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


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

Monday, November 15, 2021

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  Symposium and Exhibitor Registration

Day One - Tuesday, November 16, 2021

6:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.  Symposium and Exhibitor Registration
7:30 a.m. – 7:55 a.m. Continental Breakfast (Tour Participants Only)
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  Exhibitor/Poster Set-Up
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 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. Pre-registration is required. Bus departs promptly at 8:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  Symposium Welcome Reception
   Hors D’oeuvres and No Host Cocktails, Exhibits Open, and Posters on Display

Day Two - Wednesday, November 17, 2021

6:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.  Symposium Registration
7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.  Continental Breakfast
7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.  Exhibits Open/Posters on Display
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Symposium Main Session
   •  8:00 a.m.  Welcome
     Maninder K. Walia, University of Nevada, Reno, NV

Session I. 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Economics, Dairy, Trade, and Water Trends
Moderator: David Hannaway, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR
   •  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  
William Matthews, 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
Moderator: Juan Solomon, University of Nevada, Reno, NV

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

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

Session III. 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (concurrent): Pest Management (Weeds and Rodents)
Moderator: Tom Getts, University of California Cooperative Extension, Susanville, CA

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 Adjesiwar, University of Idaho, Kimberly Research & Extension Center, Kimberly, ID

2:10 p.m.  Toxic Plants that Contaminate Hay and Other Forages in the Western United States  
Bryan L Stegelmeier, 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
Session IV. 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (concurrent): Pest Management (Insects)
(Moderator: Ayman Mostafa, University of Arizona, Phoenix, AZ)
- 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, University of California Cooperative Extension, Blythe, CA
- 4:30 p.m. Using Drones to Control Pests in Alfalfa  
  Rachael Long, University of California Cooperative Extension, Woodland, CA  
  and Ken Giles, University of California, Davis, CA
- 4:50 p.m. Discussion

Session V. 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (concurrent): Water Management
(Moderator: Leonard Lauriault, New Mexico State University, Tucumcari, NM)
- 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

Session VI. 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (concurrent): Alternative Forages
(Moderator: Anowarul Islam, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY)
- 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 CAFRF Auction  
Hors D’oeuvres and No Host Cocktails, Exhibits Open, and Posters on Display
Day Three – Thursday, November 18, 2021

7:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Symposium Registration
7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Exhibits Open/Posters on Display
7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast
8:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Main Session

Session VII. 8:00 a.m. – 9:55 a.m. Soil Health and Fertility, Forage Systems, and Environment
(Moderator: Rachael Long, University of California Cooperative Extension, Woodland, CA)

- 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, Forage Genetics International, Muncy, PA
- 9:40 a.m. Discussion
- 9:55 a.m. Break

Session VIII. 10:25 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Grazing Forages, Nitrates, Future of Forages
(Moderator: Emily Meccage, Forage Genetics International, Muncy, PA)

- 10:25 a.m. Grazing Cover Crops and Opportunity for Forage Producers
  Sam Wyffels, 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. Historical Perspectives and Future of Forages
  Moderator: Emily Meccage, Forage Genetics International, Muncy, PA
  Panel: Mylen Bohle, Oregon State University; Steve Fransen, Washington State University; Mike Ottman, University of Arizona; Glen Shewmaker, University of Idaho; Dan Putnam, University of California, Davis.

- 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/.