

Western Alfalfa Improvement Conference
Mark Smith, chair

The WAIC met as a joint Western Society of Crop Science/Western Alfalfa Improvement Conference in Tucson, AZ in August 2001. Nine members were present. Members present suggested that we join the WSCS for future meetings.

Main goals for the WAIC for 2002:

Improve arena for professional exchange of ideas and information as well as interact with growers and producers of forages on a more regular basis. With this goal, the WAIC members at the 2002 NAAIC meeting in Sacramento, CA, voted to replace odd year WAIC summer meetings with yearly alfalfa/forage commodity group meetings around the Western States with the first being the Dec. 2002 California Alfalfa Symposium in Reno. Call for papers are currently underway for a one half-day program. This will also culminate with a business meeting of the WAIC and vote of new officers. The WAIC by-laws will be reviewed.

Concern about purity and consistency of check seed being maintained by WSU Pullman and the Regional PI station was mentioned during the 2001 and 2002 meetings. This was taken into advisement and concerns will be forwarded to Sam Stratton and Charlie Brummer outlining these concerns. On a positive note with the check seed system, Dave Stout is doing an excellent job in sending out requested check seed in timely fashion.

The WAIC has stopped publication of the Western University Variety Trials. This publication was expensive and time consuming to pull together. Results will be posted on each University web site and links provided to the NAAIC for easy referencing. A committee will be appointed to ensure that the state Web sites are current. Thanks to Paul St. Amand for his help in getting the Western States added to the NAAIC.org site.

If you are a member of the WAIC, please send in your email and mailing address to Lauren Johnson at the following address: ljohnson@calwestseeds.com. We are updating the address list for the 2002/2003 seasons.