

Northeastern Weed Science Society Newsletter

April 2000

Comments from the President

Hats off to all NEWSS members who volunteered their time and made the 54th Annual Meeting at the Hyatt Regency in Baltimore a great success! Thanks to Jeff Derr (Program Chair) and the section chairs for organizing the 109 papers given, as well as the excellent symposium on "Herbicide-resistant Crops" and the mini symposia on invasive weeds and for crop advisors. With about 200 in attendance, the numbers were down somewhat compared to 5 years ago, but our participation is still strong, and in many paper sessions, attendance was quite high.

Members of the Northeast Region of the American Society of Horticultural Science were again in attendance. This was the second year the NE-ASHS has held a meeting in conjunction with NEWSS. Because of mutual interests in vegetable, tree fruit and nursery crops, both societies have clearly benefited from these joint meetings. The NE-ASHS will meet again with NEWSS at our 55th Annual Meeting at the Marriott in Cambridge, MA. Because New Years Day falls on Monday in 2001, the annual meeting will be pushed back one day in the week. The travel day will be Tuesday, January 2 and the meeting will end at noon on Friday, January 5.

Next year's meeting may seem a long way off, but as you're conducting research this year, think about what research you could present at the 2001 meeting. Take plenty of pictures to show your results. One of those photos might be a winner at the NEWSS photo contest.

If you have any questions about the photo contest or another matter concerning NEWSS, the names and addresses of the 2001 officers and executive committee members are listed on the back cover of this newsletter.

Rich Bonanno (Past President) especially wants to hear from you when it comes to nominating members for the Distinguished Member, Award of Merit, Outstanding

Educator and Outstanding Researcher awards. Doug Goodale, chair of the nominating committee for Vice President candidates, also wants to hear from you. If you have any ideas how NEWSS can better serve you, I want to hear from you. If you have any ideas how WSSA can better serve you, contact Brad Majek who was just elected Vice President of WSSA. Congratulations, Brad!

Only nine months ago, Rich Bonanno learned that Ivan Morozov, a weed science graduate student at Virginia Tech, had designed an unofficial website for NEWSS. That website is now the NEWSS official website (<http://www.ppws.vt.edu/newss/newss.htm>). It has and will become a valuable resource for both the society and the general public. Here's a short list of what you will find on the website: publications, calendar of events, collegiate weed contest, weed identification, annual meeting information, and links to extension sites in the Northeast. On behalf of NEWSS I'd like to thank Ivan Morozov for his time and expertise in designing the website. If you have some weed science information you feel should be posted on the NEWSS website, please contact Betty Marose (Research & Education Coordinator) and/or Ivan Morozov.

You will notice on the back cover that Ivan Morozov now also serves on the NEWSS Executive Committee as the Graduate Student Representative. Because of his interest in communicating with fellow weed scientists through the website, Ivan has graciously accepted the responsibilities of communicating with his fellow graduate students for the 2000-2001 term. This means there will be a graduate student workshop/mini-symposium at the 2001 meeting in Cambridge.

Graduate and undergraduate students also have the NEWSS Collegiate Weed Contest to look forward to in a few months. Dr. Francois Tardif at the University of Guelph will host the contest on August 1, 2000. For more information on the contest, see the article in this

newsletter and on the NEWSS website.

The website will serve as a valuable link for members of NEWSS, but occasionally there may be a need to pass along information even faster. With Rob Hedberg as the Director of Science Policy for WSSA, important information from Washington, D.C. can be quickly disseminated to the weed science societies. If there is any information I feel you need to know immediately, I will send it to you via email.

Brian Olson, President

2000 NEWSS Executive Committee

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The 2000 NEWSS Executive Committee (front row, L to R): Dave Mayonado, Brian Olson, Jeff Derr, Rich Bonanno, Dave Yarborough, (back row, L to R): Bill Curran, Mark VanGessel, Carroll Moseley, Jerry Baron, Betty Marose, Todd Mervosh, Bob Sweet.

Awards Presented at 54th Annual Meeting

Distinguished Member Award:

J. Ray Frank, Ornamentals Manager, IR-4 Project
Stanley W. Pruss, Novartis Crop Protection
(retired)

Award of Merit:

Richard J. Marrese, Hoechst-NorAm (retired)

Outstanding Educator:

Thomas L. Watschke, Penn State University

Outstanding Researcher:

Prasanta C. Bhowmik, Univ. of Massachusetts

Student Paper Presentations:

- 1st Place: **Matthew J. Fagerness** and F. H. Yelverton, N.C. State Univ., Raleigh. Lateral development of plant growth regulator-treated 'Tifway' bermudagrass.
- 2nd Place: **Steven R. King**, E. S. Hagood, D. Brann, and H. P. Wilson, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg. Double crop corn weed control in Virginia.
- 3rd Place: **Gina M. Penny** and J. C. Neal, N.C. State Univ., Raleigh. Nutrient removal by weeds in container nursery crops.

Poster Presentations:

- 1st Place: **Peggy L. Preusch**, Hood College, Frederick, MD, and T. J. Tworowski, USDA-ARS, Kearneysville, WV. Weed control and nutrient release with composted poultry litter mulch in a peach orchard.
- 2nd Place (tie): **David B. Vitolo**, C. Pearson, M. G. Schnappinger, and R. Schmenk, Novartis Crop Protection, Hudson, NY. The effect of total postemergence herbicide timings on corn yield.
- 2nd Place (tie): **John M. Jemison** and M. Vayda, Univ. of Maine, Orono. Pollen transport from genetically modified corn.

Photo Contest:

- 1st Place: **Bill Curran**, Penn State
- 2nd Place: **Kevin Bradley**, Virginia Tech
- 3rd Place: **Todd Mervosh**, Conn. Agric. Exp. Stn.

2000 NEWSS Committees

Awards Committee: Rich Bonanno (Chair), Dave Vitolo, Joe Neal, Tom Vrabel, Brad Majek

Nominating Committee: Doug Goodale (Chair), Rakesh Chandran, Art Gover, Katherine Jennings, Matt Mahoney

Other Committee Chairs:

Resolutions Committee: Rick Schmenk
Past Presidents Committee: Jim Parochetti
Student Paper Contest Committee: Dave Vitolo
Poster Judging Committee: Ben Coffman
Photo Contest Committee: Jim Saik
Collegiate Weed Contest: Francois Tardif

Awards Chairman Calls for Nominees

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

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

Nominations are due September 17, 2000, so this is a good time to consider nominees for these awards. Please refer to the nomination form enclosed in this newsletter for the awards criteria. Completed forms should be sent to Rich Bonanno, Awards Committee Chairman.

Call for Vice President Nominations

Rich Bonanno 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 2001 meeting should be selected from members who are employed in the public sector (i.e. academic institution or government agency). Nominations should be sent to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee:

Douglas Goodale
SUNY-Cobleskill, College of Agric. & Tech.
100 Hodder Hall, Cobleskill, NY 12043
Phone: 518-234-5321 / Fax: 518-234-5439
Email: goodalem@cobleskill.edu

Procedures for the NEWSS Archives

The Past President of the society will compile information from the previous year for the NEWSS archives. If you have articles, pictures, or other information for the NEWSS archives, send them to Rich Bonanno, 255 Merrimack Street, Methuen, MA 01844-6433. The archives are being maintained at Cornell University by Robin Bellinder.

Sustaining Membership

Approximately 30 companies provide financial support to NEWSS in the form of sustaining memberships. The most current list of Sustaining Members can be found in the back of the 2000 Annual Meeting Program and in the front of the NEWSS Proceedings, Vol. 54. The Society wishes to thank these companies for their continued efforts. These funds are utilized in many different NEWSS activities. Any company that would like information on becoming a Sustaining Member should contact Carroll Moseley (see p. 2 for contact information).

Recertification Credits

Recertification credits were submitted to the appropriate states and agencies following the 54th Annual Meeting in Baltimore.

2000 Weed Science Field Days

The schedule for the Weed Science Field Days was not available at the time this newsletter was printed. Contact Betty Marose, NEWSS Research & Education Coordinator, to obtain the schedule for the field days (see p. 2 for contact information).

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. Otherwise, send a hard copy, plus the file stored on diskette to:

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

The deadline for inclusion in the August newsletter is **July 14, 2000**.

2000 NEWSS Collegiate Weed Contest

The 2000 NEWSS Collegiate Weed Contest will be hosted by the University of Guelph in Guelph, Ontario. The Contest date will be Tuesday, August 1st. Monday, July 31st will be the travel date for contestants and volunteers - an orientation will be held for all participants that evening. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Guelph Holiday Inn (519-836-0231) and will be held until June 30th. Please contact Francois Tardif for more information. Visitors from the U.S. are welcome to Canada although care should be taken that all team members have proper identification. A valid passport is the preferred form of identification, but other official documents with photo are generally accepted. Foreign students should inquire at a Canadian Consulate in order to obtain appropriate visas.

The Contest is open to all undergraduate and graduate students. Please contact Francois if you want to enter a team in the Contest, or if you are willing to assist as a volunteer. Contest rules and regulations will be mailed to team coaches. Please plan to participate as either a student, coach, or volunteer at the 17th NEWSS Collegiate Weed Contest.

Francois Tardif
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Crop Science Bldg.
Guelph, Ontario, CANADA
N1G 2W1

Phone: (519) 824-4120 x 3395
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2001 Annual Meeting Program

Listed below are the section chairs and chair-elects for the 55th Annual Meeting of NEWSS to be held January 2-5, 2001 at the Boston Marriott Cambridge. You will receive more information, including the call for titles, in the August issue of the newsletter. If there are special programs or symposia you would like to see at the 2001 meeting, please contact David Mayonado or the appropriate section chair.

Program Chair

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Chair-elect: Rick Schmenk

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Chair: William Bruckart
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Chair-elect: Jerry Baron

Industrial, Forestry, and Conservation

Chair: Robert Wagner
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Ornamentals

Chair: Mark Czarnota
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Chair-elect: Leslie Weston

Poster Section

Chair: Annamarie Pennucci
NE Turf & Ornamental Research
4 Englewood Drive, Raymond, NH 03077
Phone: 603-895-8480 / Fax: 603-672-6332

Chair-elect: Tracey Harpster

Turfgrass and Plant Growth Regulators

Chair: Stephen Hart
Rutgers University, Plant Science Dept.
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Email: hart@aesop.rutgers.edu

Chair-elect: Karen Novosel

Vegetables and Fruit

Chair: Thomas Bewick
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Chair-elect: Albert Ayeni

2000 WSSA Meeting Report: Toronto

The 2000 Weed Science Society of America annual meeting was held February 6-9 at the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. About 620 individuals attended this year's meeting presenting 100 posters and 250 papers. Six different symposia were offered plus numerous sessions dealing with weed management in virtually all cropping systems. The WSSA President for 2000-2001 is Dick Oliver, University of Arkansas.

Congratulations to Brad Majek, the new WSSA Vice President. Brad, an active member of the NEWSS and our 1996 NEWSS President, was elected to this honor. Brad will move through the ranks from Vice President to President Elect and finally become President in 2002-2003. I am sure Brad would appreciate any support you show him. "Attaboy" Brad!

Other honors bestowed on individuals at the WSSA meeting included Outstanding Teaching Award, James Griffin; Outstanding Graduate Student, Stanley Culpepper; Outstanding Young Weed Scientist, Thomas Mueller; Outstanding Researcher, Frank Forcella; Outstanding Extension Award, Tim R. Murphy; Honorary Member, Allan Walker; WSSA Fellows, Larry Binning, Dwight Camper, Raghavan Charudattan, Jodie Holt, Dale Shaner, and Gail Wicks. The Outstanding paper in *Weed Science* was M.J. Foes, L. Liu, P.J. Tranel, L.M. Wax, and E.W.

Stoller, A biotype of common waterhemp (*Amaranthus rudis*) resistant to triazine and ALS herbicides, *Weed Sci* 46:514-520. The Outstanding Paper in *Weed Technology* was R.E. Blackshaw, G. Semach, X. Li, J.T. O'Donovan, and K.N. Harker, An integrated weed management approach to managing foxtail barley (*Hordeum jubatum*) in conservation tillage systems, *Weed Technol* 13:347-353.

Other noteworthy items: the table of contents and abstracts of articles from both *Weed Science* and *Weed Technology* are posted in a fully searchable database on the Allen Press website (<http://www.allenpress.com>) through their APT-Online service. Members can access this service directly from a link on the WSSA website. In addition, the WSSA Newsletter is now available not only to the WSSA members but to anyone with Web access. Visit the WSSA website (<http://ext.agn.uiuc.edu/wssa/>) for more information.

A new publication titled *The New Edition of Germination and Establishment of Weeds for Experimental Purposes* by Doug Buhler and Melinda Hoffman was released in Fall 1999. The book contains a wealth of information concerning weed germination and should be on every weed scientist's bookshelf. The book is available through WSSA (Allen Press) for \$50.

The 2001 WSSA Annual Meeting will be held in Greensboro, NC, February 11 to 14. The hotel is an excellent facility and should serve our needs very well. If you have ideas for symposia, the deadline for proposals is May 1. For more information about symposia proposals, contact Charlotte Eberlein, WSSA President Elect. Future meeting sites include Reno, Nevada in 2002 and Jacksonville, FL in 2003. The 2004 meeting will likely be in Kansas City to celebrate WSSA's 50th anniversary. Kansas City was the site for the 1st WSSA meeting.

Bill Curran, WSSA Representative for NEWSS

Legislative Committee Report

BIOTECHNOLOGY:

U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (CA) introduced in February "Genetically Engineered Food Right-to-Know Act". In a news release associated with the introduction, the Senator stated that the bill was introduced to "...guarantee consumers the right to know if food products contain or were produced with genetically engineered materials. The bill also authorizes funding for a study of the effects of these products. To ensure a consumer's right-to-know, the "Genetically Engineered Food Right-to-Know Act" requires that all genetically engineered foods carry the following label: "*This product contains a genetically engineered material, or was*

produced with a genetically engineered material." In anticipation of Senator Boxer's proposed labeling bill, 35 Food Industry Trade Associations sent a February 10 letter to each U.S. Senator, urging them "...not to co-sponsor legislation that would mandate labeling of products of biotechnology..." The letter noted that the legislation could have far-reaching consequences for U.S. farmers and for U.S. agribusiness, would result in consumer confusion, and that biotechnology is already reducing farmers' costs of production and reducing billions of dollars in crop damage from harmful insects. The letter concluded, "In time, we believe biotechnology will contribute to a safer and more nutritious food supply. Mandatory labeling of all foods derived from biotechnology would jeopardize the viability of a promising new technology and would send the misleading message that the government is not confident of the safety of the U.S. food supply."

USDA Advisory Committee on Agricultural Biotechnology (ACAB) to Meet March 29-30 in Washington, DC - The agenda for the meeting includes: Rules of procedure for the ACAB; ongoing biotechnology-related activities at USDA; assessment of informational needs of ACAB members; priority issues for USDA for consideration by the ACAB; views of ACAB members regarding the work of the committee and appropriate topics for discussion by the ACAB. Contact Michael Schechtman at (202) 720-3817; fax: (202) 690-4265; e-mail: michael.g.schechtman@usda.gov.

Representatives Dennis J. Kucinich (D-OH) and Jack Metcalf (R-WA), and five other co-sponsors, introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives on March 9, HR 3883, the Genetically Engineered Food Safety Act. If enacted, the bill would revise FDA's current procedures for the regulation of genetically modified foods by requiring all GEFs to go through FDA's current food additive process to ensure GEFs are safe for human consumption, including examination for allergenicity, unintended effects, toxicity, functional characteristics, and nutrients levels. Antibiotic resistance markers would be phased out by June 2004 unless they have been removed prior to commercialization. FDA would be authorized to establish user fees to cover the costs of the GEF regulatory process, and the bill would require the National Academy's Institute of Medicine to conduct a review of the all generic FDA rulemakings and report to Congress any concerns raised. In a March 9 Press Release, the National Food Processors Association noted that HR 3883 is "... *nothing more than a back door effort to undermine the use of biotechnology in this country... Food additive reviews regularly take a decade or longer to complete. Obviously, Representative*

Kucinich is taking this approach in order to halt the introduction of new biotech food products. His goal is apparently to block the use of food biotechnology -- not to ensure its safety." A copy of the bill should be available on Rep. Thomas's website at <http://www.thomas.loc.gov>.

FOOD QUALITY PROTECTION ACT (FQPA):

On March 15, EPA published a proposal to revise the public participation process now in use for the reassessment of the organophosphate pesticides and extend the process to all pesticides going through reregistration and tolerance reassessment. EPA began this public participation initiative as a pilot in July 1998, after consultation with the Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee (TRAC), as a way to increase transparency of regulatory processes and consultation with affected stakeholders. Based on lessons learned during the pilot and further consultation with stakeholders, EPA is now proposing a revised process that further enhances public participation. The process includes six phases with two public comment periods, as well as expanded public engagement before starting the process. The notice also describes how the process will apply to pesticides that are now in the review process. EPA has established a 30-day comment period on this proposal. The Federal Register notice is available from the Government Printing Office web site: (http://www.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html).

EPA has tentative plans to issue the re-registration eligibility decision for several herbicides in the remaining part of FY 2000. The herbicides planned for review are atrazine, sodium acifluorfen and triallate.

EPA has published a tentative FY 2000 workplan for chemicals/uses that they expect to review. This workplan includes the new herbicides: Azafenidin (Milestone) on Citrus, Grape, Sugarcane, Vegetation Management; Clodinafop (Horizon) on Wheat; Diclosulam (Strongarm) on Peanut, Soybean; Tepraloxymid (Equinox) on Cotton, Soybean; Flucarbazone Sodium (MKH6562) on Wheat; Flumioxazin (Valor) on Peanut, Soybean; Mesotrione (ZA1269) on Corn; and possibly Ethametsulfuron (Muster) on Canola. Detailed information on EPA's FY 2000 workplan including new uses of existing herbicides can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/opprd001/workplan/>.

ORGANIC FOODS:

The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service has issued their second attempt in developing Organic Food regulation. They published a Proposed Rule in the March 13 *Federal Register*. Comments are due back by June 12. Briefly, the national program is intended to facilitate interstate commerce and marketing of fresh and processed food that

is organically produced and to assure consumers that such products meet consistent, uniform standards; to establish national standards for the production and handling of organically produced products, including a National List of substances approved and prohibited for use in organic production and handling; to establish a national-level accreditation program to be administered by AMS for State officials and private persons who want to be accredited as certifying agents (under the program, certifying agents will certify production and handling operations in compliance with the requirements of this regulation and initiate compliance actions to enforce program requirements); to establish requirements for labeling products as organic and containing organic ingredients; and to provide for importation of organic agricultural products from foreign programs determined to have equivalent organic program requirements. The proposal would prohibit the use of genetically modified crops and food, food irradiation, and use of municipal sewage sludge. USDA Agricultural Marketing Service contact: Richard Mathews at (202) 205-7806; Fax: (202) 205-7808. - USDA AMS March 13 *Federal Register*: http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/fr-cont.html.

INVASIVE PLANT UPDATE:

USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has issued advance notice of proposed rulemaking and request for comments. They are considering revising the noxious weed regulations issued under the Federal Noxious Weed Act in order to maximize their effectiveness. They believe changes may be necessary to improve control and limit the spread of invasive weed species that are not covered under the current noxious weed regulations. APHIS is considering categorizing weeds according to geographic, regulatory, and other criteria. This notice solicits public comment on these categories and on the criteria for assigning weeds to each category. They are also asking the public to help determine how to prioritize funding resources for existing and future programs. APHIS needs comments returned by May 19, 2000. For further information, contact:

Ms. Polly Lehtonen, Botanist, Scientific Services, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 734-8896.

The complete Federal Register document is posted at: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2000_register&doci

The first National Invasive Weed Awareness week was held in Washington February 27 through March 3, 2000. The week resulted from the cooperative effort of many groups including the Weed Science Societies, CAST (Council for Agricultural Science and Technology), IWAC

(Invasive Weeds Awareness Committee), INWAC (Intermountain Noxious Weed Advisory Council), NAWMA (North American Weed Management Association) and FICMNEW (Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds), The Western Governor's Association, The Cattleman's Beef Association, The Nature Conservancy, The Ecological Society of America, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and several businesses with an interest in the issue. The outcome of the week's events was that awareness was raised significantly among legislators, governors and administration officials. Some highlights of the week include (a) A meeting of the National Governors Association Natural Resources Committee that focused on invasive species and weeds. Eleven governors attended along with a large contingency of their staffs, (b) a dozen exhibits were set up in the Rotunda of the Russell Senate Office building where they could be viewed by staff and visitors all week long (c) an aquatic weed management legislative conference, (d) a CAST Briefing for the different groups that came to town as well as a CAST briefing for legislative staffers and (e) a USDA seminar to highlight some of the difficult issues associated with the invasive species executive order.

USDA AGRICULTURE OUTLOOK FORUM

2000:

USDA sponsored The Agricultural Outlook Forum 2000 on February 24th and 25th in Arlington, Virginia. This is the 75th in the outlook forum series. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman gave the plenary presentation on the current farm and trade prospects for 2000 plus a glimpse into key issues the Administration feel are important to consider for the 2002 Farm Bill. Secretary Glickman emphasized that the 1996 Farm Bill did not provide an adequate farmer safety net for difficult economic times like those experienced in 1999. In 2000, a new safety net initiative will be proposed to provide counter cyclical income assistance to farmers with the lowest incomes and who actually grow the crops. The program will also reward conservation and land stewardship while making crop insurance more affordable. Trade with China to increase agricultural exports (in 1999 only \$1.1 billion of agricultural exports sold to China out of \$14 billion total China exports, versus \$70 billion in imports from China) will be a key administrative issue. Other USDA speakers mentioned a \$2 billion goal for increases in agricultural exports to China. Some of the key issues mentioned for discussion in the 2002 Farm Bill included the following:

1. Programs to support farmers, not commodities;
2. Encourage alternative crop production and be more sensitive to farmers in regions like the Northeast who

got hit especially hard by the 1999 drought;

3. Revise the Federal Crop Insurance Program to include livestock;
4. Encourage land conservation and preservation;
5. Integrate rural development into farm policy; and,
6. Address dramatic changes taking place in society (i.e. the internet, biotechnology, etc.)

Keith Collins, Chief USDA Economist, indicated that farm exports would rise slightly in 2000 to \$49.5 billion versus \$49 billion in 1999, while net farm income would be down 20% to \$49.5 billion – the lowest since 1986. A projected 1% increase in farm production costs is due mainly to a \$1 billion increase in oil/fuel costs. A positive note for minor crop growers is that sales will rise to \$42 billion, an increase of \$1 billion over 1999.

There were many biotech related talks. If you are interested in reading the text of any of the speakers, they can be found on the internet at <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/oc2000/speaches.htm>.

MISCELLANEOUS/STATE NEWS:

Vermont Senate Ag Committee is considering a bill, S. 295, titled: "*An Act Relating to Genetically-Engineered Agricultural Inputs.*" If enacted, the bill would establish a moratorium through January 1, 2002 on planting of genetically modified seeds. According to the preamble of the bill: "The greatest potential harm is that the use of genetically-engineered seeds and plants by any given farmer could, unintentionally, alter the crops being produced by a neighboring farmer, or alter other plants or animals, including insects and microorganisms, which interact with domestic crops, as well as plants and animals making up the natural environment." Text of the bill is posted at the following Vermont Senate website:

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/schedule/agendas/s-295.htm>.

EPA announced in the February 23 *Federal Register* that they seek public comments for Metolachlor and s-Metolachlor on ground-water contamination and environmental fate data which could be relevant to the Agency's June 26, 1996 Proposed Ground Water and Pesticides Management Plan (PMP) rule. See http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2000_register&docid=00-4243-filed. In the proposed PMP rule, the Agency proposed, as a condition of continued use, that States and Tribes prepare chemical-specific management plans for metolachlor and three other herbicides that have been shown to persist in the environment and leach to ground water. EPA is seeking additional comment on the specific information that is being made available and described in the notice. For additional information contact: williams.arty@epa.gov.

On March 15, EPA published a proposal to revise the public participation process now in use for the reassessment of the organophosphate pesticides and extend the process to all pesticides going through re-registration and tolerance reassessment. EPA began this public participation initiative as a pilot in July 1998, after consultation with the Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee (TRAC), as a way to increase transparency of regulatory processes and consultation with affected stakeholders. Based on lessons learned during the pilot and further consultation with stakeholders, EPA is now proposing a revised process that further enhances public participation. The process includes six phases with two public comment periods, as well as expanded public engagement before starting the process. The notice also describes how the process will apply to pesticides that are now in the review process. EPA has established a 30-day comment period on this proposal. The Federal Register notice is available from the Government Printing Office website: (http://www.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html).

EPA and industry partners launched a nationwide campaign at the Philadelphia Flower and Garden Show to encourage consumers to read the information on household product labels. The "Read the Label FIRST!" campaign is part of the Consumer Labeling Initiative (CLI), an ongoing voluntary partnership to improve labels and help the public purchase, use and dispose of products more safely and responsibly. The campaign coincides with new, easier-to-read labels on many home pesticide and cleaning products now on store shelves.

The Cooperative Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), Plant and Animal Systems (PAS) announced that Requests for Proposals (RFPs) are now posted on the web for its Pest Management Alternatives Research Program addressing Food Quality Protection Act Issues for Fiscal Year 2000. The application deadline is April 17, 2000.

See <http://www.reeusda.gov/1700/funding/ourfund.htm> for the RFP.

USDA seeks Competitive Research Grant Applications in the Agency's "Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems" in the areas of (1) agricultural genomics and biotechnology; (2) food safety, food technology and human nutrition; (3) new and alternative uses for agricultural products; (4) natural resource management; (5) farm efficiency and profitability. Priority is to be provided to projects which: integrate research, extension, and education so that practical solutions can not only be tested but also implemented; and that involve multiple states, institutions and disciplines, so that complex problems can be addressed holistically to reach practical solutions. In pertinent program areas, priority may also be given to projects which address

the concerns of small- to mid-sized producers and land managers, who may be most affected by new agricultural technologies and their associated consequences. Of the \$120 million authorized, about \$113 million is available for grants through the Initiative in 2000 - A copy of the Request for Proposals, which was announced in the March 6 *Federal Register* is posted at the following USDA website: (<http://www.reeusda.gov/ifafs>).

Several pieces of information in this report were obtained from *The Food Environmental Weekly*. Contact Jack L. Cooper of the Food Industry Environmental Network (FIEN), 33 Falling Creek Court, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904; Phone: 301/384-8287; Fax: 301/384-8340; Internet e-mail: JLC@fien.com for subscription information.

Jerry Baron, Legislative Committee Chair

Minutes from the Herbicide Resistance Action Committee

November 15, 1999

Technical representatives from the main herbicide-producing companies form the industry-led Herbicide Resistance Action Committee (HRAC), which met in Brighton, UK. The purpose of this working group is to establish more effective communications to alert all people involved in the research, production, marketing, registration and use of herbicides to the potential problems of herbicide resistance and how it can be prevented/managed.

The HRAC web page (<http://www.plantprotection.org/HRAC/>) has been recently updated to include the following publications: Role of Industry in Resistance Management, Weed Resistance Guidelines, and in 2000 an updated HRAC Herbicide Classification containing new herbicides introduced at the Brighton conference, a publication authored by Dr. Stephen Moss, "Detecting Herbicide Resistance", and "Financial Risks of Resistance" by James Orson. A color poster on "The World of Herbicides" which groups herbicides by location in the plant and site of action will be put on the web page in early 2000, and copies will be available for order in 2000.

There are direct links to Ian Heap's "Weed Resistance Survey," a HRAC-supported project, along with hot links to the Fungicide Resistance Action Committee, Insecticide Resistance Action Committee, Global Crop Protection Federation and the Plant Pathology Internet guidebook. Ian Heap maintains a listing of confirmed resistant weeds from around the world - 232 as of 11/15/99 (<http://weedscience.com>). Soon to be added will be the ability to search by: resistant species by country, degree of infestation by species, species by herbicide. Hot links will be added from Ian's site to HRAC publications.

Dale Shaner, HRAC Chairman, presented a paper on "Effectiveness of mode of action labeling for resistance management: a survey of Australian farmers" at the Brighton conference. A copy of the paper is available from the HRAC web site. Guidelines for research proposals dealing with resistance management can also be found on the HRAC web site.

Dr. Max Landes, BASF was voted the new Chairperson for HRAC.

The European Herbicide Resistance Working Group Report reported the inclusion of new members from Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic. *Papaver rhoeas* (poppy) resistant to the ALS, hormone and both herbicide groups has been found in Spain. In Greece, and Italy, *Papaver* resistance has been confirmed to both 2,4-D, sulfonylureas (SU's) and imazethapyr but not to other IMI's.

In Saudi Arabia, *Lolium rigidum* resistance in cereals is an increasing problem with *Lolium* resistant to trifluralin, pendimethalin, chlorotoluron and isoproturon soil applied. Variable control, ranging from good to poor depending on the population was achieved with clodinafop, diclofop-methyl, tralkoxydim, and flurtamone.

Mexican HRAC sponsored an International Seminar on Herbicide Resistant Weeds in Guanajuato, Gto. March 5-7, 1999. Trials and demo plots having problems with *Phalaris* resistant to herbicides in wheat were viewed by 200 weed control specialists.

The group has translated the following reprints in Spanish:

Classification of Herbicides According to Mode of Action

HRAC Guidelines - How to Minimize Resistance and How to Respond to Cases of Suspected and Confirmed Resistance.

The North American Herbicide Resistance Working Group conducted an e-mail exchange of information as the fall meeting was postponed to December 16-17.

1. The following information has been shared on any new confirmed and suspected cases of resistant weeds in the U.S. and Canada. 1- Group 22(D) 1- Group 4 (O) 9- Group 2 (B) Seven are new species, the rest just additional locations.

Paraquat tolerant/resistant goosegrass in Florida.

Suspected ALS resistant shattercane (*Sorghum bicolor*) in Missouri.

Group 4 (synthetic auxin) resistant hemp nettle (*Galeopsis tetrahit*) western Canada.

ALS resistant ball mustard (*Neslia paniculata*) western Canada.

ALS resistant green foxtail (*Setaria viridis*), giant foxtail (*Setaria faberi*) in Wisconsin and Illinois.

ALS (FIRSTRATE & SPIRIT) resistant ragweed

(*Ambrosia* sp) in Indiana, Ohio and Iowa.

ALS-IMI resistant NIGHTSHADE black nightshade (*Solanum nigrum*) and Eastern Black nightshade (*Solanum ptycanthum*) in Minnesota, Wisconsin and North Dakota.

ALS (not SU) resistant redroot pigweed (*Amaranthus retroflexus*) North Dakota.

ALS (both IMI and SU) resistant waterhemp pigweed (*Amaranthus rudis*) in North Dakota.

ALS (both IMI and SU) resistant wild mustard, (*Sinapis arvensis*) in North Dakota.

ALS resistant downy brome (*Bromus tectorum*) in Oregon.

New business included a discussion on gene movement in herbicide-tolerant crops:

In Canada there are confirmed reports of gene infiltration between Roundup Ready (glyphosate) and Liberty Link (glufosinate ammonium) canola (*Brassica napus* L). fields, creating crop volunteers with stacked genes (double resistance). This has created some problems in controlling volunteers, particularly with organic growers and no-till growers who routinely apply Roundup as a pre-seeding burn-off. First season field surveys have been completed. Monitoring for out crossing from Brassica napus to wild mustard (*Sinapis arvensis*), dog mustard, (*Erucastrum gallium*) and Brassica rapa is being monitored. No cases of out crossing have been reported to date.

Roundup Ready spring wheat registration is pending in Canada and discussions in managing herbicide tolerant (HT) volunteers and gene flow to weedy species.

The development of Roundup Ready, IMI, and SU resistant cultivated sunflower in North Dakota.

In Oregon ROUNDUP READY bentgrass and Kentucky bluegrass have raised some interesting questions for the Willamette Valley of Oregon. This area produces grass for use on golf courses and for turf. These perennial species outcross with native and naturalized relatives, and are weedy in their own right.

Update on the continuing studies on gene flow between wheat and jointed goatgrass. More hybrids are being found under field conditions than have previously been reported and selfing BC1 plants in greenhouse studies.

HRAC-NA is focusing efforts on 3 primary charters relative to resistance management and communication efforts:

Identification of Weed Resistance

Educational Tools to Promote Resistance Mgmt.

Educational Strategies

In pursuit of these objectives, HRAC-NA is sponsoring intensive use of Ian Heap's weedsience.com, which will be redesigned to include a portion of the website devoted to HRAC-NA objectives. In addition, a promotional effort will

insure increased awareness that will make the site a centralized resistance management resource acting as a repository of resistance management tools, as well as an access point for local information across North America.

Local resistance information access (i.e., individual state resistance recommendations/data) will require support from resources within each state university.

Ian will be contacting individuals within state or provincial government systems to assist our efforts with the site. HRAC-NA wishes to thank those of you that agree to support our efforts to make resistance management tools more accessible.

Jamie Retzinger, HRAC Secretary

**Photos from the 54th Annual Meeting of
The Northeastern Weed Science Society:
Baltimore, MD (Jan. 3-6, 2000)**

View of Baltimore's Inner Harbor from the Hyatt Regency – Location of the 54th NEWSS Annual Meeting

NEWSS Distinguished Members Ray Frank (L) and Bob Sweet visited at the Poster Session.

The Social Mixer on Tuesday night was a well-attended and enjoyable function.

Poster Session discussions on Tuesday morning.

President-elect Brian Olson presided over the General Session on Tuesday.

(L to R) Awards Committee Chairman Dave Vitolo with new Distinguished Members Stan Pruss and Ray Frank, and Award of Merit recipient Dick Marrese.

Thomas Fretz, Dean of the College of Agriculture & Natural Resources at the Univ. of Maryland, welcomed the NEWSS to Baltimore.

Prasanta Bhowmik (L), Outstanding Researcher, and Tom Watschke, Outstanding Educator.

Rich Bonanno delivered his Presidential Address “URL’s, GMO’s, HRC’s, IW’s, & TY’s” at the General Session.

(L to R) Rich Bonanno, Brian Olson, Maud Hinchee, and Jeff Derr. Dr. Hinchee, Monsanto Company, delivered the Keynote Address: “Development Techniques and Current Plans for Herbicide-Resistant Crops Program.”

Stan Pruss, Distinguished Member.

Jeff Derr, Vice President and Program Chair, moderated the General Symposium “Herbicide-Resistant Crops” on Wednesday afternoon.

Ray Frank, Distinguished Member.

(L to R) General Symposium speakers Nicholas Hether (Gerber Products Co.), Val Giddings (Biotechnology Industry Organization), Virgil Meier (The Scotts Co.), James White (USDA-ARS PPQ), David Tricoli (Seminis Vegetable Seeds), and moderator Jeff Derr.

Dick Marrese, Award of Merit recipient

Speakers at the Nursery - Invasive Plants Symposium on Wednesday evening (L to R): Joe Neal, Jim MacKenzie, Rob Hedberg, and moderator Betty Marose.

First-place award in the student paper contest:
Matt Fagerness, N.C. State Univ., awarded by Joe Neal.

First-place award in the poster contest:
Peggy Preusch, Hood College, awarded by Ben
Coffman.

Second-place award in the student paper contest:
Steve King, Virginia Tech, awarded by Joe Neal.

Second-place awards in the poster contest (tie):
John Jemison, Univ. of Maine, and Dave Vitolo,
Novartis, awarded by Ben Coffman.

Third-place award in the student paper contest:
Gina Penny, N.C. State Univ., awarded by Joe Neal.

Speakers at the Thursday morning symposium
“Partnerships to Address Invasive Plants” (L to R):
Randy Westbrooks, Don Eggen, Jil Swearingen,
moderator Jon Johnson, Hank McNeel, Will Mountain.

First-place award in the photo contest:
Bill Curran, Penn State Univ., awarded by Jim Saik.

Special recognition award presented to Andy Senesac
(L), retiring Secretary-Treasurer, by President Rich
Bonanno.

Second-place award in the photo contest:
Kevin Bradley, Virginia Tech, awarded by Jim Saik.

Plaque presented to President Rich Bonanno (L) by
incoming President Brian Olson.

Attendees at NEWSS Past Presidents breakfast: (front, L to R) Tom Watschke, Dick Marrese,
Roy Johnson, Prasanta Bhowmik, Jim Parochetti, Bob Sweet, Joe Neal; (back, L to R) Brian Olson,
Stan Pruss, Russ Hahn, Ray Taylorson, John Ahrens, Dave Vitolo, Ed Higgins, Rich Bonanno.