2021 Western Alfalfa & Forage Symposium

November 16-17-18, 2021
Grand Sierra Resort, Reno, NV

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.

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 1: Pest Management
  • 1:30 p.m.  Burn-Down Strategies for Alfalfa Weed Control *Earl Creech*, *Utah State University, Logan, UT*
  • 1:50 p.m.  Residual and Postemergence Weed Control in Seedling Alfalfa *Albert Adjesiwor*, *University of Idaho, Kimberly Research & Extension Center*
• 2:10 p.m. Toxic Plants that Contaminate Hay and Other Forages in the Western United States
  Bryan L Stegelmeier, Research Veterinary Medical Officer USDA ARS, Logan Utah
• 2:30 p.m. Managing Pocket Gophers in Alfalfa
  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. Blue Alfalfa Aphids in the Western US - Management Challenges and Successes Vary by Location
  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. Alfalfa on Subsurface Drip Irrigation (SDI) – Pros and Cons
  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
  Steve Kaffka, University of California, Davis, CA
• 3:50 p.m. Double Cropping Both Winter and Spring Canola as Silage and Grain  
  *Steve Fransen, Washington State University, Prosser, WA*

• 4:10 p.m. Hemp Production and Animal Feed Potential  
  *Serkan Ates, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR*

• 4:30 p.m. Winter and Summer Annual Small Grain Forage Crops  
  *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. Using Hay Tests Samples to Maximize Economic Returns from P and K Fertilization  
  *Steve Norberg, Washington State University, Pasco, 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

For Symposium information, up-to-date schedule, registration, and sponsorship/exhibitor opportunities, please visit our website https://calhaysymposium.com/.