2021 Western Alfalfa & Forage Symposium
November 16-17-18, 2021
Grand Sierra Resort and Hotel, Reno,
Program

Organized by:

Hosted by:
California Alfalfa & Forage Association, representing thousands of California forage growers.

Symposium Chairs:
Dan Putnam, University of California, Earl Creech, Utah State University, Emily Meccage, Forage Genetics International

Schedule of Events
Day One - Tuesday, November 16, 2021

6:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.  Symposium and Exhibitor Registration

7:30 a.m.  Continental Breakfast (Tour Participants Only)

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  Exhibitor/Poster Set-Up

8:00 a.m. – 5:15 p.m.  Agricultural Educational Tour in Northern Nevada

Overview: Tour stops will include a large western dairy production operation, a specialized goat dairy, Frey Ranch Distillery, the Derby Dam and Newslands Water Project, and a hay export operation. Pest Control (PCA) and Certified Crop (CCA) Continuing Education Credits offered (includes on-bus video training opportunity for pest management).

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  Symposium Welcome Reception
Hors D’oeuvres and No Host Cocktails
Exhibits Open
Posters on Display
DAY Two - Wednesday, November 17, 2021

6:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.  Symposium Registration

7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.  Exhibits Open

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  Symposium Main Session
  • 8:00 a.m.  Welcome

.Session I. 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Economics and Water Trends:
  • 8:10 a.m.  Status of the Western Forage Industry,
    Josh Callen, The Hoyt Report, Twin Falls, ID
  • 8:35 a.m.  Current Trends and Challenges for the Western Dairy Industry
    Paul Sousa, Western United Dairies, Turlock, CA
  • 9:00 a.m.  International Trade Dynamics in Hay and Impacts on Markets
    Dan Sumner, University of California, Davis, CA
  • 9:25 a.m.  Water Situation in West and Impacts on Forages
    Jason Kelley, USDA-ARS, Parlier, CA
  • 9:50 a.m.  Discussion
  • 10:00 a.m.  Break

.Session II. 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Water, Climate Change, and the Environment
  • 10:30 a.m.  The Important Role of Alfalfa in an Uncertain Water Future
    Dan Putnam, University of California, Davis, CA
  • 10:55 a.m.  Key Role of Forages in Climate-Smart Agriculture
    Josh Gamble, USDA-ARS, St. Paul, MN
  • 11:20 a.m.  Rethinking Methane – Livestock’s Path to Climate Neutrality
    Frank Mitloener, University of California, Davis, CA
  • 11:45 a.m.  Discussion

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Symposium Lunch

1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Symposium Breakout Sessions – Two Sessions Run Concurrently

Breakout I: Pest Management
  • 1:30 p.m.  Alternative Burn-Down Strategies for Alfalfa Weed Control
    Earl Creech, Utah State University, Logan, UT
  • 1:50 p.m.  Weed Control in Seedling Alfalfa
    Albert Adjesiow, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID
  • 2:10 p.m.  Poisonous Plants in Forage Production
    Bryan L. Stegelmeier, USDA-ARS, Logan, UT
  • 2:30 p.m.  Rodent Control Strategies for Forage Production
Roger Baldwin, University of California, Davis, CA

- 2:50 p.m. Discussion
- 3:00 p.m. Break
- 3:30 p.m. Grasshoppers: To Treat or Not to Treat?
  Greg Abbot, USDA-APHIS, Logan, Utah
- 3:50 p.m. Alfalfa Weevil Management & Resistance Issues
  Ian Grettenberger, University of California, Davis, CA and Kevin Wanner, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT
- 4:10 p.m. Alfalfa Aphid Management in California’s Low Desert Environment
  Michael Rethwisch, UCCE, Blythe, CA
- 4:30 p.m. Using Drones to Control Pests in Alfalfa
  Rachael Long, UCCE, Woodland, CA and Ken Giles, University of California, Davis, CA
- 4:50 p.m. Discussion

Breakout 2: Water Management

- 1:30 p.m. Innovative Technologies for Water Conservation in Flood Irrigation Systems
  Khaled Bali, University of California, Kearney Research and Extension Center, Parlier, CA
- 1:50 p.m. Optimizing Overhead Irrigation Systems
  Matt Yost, Utah State University, Logan, UT
- 2:10 p.m. Plusses and Minuses with the Utilization of SDI in Alfalfa
  Doug Larson, Ag Water Chemical, Fresno, CA
- 2:30 p.m. Alfalfa and Groundwater Management Strategies to Address Drought and Limited Water Supplies
  Helen Dahlke, University of California, Davis, CA
- 2:50 p.m. Discussion
- 3:00 p.m. Break

Breakout 3: Alternative Forages

- 3:30 p.m. Sugar Beets and Safflower as Alternative Winter Forages
  Dr. Steve Kaffka, University of California, Davis, CA
- 3:50 p.m. Double Cropping Both Winter and Spring Canola as Silage and Grain
  Dr. Steve Fransen, Washington State University, Prosser, WA
- 4:10 p.m. Hemp Production and Animal Feed Potential
  Dr. Serkan Ates, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR
- 4:30 p.m. Winter and Summer Annual Small Grain Forage Crops
  Dr. Guojie Wang, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR
- 4:50 p.m. Discussion
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  Exhibit Reception, Poster Presentations, and CAFA Auction
Hors D’oeuvres and No Host Cocktails
Exhibits Open
Posters on Display

Day Three – Thursday, November 18, 2021

8:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.  Main Session

*Soil Health and Fertility, Forage Systems, and the Future of Forage Crops*

- 8:00 a.m.  P and K Alfalfa Tissue Test Critical Levels  
  *Steve Norberg, Washington State University, Prosser, WA*
- 8:25 a.m.  Recycling and Management of Manure in Forage Crops  
  *Eric Young, USDA-ARS, Marshfield, WI*
- 8:50 a.m.  Soil Health: Beyond Organic Matter and Carbon  
  *Robert Dungan, USDA-ARS Kimberly, ID*
- 9:15 a.m.  Regeneration Nation: Alfalfa’s Role in Sustainable Agriculture  
  *Emily Meccage, FGI International, Muncy, PA*
- 9:40 a.m.  Discussion
- **9:55 a.m.**  BREAK
- 10:25 a.m.  Grazing Cover Crops, and Opportunity for Forage Producers  
  *Darrin Boss, Montana State University, Havre, MT*
- 10:50 a.m.  Management of Forages with High Nitrates  
  *Hayes Goosey, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT*
- 11:15 a.m.  Perspectives and Future of Research/Cooperative Extension (Multi-State Discussion of Priorities and Linkages Within Western States)  
  *Steve Fransen, Washington State University, Prosser, WA*

- **12:15 p.m.**  Adjourn Symposium

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https://calhaysymposium.com/