

Northeastern Weed Science Society Newsletter

August 1999

Baltimore, MD – Site of the 54th NEWSS Annual Meeting (Jan. 3-6, 2000)

Comments from the President

I hope that this Newsletter finds everyone well. I will try to make my comments as brief as possible so that you might actually read them.

Fred Warren passed away on July 18, 1999. Many remember him as one of the pioneers of weed science. Our thoughts are with his family in West Lafayette, Indiana and in New York.

I attended the 1999 NEWSS Collegiate Weed Contest in Blacksburg, VA on July 20. There were over 60 participants, and teams were present from beyond our borders including Ontario, Nova Scotia, and Kentucky. The contest was very well organized and well run by Scott Hagood and his staff. Winning teams were from North Carolina State (graduate) and Nova Scotia (undergraduate). Winning individuals were from Virginia Tech (graduate) and Nova Scotia (undergraduate). Full

details will be in the November newsletter. Brian Olson is currently looking for a host for the 2000 contest.

Please note that Dave Vitolo is soliciting nominations for the NEWSS awards and Garry Schnappinger is soliciting nominations for Vice President. Details are in this newsletter.

Plans for the 54th NEWSS annual meeting are well underway. The meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Baltimore and meeting dates are January 3-6, 2000. Jeff Derr is planning the symposium which will deal with herbicide resistant crops. Mark VanGessel and Jeff have arranged for both titles and abstracts to be submitted electronically. We will again meet jointly with the NE-ASHS. Two outreach sessions are being planned. The first will be on Wednesday evening and will deal with invasive weeds; the target audience is the mid-atlantic nurseryman's trade show attendees who will be in town. The second session will be on Thursday and will be offered for CCA credits. The target audience is crop

advisors in the mid-atlantic area; topics will include water quality and pest management.

The 55th NEWSS annual meeting will be held in Cambridge, Massachusetts at the Cambridge Marriott (site of the 53rd meeting). Meeting dates will be January 2-5, 2001. The travel date will be on Tuesday and the meeting will be from Wednesday through Friday. Thanks to Brian Olson for negotiating a great contract (\$89 room rate).

The weed science societies are involved in many activities in DC through our Director of Science Policy, Rob Hedberg. Activities include invasive weeds, worker protection standards, FQPA, the USDA national weeds program, biotech, and many more. See Jerry Baron's comments in this newsletter for more details. Rob's phone number is 202-675-4511, fax is 202-675-4512, and email is rhedberg@aesop-ent.com.

Continued thanks to everyone for keeping this society great.

A. Richard Bonanno, President

CALL FOR PAPERS

Title Deadline - September 8, 1999 has been set as the deadline for submitting titles of papers to be presented at the 54th Annual Meeting. Title and author information must be in the hands of the Section Chairpersons and the Vice President by the deadline in order to be scheduled in the program. Titles may be submitted via mail or electronically.

Titles should be clear and concise with no more than 100 characters. They may **NOT** contain unapproved herbicide common names. Trade names only may be used if necessary to identify prepackaged mixes. Check the December 1998 issue of *WEED SCIENCE* (46:729-734) or WSSA website (<http://ext.agn.uiuc.edu/wssa/>) 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.

Abstract & Paper Deadline - October 18, 1999 is the deadline for all papers and abstracts. **Manuscripts received by the Editor after the deadline will not appear in the 2000 Proceedings.** Those submitted after the deadline but before the January meeting will be published in the Supplement Section of the 2001 Proceedings.

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

or even omission from the Proceedings.

Keyword forms and a set of instructions will be mailed to contributors by the appropriate Section Chairpersons when titles are acknowledged. If you do not received acknowledgment within a reasonable time period (early October), please contact your Section Chair.

All contributors are reminded to carefully proofread their papers and to follow all instructions for format and terminology. 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 the 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. The form should be sent to the Chair of the Program Committee:

Jeffrey Derr, Hampton Roads Ag. Res. & Ext. Center, 1444 Diamond Springs Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23455, FAX 757/363-3912, email: jderr@vt.edu. Each title should be submitted on a separate form.

Electronic submission forms can be found at <http://www.rec.udel.edu/>. Click on NEWSS Titles button. Use either the electronic submission or enclosed Title Submission Form, but do not use both.

Reminder - All abstracts, papers, and symposia talks that are intended for the Supplement Section of the 2000 NEWSS Proceedings are due in the Editor's Office on September 8, 1999. This deadline will be enforced.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE NORTHEASTERN WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY PROCEEDINGS

PAPERS RECEIVED AFTER DEADLINE WILL NOT APPEAR IN THE 2000 PROCEEDINGS.

INSTRUCTIONS ARE THE SAME REGARDLESS OF ELECTRONIC OR MAIL SUBMISSIONS.

EXTRA PAGE PAYMENTS MUST ACCOMPANY PAGES MAILED TO EDITOR.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Authors may publish an abstract or a full-length paper in the Proceedings. Papers should be pertinent to the general area of weed science and should reflect the content of the oral presentation given at the meeting. At least one author must be a current member of the Northeastern Weed Science Society. Papers submitted after the established deadline (refer to newsletter) will be published in the following year's proceedings. Proceedings will be distributed at meeting registration.

Abstracts and papers must be received by October 18, 1999.

PREPARATION OF ABSTRACTS AND PAPERS

Format: Title, author(s) and author(s) affiliation(s). Center and use all caps for title, center author(s) name (lower case) below title, footnote author(s) affiliation at bottom of page and use the heading ABSTRACT as in the following example:

WEED SPECIES IN RELATION TO CULTIVATION

J.P. Smith¹

ABSTRACT

(Body of Abstract)

¹Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Weed Science, Crabgrass University, Seedbed, VA 20777

In body of full length papers, center and capitalize all section headings (do not underline) to include abstract, introduction (justification/rationale), procedures, results and discussion, and literature cited. In full-length papers,

insert tables and figures in text, rather than at end of paper.

Titles: Titles should contain no more than 100 characters. Avoid using trade names, herbicide chemistry, or scientific names in titles unless essential for clarification. If title exceeds one line, single space between lines.

Page limitations:

Abstracts: A one-page textural abstract is permitted with a second page allowed for presentation of a table. Those submitting only an abstract are encouraged to include a table **if publication elsewhere is not intended.**

Full length papers: Five pages are allowed with tables and figures included in the text. A charge of \$25 per page will be levied for papers exceeding the five-page limit. All excess page charges must accompany the manuscripts to the editor. Payment should be in the form of a check made out to the Northeastern Weed Science Society. A receipt will be supplied if requested.

All manuscripts:

Tables: Margins for tables and graphs must be within those specified by typing instructions. Reduced copies of tables and graphs may be used, but must be almost as clear as originals for acceptable printing.

Herbicide names: Omit herbicide chemistry from all abstracts and use only common names. If a common name has not yet been approved by WSSA, use the code number. In the body of full-length papers, however, the chemistry will be listed as usual. Namely, at the first mention of a herbicide, except in the title or abstract, give its approved common name or other designation first and follow it with the full chemical name in parentheses or in brackets if there are parentheses within the chemical name. Use only the common name or code name thereafter. Check the December 1998 issue of *WEED SCIENCE* (46:729-734) or the WSSA website (<http://ext.agn.uiuc.edu/wssa/>) for the current list of approved chemical and common names. Herbicide trade names may be used as long as accompanied by appropriate common name. If use of a trade name is required to properly identify product, at first mention use the appropriate common name, immediately followed by trade name in parenthesis. Herbicide trade names are acceptable for clarification of pre-packaged mixes.

Plant and Animal Names: In either abstracts or full-length papers, at the first mention of a crop, weed, or other organism give the common name and follow it with

the approved scientific name underlined and in parentheses, or in brackets if there are parentheses within the scientific name. Give the genus, species, and authority for the binomial. Underline the genus and species name. Include the cultivated variety of a crop plant if known and indicate it by enclosing it in single quotes. Example: Corn (Zea mays L. 'Dixie 18'). For cultivar names that are registered trade names insert (R) after the name. For approved common and scientific names of weeds see the *Composite List of Weeds*, Revised 1989, available from WSSA, 810 East 10th Street, Lawrence, KS 66044-8897. After the first mention, use only the common names.

Abbreviations: Use abbreviations as shown in the "Herbicide Handbook" or as used in one of the previous year's issues of *WEED SCIENCE*. Abbreviations that are acceptable for NEWSS use (although not in agreement with the CBE Style Manual) include two-letter abbreviations for states, Ci for curie, M for molar (do not abbreviate mole), L for liter, ppmw for parts per million by weight, ppmv for parts per million by volume, ae for acid equivalent, and ai for active ingredient. Do not place a period after an abbreviation in the text. Do not start a sentence with an abbreviation. All abbreviations not shown in *WEED SCIENCE* should be introduced in parentheses immediately after the first use of the word. Example: cation exchange capacity (CEC). Do not use a hyphen for the preposition 'to' or an x for the preposition 'by' except in tables or figures. Write 100 by 20 rather than 100 x 20 and 1 to 3 rather than 1-3.

Numbers: Use Arabic numbers for all numbers with two or more digits and for all measurements such as time, weight, or degrees except when the number is the first word in a sentence. Spell out numbers when they are the first word in a sentence or when they are less than 10 and not measurements, except when in a series in which one figure has two or more digits. Report only significant numbers.

Measurements and units: It is acceptable to report measurements in English or metric units. In laboratory studies, express concentration of acids and bases in normality (N) and of herbicide and salt solutions in molarity (M) rather than ppm. Use ml rather than cc for all measurements of volume.

Footnotes: Number footnotes consecutively throughout the manuscript except for tables that are handled separately. Do not put acknowledgments in footnotes.

Trade names: Use trade names of such items as

equipment only when necessary to describe the materials or methods adequately. Capitalize trade names. Footnote names with the address of the supplier only if the supplier is not commonly known.

Full Length Papers Only:

Acknowledgments: Give all acknowledgments in a separate section immediately following the Results and Discussion.

Literature cited: Number citations alphabetically and use the number of the reference (in parentheses) in the text. Each citation should include names of all authors, year of publication, complete title, publication, volume number, and inclusive pages, in that sequence. When two or more authors are listed, initials should follow the last name for the first author, but the initials should precede the last name of other authors (see detailed instructions in the CBE Style Manual). Do not leave a space between the period after each initial and the next letter. Books, bulletins, and other similar publications should show as the last entry the number of pages in the publication. Theses, letters, or other communications or publications not normally available in libraries should appear as text footnotes and not in the Literature Cited section.

INDEXING

Authors are required to prepare a key word list for each of their papers. This list is used to make an index to the Proceedings. Capitalize all keywords and state noun first, followed by modifier as shown in the following examples: Maple, red or Corn, sweet. Do not show the authority for binomials. Use the form provided to list keywords by the following categories.

- Author name(s). Last name, followed by initials.
- Crop(s), list both common and scientific name(s).
- Weeds(s), list both common and scientific names(s).
- Area(s) of non-crop use.
- Chemical(s) used (WSSA approved common names or code number only if no approved name is available) and Trade names. Check the December issue of *WEED SCIENCE* (46:729-734) or the WSSA website (<http://ext.agn.uiuc.edu/wssa/>) for the current list of approved chemical and common names.
- Subject, special equipment and techniques, biochemical, physiological, or microbiological observations.

TYPING INSTRUCTIONS

Paper - Smooth surface, mimeograph type paper.

Page size - 8 1/2" by 11".

Margins - Top and both sides - 1", bottom - 3/4".
Indent paragraphs in abstracts and full-length papers.

Corrections - Do not erase; paste on corrections.

Typewriter/Printer - Use 12 pitch print. Laser print or clear typed copies are recommended. Manuscripts printed on dot matrix printers may be rejected by the editor if print quality is poor.

Spacing - Single space text, tables, and table and figure headings. Double space between paragraphs and section headings.

Do not use staples or paper clips on the original.

Do not number pages.

Capitalize proper nouns, Table, Figure, etc.

Footnotes - In Tables and Figures annotate with lower case letters. Number footnotes consecutively in text.

Review abstracts and papers prior to submission.

MAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Mail an original (**Fax will not be accepted**) and one copy of the abstract or paper, the keyword form, and excess page charges to the NEWSS Editor:

Mark VanGessel
Research and Education Center
University of Delaware
Road 6, Box 48
Georgetown, DE 19947
mjv@udel.edu

All copies should be mailed flat. Use cardboard on top and bottom when mailing to prevent damage.

Please follow instructions and observe the announced deadline.

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Complete the key word list for each paper at the website <http://www.rec.udel.edu/>, use NEWSS button. Text and graphs/figures should be sent via email attachments to mjv@udel.edu. Text files need to be MS

Word or WordPerfect compatible and graphics must be PowerPoint compatible. Upon receipt, files will be printed and if re-formatting is required, authors will be notified for corrections or for a hard copy.

Program Chairs for the 2000 NEWSS Annual Meeting

Listed below are the section chairs for the NEWSS 54th Annual Meeting to be held January 3-6, 2000 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Baltimore, MD

Program Chair

Jeffrey Derr
Virginia Tech, Hampton Roads AREC
1444 Diamond Springs Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23455
Phone: 757-363-3912 / Fax: 757-363-3950
E-mail: jderr@vt.edu

Agronomy Section

Chair: Dwight Lingenfelter
Penn State University, 116 ASI Building
University Park, PA 16802
Phone: 814-865-2242 / Fax: 814-863-7043
E-mail: DXL18@psu.edu

Biologically-Based Weed Control

Chair: Joseph Neal
North Carolina State Univ., Dept. of Horticultural Sci.
Box 7609, Raleigh, NC 27695-7609
Phone: 919-515-9379 / Fax: 919-515-7747
E-mail: joe_neal@ncsu.edu

Industrial, Forestry, and Conservation

Chair: Jon Johnson
Penn State Univ., Landscape Mgmt. Research Center
Orchard Road, University Park, PA 16802
Phone: 814-863-1184 / Fax: 814-863-3479
E-mail: jmj5@psu.edu

Ornamentals

Chair: Annamarie Pennucci
NE Turf and Ornamental Research
4 Englewood Drive, Raymond, NH 03077
Phone: 603-895-8480

Poster Section

Chair: John Jemison
University of Maine Cooperative Extension
495 College Avenue, Orono, ME 04473-1294
Phone: 207-581-3241 / Fax: 207-581-1301
E-mail: jjemison@umcc.umext.maine.edu

Turfgrass and Plant Growth Regulator

Chair: Jeffrey Borger

Penn State Univ., Landscape Management Research Center
Orchard Road, University Park, PA 16802
Phone: 814-865-3005 / Fax: 814-863-3479
E-mail: jab267@psu.edu

181300, Greensboro, NC 27419. Phone: 336-632-7754
E-mail: carroll.moseley@cp.novartis.com

Vegetables and Fruit

Chair: C. Edward Beste
University of Maryland, Salisbury Facility
27664 Nanticoke Road, Salisbury, MD 21801-8437
Phone: 410-742-8780 / Fax: 410-742-1922
E-mail: cb20@umail.umd.edu

Joint Meeting with NE-ASHS

The Northeast Region of the American Society for Horticultural Science (NE-ASHS) will again hold their annual meeting in conjunction with our program in Baltimore. Advantages for NEWSS will be additional room nights, (important for our dealings with the hotel) and a 2 for 1 meeting for those who are members of both societies. Additional details will be included in the November newsletter.

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, Novartis Crop Protection, P.O. Box 181300, Greensboro, NC 27419.
Phone: 336-632-7754
E-mail: carroll.moseley@cp.novartis.com

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

Commercial Displays

All Sustaining Members of the NEWSS are eligible and encouraged to participate in the Commercial Display Session that will be held on Tuesday morning, January 4, 2000 at the annual meeting in Baltimore. This session is held in conjunction with the Poster Display Session. Displays can remain in the room until Thursday. This is an excellent opportunity to inform the membership of new services, products and labels.

Table space can be reserved by contacting the Sustaining Membership Chairman:
Carroll Moseley, Novartis Crop Protection, P.O. Box

Rules for the NEWSS Photo Contest

There will be a single division for all appropriate media: slides, prints, and digital. If the submission is digital it is the responsibility of the individual submitting these images to provide a method for projecting or viewing the image during the time that the Photo Judging Committee meets (the day and time is published in the conference program). Otherwise the following guidelines are the same as in previous years.

- The contest is open only to members of the NEWSS.
- Prizes are \$100 for 1st, \$50 for 2nd, and \$25 for 3rd.
- Subject of photo may be of any photogenic subject that is associated with the field of Weed Science.
- Each contestant may enter up to 5 images, but can win only one prize.
- Prints should be no smaller than 35 sq. in. and no larger than 80 sq. in., and should be mounted.
- Slides must be in a 2" x 2" mount that will fit in a standard carousel slide tray.
- Photographer is responsible for providing a method for viewing digital images.
- Each image should be labeled, describing (in a few words) the subject; such as the species, cultivation equipment, etc.
- Place name and address on each slide, print or disk.

The contest will be judged by the members of the Photo Contest subcommittee. Judges will consider factors such as subject, composition, technical aspects, and overall appeal. Contestant does not have to be present to win. All entries will be returned to the owner after the contest. More details (including deadlines) will appear in the November newsletter.

Last Call for Award Nominations

This announcement serves as the last call for nominations for the following Society awards:

- Distinguished Member Award
- Award of Merit
- Outstanding Educator
- Outstanding Researcher

Nominations are due by September 17, 1999, so you still have some time to nominate worthy members for these awards. Please refer to the enclosed nomination form for the awards criteria. Completed forms should be

sent to the Awards Committee Chairman:

David Vitolo, Novartis Crop Protection, 67
Pinewood Rd., Hudson, NY 12534.
Phone: 518-851-2122 / Fax: 518-851-9790.
E-mail: david.vitolo@cp.novartis.com

Call for Vice-President Nominations

Rich Bonanno is requesting, by way of this notice, suggestions from the membership for nominations to the office of 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 2000 meeting should be selected from members who are employed by the crop protection industry. Nominations should be sent to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee:

Garry Schnappinger, Novartis Crop Protection
930 Starr Road, Centreville, MD 21617
Phone: 410-758-1419 / Fax: 410-758-0656
E-mail: gary.schnappinger@cp.novartis.com

1999 NEWSS Collegiate Weed Science Contest

The NEWSS Collegiate Weed Science Contest was held July 20 at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. Contest results and photographs will appear in the November newsletter.

Plan to Attend the 2000 WSSA Annual Meeting in Toronto, Canada

The 2000 WSSA Annual Meeting will be held in Toronto February 6 through 9 at the Weston Harbour Castle Hotel. The hotel is a fine facility located in downtown Toronto on the water (Toronto Bay on Lake Ontario) in close proximity to many restaurants and shopping. The venue is a large multi-story hotel with an international flavor. It has an attached convention center where much of the meeting will take place. The hotel boasts comfortable rooms, an excellent health club, swimming pool, and both tennis and racquetball courts for hotel guests. Assuming the economy stays as is, Canada is an excellent value at the moment with an exchange rate close to 1.5:1 with the U.S. dollar. The dinner entrees at a very nice French Canadian restaurant we visited during the recent WSSA Board of Directors meeting cost between \$12 and \$18 Canadian, which after the exchange rate, is a fairly good value.

Like last year, the 2000 meeting will begin on Sunday afternoon (Feb. 6) and conclude after the banquet

on Wed. evening (Feb. 9). Several symposia are planned including the following:

- Weed Control, Weed Management, or Weed Science...Which will it be – Robert Hedberg
- Partnerships Now...Weeds Won't Wait – Randy Westbrook and Arthur Miller
- Herbicide Resistant Crops: Implications for Latin American Agriculture – Bernal E. Valverde
- Herbicide Adjuvants – Jerry Green
- Allelopathy: Past Achievements and Future Approach – Inderjit and Chester Foy
- Impact of Genomics and Biotechnology on Weed Science – Dale Shaner

Several pre- and post-conference tours are in the planning stages and include a tour of the grape/wine region, the greenhouse industry, and perhaps some other areas of agricultural interest. In addition, a number of shopping and cultural tours are being planned for the spouse program. Additional information will be included in the November NEWSS Newsletter.

People in the News

A. Richard Bonanno was awarded recognition as Outstanding Young Weed Scientist by the Weed Science Society of America at its 1999 annual meeting in San Diego. Dr. Bonanno is Senior Extension Specialist at the University of Massachusetts with weed management extension responsibilities for vegetable and small fruit crops. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Cornell University, and his Ph.D. degree from Oregon State University. From 1983 to 1989, Dr. Bonanno was an Extension Specialist in weed management at North Carolina State University.

In addition to his responsibilities at UMass, Rich runs a family farm in Methuen, MA and has been actively involved in NEWSS, SWSS and WSSA. He currently serves as President of NEWSS.

Submission of Articles for the NEWSS Newsletter

Please submit articles for the NEWSS newsletter (including items for "People in the News") to the Public Relations Representative, Todd Mervosh.

I prefer that articles be sent to my email address: tmervosh@caes.state.ct.us. Otherwise, send a hard copy, plus a version stored on diskette in Microsoft Word for Windows 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 22, 1999**.

Also, please send address changes to either Andy Senesac or Dave Yarborough (see addresses on back of this newsletter).

NEWSS Legislative Committee Report

FOOD QUALITY PROTECTION ACT OF 1996 (FQPA) – UPDATE

Tolerance Reassessments

In association with the FQPA legislative language, EPA is close to completing the first one-third of the tolerance reassessments by August 3, 1999. Many of these tolerance reassessments are “house cleaning” actions. That is, revoking tolerances for chemicals that were canceled a while ago. For example, EPA has recently revoked the tolerances for chloramben., which has not been produced for over 5 years. The environmental community is extremely angry that EPA has not reassessed more tolerances for FQPA priority pesticides (organophosphates, carbamates, and B-2 carcinogens). Bensulide, the sole organophosphate herbicide, is in the later stages of tolerance reassessment. On June 16, 1999, EPA held a technical briefing on bensulide to better explain the human health and ecological risk findings and offered the following conclusions:

Bensulide’s acute and chronic dietary risk from food is well below the Agency’s level of concern.

The acute drinking water risks calculated for ground and surface water, and the chronic drinking water risk calculated for groundwater for bensulide do not exceed the Agency’s level of concern. The chronic drinking water risk calculated for surface water indicates a potential to exceed the Agency’s level of concern.

The Agency has concerns for homeowners who apply bensulide with a belly grinder-type spreader.

There is risk to birds from all uses, but risks are highest from golf courses. Not likely to be a problem because bensulide is used mainly for greens and tees where short mowing limits goose grazing.

Risks to aquatic organisms result from surface run-off and potential is greatest in turf areas. This may result in serious challenges to continued use on golf courses.

American Farm Bureau Lawsuit

The American Farm Bureau, along with National Association of Wheat Growers, National Grain Sorghum Producers, United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association, Agricultural Retailers Association, Georgia Peanut Producers Association, Western Growers Association, American Airwomen, Kansas Fertilizer and Chemical Association, Michigan Agribusiness Association,

American Crop Protection Association, Southern Crop Protection Association, Chemical Producers and Distributors Association, International Sanitary Supply Association, Western Crop Protection Association, and Mid American Crop Protection Association have filed a lawsuit against EPA for the Agency’s failing to comply with certain provisions of FQPA. The plaintiffs note that contrary to the express requirements of the FQPA and Vice President Gore’s directive, EPA has moved ahead with an approach that relies on implementation of “evolving” unpromulgated policies that serve as *de facto* rules and use of assumptions in place of actual data. This approach to implementing the FQPA amendments will lead to great uncertainty about, significant limitations on, and even prohibitions against many widely-used and necessary pesticides. In adopting such an approach, EPA has failed to meet a number of statutory requirements. It is this failure that forms the basis of this lawsuit.

EPA Request for Comment on FQPA Issues

EPA published in the July 14, 1999 Federal Register a notice of availability on "The Role of Use-related Information in Pesticide Risk Assessment and Risk Management." This is a very important document and should be reviewed by stakeholders. The comment period extends to 9/13/99. Contact Jerry Baron (jbaron@aesop.rutgers.edu) for an electronic copy of the document.

EPA has requested comment on “Procedures and Criteria Proposed for Setting Emergency Use Pesticide Tolerances.” As required by the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), EPA is now establishing tolerances for pesticide uses granted under the emergency exemption provision of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. This proposed rule solicits public comment on the procedures and criteria for EPA to establish pesticide tolerances resulting from emergency uses of pesticides. Specifically, in reviewing applications for emergency use pesticides, the Agency will establish time-limited tolerances after evaluating all potential exposures to the pesticide, including the diet, drinking water, and other non-occupational exposures, as well as ensuring the tolerance will be protective of infants and children. Under EPA’s proposal, the criterion for defining when an emergency situation exists has not changed. Generally, the Agency recognizes an emergency situation when a pesticide or another agricultural tool is not available for a specific crop, and a significant economic loss is expected as a result. Written comments on the proposal will be accepted on or before August 2. The proposal can be viewed on EPA’s web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA->

AG BIOTECH

White House Meeting on Ag Biotech

Rob Hedberg, WSSA Director of Science Policy, was one of several scientific participants attending a briefing on July 22, 1999 organized by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Council on Environmental Quality and the National Economic Council. There were three "invited" presentations; one by the Council for Responsible Genetics, one by the Environmental Defense Fund and one by the International Center for Technology Assessment.

In his meeting comments, Rob was very disappointed with the briefing. He noted the chairmanship of the meeting was very one sided. Those at the meeting who spoke against Ag biotech were given free rein to speak at considerable length, those who had anything positive to say were curtailed rather abruptly. In spite of the significant administration efforts underway to protect access to European markets for American transgenic crops, the political thinking of the current administration seems biased against Ag biotech. The core issues raised were food safety and labeling of transgenic food. Some mention was made of assessing the risks of Bt crops to butterflies other than monarchs and peripheral mention was made of outcrossing and potential weediness issues.

Two points raised at the meeting raised some personal concerns about the long-term prospects of GMO crops in this country in the face of mounting political pressure. One is that major donor foundations are beginning to support some of the anti-biotech campaigns. The other is that the grocery chains are very cognizant of minute changes in consumer buying behavior. It appears there will be a concerted effort first to raise public concerns, then parlay these concerns into changed buying practices, which will leverage significant changes in grocery store purchasing practices. These changes would then be communicated back to the producers in the form of reduced markets for their crops. Although public concern about GMO crops has not reached the same level as observed in Europe, obvious efforts are underway to raise public doubts to that level.

Rob concluded: "At this time I think it is important for Weed Science and other agricultural science societies to stay engaged if these meetings continue. Hopefully they will turn into productive discussions. It is important to listen to the legitimate concerns of people who have fears about this technology and also to be ready to share the knowledge we can contribute if others are willing to listen as well. Although this was not the case yesterday (July 22), it is important that there is public confidence in the technology if we are to gain the benefits it can offer. Part of gaining that confidence will come from real discussions about both the risks and benefits. Because of

the level of these meetings we should stay at the table and try to make the forum a productive one."

INVASIVE WEEDS UPDATE

Initial Council Meeting, 7/22/99

Rob Hedberg attended the first Invasive Species Council meeting. This Council is a direct result of the Executive Order on Invasive Species. At the meeting there were presentations about the severity of the issue, and fortunately weeds were featured prominently in the presentations by Secretaries Glickman and Babbitt as well as by Lee Otteni and Glen Secrist.

The major news was a glimpse of the organizational structure, funding mechanisms and timelines and a vision of the technical advisory committee structure. The charter of the committee is still needed prior to the Federal Register (FR) seeking nominees. This FR notice is anticipated in August and selections will be made in time to hold the first meeting in October. Although the Advisory Committee will be limited to about 25 people, it appears that the addition of working groups will offer great flexibility for additional expertise to be brought into the process. At this point it appears that the working groups will be formatted into three tiers: by taxonomy of the invasive species, by function (ex: prevention, eradication, control, management and restoration) and by geographic area.

The first focus of the council will be the issues of prevention. That leaves other functions such as early detection, rapid response, eradication, control, and restoration for future stages of the Council. It also appears that the Council will be given latitude to suggest statutory changes which will be necessary to achieve its objectives. Given the focus on prevention this may indicate that the Council will suggest changes in APHIS authorities at some future date.

Senate Agriculture Committee Hearing

On May 18 a Forestry, Conservation and Rural Revitalization subcommittee hearing was held on S.910, the Noxious Weed Coordination and Plant Protection Act called by Senator Craig (R-ID), the bill's author and subcommittee chair. WSSA was invited to testify on short notice and Gene Cross from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture testified on our behalf.

House Resources Committee Hearing

On June 24 there was a National Parks and Public Lands hearing on Noxious and Invasive Weeds called by Representative Hansen (R-UT), the subcommittee chair. Dr. Ralph Whitesides, a WSSA member from Utah State University was invited. This hearing focused the nature of the problem, the actions being taken currently and the

actions needed.

New England Exotic Plant Pest Council

On June 10 Rob Hedberg attended an organizational meeting for this regional exotic plant council and has been communicating with the organizers since. His primary objective was to make sure that this group, which has a strong bias toward native plants and natural areas, was aware of WSSA and the weed science expertise available at the land grant universities, and that he gain a better sense of their concerns. Several of the attendees were not previously aware of the WSSA, NEWSS, or the book "Weeds of the Northeast."

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service published in the July 29, 1999 Federal Register a notice that they are amending the noxious weed regulations to clearly state that a permit is required for the movement of noxious weeds interstate, as well as into or through the United States. The regulations currently provide for the issuance of permits for movements into or through the United States, but do not explicitly address interstate movements. This action is necessary to help prevent the artificial interstate spread of noxious weeds into non-infested areas of the United States. This is an interim rule and is effective on publication (July 29). APHIS will consider all comments that we receive by September 27, 1999. A copy of the document can be obtained at the following website: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=1999_register&doci.

Or contact Randy Westbrook, Invasive Plant Liaison, Interagency Field Office for Invasive Species, 233 Border Belt Drive, PO Box 279, Whiteville, NC 28472; (910) 648-6762.

MISCELLANEOUS

USDA's Office of Pest Management and Policy

Al Jennings and his staff at USDA's Office of Pest Management and Policy (OPMP) have started a monthly newsletter to inform stakeholders about their activities. For more information, see their home page at <http://ipmwww.ncsu.edu/opmppiap/>. To join this newsletter distribution network, address an e-mail to Majordomo@ars-grin.gov, leave the subject line blank, and type "subscribe opmp" in the message. Direct questions and comments to opmp@ars.usda.gov or 202-720-4074, fax 202-720-3191.

USDA Regional Pest Management Centers

USDA, through its Office of Pest Management Policy, envisions the establishment of Regional Pest Management Centers based on 12 crop production zones similar to those used to define the Environmental

Protection Agency's Field Trial Regions. These "virtual" centers, housed at existing land-grant universities or other appropriate facilities, will require little new infrastructures. The centers would provide rapid access to information needed by federal regulators and aid in the development of regulatory policy on a regional basis, while providing up-to-date alternatives to growers. Each center will support pest management for the commodities of its region and maintain a national expertise in a specific cross-commodity area, such as biotechnology, precision agriculture, or information technology. Each center will support the pest management needs of federal and state regulators, extension personnel, and the public through a coordinated effort at the regional level. The centers would identify and organize pest management expertise within the regions to ensure rapid response capacity for pest problems or public information needs; assess the need for and support development of teaching resources in pest management education for agricultural producers, as well as consumers; provide science-based, regionally specific input for regulatory issues; and coordinate and report regional pest management research.

Jerry Baron, Legislative Committee Chair

WSSA UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD - YEAR 2000

The Weed Science Society of America has developed an Undergraduate Student Research Grant designed to encourage and involve exceptional undergraduates in agricultural research. Interested faculty members are encouraged to identify potential award candidates and discuss the possibility of sponsoring a research project. Awards may be used as a stipend, for research budget expenses (travel, supplies, etc.), to defer fees, to defray living expenses for summer research, or any combination of these items.

AWARD: Up to \$1000 for support of undergraduate research to be conducted over a minimum of one quarter/semester during 2000. This award may be used to defray the cost of research supplies or as a stipend. Support of a faculty sponsor is required. Awards will be made to the student, to be administered by the faculty sponsor's department.

APPLICANT: The applicant is an undergraduate student with a strong interest in Weed Science. Students majoring in all related disciplines may apply.

TO APPLY: Applicants should prepare a 2-3 page research proposal including name, address, phone number, title, objective, experimental approach, discussion, budget and references. The discussion section of the proposal should describe the expected results and their possible significance to Weed Science. The student should provide a cover letter in which general academic and career goals are discussed. A copy of the students academic transcripts should also be provided.

FACULTY SPONSOR: Any faculty member who is actively engaged in Weed Science research is qualified to be a sponsor. The faculty sponsor should review the research proposal with special attention to the budget, the distribution of funds should be approved by both the student and sponsor. In addition, the sponsor should provide a letter of reference including a statement of his/her willingness to supervise the proposed research and to provide needed space, equipment and supplies above those requested in the proposal. The sponsor is encouraged to assist the student in presenting his/her results at a regional Weed Science Meeting.

HOW TO APPLY: The completed proposal, academic transcripts, cover letter and faculty letter of support should be forwarded to: Dr. John Jachetta, Dow AgroSciences, 9330 Zionsville Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268-1054; Phone: (317) 337-4672, Fax (317) 337-4649, E-mail: jjjachetta@dowagro.com. Proposals should be received no later than November 15, 1999. Funding decisions will be made by January 25, 2000 and presented at the 2000 WSSA National Meeting Awards Banquet.