**January 2017**

To: Alfalfa Seed Personnel

From: Bruce Anderson, Extension Forage Specialist

Heidi Hillhouse, Research Technologist

Subject: Nebraska Alfalfa Variety Performance Trials

Performance trials of public and proprietary alfalfa seed material will be established at one test location in 2017. No fees will be assessed publicly-developed varieties. A fee of $600 will be assessed per private entry.

**A. Location for 2017 Performance Trial:**

**Area County Soil Type Irrigated**

East Central Nebraska Lancaster silty clay loam no

**B. Description of Performance Trials:**

Entries will be planted during the spring season in plots 12 to 20 feet in length consisting of five rows, six inches apart, with a minimum of four replications. For the *Conventional Trial*, only non-glyphosate herbicides will be used. For the *Glyphosate Tolerant Trial*, glyphosate herbicide will be applied according to label in establishing alfalfa. Seeding year data will be collected and reported whenever cultural conditions and seedling growth suggest fair comparisons can be made without harming stands through harvest operations. All plots will be mechanically harvested and dry matter yields recorded for at least three years following the year of establishment unless stands are depleted sooner. Harvests in the establishment year will be taken at a frequency to facilitate healthy stand establishment; up to five cuts will be taken annually after the establishment year. Data such as stand establishment and persistence, maturity, disease and insect resistance, and rate of recovery will be taken when appropriate.

**C. Entries:**

Both commercially available varieties and experimental lines may be entered in the performance trials. Experimental varieties are desired to help develop release decisions and to provide earlier performance data to growers. The entrant is obligated to notify the Extension Forage Specialist with Nebraska Extension when the experimental designation is changed. There will be no limit on the number of entries per company unless space becomes restrictive.

**D. Entry Fees:**

Please make checks payable to the UNL Department of Agronomy and Horticulture.

**The entry fee of $600 per entry must accompany the application(s) for testing and should be received by March 15, 2017.**

**E. Seed:**

A 150-gram sample per entry, per trial is required from the applicant. Seed must be properly labeled; including purity and germination.

Named Varieties - Seed of Named Varieties may be sent directly from the entrant to the University of Nebraska. It must be seed of the variety which is a true sample of seed being offered for sale. Alternatively, a voucher with a list of merchandisers near Lincoln, NE may be provided by the entrant to permit the University of Nebraska to obtain seed from a commercial source. **Only commercially marketed seed may be used for named varieties.**

Experimentals - Seed of Experimentals may be sent directly from the entrant to the University of Nebraska. Entrant may treat experimental seed.

**Seed for testing should be received at the University of Nebraska by March 15, 2017.**

**F. Publication of Results:**

All results will be analyzed by statistical methods and published on the internet at <http://cropwatch.unl.edu/forages/varietygenetics> .

Data from varieties that have two or more years of data collected from at least one location also may be combined with previous data and reported in the Extension Circular ‘Selecting Alfalfa Varieties for Nebraska’, on the internet at <http://www.ianrpubs.unl.edu/sendIt/ec153.pdf> and in Extension Circulars ‘Spring Seed Guide’ and ‘Fall Seed Guide’. Data may also be published or distributed by other methods as determined by the University of Nebraska.

**G. Data from Experimental Seed:**

Data will be distributed in Nebraska Alfalfa Variety reports using the experimental designation. The variety name will be substituted for the experimental designation in extension publications upon notification of a varietal name. *It is the responsibility of the entrant to provide name change notifications.*

NebGuides, Extension Circulars, and other public domain publications may use data from experimental seed (Syn2 or later) using the varietal name. However, these reports will indicate less certainty in this data due to the uncertainty regarding performance of the population in later generations.