LETTER OF INVITATION

To: Potential participants in the UC Alfalfa Cultivar Trials.

From: Craig Giannini, SRA, UC Davis
       Dan Putnam, Forage Agronomist, UC Davis

Phone: 530-754-7521 (Craig Giannini), 530-752-8982 (Dan Putnam) Fax: 530-752-4361

EMAIL: clgiannini@ucdavis.edu WEB: http://alfalfa.ucdavis.edu
EMAIL: dhputnam@ucdavis.edu

Re: Invitation to enter the 2013-planted UC Alfalfa Cultivar Trials

Dear Fellow Alfalfa Scientists:

We hereby invite you to submit varieties for new alfalfa variety trials to be planted in California this year. Three trials: 1) Tulelake (Siskiyou County), 2) Kearney (Fresno County), and 3) Salt Tolerance Trial (West Side Field Station, Fresno County) are planned. The two trials of immediate concern are Tulelake and Kearney. We will contact you later about the Salt Tolerance Trial at West Side. FYI, results from current trial results are published at: http://alfalfa.ucdavis.edu/+producing/variety/

Details:

1) Tulelake Field Station. This is an Intermountain Site (Klamath Basin) incorporating primarily Fall Dormancy Varieties 2-4, with an occasional 5 or 6 (if you feel that it has good winter-survival characteristics). This will entail 3 or 4-harvests/year (typically 4), and we usually continue this trial for 4 years. Tulelake is characterized by cold winters, and warm dry summers. The soils are black peaty loams. This is an irrigated site. CVs have been 4-9% at this site. This trial will have separate planting blocks of Conventional & Roundup Ready® Alfalfa. This will enable us to use different weed control measures for each type (linkage of weed control system with variety).

   Planting Date: mid-August, 2013.

   Response needed: Paperwork (form): ASAP or latest by July 22, via attached entry sheet (just return this email) to clgiannini@ucdavis.edu, and dhputnam@ucdavis.edu.

Seed due date:

Released Varieties: We want to obtain the seed from commercial bags. Since these are all dormant lines, please arrange to have the lines available in the University of Wisconsin system, to be sent to us: Seed needed ASAP or by August 1, 2013.

Experimental Varieties: (Send 300 g seed directly to: Craig Giannini, Department of Plant Sciences, Mail Stop #1 PES Building, University of California, Davis, CA 95616 We will need 300 grams of seed for this location. Let us know if you have seed limitations.

2) Kearney Agricultural Center. This is a Central Valley site (in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley), on sandier soils on the east side of Fresno County. Fall Dormancies from 7 through 10 are typical (most typical are FD 8-9, though some growers grow lower dormancy levels for higher quality.) 8 cuts are typical. This is a Mediterranean site: cool rainy winters, hot dry summers. This is an irrigated site. The CVs have been 6.5-7.5% at this site. This trial will have separate planting blocks of Conventional & Roundup
Ready® Alfalfa. This will enable us to use different weed control measures on those blocks (linkage of weed control system with variety).

**Planting Date:** mid-September

**Response needed:** Paperwork (form) ASAP or latest by **July 22** via attached entry sheet (just return this email). Send Response Sheet to: clgiannini@ucdavis.edu. And dhputnam@ucdavis.edu

**Seed due date:**

**Released Varieties:** We want to obtain the seed from commercial bags. Since these are all mostly non-dormant lines, please arrange to have the commercially-available bags (50 lb) to be sent to us at Davis (or we pick up if nearby-we can return the bags after sampling): Seed needed ASAP or by **September 3, 2013.**

**Experimental Varieties:** (Send 300 g seed directly to: Craig Giannini, Department of Plant Sciences, Mail Stop #1 PES Building, University of California, Davis, CA 95616 We will need 300 grams of seed for this location. Let us know if you have seed limitations.

3) **Salt Trial (West Side Field Station).** We will implement a salt-tolerance yield and observation trial in October, 2013. Our objectives here are to 1) provide publically available yield data that will confirm relative salt tolerance of released (or soon-to-be released) varieties, 2) provide an opportunity for screening of breeding lines for salt tolerance (observation/ratings). We will likely have the capability of applying water of EC of 7-10 on site for both yield evaluation and screening of breeding lines. Further information on this trial will be forthcoming. Please contact Dan Putnam (530-752-8982) if you wish to discuss this possibility. Another notice will be sent out on this project in several weeks.

**Procedure:** Please email the below sheet (fill out and hit reply to Craig & Dan) showing your intentions as soon as possible so that we can allocate space in the trial (due latest **July 22**). Space may be limited, so list your varieties in order of preference, in the event we need to limit the entries (companies should include at least 1 released variety). Please list the FD characteristics, and other information.

**Seed.** All certified cultivars or cultivars near certification as well as experimental lines are eligible for entry. Blends, brands, or non-certified cultivars are not accepted.

**How these trials are funded:** We receive support for some of the expenses from California Crop Improvement Association (Seed growers), and the University of California Cooperative Extension, and the UC Experiment Station. However, these trials are dependent upon donations from seed companies to be sustained. Suggested amount per entry: $850 Tulelake, $900 Kearney. After the trial entries are set, please send your donation to: Dan Putnam, Department of Plant Sciences, Mail Stop #1 PES Building, University of California, Davis, CA 95616, with an accompanying letter with the following language: “Enclosed is an unrestricted gift of XXXX to support the forage research program of Dr. Daniel H. Putnam. (checks should be made out to ‘Regents, University of California).

We are looking forward to working with you on these trials. Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Craig Giannini (530-304-4766) clgiannini@ucdavis.edu

Dan Putnam (530-304-1003) dhputnam@ucdavis.edu

UC Davis