



# MFA Membership Great Return on Investment!

Join at [midwestforage.org](http://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 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 14 local council areas? Your membership covers both.

## Research

MFA runs the **Midwest Forage Research Program (MFRP)**, which has awarded more than \$307,000 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.

December 2023

# FORAGE FOCUS

Midwest Forage Association

Season's Greetings!

Name: Joe Forage  
Username: forage101  
Password: mfa

- MFA - 20 Years of Supporting the Industry
- Milk Potential with Winter Precision Feeding of Cover Crops
- In Vitro Methane Production Assays - Tool for Minimizing Dairy Cattle Enteric Methane Emissions
- Manure NIRS Technology & Its Applications
- Balage Use Strategies
- Waste Not, Want Not with Your Hay Resources
- A New Era in Alfalfa
- Forage Research Updates
- Forages for Winter Feeding Horses: Are They Safe to Feed?
- Alfalfa Makes Corn Silage Better
- Weed Control in Established Alfalfa & Terminating a Stand
- East Central Wisconsin Dairy Now in its 5<sup>th</sup> Generation

Bringing The Latest in Forage News & Events

# Clippings

Midwest Forage Association

November 27, 2023

Upcoming Events

Managing Forage Feedout Losses

*Jerome Clark, University of Wisconsin Agriculture Educator, Chippewa County*

The forage harvesting season has wrapped up in 2023 for much of the Midwest. The 2023 forage growing and harvesting season has been a challenge as the season started out wet, turned dry through most of the

BACKED BY DATA. BUILT FOR YOUR ACRES.

Purchase 10+ bags of CHOPMAN Alfalfa Seed and receive your gift of choice.

GREATER POTENTIAL. GOOD MOVE.

Receive a **\$50 Gift Card** with Purchase of Eight Bags of Forage First® Alfalfa

\$50 Gift Card

Receive a \$50 Visa Gift Card with Purchase of 5 Bags of Alfalfa Partners Alfalfa Seed

EG-BAG

**\$250 off a T-Series Ag-Bagger** purchased by June 30, 2024

Altech

**\$50 Visa Gift Card** with purchase of EGALIS

Eisenbraun AG Services

**\$2,000 off any R.O.C. merger in stock (excludes RT 380)** or **\$1,500 off any new merger order** purchased by June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

HARVEST TEC

Upgrade your old preservative applicator and receive a **FREE IPAD** with the purchase of a Harvest Tec 300 or 700 series automatic applicator through your local Harvest Tec dealer.

AGASSIZ

Receive a **\$50 Visa Gift Card** with purchase of 6 bags of Agassiz Seed Alfalfa

\$50 VISA GIFT CARD

With purchase of 8 bags of Harvest products

CP Foods

Present this coupon for **\$50 off** the purchase price of SilageMaster products or Chris Massei Inoculant products.

LEGACY SEEDS

Receive a **\$50 GIFT CARD** with the purchase of 8 bags of Legacy Seed-Bred Alfalfa

RECEIVE A LABOR CREDIT TO COVER THE COST OF SPFH & FORAGE HEAD INSPECTION

Self-Propelled Forage Harvester Inspection Price \$400 | Labor Credit \$450  
Forage Head Inspection Price \$215 | Labor Credit \$215

REAL-TIME RESULTS, ANYTIME, ANYWHERE

**15% OFF X-NIR Portable Handheld Analyzer**

# Save \$\$\$ Now

Join **MFA** Today & Receive Valuable **2024 Coupons!**

Subject to change  
Actual coupons will be sent with membership cards

## MFA Is the Largest Hay Affiliate of NAFA!



Renew your MFA membership today & receive complimentary NAFA membership



## Over \$58 Million In Research Funding

Alfalfa is the nation's 4<sup>th</sup> 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 \$4 million annually
- Alfalfa Pollinator Research Initiative**

Alfalfa Seed & Alfalfa Forage Systems Research Program (ASAFS)  
Research funding going to 40 states.



### 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.

## \$24 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 recurring increases to ARS's base budget for alfalfa improvement. This has turned into \$24 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.

## 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.

## 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).