

# NORTHEASTERN WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY Newsletter

## August 2001

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*Philadelphia, PA will be the site of the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the NEWSS (January 7-10, 2002).*



*The Annual Meeting will be held at the beautiful new Loews Hotel, formerly the historic art-deco style PSFS Bank building in the heart of Philadelphia.*

### **Comments from the President**

*Jeffrey Derr, NEWSS President*

We had another excellent Collegiate Weed Contest, held this time at the University of Connecticut Plant Science Research and Teaching Facility. The hosts for the contest were Frank Himmelstein and Todd Mervosh.

On behalf of NEWSS, I would like to thank Frank and Todd for all their hard work organizing this contest. All of the components of the contest and the meal functions went very smoothly. Frank and Todd even arranged for some great weather for the event! Thanks also to the approximately 30 volunteers who helped run the event and to BASF, Bayer, Dow, DuPont, FMC, Monsanto, Syngenta, and Valent for providing financial support for the contest. Fifty-nine students from nine schools participated in the event. A full report on the contest will be in the November issue of the newsletter.

George Knocklein from the Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society set up an excellent aquatic weed display at the contest. Hopefully we can make aquatic weeds a permanent part of the weed identification section of the contest. This is part of a larger goal of mine - greater cooperation between NEWSS and NE-APMS.

We are currently looking for a host for the 2002 Collegiate Weed Contest. If you are interested, please contact Dave Mayonado.

The day after the contest, the teams were given the opportunity to tour the biotech facility Monsanto operates in Mystic, CT. Approximately 50 students and coaches toured the site. Jim O'Brien at the Monsanto Mystic Research facility deserves our thanks for allowing us to visit. I would like to thank Tim Dutt for making the tour arrangements and Carrie Judge who led the tour. Carrie is working on another student tour for the annual meeting in January. Check the November newsletter for details.

Start making plans to attend the 56<sup>th</sup> NEWSS annual meeting January 7-10, 2002 at the Loews Hotel in Philadelphia. This excellent hotel is in downtown Philadelphia near the Reading Terminal Market and City Hall and within walking distance of the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, and other historic sites. The Executive Committee is working with Carolyn DeMoranville of NE-ASHS to have a tour of Longwood Gardens during our stay. Art Gover is working on a special session on invasive plants, addressing management of some key species in our region. Due to the success of last year's student mixer, we will be developing a similar program for Philadelphia.

This newsletter contains the Call for Papers for the 56<sup>th</sup> annual meeting. Scott Glenn, Program Chair, is working hard on plans for the meeting, assisted by the section chairs. Please consider presenting your research findings or updates on new educational or extension activities in Weed Science. We would like to hear about new weed species in our region, new developments from industry, new biological, cultural, or chemical control methods, or other current topics in Weed Science. I would also like to encourage student participation in our conference. If you know of any undergraduate or graduate students working on weed ecology, taxonomy or management, please share the call for papers with them. The society assists with lodging costs for students.

There will be a Phragmites conference in New Jersey at the same time as our annual meeting in Philadelphia. I spoke with one of the organizers of the meeting, Michael Weinstein, Director, New Jersey Sea Grant College Program, New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium, Sandy Hook Field Station, Fort Hancock, NJ. Mike said that if he had been aware of our meeting, we could have worked out a joint program. There may be potential in the future to interact with this and other groups that work on invasive plants. Please share information on our society with those working on weed management but who have not participated in our annual meeting.

Brian Olson is looking for your nominations for NEWSS awards (see insert) and Andy Senesac is looking for nominations for Vice President. Please send them your recommendations.

The Executive Committee is working hard on plans for the annual conference. If you have any suggestions for the meeting or need additional information, please contact me.

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**Visit the NEWSS website frequently for the latest Society news and activities, and for links to many other weed science sites.**

**<http://www.ppws.vt.edu/newss/newss.htm>**

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## **Kilmer Oak/NEWSS Gavel Follow-up**

John Meade, Emeritus Professor of Weed Science at Rutgers University, sent me some additional information after reading my article in the April newsletter. John informed me that his colleague, Richard Innicki, also Emeritus Professor of Weed Science at Rutgers University, was instrumental in obtaining the wood for the NEWSS gavel. When the Kilmer oak was cut down, the wood was kept under lock and key to preserve it for future use. Only through Dick Innicki's persuasiveness was some wood released for the gavel. He had the gavel made from this wood, and presented the gavel to the society. We need to recognize Dick for this contribution to NEWSS. Our society has benefited greatly from efforts made by Dick Innicki, John Meade, and the other 51 individuals who have served as President of NEWSS.

*Jeffrey Derr*

## **2001 NEWSS Executive Committee**

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**2001 NEWSS Committees**

**Awards Committee:** Brian Olson (Chair), Rich Bonanno, Dave Vitolo, Joe Neal, Tom Vrabel.

**Nominating Committee:** Andy Senesac (Chair), Steve Hart, Betty Marose, Garry Schnappinger, David Spak.

**Resolutions Committee:** Ted Bean (Chair), John Jemison, Katherine Jennings.

**Other Committee Chairs:**

Past Presidents Committee: Jim Parochetti

Student Paper Contest Committee: Rich Bonanno

Poster Judging Committee: Ben Coffman

Photo Contest Committee: Jim Saik

Collegiate Weed Contest: Frank Himmelstein

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

**56th Annual Meeting of the  
Northeastern Weed Science Society  
Philadelphia, PA - January 7-10, 2002**

**Title Deadline - September 14, 2001** has been set as the deadline for submitting titles of abstracts or papers to be presented at the 56th Annual Meeting. Title and author information must be in the hands of the Program Chairperson by the deadline in order to be scheduled in the program. Titles may be submitted via mail or electronically at:

**<http://www.ppws.vt.edu/newss/newss.htm>**

**Each Title Should Be Submitted On A Separate Form**

Titles should be clear and concise with no more than 100 characters. Avoid using trade names, herbicide chemistry, or scientific names in titles unless essential for clarification. Titles may **NOT** contain unapproved herbicide common names. Trade names only may be used if necessary to identify prepackaged mixes. Check the Weed Science Society of America's website <http://www.wssa.net> (click Weed Control, then Chemical Terminology) for the current list of approved chemical and common names. The company code number should be used if a common name has not yet been approved by WSSA.

Please make sure that the title and authors indicated on the Title Submission Form are the same as those you want on the final abstract or paper. Changes in titles or authors require your editor to play a matchmaking game that may result in confusion, errors, or even omission from the Proceedings.

**Abstract and Paper Deadline – November 1, 2001** is the deadline for all abstract and papers. Manuscripts received by the Editor after the deadline will not appear in the 2002 Proceedings. Those submitted after the deadline but before the January meeting will be published in the Supplement Section of the 2003 Proceedings.

**Keyword forms and a set of instructions for abstracts and full-length paper submissions will be mailed to contributors when titles are acknowledged. If you do not receive acknowledgment within a reasonable time period (early October), please contact the Program Chair, Scott Glenn.**

Abstracts are one page in length but may be accompanied by a one page table or figure. Page charges are levied on full-length papers of more than five (5) pages in length. The page charge is \$25 per page in excess of five (5) pages. Payment for this charge must accompany the paper.

Graduate students who wish to participate in the Graduate Student Presentation Contest **MUST CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX** on the Title Submission Form so the Program Chairperson can schedule the contest papers for judging.

Senior authors who are not currently members of NEWSS must check the appropriate box on the Title Submission Form to ensure they receive registration information.

**A Title Submission Form is enclosed with this newsletter for your convenience. Title Submission Forms should be sent to the Chair of the Program Committee: Scott Glenn, University of Maryland, 1114 Patterson Hall, College Park, MD 20742; phone 301/405-1331; fax 301/314-9041.**

**Reminder - Supplement Section** - All abstracts, full-length papers, and symposia talks presented at the 2001 meeting, that are intended for the Supplement Section of the 2002 NEWSS Proceedings are due in the Editor's Office on November 1, 2001.

## **Program Chairs for the 2002 NEWSS Meeting**

Listed below are the section chairs and chair-elects for the 56th Annual Meeting of NEWSS to be held January 7-10, 2002 in Philadelphia, PA.

### **Program Chair**

Scott Glenn  
Phone: 301-405-1331  
Email: dg11@umail.umd.edu

### **Agronomy Section**

Chair: Rick Schmenk  
Phone: 717-464-9660  
Email: rick.schmenk@syngenta.com  
Chair-elect: Mark Isaacs

### **Biologically-Based Weed Control**

Chair: Jerry Baron  
Phone: 732-932-9575 x605  
Email: jbaron@aesop.rutgers.edu  
Chair-elect: Antonio DiTommaso

### **Industrial, Forestry, and Conservation**

Chair: Richard Stalter  
Phone: 718-990-6269  
Email: biosju@stjohns.edu  
Chair-elect: Stratford Kay

### **Ornamentals**

Chair: Leslie Weston  
Phone: 607-255-9998  
Email: law20@cornell.edu  
Chair-elect: Hannah Mathers

### **Poster Section**

Chair: Annamarie Pennucci  
Phone: 603-895-8480 / Fax: 603-672-6332  
Chair-elect: Tracey Harpster

### **Turfgrass and Plant Growth Regulators**

Chair: Karen Novosel  
Phone: 215-299-6100  
Email: karen\_novosel@fmc.com  
Chair-elect: John Isgrigg

### **Vegetables and Fruit**

Chair: Albert Ayeni  
Phone: 856-455-3100  
Email: ayeni@aesop.rutgers.edu  
Chair-elect: Hilary Sandler

## Call for Vice President Nominations

Andy Senesac is requesting suggestions from the membership for nominations to the office of NEWSS Vice President. The Vice President serves as chairperson of the program committee and automatically succeeds to the office of President Elect. By general rule, the person elected Vice President at the 2002 meeting should be selected from members who are employed in the private sector. Notify Andy (phone: 516-727-3595 / fax: 516-727-3611; email: afs2@cornell.edu) regarding the person you wish to nominate.

## Commercial Displays

All Sustaining Members of NEWSS are eligible and encouraged to participate in the Commercial Display Session that will be held at the annual meeting in Philadelphia. This session will be held in an outstanding exhibition space in the Loews Hotel in conjunction with the Poster Display Session. Displays can remain in the room until Thursday morning, January 10. This is an excellent opportunity to inform the membership of new services, products and labels.

## Placement Service

The NEWSS provides a placement service for members at the annual meeting each year. This service is open to any institution or commercial firm seeking employees as well as individuals desiring positions. "Position Available" and "Position Desired" forms are available upon request from the Sustaining Membership Chairman, Carroll Moseley (see p. 3 for contact information). These forms will also be included in the November newsletter.

The forms will be available for inspection at the placement service desk during the annual meeting in Philadelphia. After that date, the forms will be forwarded to the WSSA placement service chairperson.

## NEWSS Photo Contest

Plan now to enter the NEWSS photo contest. Entries can be submitted as slides, prints or digital images. Contest details will be provided in the November newsletter.

## People in the News

The following is an article that appeared in the Winter 2001 issue of *NewsCAST*, a quarterly publication of the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology.

### **Bob Sweet - Board Member Extraordinaire**



*When the new year begins, the first place the CAST display is shipped is to Bob Sweet. Each January, he represents CAST to his member society, the Northeastern Weed Science Society (NEWSS). He has been representing NEWSS on the CAST Board of Directors since 1977. A thoughtful and passionate scientist, Bob serves both organizations well and continues to be an active contributor as Professor Emeritus at Cornell University. At the fall board meeting in New Orleans, Bob spent his evening hours reading and preparing for hearings taking place in his home state the following week. Retirement? Bob defines it a bit differently than some! We asked Bob to share with us some of his history with CAST and some of his thoughts about CAST today.*

-- Candi Kelly

There were two important reasons CAST succeeded in the early years. First, the leadership was in the hands of Dr. Charles Black, a fine soil scientist at Iowa State. He was a well-organized workaholic, with good communication skills, impeccable integrity, and the conviction that the purpose of CAST was of great importance to our country and could be achieved if he just worked hard enough. Members in several additional disciplines which dealt with crop production began to realize they too had some responsibilities, i.e., not to defend bad practices but to assist in getting pertinent facts out to the public, media, etc. That realization sparked the first major expansion in CAST. In more recent years, expansion has occurred because many disciplines are concerned with agriculture, food, forestry, and the environment, and CAST has proven it is an effective source of reliable information on those subjects.

Why has NEWSS kept its membership in CAST? We are a small society and the cost of belonging to CAST

is a significant item in our budget. Yet, the possibility of dropping out has never been seriously discussed. There are several reasons we wish to stay. One basic reason is the nature of our agriculture. It is highly diverse. In New York and Pennsylvania, dairy is dominant. In most states, horticultural food crops are important. Also, in most states, ornamentals, turf, bedding plants, etc. are a significant source of agricultural income. Another major factor is the highly diverse areas of the region which range from some of the most populated cities in the U.S. to bedroom communities, to rural areas, and to thousands and thousands of acres in public forests and wilderness areas. As a consequence, there is hardly an agricultural, food, forestry, or conservation issue that doesn't touch the Northeast. CAST provides us with valuable two-way communication. It alerts us to issues as they begin to evolve - often in California, and we can alert CAST as to issues starting here. If they develop nationally, CAST is likely to address them. If they stay regional they will not.

However, even then CAST often is able to inform us of reliable sources of information. A fringe benefit of membership is that hearings, symposia, etc. in which CAST participates often are in D.C. Usually we can arrange to have a member of our executive committee attend.

Just a few years ago a serious discussion of CAST's vision, mission, goals, and strategies was initiated. As an "old-timer" I was somewhat skeptical of the undertaking, but figured it wouldn't hurt to give it a try. I was completely wrong! The results were put in writing in '94 and this gave a focus and structure to our discussions, operating procedures, etc. Then in the fall of '00 the full board reviewed and revised the entire '94 document. Once again we have an up-to-date point of focus. Also we will have the executive vice president based in D.C. instead of Ames. This is a major change.

In summary, CAST has shown remarkable growth in stature and reputation as well as in size. It has demonstrated its willingness and ability to make constructive changes in structure, procedures, and goals. But serious challenges are ahead. Here are five I believe to be important.

1. To shorten the time required for a substantive response after an issue has been approved for attention.
2. To find ways to utilize the Internet for rapidly distributing information without jeopardizing our credibility.
3. To find ways to impact the huge audience of school children.
4. To not become complacent because of past achievements.

A final comment. Being on the CAST board has been a very satisfying experience for me. It has exposed me to view points and perspectives of professionals who are not as closely associated with crop production as I have been. Also being on the Board has helped me keep up to date on issues. However, the most satisfying of all has been the opportunity to meet many fine people whom I would not have met otherwise.

*Robert D. Sweet, CAST Representative for NEWSS*

## **NEWSS Collegiate Weed Contest - 2001**

The NEWSS Collegiate Weed Contest was held on July 31, 2001 at the University of Connecticut Plant Science Research and Teaching Facility. Frank Himmelstein and Todd Mervosh served as contest coordinators. More than 30 volunteers helped make the contest run smoothly. Fifty-nine students from nine colleges participated in the contest. The top teams and individuals are listed below. *A full report and photos will be included in the November newsletter. In the interim, check the NEWSS website starting in mid September for Weed Contest photos.*

### Graduate Student Teams:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: North Carolina State University  
Keith Burnell, Andrew McRae, Shawn Troxler
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Penn State University  
Brian Clark, Matt Myers, Brad Park
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Virginia Tech  
Andy Bailey, Steve King, Brian Trader, Corey Whaley

### Individual Graduate Students:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Matt Myers, Penn State
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Shawn Troxler, North Carolina State
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Steve King, Virginia Tech

### Undergraduate Student Teams:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Penn State University  
Randy Bowersox, Andy Heggenstaller, Shawn Heinbaugh, Sarah Rider
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: University of Guelph "Team A"  
Kara Lammers, Sharon Robertson, Garth Wilson
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: University of Guelph "Team B"  
Scott Gillespie, Robin Little

### Individual Undergraduate Students:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Shawn Heinbaugh, Penn State
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Sarah Rider, Penn State
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Andy Heggenstaller, Penn State

## Articles for NEWSS NEWS

Please submit articles or notices for the NEWSS newsletter to Todd Mervosh, Public Relations Representative. I prefer that information is sent to my email address: [tmervosh@caes.state.ct.us](mailto:tmervosh@caes.state.ct.us). Otherwise, send a hard copy, plus the file stored on diskette to:

Todd Mervosh, Conn. Agric. Exp. Stn., 153 Cook Hill Road, P.O. Box 248, Windsor, CT 06095.

The deadline for inclusion in the November newsletter is **October 19, 2001**.

## WSSA Report

The WSSA Board of Directors summer meeting was held July 28-30 in Reno, NV at the Reno Hilton, site of the next annual meeting on February 10-13, 2002. It looks to be an excellent meeting facility, and a nice location offering many recreational and touring opportunities. Attendance should be up in Reno, so send your paper/poster title and abstract submissions in by the September 10 deadline. That date is also the deadline for getting in award nominations of your deserving colleagues. Brad Majek and his Program Committee, and Tom Lanini and the Local Arrangements Committee are preparing an excellent program. Several symposia (Mechanisms Conferring Resistance to Herbicides, Weed Ecology, Weed Science Research Funding, Vegetable Herbicide Roundtable) and an Invasive Plant Workshop are in planning.

In business discussions, the WSSA was reported to be in sound financial condition, and the Finance Committee made recommendations to keep it that way. Since annual meeting expenditures have exceeded revenues at the last two meetings, the Board approved increases in membership dues, meeting registration and subscription rates. These increases are necessary so that the society can get back to a "break-even" position for the annual meeting. Compared to other societies, the WSSA rates are still very reasonable.

Janis McFarland, chair of Strategic Planning Committee, led a very good discussion of priorities for implementing the new WSSA Strategic Plan. The Board discussed plans to implement the three key priority areas as follows:

Promote Research with focus on trying to improve funding of key research areas;

Promote Publications with focus on implementing electronic access to publications and identifying avenues for popular/extension type articles; and

Promote Education with focus on improving the web site.

The new Strategic Plan will soon be on the WSSA web site for members to access.

The Board selected Michael Foley (USDA/ARS – Fargo, ND) as new Director of Publications to serve a 3-year term. In publication report discussions, the Board voted to maintain both journals (Weed Science and Weed Technology) but develop mission statements to make them more distinct. The Publication Committee is also reviewing ways to incorporate invasive plant articles in WSSA journals or through other avenues. BioOne, an online research journal articles search vehicle, will be available to members in January. The new edition of the Herbicide Handbook will be available by early winter, and there are plans to come out with a CD-ROM version sometime later.

Finally, The Board approved the 2005 annual meeting site to be in Honolulu, Hawaii. The 2006 meeting site will be somewhere in the Northeast to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the society. The first annual meeting of the WSSA was held in New York City in 1956. There are some exciting years ahead for the WSSA membership!

*Tim Dutt, WSSA Representative for NEWSS*

## Legislative Committee Report

### EPA, FQPA and FIFRA

On July 20, 2001, the Environmental Protection Agency announced in the Federal Register the availability of a Pesticide Registration Notice (PR) providing voluntary labeling guidelines that will help pesticide applicators prevent the onset of pest resistance. Canada and the U.S. developed these guidelines under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to ensure that labels on pesticide products in both countries provide consistent information on preventing insect resistance. This PR Notice recommends that industry voluntarily develop standard language on product labels for providing this information. In addition, the guidelines recommend that industry adopt a standard classification system. The classification system would identify the pesticide's "mode or target site of action," that would be indicated by a number on the front panel of a pesticide product label. Also, product labels should present resistance management statements in the "General" section of "Use Directions," preferably in a box.

The Agency will update pesticide classification lists on a regular basis to include new information on products and "mode/target site of actions. An electronic copy of the PR notice is posted at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides>, then select the "PR Notices" button. The Weed Science

Society of America has developed a resolution support inclusion of herbicide site of action, based upon WSSA's herbicide group number, on herbicide labels.

EPA Changes the Name of Plants that have been Genetically Engineered to Express Pesticidal Properties from "Plant-Pesticide" to "Plant-Incorporated Protectant (PIP)" and makes other changes in the Agency's PIP regulatory scheme. The EPA Final Rule notes: "... The substances plants produce for protection against pests, and the genetic material necessary to produce these substances, are pesticides under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), if humans intend to use these substances for 'preventing, repelling or mitigating any pest.' In this rule, EPA finalizes certain of the proposed rules published in 1994, 1996, and 1997. Specifically, EPA changes the name of this type of pesticide from 'plant-pesticide' to 'plant-incorporated protectant'; clarifies the relationship between plants and plant-incorporated protectants under FIFRA; exempts from FIFRA requirements plant-incorporated protectants derived through conventional breeding from sexually compatible plants; and establishes a new part in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) specifically for plant-incorporated protectants. For additional information contact: Philip Hutton 703 308 8260; hutton.phil@epa.gov

EPA recently released lists of candidate pesticides for risk management decisions through the re-registration and tolerance reassessment programs, during the rest of FY 2001 and in FY 2002. These decisions may consist of Re-registration Eligibility Decisions (REDs), Interim REDs (IREDs), or Reports on FQPA Tolerance Reassessment Progress and Interim Risk Management Decisions (TREDs). Herbicides on these lists include RED Candidates: cacodylic acid methanearsonic acid, salts, molinate, diuron, imazalil, oxadiazon, oxyfluorfen, propanil acifluorfen. Other herbicides slated for activity include: asulam, chlorpropham, desmedipham, butylate, diquat, hexazinone, lactofen, linuron, and metolachlor.

EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman has appointed administrators of three agency regions: Robert W. Varney, for Region 1 - New England region; Donald Welsh, for Region 3 - mid-Atlantic region; and Thomas Skinner, for Region 5 - Midwest region. Varney has been commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services since July 1989. In the previous 10 years, Varney held other state and local director and planning positions in New Hampshire. Welsh returns to the Agency's Region 3 office where he worked as chief of government affairs from 1991 to 1995 and executive assistant to the regional administrator from 1985 to 1991. Welsh has been deputy secretary for state/federal relations of Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

since August 1997 and served as special assistant to the secretary for two years prior to that.

Whitman has announced the creation of the position of "counselor to the administrator for agriculture policy." Whitman also announced that Jean-Marie Peliter of California has filled the post. This official position was originally established under the previous Bush Administration; but was not continued under the Clinton administration. The counselor position is intended to allow EPA to better integrate concerns of the agriculture community into their decision-making. The counselor will also serve as the central contact for EPA cooperation with USDA including work on joint policy, cooperative efforts between agency staff, and other interagency issues. The new advisor will also monitor congressional activities relating to agricultural issues.

United States and Canadian pesticide regulators have developed an updated testing scheme to assess the impacts of pesticides on non-target plants. These studies are required for herbicides. It is believed that the new system is more thorough, predictive, and in some cases, more cost effective than the current system. The new system will greatly increase the number of terrestrial and aquatic species examined for adverse effects, examine effects on plant reproduction processes, and create a more "focused" initial screening tier. The existing testing system is composed of three tiers. EPA's FIFRA Science Advisory Panel has been requested to comment on the proposed testing system, which officials say was developed partly because of a "large increase" in the number of state-level incident reports citing damage to non-target plants.

The Talent Irrigation case has prompted EPA to address a conflict created by a divergence in the federal pesticide and clean water laws. In March, the U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that Talent Irrigation District should have obtained National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits before applying a registered herbicide to irrigation ditches. EPA is investigating the best way to implement the Clean Water Act and FIFRA in respect to the direct application of pesticides to waters. In the short term, civil administrative or judicial enforcement against discharges from the application of aquatic pesticides will be a low priority provided that both of the following conditions are met: the registered pesticide product is applied directly to waters in a manner consistent with its labeling, and there are no egregious circumstances, such as those resulting in serious actual harm or which may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to public health or the environment.

## **Organic Agriculture**

Organic crop and livestock producers will receive a boost from the USDA to the amount of \$1 million to help assist in defraying the cost of obtaining organic certification in 15 states. To be eligible for the assistance, producers must have been certified by a certifying agent as of December 21 of last year in the following states: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, or Wyoming. Recipients of the funds will be eligible for up to 70 percent of the cost of certification, a maximum of \$500 for each certification. The funds are specifically for the transition to the National Organic Program. However, producers cannot use the USDA organic seal on their products before October 22, 2002. For further information see <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop>.

According to a July 12 news release, Canada will establish an Organic Food Research Center at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC) in Truro to help Canadian farmers compete against its international competitors for a larger share of the growing international market for organic food. The Center is designed give Canada's producers an advantage over international competition. Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lyle Vanclief announced \$854,700 in federal funding for the facility that will be known as the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada. Canada's organic sector is enjoying \$1 billion-a-year in retail sales and a 20 per cent annual growth rate. Significant opportunities to take this growth even further exist in several major markets such as the United States, Europe and Japan. Mr. Vanclief also announced \$27,000 to help Canada's organic industry develop a strategy to focus on its priorities in the domestic market, and strategies for competing in international markets. A team of partners, including the NSAC, will coordinate the strategy. These two initiatives come on top of \$600,000 in federal funding for the organic sector announced by the Minister in early June, and \$1.3 million in support for regional organic projects, bringing total funding for organic agriculture to about \$2.8 million. A copy of the complete July 12 Canadian government's Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada News Release is posted at:

<http://aceis.agr.ca/cb/news/2001/n10712ae.html>.

## **Biotechnology**

The Campaign to Label Genetically Engineered Food has established a lobbying campaign to support its mission, which is *"To create a national grassroots consumer campaign for the purpose of lobbying*

*Congress and the President to pass legislation that will require the labeling of genetically engineered foods in the United States."* They expect to have a Bill introduced in early August that will require the labeling of genetically engineered food. See the organization's web site (<http://www.thecampaign.org>) for details.

## **Pending Legislation**

The House Agriculture Committee approved by voice vote on July 27, 2001 the Committee's farm bill proposal, "The Agricultural Act of 2001", H.R. 2646. Larry Combest, Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee with Ranking Minority Member Charlie Stenholm, introduced this Bill. The press release from the Committee stated: *"... With strong bipartisan support in passage, the House Agriculture Committee completed the next farm bill designed to bring predictability back to the federal government's farm support programs while enlarging participation in soil and water conservation. By allowing producers the voluntary choice to update their base acres, and adding counter-cyclical support based on target prices to the already-established 2002 level of transition payments, 'The Agricultural Act of 2001' H.R. 2646, provides both the flexibility and predictability that most producers, commodity and farm groups have called for in the next farm bill. Enlarging participation for soil and water conservation programs by 80 percent above current budget trends, the House Agriculture Committee 2001 Farm Bill provides producers with more options to implement progressive conserving practices on their land, with the backing of increased technical assistance to producers using any government or private contractors. ..."* Concerning Research Programs, the bill will *"... Continue the Research Initiative for Future Agricultural Systems at a program level of \$120 million per year through 2011; Reauthorizes existing research programs; and Improves on programs to include priority research items such as pest detection and exclusion, energy efficiency, value-added agricultural production and marketing."* For details, see:

<http://agriculture.house.gov>

Pesticide Harmonization Act (H.R. 1084 and S. 532), that would grant states the authority to issue state registrations for certain Canadian pesticides. The legislation would only apply to pesticides whose composition is identical or substantially similar to a U.S. domestically registered pesticide. In theory these bills would provide farmers with a level playing field and

equal access to crop protection products currently available to their counterparts in Canada.

The School Environment Protection Act (SEPA), which would amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act and set federal policy on the exposure of school children to pesticides. SEPA, sponsored by Sen. Robert Torricelli (D-N.J.), was the result of a compromise hammered out last month between Torricelli, a number of industry groups and public interest organizations. However it is feared that the bill not survive negotiations in a Senate-House conference.

Senators Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) and Gordon Smith (R-Ore.) have introduced legislation that would compensate producers who implement certain conservation practices. A companion bill is being offered in the House by Reps. John Thune (R-S.D.), Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), Leonard Boswell (D-Iowa) and other cosponsors. This bill titled the Conservation Security Act (S. 932) would allow farmers and ranchers to receive payments for voluntarily maintain or adopt various conservation practices that enhance the environment, natural resources, and wildlife habitat. The bill establishes three tiers of incentives with payments ranging from \$20,000 to \$50,000 per farm. Harkin has also said that he will push to incorporate his legislation in the Senate's 2002 Farm Bill.

### **USDA**

On July 12, the U.S. Senate confirmed two of President Bush's nominees for key positions at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Jim Moseley was confirmed by the Senate for the position of deputy secretary and Joseph Jen as under secretary for research, education, and economics. "These are two individuals that bring a great deal of experience and integrity to these positions and will be valuable members of our team." said Secretary Veneman.

The House approved the FY2002 Agriculture Appropriations bill (H.R. 2230) this week by an overwhelming vote of 414 to 16. Although the bill had been delayed over an amendment providing \$150 million in emergency assistance to apple growers, there were no major controversies during debate. Most of the \$74.2 billion contained in the bill goes to mandatory spending such as nutrition programs. It provides \$15.5 billion in discretionary spending which is slightly above the administration's request of \$15.4 billion. Spending levels include \$946 million for the Farm Service Agency (FSA), \$720 million for the Food Safety and Inspection Service, and \$948 million for Natural Resource Conservation Service programs, and \$1 billion for the Agricultural

Research Service (ARS).

Cornell University and Penn State are jointly administrating the USDA-funded Northeastern Pest Management Center (NE PMC). The center is designed to "provide broad access to high-quality pest management information" and to "promote communication" among those involved in pest-management policy and implementation, according to the NE PMC. It will cover the New England states, Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. The NE PMC says it will connect groups "who haven't always interacted in the past," including pesticide users, consumer and environmental groups, government regulatory agencies, researchers and educators. Bulletin boards, newsletters, e-mail and "a committee structure" are some of the tools the center plans to develop toward this end. The center also plans to develop a comprehensive database of research-based pest-management information, and will also sponsor a competitive grants network with the goal of extending the information network. Projects funded by the center should produce pesticide-use surveys, crop profiles, and pest-management strategic plans that will be incorporated into the center's online database.

### **Invasive Plants**

The proceedings of a workshop on setting up a National Early Warning and Rapid Response System for Invasive Plants in the U.S. titled "Early Detection, Reporting, Identification, Rapid Assessment, and Rapid Response to Invasive Plants in the United States" that was held last year in Fort Collins, Colorado is now available on the Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds (FICMNEW) website.

Rep. Joel Hefley (R-Col.), has introduced the "Harmful Nonnative Weed Control Act of 2001" (H.R. 1462) that would establish a program to provide financial assistance through the states to eligible weed management entities. The Bill is seeking an authorization of \$100 million annually through 2006 to fight invasive weeds. It is proposed that resources will be used to assist eligible entities in carrying out projects to control or eradicate harmful, nonnative weeds on public or private land, to coordinate projects with existing weed management areas and districts, to stimulate the formation of new local or regional cooperative weed management entities, to leverage additional funds from public and private sources to control or eradicate weeds through local stakeholders, and to promote healthy, diverse and desirable plant communities by abating the threat posed by invasive weeds.

*Jerry Baron, Legislative Committee Chair*



Attendees at the NEWSS Past Presidents' Breakfast Meeting at the 55<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Cambridge, MA in January 2001: (seated, L to R) Ed Higgins, Jim Parochetti, Brad Majek, Bob Peters, Bob Sweet; (standing, L to R) Ray Taylorson, Max McCormack, Tom Vrael, Dave Vitolo, Rich Bonanno, Roy Johnson, Joe Neal, Dick Ilnicki, Prasanta Bhowmik, Brian Olson, John Ahrens, Garry Schnappinger.

*[Note: The newsletter editor apologizes to Dick Ilnicki for accidentally omitting his name in the caption for this photo in the April 2001 newsletter.]*

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