COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Rakesh Chandran

2015 Annual Meeting

Is there a more wonderful and rewarding way to start another new year than with friends and colleagues at our annual meeting? I would like to thank Greg Armel and the members of the Executive Committee for their dedicated efforts that made this meeting a grand success. My sincere gratitude also goes to all those who helped make this a productive meeting: our loyal members who helped in different capacities, our industry sponsors, our judges, and all those who presented papers or posters. The Virginia Department of Agriculture’s Commissioner of Agriculture, Ms. Sandra Adams, made a special trip soon after the holidays to provide us with an informative and much-appreciated keynote address. Transcripts of her presentation will be posted on our website along with proceedings of our 70th meeting in 2016. James Parochetti graciously organized the thematic symposium “Bridging the Gap” and was assisted by Prasanta Bhowmik, Rich Bonanno, and Mark VanGessel, who provided well-rounded presentations that examined our past and set the stage for an engaging discussion. Shawn Askew put together a nice mini-symposium that was well attended. As a society, we are blessed to have a dedicated membership who continue to be altruistic and voluntarily contribute immense amounts of time and energy towards keeping our society running smoothly. Working with these fine people is a privilege and is something for aspiring members to keep in mind as time passes.

2016 Joint-Conference

Our society has always been in the forefront of exploring new frontiers. 2016 will mark yet another milestone as we host ‘The Northeast Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference’, the first joint conference with peer societies in the region. The other participating societies will include the Eastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America (ESA-EB), the Northeastern Division of the American Phytopathological Society, the American Society of Horticultural Science-

IMPORTANT DATES

July 20-22, 2015: National Weed Science Contest hosted by Ohio State University
October 2, 2015: Title submission deadline
November 27, 2015: Abstracts due
January 3-7, 2016: The Northeast Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference - The Sheraton Society Hills Hotel, Philadelphia (Joint-Conference hosted by NEWSS)
Northeast Region, the Northeast Branch of the American Society of Agronomy, the Crop Science Society of America, and the Soil Science Society of America. Occurring from January 3rd to 7th, 2016, the conference will be held at the Sheraton Society Hills Hotel, One Dock Street, Philadelphia, a location deemed convenient and desirable by all societies involved.

Our immediate past-presidents Greg Armel and Dwight Lingenfelter have played an instrumental role in formulating this idea of a joint conference. Plans are under way to bring these ideas to fruition. One of the unique attributes of this conference is that it will bring together, under one roof, applied disciplines involved in plant, crop and soil sciences, and their protection. Such an affair could have vast implications down the road in terms of fostering new partnerships, solutions, and teams as we strive to meet our common goals. Keeping such a potential growth in mind, the 2016 conference will be modest in nature but will include a core program to accommodate all disciplines. There will be room for expansion and for having additional smaller meetings in subsequent years if everything goes well.

I am chairing an organizing committee with key representatives from each participating society. The officers of NEWSS Executive Committee, Membership, and Sustaining Membership are our representatives on this committee. Shawn Askew will serve as the program chair, and will be assisted by his counterparts from participating societies. Several dedicated members have stepped forward to assist with important roles. If you have an interest in assisting with the meeting please let me know! We could always use more help as we host and organize this conference.

The conference is expected to open on January 3rd (Sunday) with “Bug’s World”, an outreach event. Details for this event are being worked out. A couple of concurrent sessions related to basic entomology (by ESA-EB) will be held on Monday morning. An open roundtable forum is scheduled on Monday afternoon, where specialists and scientists representing academia and industry can gather to discuss emerging and current pest issues in the region. Following a brief opening ceremony late afternoon there will be a mixer and cross-disciplinary “Quiz-Bowl” for students. Graduate students will be offered venues to present their research in competitive oral and poster presentations.

Symposia, workshops, and breakout sessions will consume the remaining two and a half days, with the goal of bringing together researchers to form synergistic partnerships and foster interdisciplinary activities. Most sessions will be arranged based on broad, multi-disciplinary areas and are expected to integrate research from all relevant disciplines. Concurrent sessions are expected to include: Agronomic Crops; Soils; Physiology, Molecular Biology & Toxicology; Environmental Quality; Biology, Ecology, Taxonomy, & Evolution; Vegetable Crops; Fruit Crops; Turf & Ornamentals; Vegetation Management & Restoration; Invasive Species; Forestry Pests; Medical and Urban Pests; Insect Detection, Evaluation, and Prediction; Organic Production Systems; Beneficial Plants and Insects; and Biological Control. Various receptions scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday evenings will also provide opportunities for spirited discussions among peers.

NEWSS Executive Committee Updates

The Executive Committee (EC) met on the last day of our annual meeting in Williamsburg and conferred over telephone on March 1st. A few noteworthy decisions were made during these meetings. After the much-debated discussion about downsizing the EC, we decided to keep it as-is due to a lack of consensus. Randy Prostak’s term with CAST will terminate in Fall 2015. A decision is pending on whether or not to keep the position vacant for a term since Randy will be serving as the President-Elect in 2016.

Quintin Johnson was appointed to serve as the incoming coordinator of the Research and Education Committee. Bryan Dillehay graciously agreed to serve in this role for another year, during which Quintin will assist with the responsibilities of this position.

The NEWSS website has been minimally maintained during the past few years partly due to lack of a single individual to oversee it. The domain names (newss.net and newss.org) were captured by past-president Jeff Derr in 2001 (Jeff has graciously paid dues through 2021 to maintain these domains). The EC moved to have
the Research and Education Coordinator be the primary contact person to take over the important role of overseeing the website. Quintin has hit the ground running by making several relevant changes already. With the overall goal of portraying who we are and what we do to the outside world, we are hoping to give our website a much needed facelift and to improve its quality, functionality, and visibility. One of the key points discussed following the “Bridging the Gap” symposium was that we are too modest in promoting ourselves. We need to be proactive and somewhat aggressive on this front, and our website is one of the vehicles that could be better utilized for this purpose. Please feel free to communicate related ideas directly to Quintin (quintin@udel.edu).

**2015 National Weed Science Contest**
The 2014 Weed Contest was successfully hosted by Penn State and organized seamlessly by Dwight Lingenfelter and Bill Curran. The North Central Weed Science Society will host the 2015 National Weed Science Contest at The Ohio State University on Tuesday, July 21st. It will be held at the OARDC Western Agricultural Research Station near South Charleston, OH (about 40 miles west of Columbus). Dwight has been working closely with the organizers and will keep us posted with additional information as the date nears. The following link has all pertinent details including rules, registration forms, volunteer forms, and hotels: [http://www.swss.ws/contest-hosted-university/](http://www.swss.ws/contest-hosted-university/). For questions, contact Bruce Ackley (ackley.19@osu.edu).

<table>
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<th>Important Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 21st, 2015: National Weed Science Contest, The Ohio State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2, 2015: Title submission deadline for the joint-conference in 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 27, 2015: Abstract submission deadline for the joint-conference in 2016</td>
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</table>

**PAST PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

![Greg Armel](image)

I have appreciated the opportunity to serve the NEWSS President over the last year. As I look back over the past year, I am proud of the board and committee efforts to pull off another successful meeting in Williamsburg, VA. I believe that our reflection on our past accomplishments and history in the “Bridging the Gap” symposium helped remind us all where we came from and what we stand for in the NEWSS. I sincerely thank Rakesh Chandran for doing a wonderful job pulling together this trip down memory lane.

I also wish to reiterate some of the key learnings from this past meeting. One is that we have a proud and storied history of educating people about the control of weeds in the Northeastern region of the U.S. Second, is that it took the sacrifice of many dedicated volunteers over nearly seven decades to keep our society purposeful and active. Let us not lose sight of the need of our members to attract, educate, and encourage the next generation of members to keep our society relevant for decades to come.

**CALL FOR AWARD NOMINEES**
As Past-President, one of my charges is to chair the Awards Committee. Therefore, I am looking for nominations for the following NEWSS awards to be presented at the 2016 joint annual meeting in Philadelphia, PA:

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

Please consider nominating a worthy colleague for one of these NEWSS Awards. Criteria and nomination forms for all these
awards are posted at: http://www.newss.org/publications.php (You will need to scroll to the bottom and click on the Manual of Operating Procedures and look at Addendum 6). Please contact me at (919) 659-391 or gregory.armel@basf.com for more information. There will be more details to follow on this in our August Newsletter.

Lastly, it is time to open the floor for nominations for NEWSS Vice-President. The Chair of the Nomination Committee is Dwight Lingenfelter (dxl18@psu.edu). Please provide him with the names of any individuals you think we should consider for this important Executive Committee role.

Treasurer’s Report

Erin Hitchner

March 2015 Financial Report

NEWSS Account Balances as of February 28, 2015

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NEWSS Executive Committee 2015

Front row (L to R): Greg Armel, Rakesh Chandran, Shawn Askew, Randy Prostak.


Executive Committee

- Rakesh Chandran - President
- Shawn Askew - President Elect
- Randy Prostak - Vice President
- Erin Hitchner - Treasurer
- Greg Armel - Past President
- Keith Burnell - Membership Chair
- Art Gover - Editor
- John O’Barr - Sustaining Membership
- Bryan Dillehay / Quintin Johnson - Research & Education
- John Brewer - Graduate Student Rep.
- Prasanta Bhowmik - WSSA Representative
- Randy Prostak - CAST Representative
- Lee Van Wychen - Science Policy Director
COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Listed below are the Chairs and Chair-elects for the various sections in 2016.

2016 NEWSS Annual Meeting

Shawn Askew - Program Chair

Poster Session:
Barbara Scott - Chair
Michael Flessner - Chair-Elect

Agronomy:
Wes Everman -Chair
John Willis - Chair-Elect

Ornamentals:
Todd Mervosh - Chair
Sali Barolli - Chair-Elect

Turfgrass and Plant Growth Regulators:
Katelyn Venner - Chair
Alan Estes - Chair-Elect

Vegetables and Fruit:
Jennifer D’Appollonio-Cote – Chair
Katherine Ghantous – Co-Chair

Vegetation Management and Restoration:
Brett Hartis - Chair

Weed Biology and Ecology:
Daniel Tekiela - Chair
Caroline Marschner - Chair-Elect

### Site Selection Committee

| Shawn Askew | President-Elect |
| Rakesh Chandran | President |
| Erin Hitchner | Treasurer |
| Keith Burnell | Membership Chair |

### Awards Committee

<p>| Gregory Armel | Chair |
| Dwight Lingenfelter | |
| Antonio DiTommaso | |
| Mark VanGessel | |
| Hilary Sandler | |</p>
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NEWSS NEWS was compiled by Todd Mervosh, Public Relations Representative. Please contact him at tmervosh@att.net with any corrections, suggestions, or items to include in the next newsletter (August 2015 issue).
Editor’s Report

As of this writing, some elements of the title and abstract submission for the 2016 Joint Societies meeting are yet to be finalized. Procedurally, it will be very similar to years past, though we may be using a different website.

I can share the pertinent dates with you:

**DEADLINES:** Titles are due on Friday, October 2, 2015. Abstracts are due on Friday, November 27, 2015.

Beginning with the 2016 meeting, the Proceedings will be electronic-only. This eliminates the time constraints for printing and shipping, hence we can post the deadlines closer to the actual meeting. You can put off working on your abstracts for at least an additional month this year.

We will be reinstituting the supplement section in the 2016 Proceedings, to include content from the previous meeting. Rakesh Chandran was very diligent and has collected materials from our invited speakers at the 2015 meeting. In addition, this provides any of you who did not submit an abstract for the 2015 Proceedings an opportunity to sneak it into the 2016 Supplement and get that additional citation with your name. Email supplemental material directly to me at aeg2@psu.edu.

Membership Chair

If anyone is not getting or knows of anyone not getting the newsletter or emails due to not being on the email list, incorrect email address, email address has changed, or any other reason, please notify me (keith.burnell@syngenta.com) to have this corrected. In addition, if you are a member and any of your contact information has changed or needs updating, please send me your new contact info.

If you have names of any members that have passed away and need to be included in the necrology report, please notify me. Thanks.

Research & Education Report

Recertification Credits during NEWSS 2015 Meeting

Pesticide application recertification and Certified Crop Adviser credits were offered at the 69th Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Weed Science Society this past January in Williamsburg, VA. A total of 55 credits were awarded across 10 sessions over the 3 day meeting. The number of credits awarded were up slightly from last year’s Annual Meeting in Philadelphia (52). The Agronomy session was most popular session for recertification credits with 19 signatures over two days. CCA credits requested were down to 8 this year compared to 11 last year.
As of January 2015, there are 390 members-at-large in the Updated Directory (2014-2015 Meeting Attendees) and additional contacts in the NEWSS Listserve who do not consider themselves regular members of NEWSS.

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| Proceedings Distributed | 118 | >116 | 79 | 65 | 75 | 50 | 78 | 97 | 40 | 48 | 24 |
| Standing Order Sales   | 50   | 50   | 50   | 50   | 50   | 55   | 46   | 43   | 43   | 18   |

*2013 Total = all in the 2013 column and number can be a double count of some member via Regular members possibly being part of the Sustaining Companies numbers. Also the numbers are from the WSSA/NEWSS combine meeting were many of the NEWSS members are/signed up as WSSA members.

*2014 Total does not include the 100% of Sustaining Companies as not all attended, number used was 9.

*2015 - Combined to make up the Retired or retired and Distinguished/Fellow line
## WEED TOUR DATES 2015

Compiled by Quintin Johnson  
Weed Science Field Day Committee  
Research & Education Representative

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Dear NEWSS Graduate Students,

I hope all of you are having a great year so far. Thank you for electing me as your new GSO representative. The 2015 meeting was the first NEWSS meeting that I have attended, and I thoroughly enjoyed meeting all of you. The 2015 Graduate Student Paper and Poster contests were successful, and I would like to thank all the students that participated for their hard work. The quality of the presentations and posters was great, and I would like to congratulate all the winners for a job well done. I hope everyone enjoyed the opening student pizza party as much as I did as well. We are currently planning graduate student activities for the meeting, and will keep you informed on what activities are decided upon.

The 2016 meeting has a great amount in store for NEWSS graduate students. Students will be able to mingle with members of other societies allowing them to see research across other disciplines instead of just weed science. A new event that we will be starting at next year’s meeting will be the Graduate Student Quiz Bowl. Each University will form a team consisting of members from the different societies. For example, the team from Virginia Tech will consist of students in weed science, pathology, entomology, horticulture, and agronomy, so you might want to start recruiting your team now. The contest will be exciting, and a great networking experience for all students.

I strongly encourage all the NEWSS members to attend our first joint interdisciplinary meeting next year. If you have any other requests or ideas for the graduate students at the joint meeting, please let me know.

This summer The Ohio State University will be hosting the 2nd Weed Olympics on July 20-22, 2015. Teams from NEWSS, SWSS, NCWSS, and WSWS will be competing for their chance to be Weed Olympians! Please be on the look-out for emails containing information regarding the contest. This will be yet another opportunity to get to know your fellow weed scientists.

Finally, on behalf of all the NEWSS grad students, I would like to congratulate everyone who is graduating this spring, and wish you best of luck on your future endeavors.

Have a great year,

John

WSSA REPRESENTATIVE

Prasanta Bhowmik

The 55th Annual Meeting of the Weed Science Society of America was held in February 9-12, 2015 in Lexington, KY. Congratulations to Dallas Peterson, program chair and Mike Barrett, local arrangements chair for organizing such a great annual meeting. A total of 367 registered attendees, including 29 guests and 17 people registered for the Sunday tour. A total of 300 presentations, including 130 posters represented the 2015 program. Mr. Steve Johnson, Silver Springs Stud Farms, Paris made a very interesting presentation “The Kentucky Bluegrass Region – Source of the Horse”. Dr. Rosalind James, USDA-ARS National Program Leader, delivered the keynote address on the future of the agency’s weed science research initiatives.

The symposium on “Integration of ‘Omics’ Approaches in Weed Science Research” was excellent with eight speakers. Each of the speakers reflected their views and future looks at molecular research in Weed Science. The second symposium summarized the 2014 National-level Herbicide Resistance Summit held in Washington DC. The title was “Are We Going
to Do the Same Thing and Expect a Different Outcome?” Nine speakers presented their concepts of herbicide resistance reflecting holistic weed management, economics of management, regulations, rethinking of education and outreach.

A total of 68 graduate students attended this meeting. For the first time, the Graduate Student Poster Contest was well presented with 45 research posters. The workshop “Preparing Students for Work after Graduate School” organized by graduate students went very well. And the lunch discussion with three Editors of the WSSA journals was also well attended by graduate students.

The Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) presented awards to more than two dozen individuals for their outstanding contributions to the field of weed science. The awards were presented during the organization’s annual meeting, February 9-12, 2015 held in Lexington, Kentucky. For more information, visit www.wssa.net.

First-Time WSSA Weed Science Advocacy and Public Service Award: Dr. David Shaw, Mississippi State University was the first recipient of the award. This award differs from Extension Award. This is not for career recognition but something above and beyond what is expected for someone’s position.

New WSSA Board Members: Our newly elected officers are Vice President, Dr. Janis McFarland (Syngenta) and Treasurer, Dr. Rick Boydston (WSU). Congratulations to Janis and Rick.

New WSSA Strategic Plan (2015-2020): A 7-member committee has developed the new strategic plan (2015-2020). The WSSA Board is looking for any inputs to this plan.

Mission Statement 2015-2020: The Weed Science Society of America promotes research, education, and extension outreach activities related to weeds; provides science-based information to the public and policy makers; fosters awareness of weeds and their impacts on managed and natural ecosystems; and facilitates professional development of its members.

Strategic Goal: To foster awareness of weed biology and the impacts of weeds on humans and managed and natural ecosystems in order to improve quality of life, public safety and agricultural productivity through weed management. This goal can be achieved through the promotion of research, professional education, extension outreach and public awareness of the role and value of weed science information.

WSSA Journal Impact Factors: ThompsonReuters released the 2013 Journal Citation Report on July 29, 2014. Impact factors and rankings for WSSA journals:

- Weed Science: 1.684 (1.759 in 2012; 1.451 in 2009)
- Weed Technology: 1.141 (1.113 in 2012; 0.749 in 2009)
- Invasive Plant Science and Management: 0.838 (0.982 in 2012)

Weed Science Special Issue: “Research Methods in Weed Science”

This Special Issue has 13 papers and will be published (online and print) in late January 2015. All WSSA members and individual and institutional subscribers to Weed Science will receive this Special Issue. One hundred additional print copies will also be available for individual sales. For more information, visit www.wssa.net.

Weed Science Special Issue on Socioeconomic Aspects of Managing Herbicide Resistance

Expanded versions of papers presented at the Second Herbicide Resistance Summit in Washington DC in September 2014 will be published in an online only special issue of Weed Science edited by Sarah Ward. All 10 presenters have agreed to develop papers. A target publication date for this Special Issue is late summer 2015.

Herbicide Handbook: The 10th Edition of the Herbicide Handbook is completely revised and updated with over 500 pages. It is easy to find herbicide as it has been formatted in alphabetical order. The handbook contains detailed information on more than 230 herbicides.
currently available in commercial production. Price: $95.00. For purchasing information, visit www.wssa.net.

**WSSA Membership:** As of January 14, 2015, a total of 888 out of 1146 members renewed. We have slippage in the membership base for the second year in a row. Student membership is currently at 81 as compared to a 2014 year-end total of 151. In 2014, we had 30 sustaining members, an increase of one compared to 2013. Also, several companies raised their level of support as well.

**WSSA Financial Status:** The revenues of and expenses for FY 2013 were $925,661.43 and $713,961.80. Currently, the financial status is very good with General Investment Fund and Endowment Investment Fund.

**2016 WSSA Undergraduate Research Award:** The Weed Science Society of America has been awarding Undergraduate Students for their outstanding Research Project. Dr. John Jachetta served as Chair of this committee for 20 years. John has initiated this project and improved to a very competitive level. Dr. Jachetta is Past President and a Fellow of the society. In 2016, this award will be recognized as “John Jachetta Undergraduate Research Award”.

**The 2015 Weed Olympics/National Collegiate Weed Contest** will be held during July 20-22, 2015. The contest will be hosted by Ohio State University. Bruce Ackley will be coordinating the contest. Schools from the NCWSS, NEWSS, SWSS and WSWS will participate in the national contest. The rules committee has been assembled and will be reviewing the rules from the Weed Olympics held in 2011.

**The 2016 WSSA/SWSS Joint Annual Meeting** will be in February 8-11, 2016 at the Sheraton Puerto Rico Hotel, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

**The 2017 WSSA Annual Meeting** is slated for February 6-9, 2017 at the Hilton Tucson El Conquistador, Tucson, Arizona.
Jack Housenger, Director of the Office of Pesticide Programs at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, described how pesticides are reviewed and licensed. The EPA looks at residues on food and in water and can take a pesticide off the market if the risk is deemed too high. He added that resistance management is a very "hot topic" currently.

Rob Hedberg, National Director for the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SARE), spoke about the challenge of getting agreement on a definition of "sustainable." He complimented the CAST paper's authors for addressing the issue of quality of life within the document and emphasized the important role science must play in educating the next generation of consumers.

At the conclusion of their discussion, the panelists took questions from the audience, and many attendees stayed to speak informally with the panel members and Dr. Weller.

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

The Need for Agricultural Innovation to Sustainably Feed the World by 2050

A Twelve-Part Series of Issue Papers

Demands on agriculture are huge and increasing. Innovative, integrated solutions are required to sustainably meet demands to feed a growing world population. Innovations are needed in all segments of agriculture—livestock production, food science, and crops and soils.

What Is the Need for This Series?
The public and decision makers need to have science-based information to guide them regarding programs, policies, and techniques that will advance global food security in the next several decades.

What Is the Potential Value of This Series?
CAST has a demonstrated record of producing high quality publications, respected for their communication of credible science information. The Ag Innovation Series will use CAST’s method of convening task forces composed of scientific experts from a wide variety of specialties to write and peer review each paper. The series will provide a transdisciplinary, integrated approach to the broad topic.

What’s at Stake?
Anyone listening to agricultural experts knows the situation: We face a food security crisis now, and this problem will only grow with population increases and the rise in per-capita income. But there is a risk that agriculturalists and the public alike will grow complacent if the discussion is general and abstract. The steady refrain—How will we feed the world of 2050?—can make us numb when action is needed.

What Is the Gap in Knowledge That Will Be Filled?
CAST’s new Ag Innovation Series will be led by teams of experts with backgrounds across the spectrum of agriculture and technology. Goals are the following:

- Look at why more innovation is needed
- Review megatrends that define the pending agriculture productivity gap
- Spur interest in research funding and highlight societal benefits of technologies that can increase agriculture productivity and reduce negative environmental impacts
- Encourage implementation and use of science-based regulation to support innovation and the advancement of agriculture technology

Who Are the Intended Audiences?
CAST will present the work to national and global policymakers, NGOs, producer and commodity groups, regulators, the media, and the public.

Specifics to Be Covered: This annotated list provides the working titles of the twelve papers, including three papers each focused on animals, food, and crops. An introductory paper provides an overview, a keynote paper highlights technologies that exist but are not being used to their potential, and the summary paper addresses possible barriers to adoption of innovation across the disciplines.
CAST’s Ag Innovation Series: Working Titles

1. **The Need for Agricultural Innovation to Sustainably Feed the World by 2050: An Introduction**
   - CAST’s ambitious project looks at specific programs, policies, and techniques that will advance global food security. Led by teams of experts, the Ag Innovation Series focuses on the dramatic changes needed to accelerate productivity in crop and animal systems while reducing negative impacts on the environment.

2. **Technologies on the Shelf: A Series Keynote Paper**
   - Most agree that technology is a key component in the drive to provide food for a growing global population. This paper examines innovations that are underutilized or not used at all. With examples such as golden rice and irradiation, experts will explain the reasons for this and look at ways the problem can be rectified.

   - With the need to ramp up agricultural productivity, animals continue to be an important source of protein. Meat, milk, and fish products are keys to the world supply of protein, but genetic diversity of livestock is fading. This paper addresses the vital need to protect genetic diversity in a time when disease or future climate change could unexpectedly decimate the small number of breeds the world depends on for food.

4. **Evolution of Genetic Intervention in Food Production**
   - Since Gregor Mendel’s era, scientists have had trouble keeping the frankenfear out of food production resulting from genetic innovation. With rapid expansion, a lack of critical review, and the wide accessibility of electronic information, public misconceptions grow. Government policy, regulations, and labeling are in the headlines—it is important to examine risks and benefits for both developed and developing countries as scientists try to explain genetics and topics such as reductions of carbon footprints, specific life improvements from biotech, utilization of arable land, disease resistance, aquacultures, and agricultural sustainability.

5. **Precision Production Technologies in Animal Agriculture**
   - Various interest groups differ about agricultural issues, but all agree with the goals of producing enough food in an environmentally friendly way to feed the world. The authors of this paper examine precision agriculture techniques that boost methods of food and fuel production in efficient, intelligent ways. From innovations in the field to issues of transportation and infrastructure, precision agriculture methods need to be widespread and integrated.

6. **Plant Breeding and Genetics**
   - Science has contributed to improved agricultural productivity, but in a time when millions of children die from malnutrition, innovations are more vital than ever. A systems approach involving scientific collaboration across disciplines is essential. Science breakthroughs are impeded by high costs, high risks, and high time commitments. This paper defines sustainable agriculture, encourages integration, calls for more research, and backs science-based regulation.

7. **Crop Protection Contributions toward Agricultural Productivity**
   - From seed treatment to weed management, crop protection and yield enhancement technologies via chemical innovation are widely used in crop production systems. This paper examines the past, present, and future of crop innovation—and the risks and benefits of these “techno tools.” By providing current information, the authors will put the situation in a perspective that will influence policymakers and regulators.

8. **Irrigation and Precision Crop Management Technologies**
   - Garden hoes and one-row plows still serve a purpose, but in an age of drones and computerized tractors, we need to understand new production technologies. The best crop improvements increase yields and lessen environmental impacts. This paper looks at many examples, from nutrient application to pest management to precision irrigation techniques. Food security may depend on our ability to institute innovative methods across the globe.

9. **Innovative Approaches toward Zero Waste in the Food Chain**
   - Technology needs to be developed to maximize the yield of consumable
food, preserve food that is harvested, process food efficiently, and transport food safely. The authors of this paper will look at these issues and examine ways low input sources of nutrients can be expanded or enhanced. They will explore new food sources, more efficient development of current sources, and ways to better use “low-value streams currently deemed as waste."

10. Food Biofortification: There is a global concern about health issues related to micronutrient deficiency—especially in children. Experts are developing biotech methods to enable plants, such as cassava, to accumulate the desired micronutrients. Another example, “Golden Rice,” demonstrates an effort to use a GMO approach to address vitamin A deficiencies. This paper will describe the scope of micronutrient deficiency and ways it can be addressed, and look at barriers to achieving solutions.

11. Gene Editing in Food Production, Regulatory Review, and Public Acceptance: New plant breeding techniques provide tools to reach objectives in food security, but ongoing debates among regulators and segments of the public could mean the issue will be controversial for years. This paper will state a need for scientific input, and examine several aspects of gene editing—including a look at non-rDNA methods for breeding plants, animals, and microbes for food, feed, fuel, and fiber. An objective summary will help regulatory agencies and interested public stakeholders better understand what these technologies do.

12. Barriers to Innovation Implementation, A Summary: Barriers may exist, but agriculture is in an exciting stage, and with intelligent technological advances, global food security is a real possibility. The authors want to spur interest in research funding and highlight the societal benefits of technologies that can increase productivity and reduce environmental problems. Barriers may hinder advancements, but clear communication and intelligent implementation of new ideas will help ensure sufficient food.
FY 2016 USDA Appropriations

The administration released its FY 2016 budget request at the beginning of February. Things look pretty good for USDA budget items overall with NIFA, ARS, NRCS, the Economic Research Service (ERS), and National Ag Statistics Service (NASS) all receiving higher budget requests compared to FY 2015 that was just passed in December. Within USDA-NIFA, the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) grants program was recommended for a large increase from $325 million to $450 million. Many of USDA-NIFA's capacity building programs also were recommended for increases compared to FY 2015, including the Hatch Act increasing from $244 million to $256 million and Smith Lever 3b and 3c increasing from $300 million to $304 million. FY 2016 funding for the IR-4 program ($11.9 million) and the Crop Protection and Pest Management line item ($17.2 million) would remain as in FY 2015.

House Ag Committee Passes “NPDES Fix” Bill

On March 19, the House Agriculture Committee passed The Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2015 (H.R. 897). This legislation has passed the U.S. House as a stand-alone bill in two previous sessions of Congress but failed in the Senate. H.R. 897 clarifies congressional intent and eliminates the duplicate regulatory requirement of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the use of herbicides in, over, or near waters of the United States that are already approved for use under FIFRA. This stems from the problem created in 2009 by a three-judge Court of Appeals Ruling for the Sixth Circuit. The 2009 court ruling invalidated a 2006 EPA regulation exempting pesticide applications that are in compliance with FIFRA from a requirement to also comply with NPDES permits.

Milkweed and Monarchs

The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) was petitioned by three environmental groups last August that claimed that extensive use of glyphosate on glyphosate resistant corn and soybeans in the Midwest has devastated native populations of milkweed, the sole source of food for monarch butterfly larvae. The petitioners claim that monarch butterfly populations have decreased 90 percent over the past 20 years. FWS is reviewing the status of the monarch butterfly to consider if it needs federal intervention under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). However, if we actually want to see monarch butterfly numbers rebound, listing it under the ESA is a bad idea as the ESA has a terrible track record for promoting species recovery. Along those lines, Monsanto has taken a proactive approach by contributing $3.6 million over three years to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Monarch Butterfly Conservation Fund. The $3.6 million will be used to match funds provided by FWS and other federal agencies that will support habitat restoration, education, outreach, and milkweed seed production to benefit monarch butterflies. To learn more about the Monarch Butterfly Conservation Fund, visit www.nfwf.org/monarch. In addition to its commitment to NFWF's Monarch Butterfly Conservation Fund, Monsanto will provide approximately $400,000 in grants to other organizations working to protect biodiversity through both immediate and long-term actions.

Washington Post – We Don’t Need Labels on Genetically Modified Foods

In a March 29 editorial by the Washington Post, the editorial board discusses the false balance between scientific consensus and fear mongering in the GM food debate. They state “The GM-food debate is a classic example of activists overstating risk based on fear of what might be unknown and on a distrust of corporations.” The editorial can be found at: http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/we-dont-need-labels-telling-us-our-food-has-been-genetically-modified/2015/03/29/66f97f4a-d4c5-11e4-8fce-3941fc548f1c_story.html

USDA Stakeholder Workshop on Coexistence

USDA recently conducted a two day stakeholder workshop to advance an understanding of agricultural coexistence – the concurrent cultivation of conventional, organic, identity preserved (IP), and genetically engineered (GE)
crops consistent with farmer choices and consumer preferences – and discuss opportunities for making coexistence more achievable for all stakeholders. The workshop was organized around three sessions: 1) the current state of affairs of coexistence; 2) knowledge gaps, challenges, and USDA’s responses so far to the AC21 recommendations; and 3) additional steps USDA is considering to respond to the challenges. Webcasts of the workshop as well as copies of workshop’s presentations and summaries of USDA activities that are either newly proposed or already underway to support of coexistence—are available for public viewing on the USDA Stakeholder Workshop on Coexistence Web page: http://1.usa.gov/1CCWEXU. There is a ton of information provided there, but I would like guide your attention to two excellent presentations in particular regarding USDA and EPA actions on herbicide resistance weeds:

**U.S.D.A. Actions to Address Herbicide Resistance in Weeds:** Jill Schroeder, Ph.D, USDA Office of Pest Management Policy

**EPA's Perspective on Herbicide Resistance in Weeds:** Jack Housenger

Lee Van Wychen, Ph.D.
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President-Elect Rakesh Chandran at the start of the General Session.

Ms. Sandra Adams, Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture, delivered a Welcome to Virginia and the Keynote Address.

Past President and Awards Committee Chair Dwight Lingenfelter (on Right in photos) presided over the NEWSS Awards Program.

Dr. Jerry J. Baron (IR-4 Program) was presented with the NEWSS Fellow Award.

Mr. James E. Steffel (LABServices, Inc.) was presented with the NEWSS Fellow Award.
Dr. Bradley A. Majek (Rutgers University, retired) was honored with the NEWSS Award of Merit.

Dr. Mark VanGessel of the University of Delaware received the Outstanding Educator Award.

Dr. Jacob Barney of Virginia Tech was presented with the Outstanding Researcher Award.

Dr. Larissa Smith (Virginia Tech; now with Leone BioVentures) was named the Robert D. Sweet Outstanding Graduate Student at the Ph.D. level.
Mr. Todd Davis of the Delaware Department of Agriculture was presented with the M. Garry Schnappinger Service Recognition Award.

NEWSS President Gregory Armel presented his Presidential Address entitled “Tradition vs. The Future of Weed Science”
Dr. Rakesh Chandran presented opening remarks for the Symposium “Bridging the Gap - Part 1: How Did We Get Here?” about the history of NEWSS.

Past President Roy Johnson (1988-89) attended the symposium and was acknowledged by Jim Parochetti for his contributions.

Dr. James Parochetti, NEWSS President 1979-80, was the principal organizer of the symposium.

Dr. Prasanta Bhowmik, NEWSS President 1991-92
Past President Dwight Lingenfelter (2013-14) moderated Part 2 of the “Bridging the Gap” Symposium: “Where Do We Go from Here?”

Panel members Parochetti, Bhowmik, VanGessel, and Bonanno answered questions and discussed the future of NEWSS.
NEWSS POSTER SESSION

SOCIETY’S EVENING RECEPTION
Prasanta Bhowmik and David Yarborough at the Social Reception

Outstanding Student Paper Awards presented by Dwight Lingenfelter

Greg Armel and Dwight Lingenfelter practicing handshakes before the awards ceremony.

Grant Thompson (Cornell Univ.)
1st Place, Graduate Student Paper Presentation

Joseph Wolfe (North Carolina State Univ.)
2nd Place, Graduate Student Paper Presentation
Daniel Tekiela (Virginia Tech)
3rd Place, Graduate Student Paper Presentation

Alexandra Knight (North Carolina State Univ.)
3rd Place, Graduate Student Paper Presentation

Outstanding Student Poster Awards presented by John O’Barr

Thierry Besancon (North Carolina State Univ.)
1st Place, Student Poster Presentation

Clair Keene (Penn State Univ.)
2nd Place, Student Poster Presentation
Liam Vincent (North Carolina State Univ.)
3rd Place, Student Poster Presentation

Shawn Askew (Virginia Tech) - 1st Place Photo

Antonio DiTommaso (Cornell) - 2nd Place Photo

Todd Mervosh (TM Agricultural & Ecological Services) - 3rd Place Photo
At the NEWSS Business Meeting, the Presidency was passed from Greg Armel to Rakesh Chandran.

New NEWSS President Rakesh Chandran presided over the latter portion of the Business Meeting.

A “local doctor” advertising for patients at Chowning’s Tavern in Colonial Williamsburg.
NEWSS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2015
Front row (L to R): Greg Armel, Rakesh Chandran, Shawn Askew, Randy Prostak.
Back row (L to R): Keith Burnell, Prasanta Bhowmik, Todd Mervosh, John O’Barr, John Brewer,
Erin Hitchner, Bryan Dillehay (not in photo: Art Gover, Quintin Johnson, Lee Van Wychen).

NEWSS PAST PRESIDENTS at the Annual Meeting in 2015
Front row (L to R): Rich Bonanno, Renee Keese, Toni DiTommaso, Robin Bellinder, Joe Neal, Dave Yarborough,
Hilary Sandler, Jim Parochetti. Back rows (L to R): Roy Johnson, Jerry Baron, Brad Majek, Prasanta Bhowmik,
Dwight Lingenfelter, Tim Dutt, Bill Curran, Greg Armel, Mark VanGessel, Jeff Derr.
NORTHEASTERN WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY
2015 Sustaining Members

Platinum
- BASF
  The Chemical Company
- syngenta

Gold
- Valenta
- FMC
- Dow AgroSciences
- Bayer CropScience
- Monsanto

Silver
- DuPont
- ohp
- BAAR Scientific LLC
- pbi/gordon corporation
- Gowan USA
- UPI

Bronze
- Crop Management Strategies
- Gylling Data Management
- LABServices
- TeeJet® Technologies
- Weeds, Inc.