

NEWSS News

Northeastern Weed Science Society
August 2013



WWW.NEWSS.ORG

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dwight Lingenfelter

As the days get shorter and the nights cooler, it is that time of year again to not only look back over the past few months but also make plans for upcoming activities. Since the last newsletter I am sure you have had a busy and productive summer. There are a few NEWSS activities that I want to draw your attention to.

First of all, we had another successful Collegiate Weed Science Contest. For the second time in five years, it brought together the NEWSS and NCWSS to compete in a combined challenge. The contest was hosted by Monsanto at their Research and Learning Center in Monmouth, IL on July 25. The hosts were gracious, the facilities were remarkable, and the contest ran smoothly. Also, thanks to all of those from NEWSS who volunteered at the contest. All total, 57 undergraduates and 74 graduates competed from 13 universities.

The NEWSS universities represented at the contest were Cornell, Guelph, North Carolina State, and Penn State. There were 19 NEWSS graduates (5 teams and 1 individual) and 18 undergraduates (5 teams).

The NCWSS universities included Illinois, Kansas State, Kentucky, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio State, Purdue, Western Illinois, and Wisconsin-Madison.

The NEWSS graduate individual winners were: Sushila Chaudhari (1st, NC State), Courtney Stokes (2nd, Cornell), and Clair Keene (3rd, Penn State). The NEWSS undergraduate individual winners were all from Guelph: Johanna Burrows (1st), Nicole Bloetges (2nd), and Jordan Eyamie (3rd). The NEWSS graduate team awards went to: NC State-Team 1 (1st), NC State-Team 2 (2nd), and Penn State (3rd). The NEWSS undergraduate team winners were: Guelph-Team 3 (1st), Guelph-Team 1 (2nd), and Penn State (3rd). More details and photos about the contest will be included in the November newsletter. As always, the weed contest was a great opportunity to interact with others students and colleagues in the weed science profession. Regardless of the outcome, the contest allows students to use the practical knowledge gained to, not only assist them during the competition, but also apply it to actual situations upon graduation.

The NEWSS Executive Committee meeting occurred in early July and was a productive meeting. Aside from typical business items there was a discussion about participation of NEWSS in the upcoming National Herbicide Resistance Summit II. It was decided by the EC to support this effort with a \$1,000 contribution to help with the implementation of the meeting. In

addition, Mark VanGessel has been appointed to serve as our representative on this committee. Once the planning committee meets this fall to discuss meeting logistics and the issues around management of herbicide- resistant weeds and next steps that are needed to increase the use of Best Management Practices, more details about this event will become available.

The Board has already begun working on the 68th Annual Meeting to be held January 6-9, 2014 at the Sheraton Society Hill in Philadelphia, PA. Please note that this is one week later than usual, due to New Year's Day falling mid-week. Greg Armel is working on the General Session and some symposia and workshops. We are pleased to have the Northeast region of the American Society of Horticulture Science (NE-ASHS) join us again. This partnership has worked well in the past and should allow for some opportunities to interact once again. See additional details about upcoming title and abstract deadlines and other meeting details throughout the newsletter. Please look for additional announcements via email or online as more information becomes available this fall (www.newss.org).

Make plans to participate in our Annual Meeting in January. In the meantime, be thinking of titles to submit. Also we are looking for a WSSA representative as Jacob Barney's term is ending. If you are interested or know of a good candidate please contact me or another board member. As usual, it takes input from the membership to keep the NEWSS a functioning and relevant society in order to deal with current issues. Have a good fall.

Dwight Lingenfelter
NEWSS President



Independence Hall – Philadelphia, PA



PAST-PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Antonio DiTommaso

Call for NEWSS Awards Nominations

It is that time of year again! The NEWSS Awards Committee, who includes Toni DiTommaso as Chair, Mark VanGessel, Hilary Sandler, Dave Yarborough, and Jerry Baron are soliciting nominations for the:

- Fellow Award
- Award of Merit
- Outstanding Educator
- Outstanding Researcher
- Robert D. Sweet Outstanding Graduate Student Award
- M. Garry Schnappinger Service Recognition Award

Award nomination information and guidelines are on the web site (<http://www.newss.org>). Please consider nominating one or more of your peers by sending completed nominations to Toni DiTommaso (ad97@cornell.edu) by **October 9, 2013**. Specific information is listed below:

AWARD CRITERIA

The **Fellow Award** is one of the highest honors the Society presents. The purpose of this award is to recognize those members, at any point in their tenure, who have made significant contributions to the NEWSS. Criteria for eligibility are simple: the recipient must have been a member of the NEWSS and have made significant contributions to the NEWSS and to Weed Science in the Northeast.

- The nomination must be by letter and two supporting letters are required.
- The nominating letter should explain in general and specific terms the outstanding contributions of the nominee.
- The contributions must be in regards to NEWSS and weed science in the Northeast.
- Awards Committee members are not eligible.
- Award is limited to a maximum of three recipients per year.
- The Award is a plaque and life membership.

The **Award of Merit** recognizes career contributions to the NEWSS and weed management in the Northeast. Qualifications for the Award of Merit include: at least 5 years of participation at the annual meeting, service to the NEWSS on the executive committee or as a section chair, and presentation and authorship of papers at the annual meetings. The Award of Merit is normally awarded at or near an individual's retirement.

- At least five years attendance at the Annual Meeting
- A combination of two or more listed below:
 - Presented or was the author/co-author of at least two papers at the Annual Meeting, or
 - Served the Society for at least two years on the Executive Committee, or
 - Served the Society for at least two years as a Section Chair
- In case of doubt as to whether a member qualifies, the Awards Committee will decide. The Award should be flexible and the purpose or objective of the Award should be the major consideration. Has the

person contributed significantly so that the recognition would be meaningful and appreciated?

- A nomination letter and one supporting letter are required. In case of doubt as to whether a nominee qualifies, the Awards Committee will decide.
- The Award is a plaque.

The **Outstanding Educator Award** was established to recognize outstanding contributions to outreach education or resident instruction in Weed Science and weed management. Accomplishments that may be considered include (but are not limited to) excellence in Cooperative Extension education, resident instruction, or other educational programs; or the development of novel and effective educational resources in Weed Science. Criteria for the award include:

- Significant impact of an educational program (or programs) on weed management practices in the Northeast; and / or
 - Innovative and effective educational programs or materials which have improved or enhanced weed management systems in the Northeast (or show the potential to do so); and / or
 - Excellence in teaching, as evidenced by innovative teaching methods or significant impact on their audiences (understanding of Weed Science and weed management).
- Candidates for the award must be active members of the NEWSS.
- Public and private sector members are eligible.
- A nomination letter and one supporting letter are required. In case of doubt as to whether a nominee qualifies, the Awards Committee will decide.
- The Award is a plaque.

The **Outstanding Researcher Award** was established to recognize NEWSS members for their outstanding research contributions, in the public or private sector, that have had (or have the potential to have) a significant impact on weed management practices in the Northeast.

Criteria for the award include:

- Significant impact (or potential for such) of a research program or project on weed management practices in the Northeast; and/or
- Innovative and effective approaches to weed management research and/or
- Developments of novel instrumentation or devices used in weed management or weed science research in the Northeast.
- Candidates for the award must be active members of the NEWSS.
- Public and private sector members are eligible.
- A nomination letter and one supporting letter are required. In case of doubt as to whether a nominee qualifies, the Awards Committee will decide.
- The Award is a plaque.

The **Robert D. Sweet Outstanding Graduate Student Awards** were established to recognize outstanding NEWSS students at the M.S. and Ph.D. levels for their work and contributions to the field of weed science in research, teaching, extension, and to the society. Criteria for the award include:

- Students must be currently enrolled or have received their degrees no more than 12 months prior to the annual meeting and awards are limited to one M.S. and one Ph.D. per year.
- Students are judged on academic and work history, research, teaching, and outreach activities, service, and honors and awards.
- Awards are limited to a maximum of one M.S. and one Ph.D. level award per year, and both level awards are not required to be given in any one year.
- Winners are student members of NEWSS.
- Winners of the M.S. level award are also eligible for the award during their Ph.D. program.
- A nomination letter and one supporting letter are required. In case of doubt as to whether a nominee qualifies, the Awards Committee will decide.
- The Award is a plaque.

The **Garry Schnappinger Service Recognition Award** was established to recognize outstanding service, above and beyond the call of duty, from someone who works in the area of weed science under the direction of university, federal, industry or private sector scientists. The nominee must demonstrate significant contributions to the field of weed science and/or to NEWSS.

- The nominee must be involved in the field of weed science and must have a combination of two or more listed below:
 - Presented or was the author/co-author of a paper at the Annual Meeting, or
 - Served the Society for at least two years as a Section Chair, or
 - Organized or had significant input into the Collegiate Weed Contest, or
 - Assisted a NEWSS member with other society duties, or
 - Published a paper in other Weed Science journals, or
 - Demonstrated other significant weed science activity (public schools or other areas).
- A nomination letter and one supporting letter are required. In case of doubt as to whether a nominee qualifies, the Awards Committee will decide. The Award should be flexible and the purpose or objective of the Award should be the major consideration. The person should have contributed significantly so that the recognition would be meaningful and appreciated. The "Special Recognition Award" can be presented to service personnel who are not members of NEWSS but support members of NEWSS.
- The Award is a plaque.

Award documents have been placed on the "Publications" page along with other NEWSS addendums (www.newss.org/publications.php).

Please contact Antonio DiTommaso at 607.254.4702 or ad97@cornell.edu for more information.

*Toni DiTommaso
Past President*

PRESIDENT-ELECT'S REPORT



Gregory Armel

2014 Meeting. Our annual NEWSS meeting will be held at the Sheraton Society Hill during the week of Jan 6th 2014. This hotel was used for one of our previous meetings and it turned out to be a great meeting venue for a fantastic time near the historic district of downtown Philadelphia. Once again we are fortunate to be meeting jointly with the Northeastern American Society for Horticultural Sciences (NE-ASHS). The theme of our 2014 meeting will be "Weed Control in the Future" with a special guest speaker filled symposium. If you have any additional topics of interest or have a presentation you would like to give on the future of weed control for our meeting please let me know as soon as possible (gregory.armel@basf.com or 919-547-2674).

2015 Meeting. Also, I recently initiated some polling to determine our 2015 location for the NEWSS meeting. It was my hope to take us to a location either outside our region or in our region where we have never been before. Through multiple rounds of surveying, we have identified two locations: Raleigh, NC and Orlando, FL. I am in the process of getting bids from the Marriott, Sheraton, and Hilton hotels in these locations to see which will give us the best deal possible. Professional groups in each location have offered assistance and the desire to participate jointly with us in some fashion so this could be an outstanding opportunity for us to network and educate weed enthusiasts in new geographies. Once we get the final bids back we will poll the membership one last time to make the final selection.

Endowment Fund. The endowment committee has been pushing toward completion of its by-laws for our new endowment fund. The efforts of our entire endowment committee, and most

notably our Treasurer Erin Hitchner, are the biggest reasons for this document getting organized and completed. The endowment committee by-laws will be brought up for a vote at our next NEWSS board meeting. Currently our endowment fund has assets of \$7,900 (\$5,000 contributed by the board with \$2,900 being submitted by generous NEWSS members). Our by-laws dictate that the fund must have at least \$20,000 to become capable of delivering any type of disbursements for educational support. So right now we need to collect another \$12,100 to activate our endowment fund. By my calculation, if everyone who looks at this newsletter contributes just \$75 then our new endowment fund will become an active force in the education of our members. So I challenge each of our members to find at least \$75 to contribute to our endowment fund so we can start to make a positive impact in the expansion of educational programs for the NEWSS. If anyone has a donation for the endowment, please contact me, Erin Hitchner (erin.hitchner@syngenta.com), or any other member of the endowment committee for specific instructions on making your tax-deductible donation.

*Greg Armel
President Elect*

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Rakesh Chandran

As you know, our society annual meetings are always an excellent opportunity to present your findings to peers and to disseminate the same to a global audience through the online proceedings. Please plan on attending and participating in our Annual Meeting (January 6-9; 2014; Monday-Thursday). It has always been a fun and educational event and a great way to start a new year!

Apart from the symposium, we are also planning to organize a workshop related to weed management in commercial vegetable production with an excellent lineup of speakers in the panel. This would also provide us an opportunity to document stakeholder needs in this area. Please let us know your thoughts regarding the two locations being considered by the society for the 2015 meeting. Orlando areas offers potential tours of various facilities related to production agriculture and horticulture apart from exploring other topics related to our discipline outside our region. The Research Triangle Park offers options to tour some major industry facilities. The 2016 meeting is in the distant horizon as well. Also any ideas you may want to share regarding program content or location are welcome.

I would also like to thank Dr. Jenny Kao-Kniffin who has agreed to serve as the co-chair for the Ornamental Section. She will be replacing Dr. Jeff Dobbs who retired recently. There are no other changes to committees listed in the previous newsletter.

Rakesh Chandran
Vice President

REPORT FROM THE EDITOR



Art Gover

SUBMITTING TITLES AND ABSTRACTS

We will again be using the website housed through the Weed Science Society of America for title and abstract submissions for our 2014 NEWSS Annual Meeting. Deadlines and instructions are below.

DEADLINES: Titles are due on Friday, September 13. Abstracts are due Friday, October 25.

LOG-IN. Go to <http://wssaabstracts.com>. If you submitted a presentation last year, your user

login and password have been carried forward. Enter your login (usually your email address) and password and then click 'login'. If you have forgotten your password, click 'Reset Password' and follow the instructions. Be sure your email program/server is able to receive emails from admin@wssaabstracts.com and it is not blocked as junk email. If you are a new user, click 'Setup Account' and follow the instructions.

SUBMIT TITLE (September 6 through September 13). Once logged in using the instructions above, click 'Join a Conference'. You should then see a drop-down list appear at the bottom of the screen. Select 2014 Northeast Weed Science Society and click 'Add'. Now click the green 'Enter' button that will appear next to 2014 NEWSS. Click 'My Titles and Abstracts' and then 'Add Title/Abstract'.

Enter title using WSSA approved common names for crops and weeds (hover cursor over green question mark for formatting hints). Choose Poster or Oral presentation. If an Oral presentation, select your preferences for paper section (e.g. Agronomy, Ornamentals, Biology and Ecology, etc.). Students wishing to compete in the oral competition should select Student Presentations as your 1st Section choice. Students that are presenting papers but do NOT wish to be in the competition should NOT choose Student Presentations section but other appropriate sections. If competing in either the Oral or Poster student competition, choose 'yes' paper is to be judged.

Authors from 2013 have been carried forward to 2014. Add the applicable authors from the drop-down list or click 'new author' to enter information for any author not already listed. Select the blue box next to the author that will be presenting the paper and use the green arrows to adjust the order the authors are listed if needed.

Once you have double-checked your information, click 'Save'. The submitter and presenter should both receive a confirmation email that your title has been received. You will be able to log back in to edit, add, or delete any title, section, or author information until September 15th. After that time, contact Art Gover (aeg2@psu.edu) and Greg Armel (gregory.armel@basf.com) to make changes.

SUBMIT ABSTRACT (September 13 through October 25). Login using instructions above. Click 'My Titles and Abstracts' and select 'Edit' next to the desired title. Click 'Add Key Words' and choose the appropriate selections from the drop-down lists. NOTE: All key words contained in your Title should be actively selected as key words. They will NOT automatically appear in the index if not selected here. If a key word is not found in the prepopulated lists, you can enter additional terms in the User Defined category.

Abstract text can be entered directly into the text window or copied from another program. It is not necessary to reenter any title or author information into the text window. Please use Arial font size 12 if copying abstract from another program. This will help ensure that no unintended changes in content or clarity occur when abstracts are converted to Arial font size 12 for the Proceedings. Abstracts over one page will incur additional page charges. To ensure your abstract is one page, the character count (visible at the bottom of the 'Abstract Text' window on the submission page) should not exceed 3200.

You may find it helpful to compose your abstract using the author guidelines (<http://www.newss.org/docs/newss-instructions-authors.pdf>) prior to online submission to ensure your document will fit the allotted space. If you submit a table with your abstract, this will not incur additional page charges. It is recommended to minimize the use of trade names unless it is an abstract describing the initial evaluations of a new product offering or if multiple formulations of nearly identical herbicide products are being evaluated. If submitting a full paper for publication, Supporting Files (e.g. tables, figures) can be uploaded directly while in the site. Consider adding comments or sending me an email if further formatting explanation is needed for uploaded files.

Once you thoroughly review all information and abstract text and any corrections have been made, click 'Save'. Edits can be made until October 25 when the Abstract submission site will be closed. After that time, contact Darren Lycan and Toni DiTommaso to make changes.

QUESTIONS: Please send an email to both Art Gover (aeg2@psu.edu) and Greg Armel (gregory.armel@basf.com).

TREASURER'S REPORT



Erin Hitchner

NEWSS Financial Report

Account Balances on July 12, 2013	
Savings Balance	\$58,883.06
Checking Balance	\$6,632.47
CD Balance (meeting in reserve)	\$25,106.11
CD Balance (weed contest)	\$10,113.46
Total Net Assets as of July 12, 2013	\$108,635.10

Hardcopies of the 2013 NEWSS Proceedings are still available for purchase. Go to www.newss.org for ordering information.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR



Keith Burnell

If anyone is not getting the newsletter due to not being on the email list or your email address has changed, please notify Keith Burnell at keith.burnell@Syngenta.com to have this corrected. Sorry for any inconvenience, and thank you.

Meeting registration information will be in the November newsletter.

NEWSS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2013



Front row (L to R): Erin Hitchner, Rakesh Chandran, Toni DiTommaso, Dwight Lingenfelter, Greg Armel.
Back row (L to R): Todd Mervosh, Bryan Dillehay, Randy Prostack, Art Gover, Keith Burnell, John Orlowski, Jacob Barney. Not in picture: John O'Barr and Lee VanWychen.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dwight Lingenfelter	President
Greg Armel	President Elect
Rakesh Chandran	Vice President
Erin Hitchner	Treasurer
Antonio DiTommaso	Past President
Keith Burnell	Membership Chair
Art Gover	Editor
John Orlowski	Graduate Student Rep.
Bryan Dillehay	Research & Education
John O'Barr	Sustaining Membership
Todd Mervosh	Public Relations Rep.
Jacob Barney	WSSA Representative
Randy Prostack	CAST Representative
Lee Van Wychen	Science Policy Director

GRADUATE STUDENT REPORT



John Orlowski

I hope that you all had a good summer and are super excited for classes to start back up (JK). First off, I want to congratulate all of the winners from the NEWSS in both the joint NCWSS-NEWSS Weed Contest in Illinois and the teams that attended the Southern Weed Science Society Contest in North Carolina. I hope everybody that attended made some new friends, learned a few things and had a good time. A complete list of winners can be found in this newsletter.

Regarding the upcoming NEWSS meeting in Philadelphia, we will be having a Graduate Student Mixer. This will be an event with food and beverages where everyone can just relax and chat. Also, Clair from Penn State suggested that we have a "take-a-student" event like the WSSA does at their annual meeting. This would basically entail matching you with a professional member of the society with whom you can talk and ask questions and get advice. If you would like to participate in this, please let me know.

Finally, make sure you get your titles and abstracts in for the Graduate Student Paper and Poster Contests. I hope you all have a good harvest season and let me know if you have any ideas or suggestions.

Be good,

John

John Orlowski
Graduate Student Representative

NEWSS NEWS was compiled by Todd Mervosh,
Public Relations Representative.

Please contact him at 860-683-4984 or at
todd.mervosh@ct.gov with any corrections,
suggestions, or items to include in the next
newsletter (November 2013 issue).

WSSA REPRESENTATIVE



Jacob Barney

My term as WSSA Board of Directors liaison is up at the next meeting in Vancouver, and it has been a tremendous experience serving both societies. Thus, it is time to find a replacement. The NEWSS Executive Committee is looking for interested individuals to serve in this role, which is designed to keep each society abreast of what the other is doing. I like to think of it as being a Weed Science Senator representing the Northeastern District! I highly encourage you to volunteer for this important position. The duties include attending both the NEWSS and WSSA board meetings. If you have any question please do not hesitate to contact me. I greatly valued this experience.

OK, now on to business. The 2014 WSSA annual meeting will be held jointly with the Canadian Weed Science Society in beautiful Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada from February 3-6, 2014 (<http://wssa.net/meeting/annual-meeting/>). Abstract submission opens Sept 1, titles are due Oct 2, and abstract text is due Jan 15, 2014. The location for the meeting is very nice, and we have the opportunity to meet with our Canadian colleagues. There are several very good symposia slated as well. The next meeting will be held in Lexington, KY in 2015.

I hope you have had an opportunity to look at the reworked WSSA website, which looks great (wssa.net). WSSA also hired a website content editor to keep the site fresh and relevant to WSSA members. WSSA is also proud to announce that *Invasive Plant Science and Management* now has its first impact factor (0.982), which is excellent for a new journal! Please keep submitting excellent work.

Lastly, WSSA continues to explore novel media for future editions of the *Herbicide Handbook*. We are looking into web-based editions, or possibly mobile versions. Stay tuned.

Jacob Barney
WSSA Liaison

CAST REPORT



Randall Prostak

Upon the retirement of Dr. John M. Bonner, Executive Vice President/CEO in January 2013, the Board of Directors of the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) has appointed Linda Chimenti, current Chief Operating Officer (COO) of CAST, as the next Executive Vice President of the 40-year-old organization. Linda has years of experience as a CAST administrator, and she is committed to the organization's mission. As she says, "It is an honor to have the opportunity to take on a new role in CAST, an organization that I have served for twelve years with growing responsibilities."

In 2008, Ms. Chimenti was promoted to Director of Council Operations and added staff supervision and management duties to her responsibilities. She assisted the Board of Directors and Board of Representatives with a major restructuring of the organization's governance in 2009. Since 2010, Ms. Chimenti has served as COO, working closely with Dr. Bonner on initiatives to expand CAST's impact and broaden its audience. According to Dr. Phil Stahlman, CAST President, "We are very pleased that this transition of leadership will take place within the CAST organization now that Dr. Bonner is stepping down to pursue other interests. We are deeply grateful for all he has done for CAST, and we wish him all the best. We welcome Ms. Chimenti to her new role and look forward to working with her in this capacity."

Issue paper: Impact of the Precautionary Principle on Feeding Current and Future Generations - IP52 - June 2013

This paper looks at the history and purpose of the precautionary principle (PP) and examines problems of ambiguity, arbitrary application, and bias against new technologies. Because the publication is especially focused on the need to feed a growing population, the case studies center on agricultural issues such as pesticide use, genetically modified foods, and food irradiation. The authors state that the PP has played an important part in bringing attention to appropriate risk management. If it is applied in its more stringent formulations, however, the PP will suppress innovation, to the detriment of both the economy and human health.

Chair: Gary Marchant, Arizona State University. FREE. Available online and in print (fee for shipping/handling).

Online 1.5 hr Video of Panel Discussion Studies

Center: Precautionary Principle - Innovative Concept or Risky Business

Intros (0:00 - 13:00)

Dr. Marchant's presentation of paper (13:00 - 37:00)

Panel Discussion (37:00 - 1:07)

Q&A (1:07 - 1:30).

Panelists:

Dr. Gary Marchant, Regents' Professor of Law, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University

Susan Dudley, Director, GW Regulatory Studies Center and Research Professor of Public Policy, The George Washington University

Dr. Ricardo Salvador, Director and Senior Scientist, Food and Environment Program, Union of Concerned Scientists

Dr. Sally Kane, President, Society for Risk Analysis--National Capital Area Chapter

Issue paper now available in Spanish: Herbicide-resistant Weeds Threaten Soil Conservation Gains: Finding a Balance for Soil and Farm Sustainability Issue Papers - February 2012, additional online video

Herbicides were developed during the 20th century to be used with conventional tillage for weed control. Conservation (or minimum)

tillage subsequently evolved, which enabled less soil damage when used with herbicides. Selection pressure, however, has resulted in weed species that have made adaptations for survival in conjunction with tillage. The U.S. government has put several federal policies and programs in place that help determine the selection and implementation of crops and conservation programs in relation to herbicides and tillage. This Issue Paper examines the impact of certain weed management practices on soil conservation objectives and addresses ways to mitigate negative effects.

Chair: David R. Shaw, Office of Research and Economic Development, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State.

New to CAST are AGQUICKCASTS

These one-page Ag quickCAST contain excerpted material from its companion CAST document. Several of these have been completed and added to the CAST website in the publication section:

<http://www.cast-science.org/publications/>

News from the NEWSS CAST Representative

The 2013 CAST board meeting will be held in October 29-31 in Atlanta, GA.

Randy Prostack finished his term as chair of Plant Agriculture and Environmental Issues Working Group in October 2012. At the request of CAST leadership, he will chair a new committee that has been created to mentor individuals new to the CAST board. Randy will also serve on the 2013 CAST nominating committee.

Forthcoming Publications

Agricultural Innovation to Sustainably Feed the World by 2050 (Issue Paper Series)

Animal Feed vs. Human Food: Challenges and Opportunities in Sustaining Animal Agriculture Toward 2050 (Issue Paper) (Chair) Jude Capper, Washington State University

Benefits of Controlling Nuisance Aquatic Plants (Commentary) (Chair) Kurt Getsinger, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center

The Contributions of Pesticides to Pest Management in Meeting the Global Need for Food Production by 2050 (Issue Paper) (Chair) Stephen Weller, Purdue University

Omega-3 Fatty Acids: Health Benefits and Dietary Recommendations (Special Publication) (Chair) Don Beitz, Iowa State University

The Potential Impacts of Mandatory Labeling for Genetically Engineered Food (Commentary) (Chair) Alison Van Eenennaam, University of California-Davis

Recruiting and Educating Graduate Students to Become Researchers and Leaders in Global Agricultural Sciences (Issue Paper)

Scientific, Ethical, and Economic Aspects of Farm Animal Well-being (Task Force Report)

Randy Prostak
CAST Representative

WASHINGTON REPORT

Lee Van Wychen
Science Policy Director

August 21, 2013

Another Farm Bill Extension Likely

After passing a "Farm Bill only, Farm Bill", H.R. 2642 in July, the House is putting together a package of \$40 billion in cuts to the Nutrition Title, which is dominated by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Those cuts are double the level of cuts passed by the House Agriculture Committee and 10 times the level of cuts approved by the Senate. In addition to the cuts, the House will likely include a variety of wide reaching policy changes, including mandatory drug testing, a prohibition on participation by former convicts, and an incentive to states to adopt workfare requirements for SNAP recipients.

This stand-alone nutrition bill is expected to be brought to the floor of the House sometime in September. The only way this bill would pass the House is by a party line vote from Republicans. The House would then appoint

conferees for a Farm Bill conference with the Senate. Before the August Congressional recess, the Senate had already appointed 11 conferees: Democrats - Stabenow (MI), Leahy (VT), Harkin (IA), Brown (OH), Klobuchar (MN), and Bennet (CO), and Republicans - Cochran (MS), Roberts (KS), Chambliss (GA), Boozman (AR), and Hoeven (ND).

Given what the Senate passed and what the House has and will pass, I do not see a plausible scenario where the conference committee could draft a compromise piece of legislation that could be passed by both the House and Senate and signed into law.

The current extension of the 2008 farm bill expires Sept. 30, but farmers would not start to feel the effects until December, giving Congress time to either produce a new farm bill or extend the 2008 law. SNAP, which is permanently appropriated under separate legislation, could continue without a farm bill. The federally subsidized crop insurance program also would continue without a farm bill or extension.

EPA Approves Arundo and Napiergrass for Renewable Fuel Standard

On June 28, EPA approved a supplementary final rule which would allow for biofuels made from two known invasive weeds, giant reed (*Arundo donax*) and Napiergrass (*Pennisetum purpureum*), to qualify for credits under the Federal Renewable Fuels Standard. EPA had originally withheld these two species from a final rule approved in March due to objections raised by the National and Regional Weed Science Societies and many other invasive species, conservation, and wildlife groups. Both these species are known invaders and the March final rule that was approved by EPA lacked risk mitigation measures to prevent these species from spreading.

In the supplementary final rule released at the end of June, EPA adopted additional registration, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements based on the Invasive Species Advisory Committee's (ISAC) recommendations in their 2009 whitepaper titled "[Biofuels: Cultivating Energy, not Invasive Species](#)".

For example, EPA is requiring that renewable fuel producers demonstrate that the growth of giant reed or Napiergrass will not pose a

significant likelihood of spreading beyond the planting area or that such a risk will be minimized through an EPA approved Risk Mitigation Plan (RMP). The RMP will include plans for early detection and rapid response to potential spread, best management practices as modeled by existing state and federal invasive species management programs, continuous monitoring and reporting of site conditions, a plan for site closure and post-closure monitoring, and identification of a third party auditor who will evaluate the performance of the RMP on an ongoing annual basis.

The EPA supplementary final rule from June can be found at:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-07-11/pdf/2013-16488.pdf>

McCarthy Finally Confirmed by Senate to Lead EPA



The Senate confirmed Gina McCarthy to lead the EPA on July 18, ending a four-month battle with Senate Republicans. McCarthy was approved 59-40, with six Republicans joining all but one Democrat, Joe Manchin of West Virginia, in supporting her. Manchin said the EPA has engaged in an "over-regulatory rampage" against the coal industry, which is a pillar of West Virginia's economy. McCarthy served as EPA's assistant administrator for air and radiation since 2009 and was nominated to take over as head of EPA for the departing Lisa Jackson.

The delay wasn't so much a disapproval with McCarthy, who has a good reputation for working with both sides of the aisle, but was more of protest against the Obama administration plans for first-time limits on carbon dioxide emissions from both new and existing fossil fuel-fired power plants, as well as anticipated regulations related to ozone air quality standards, guidance related to hydraulic fracturing, and more stringent standards limiting vehicle emissions and the sulfur content of gasoline, among other rules.

Plant Science Summit Issues Decadal Vision Report

On July 25 the Plant Science Research Summit released [*Unleashing a Decade of Innovation in Plant Science: A Vision for 2015-2025*](#) (PDF), a call to action for the U.S. to address research priorities in plant science that could address major challenges including health, energy, food, and environmental sustainability. The report, supported by the American Society of Plant Biologists, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Department of Energy, provides recommendations regarding future budgets and investments at the state and federal levels.

Congressional Invasive Species Caucus Founded

On July 10, Rep. Mike Thompson (CA-5) and Rep. Dan Benishek (MI-1) founded the bipartisan Congressional Invasive Species Caucus. The Caucus will serve to raise awareness about invasive species, support local communities who are bearing the brunt of this problem, and promote efforts to prevent and control the spread of invasive species. The Caucus will provide opportunities for Members of Congress to meet with other policy makers, organizations and industry leaders that are working to prevent the spread of invasive species.

Rep. Thompson is a senior member of the House Ways and Means Committee and Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. He represents some of the wine country area north of San Francisco and is a small vineyard owner. He is a co-author of H.R. 1823, Protecting Lakes Against Quagga Act, that would add quagga mussels to the national invasive species list.

Dr. Benishek, a surgeon representing Michigan's Upper Peninsula in his 2nd term, serves on the House Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Veteran's Affairs Committees and is avid hunter and fisherman. He has supported several pieces of legislation that would help curtail invasive species, including the Asian Carp Prevention Act of 2012, and is a member of the Great Lakes Task Force.

Please Consider Signing Petition Opposing Vandalism of Field Trials

Recently, vandals in the Philippines destroyed government field trials of golden rice. The global scientific community is reaching out to us to condemn these acts. For more information, please go to:

<http://www.change.org/en-CA/petitions/global-scientific-community-condemns-the-recent-destruction-of-field-trials-of-golden-rice-in-the-philippines>

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A FEW PHOTOS from the 2013 NEWSS / NCWSS COLLEGIATE WEED SCIENCE CONTEST

Monmouth, IL on July 25

(Many more photos, including the top teams and individual contestants, will be included in the November newsletter)





NORTHEASTERN WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY

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