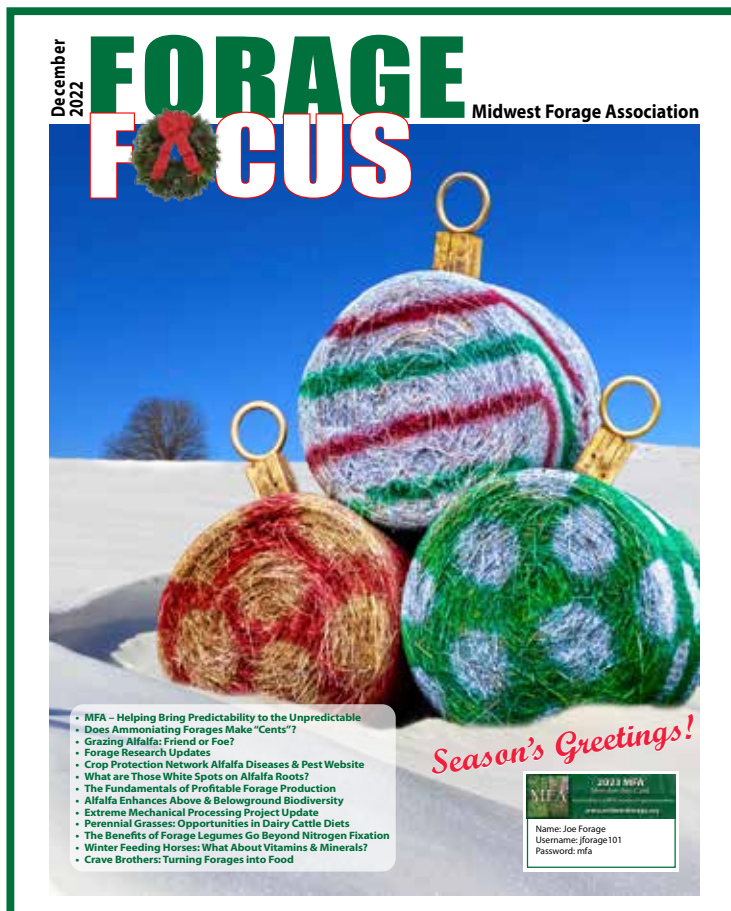
NAFA Membership - by being an MFA member, you automatically receive NAFA membership (see back).

Local Council Membership - Are you in one of our 15 local council areas? Your membership covers both.

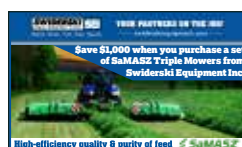
Research

MFA runs the **Midwest Forage Research Program (MFRP)**, which has awarded more than \$294,000 to projects that are important to our region. Priorities are determined by MFA members, and farmers assist in project selection.

MFRP has supported projects of several of our **local councils** as well as other researchers in our area.



Save \$\$\$ Now



Join **MFA** Today & Receive Valuable **2023 Coupons!**

MFA Is the Largest Hay Affiliate of NAFA!



Renew your MFA membership today & receive complimentary NAFA membership



Mission

Ensure the ability of all segments of the alfalfa and forage industry to compete effectively while maintaining access to global markets and meeting the requirements of those markets.

Objective

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.

Over \$14 Million Increase to ARS Alfalfa Research

Thanks to the advocacy and education work of NAFA, the disparity in ARS funding for alfalfa forage systems has been acknowledged with a reoccurring \$1 million increase to ARS's base budget for alfalfa improvement. This has turned into \$14 million in funding. This money has supported existing and new projects, including a new project on irrigation water use efficiency, production, handling, and utilization of alfalfa for dairies.

Just Over \$39 Million In Research Funding

Alfalfa is the nation's 4th most valuable field crop, behind corn, soybean, and wheat, but for a long time alfalfa lacked an advocate on the national scale. In 2008, NAFA was successful in having the word "alfalfa" mentioned in the farm bill, for the first time ever. Using that recognition, NAFA has helped secure millions of dollars annually of federal research funding since 2014.

NAFA has also been successful in establishing the first Alfalfa Checkoff program in 2017, which is used to supplement federal funding.

While forage research funding was once hard to come by, researchers can now take advantage of:

U.S. Alfalfa Research Initiative (aka Alfalfa Checkoff)

Alfalfa Seed & Alfalfa Forage Systems Research Program, which was started in 2014 at \$1.35 million and has grown to \$3.5 million annually

Alfalfa Pollinator Research Initiative

Education

NAFA hosts the **Alfalfa Intensive Training Seminar (AITS)**, giving participants the knowledge they need to capitalize on their alfalfa investment. This annual education opportunity attracts participants from around the world.

NAFA maintains a **publication library** of forage information with free download and purchase options. This includes publications like Alfalfa Variety Ratings Winter Survival, Fall Dormancy & Pest Resistance Ratings for Alfalfa Varieties (updated annually); Alfalfa for Profit, Understanding Forage Quality; and Alfalfa, Wildlife and the Environment.

NAFA maintains **Coexistence Documents** for best management practices for growing GE and APS alfalfa. These documents are reviewed annually.

Alfalfa Seed & Alfalfa Forage Systems Research Program (ASAFS)

Research funding going to 39 states.



Additional Advocacy

NAFA has several priorities to help keep alfalfa a viable crop for the landscape. This includes work with Risk Management Agency (RMA) to improve crop insurance options; work with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on crop protection tools; work with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for better recognition in conservation programs; facilitating meetings to help with trade issues, and advocating for the inclusion of forages in federal programs (i.e., CFAP 2).