

## **Alfalfa Seed Quality Stewardship: California Stakeholder Team Meeting**

January 27, 2005

UC Davis Seed Biotechnology Center

A **California Stakeholder Team** meeting was held on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at the Seed Biotechnology Center, UC Davis. The goal of the meeting was to review the current knowledge for biotech alfalfa and develop stewardship guidelines for seed production of alfalfa in California. A general overview of current seed production practices, production practices with biotech traits; gene flow in alfalfa pollinated with honeybees; the Roundup Ready trait and stewardship models for alfalfa in the Pacific Northwest were reviewed. This was followed by a facilitated round-table discussion. A consensus model was developed for seed production of biotech alfalfa in dedicated seed fields in California.

### **Acknowledgements**

We would like to thank Sue Webster and Kitty Schlosser for recording the minutes of this meeting and facilitating the discussion.

### **The following people attended the meeting. The members of this team represent:**

1. UC researchers/Cooperative extension,
2. California Crop Improvement Association
3. Alfalfa Board
4. Key Seed Growers/Conditioners; Imperial Valley
5. Key Seed Growers/Conditioners; San Joaquin Valley
6. Seed Companies/Breeders

Mr. Jose Arias, Forage Genetics

Dr. Kent Bradford, Director, Seed Biotechnology Center

Mr. Chuck Deatherage, Seed Services, Inc.

Ms. Sharie Fitzpatrick, Forage Genetics

Mr. Paul Frey, Cal/West Seeds

Mr. Dan Gardner, Dairyland Seed

Mr. Danny Gigax, Monsanto

Mr. Corky Hansen, S & W Seed Co.

Mr. Michael Mullion, J. G. Boswell Co.

Mr. Ray Johnson, IV Milling Co.

Mr. Mark McCaslin, Forage Genetics

Ms. Shannon Mueller, UCCE Farm Advisor, Fresno County

Mr. Jeff Plourd, El Toro Export

Dr. Jon Reich, Cal/West Seeds

Mr. Kirk Rolfs, Pioneer

Mr. Bob Stewart, Director, California Crop Improvement Association (CCIA)

Dr. Larry Teuber, Professor, Plant Sciences/Foundation Seed Program

Dr. Allen Van Deynze, Biotechnology Specialist, Seed Biotechnology Center

Ms. Sue Webster, Program Representative, Seed Biotechnology Center

Ms. Kitty Schlosser, Department of Plant Sciences, UC Davis

## California Stewardship Guidelines for Seed Production of Biotech Alfalfa (BA)

### Information reported to State Crop Improvement

- BA seed field GPS coordinates
- Insect pollinator species used

### State "pinning map" (<http://ccia.ucdavis.edu/>)

- Access will be available to companies growing BA alfalfa seed only

### Information shared with companies

- Verified personnel of seed companies can call CCIA to check if the closest BA seed field is within a *specified* distance

### Information not shared with companies

- location of nearest BA seed field
- distance to nearest BA seed field

### Process-based "certification"

- Minimum isolation distance 3 miles
- Seedstock seed quality verified non biotech or biotech
- Minimum rotation time 3 years between types

### Testing-based "export certification"

- Standard **protein** adventitious presence test
- Detectable adventitious presence threshold 3000 seeds  
(0.1% at 95%)