



CALIFORNIA  
ALFALFA AND FORAGE  
RESEARCH FOUNDATION

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## 2023 REQUEST FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

The California Alfalfa & Forage Research Foundation (CAFRF) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation. CAFRF's mission is to support research activities/initiatives that are of vital interest and direct benefit to alfalfa and forage growers.

CAFRF is currently seeking research funding proposals that have objectives to benefit California alfalfa growers, alfalfa-related industries, and alfalfa cropping systems in California.

CAFRF will consider proposals based on the following criteria:

- Proposals will be accepted from researchers from the University of California campus or UC-ANR and the California State University system.
- Data and reports delivered within one year of the grant award.
- Multi-year projects are feasible, but funding is only allocated on a year-to-year basis.
- Any issue of vital importance to California alfalfa growers will be considered. See the partial listing of subjects below. Additional issues may be posted on the CAFRF website.
- CAFRF must be recognized/identified as the lead donor of the project.
- No funds shall be allowed for overhead (indirect) costs.

### The proposals should include:

- **Cover Page (1 page):** Clearly state the principal investigator, institutional affiliation, contact information (address, email, phone), the total budget amount, and a brief summary of the proposal.
- **Project Narrative (3 pages maximum):** State clearly:
  1. Title
  2. Investigators and collaborators
  3. Location(s) of research
  4. Background and justification. Explain why this research is necessary and benefits the California growers and industries
  5. Overall purpose and specific objectives
  6. Methods and materials. Explain the approach, experimental design, and methods
  7. Timeline
  8. Data collected. What data will be generated and how will it be analyzed
  9. Outreach and extension. Explain how this data will be extended to interested parties
  10. Budget. Show specifically how funds will be used by category (e.g., salary, benefits, supplies, travel, laboratory).

### Deadline:

The deadline for submission of funding proposals is **April 28, 2023**.

**Awards:**

Research grant(s) will be awarded at the discretion of the CAFRF board of directors for an amount of up to \$15,000. Due to funding limitations, smaller projects are encouraged. Proposals will not be accepted from private parties or non-profit organizations. No indirect costs or overhead for these funded projects will be allowed. Projects funded will depend upon the availability of funds and the quality of proposals. Proposals which are linked to larger potential funding sources are encouraged.

**Submission:**

Please submit your proposal via email attachment to Nicole Helms at [nicole@agamsi.com](mailto:nicole@agamsi.com).

**Issues of Importance to Alfalfa Growers:**

There are a wide range of critical issues that require research and are of strong interest to California alfalfa producers. While the Foundation is open to any creative idea that may impact alfalfa producers, below are several topics that appear to be of interest. "Seed" money for exploratory research is encouraged. While this list is not comprehensive, it may include:

- Crop Production
  - Irrigation Management (scheduling, improving water use efficiency)
  - Irrigation Technology (better sprinkler or flood systems, drip irrigation)
  - Harvest Scheduling (cutting Cycle Effects on yield and quality)
  - Harvest Management (conditioning, machinery, traffic, technology)
  - Fertilizers and Crop Nutrition (use of N, P, K, micronutrients, manures)
  - Stand Establishment (timing, method, seed treatments, tillage)
  - Variety Testing (variety X environment X management)
  - Genetics and Variety Development (breeding, gene editing, pest and salinity, drought resistance)
  - Salinity Management (techniques to manage salinity, soil treatments)
  - Alfalfa Grass mixtures (seeding patterns, varieties timing)
  - Organic Alfalfa (methods to produce organic alfalfa)
- Pest Management
  - Weed Management (during establishment and in-season weed control)
  - Insect Management (old and new pests, economic thresholds, new options)
  - Disease Management (fungicides, seed treatments, in-season)
  - Nematode Management (stem and root knot nematode)
  - Rodent Management (gopher, squirrel, vole management techniques)
- Alfalfa Utilization
  - Forage Quality Measurements (testing new methods to measure quality)
  - Standardizing Laboratories for Quality Measurement
  - New/Novel Uses for Alfalfa
  - Animal Response (ration balancing, alfalfa in TMR, dairy feeding studies)
  - Grazing Management (options for alfalfa/grass, mixes and rotations, timing, bloat)
  - Alfalfa for Horses (testing criteria, crop management for horses)
  - Alfalfa for Human Food (extraction of protein, other applications)
  - Industrial Options (phytochemicals, biofuels, other applications)
- Environmental
  - Wildlife Interactions with Alfalfa (documenting value to wildlife habitat, enhancing value)
  - Crop Rotation, Cropping Systems (effect of alfalfa on N and benefits to other crops)
  - GMO Adaptation (GMO-conventional coexistence, impacts on environment)
  - Soil Health (soil conservation, tillage, tillage)
  - Alfalfa Environmental Impacts (offsite movement of pesticides, water)

- Alfalfa – Nitrogen Interactions (N<sub>2</sub> fixation, efforts to control NO<sub>3</sub> pollution, manures in alfalfa)
- Alfalfa and Life Cycle Analysis (energy, greenhouse gas, other impacts)
- Economics
  - Cost Studies (crop value, controlling costs)
  - Behavior of Markets (relationship of quality to markets, price)
  - Export Markets (opportunities, methods)
  - Market Standardization
- Regulation
  - Air and Water Pollution (positive and negative influences of alfalfa systems)
  - Issues Associated with Pesticides (approvals, registration)
  - Water Regulation and impacts on Alfalfa
  - Water Transfers & Economics
  - GMOs and Impediments to the export of hay to foreign buyers

For more information and updates on the Foundation, please contact Nicole Helms at [nicole@agamsi.com](mailto:nicole@agamsi.com), or visit their website: [www.alfalfafoundation.org](http://www.alfalfafoundation.org)