

# NEWSS News

Northeastern Weed Science Society  
September 2015



[WWW.NEWSS.ORG](http://WWW.NEWSS.ORG)

## COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT



Rakesh Chandran

I hope you had a safe and productive summer this year. The National Weed Science Contest was hosted by the North Central Weed Science Society at The Ohio State University this summer. Our region was well represented by students who successfully competed both in graduate and undergraduate sections. Notable accomplishments at a national level included 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> team placements by University of Guelph undergraduate teams 2 and 4, respectively, and that of team member Stephen Boersma who placed 2<sup>nd</sup> overall among undergraduate students. Also noteworthy is the performance by John Brewer from Virginia Tech who placed 2<sup>nd</sup> nationally in the graduate student section.

Congratulations to all the winners! I am sure it was a great experience for all students who were able to participate this year and for those of us who travelled far and wide to serve as volunteers for this event. Please see the Graduate Student Representative's column in this issue for more details, and the forthcoming issue of NEWSS News for contest photographs.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**October 2, 2015: Title submission deadline**

**October 23, 2015: Award nominations due**

**November 27, 2015: Abstracts deadline**

**January 3-7, 2016: The Northeast Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference - Sheraton Society Hills Hotel, Philadelphia (Joint-Conference hosted by NEWSS)**

As we look into fall, you may be making plans to attend The Northeastern Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference ([www.neppsc.org](http://www.neppsc.org)) in Philadelphia at the Sheraton Society Hills Hotel, from January 3-7, 2016. Our society is proud to host this first ever joint-meeting with peer societies, the Eastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America, Northeastern Division of the American Phytopathological Society, American Society of Horticultural Science-Northeast Region, and the Northeast Branch of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and the Soil Science Society of America.

The conference [website](#) contains information on call for papers, meeting registration, title and abstract submission, and hotel room reservation. Deadlines are October 2<sup>nd</sup> for title submission and November 27<sup>th</sup> for abstract submission. The negotiated room rate (\$124/night + taxes; valet parking available at \$25/day) will expire on December 14<sup>th</sup>, but early reservation is recommended to secure a room since we expect a high demand (overflow accommodation

arrangements will be posted on the website in the event of shortage). On behalf of NEWSS, I would like to thank Greg Armel and Kevin Ashley with BASF for their efforts to create the website, and to BASF for sponsoring the website.



Various committee meetings are expected to occur on January 3rd along with a Statistics Workshop. January 4th morning will feature a symposium on biological control of weeds, two concurrent sessions in Entomology, two additional Statistics Workshop followed by a Roundtable Extension/Industry workshop in the afternoon. This afternoon workshop will bring together specialists and scientists representing academia and industry to discuss emerging and current pest and other cultural issues related to various commodities in the region. Informal roundtable discussions during subsequent days are expected to bring researchers and educators who share common goals from a multidisciplinary perspective as a follow up to this workshop.

An opening ceremony is planned for Monday late afternoon to be followed by a mixer. A cross-disciplinary "Quiz-Bowl" will take place that evening. The quiz-bowl will be an informative yet fun-filled activity that brings together students from different disciplines who may compete as teams represented by various Universities.

Graduate students will be offered venues to present their research in competitive oral and poster presentations, and also to enhance career placement skills through an exclusive workshop. Breakout sessions will consume bulk of the remaining 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. The Linnaean games will be scheduled for Tuesday evening.

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.

We are expecting a high volume of papers and had to make certain adjustments to the program to accommodate as many oral and presentations as possible. A few key attributes include 12 minute oral presentations (including 2 min for Q&A), one judged paper submission from each graduate student either as an oral or poster, possibly of two poster sessions (Tuesday and Wednesday mornings). The poster size for this conference will be 36 by 48 inches.

You may be wondering if the NEPPSC is going to be an annual event. We do not have an answer to that question as of now but hope to get a clear idea after a debrief meeting following the conference. Shawn Askew will share with you the outcome of this effort and future plans by spring 2016.

Keith Burnell, NEWSS Membership Chair, had to leave for Louisiana to be closer to family with his new job with Syngenta. Keith has done a remarkable job to serve NEWSS in this capacity for the past three years for which the society is grateful. After conferring with the Executive Committee, I have decided to appoint Sudeep Mathew with Syngenta who has graciously agreed to serve on this important responsibility. Look forward to Sudeep's involvement with the

society in the future. Please join me to welcome Sudeep on the NEWSS Executive Committee (please read Sudeep's biography later in this newsletter).

A decision was made to continue NEWSS representation at CAST. In view of current representative Randy Prostack's upcoming role as the President-Elect, Dan Kunkel has kindly agreed to serve on this capacity. John O'Barr will be rotating off as NEWSS Sustaining Membership Chair and will be replaced by Wes Everman. On behalf of NEWSS, I would like to thank Randy and John for their sincere services to the society and would also like to welcome Dan and John on board in 2016.

During the summer meeting of the NEWSS Executive Committee the board moved to terminate the publishing of hard copies of the NEWSS Annual Meeting Proceedings, beginning 2016. The decision was made to address escalating publishing costs associated with limited hard copies, and to stay in tune with current trends of easy access to online scientific publications. Electronic versions will continue to be published and archived on the society [website](#) as downloadable files.

I look forward to seeing each of you in Philadelphia in early January. Let's make sure that we make this first joint-meeting a grand success, and it could not happen without your participation.

### **Important Dates**

**October 2, 2015:** Title submission deadline for the joint-conference in 2016

**November 27, 2015:** Abstract submission deadline for the joint-conference in 2016

**January 3-7, 2016:** The Northeast Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference, The Sheraton Society Hills Hotel, One Dock Street, Philadelphia, (Joint-Conference hosted by NEWSS)

**Northeastern Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference ([www.neppsc.org](http://www.neppsc.org))**

### ***Scenes in and around the Sheraton Society Hill***



Lobby of Sheraton Society Hill, Philadelphia, PA



City Tavern - less than 1 block from Sheraton



## PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Greg Armel

Please see the requirements below for our society awards nomination process. Please nominate a deserving person for these awards. All nomination packages [which are nomination letters and letter(s) of support] need to be sent to me by email ([gregory.armel@basf.com](mailto:gregory.armel@basf.com)) no later than **October 23, 2015 by 5 pm EST**.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to recognize those outstanding members in our society!

Greg

### **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.

- a. The nomination must be by letter and 2 supporting letters are required.
- b. The nominating letter should explain in general and specific terms the outstanding contributions of the nominee.
- c. The contributions must be in regards to NEWSS and weed science in the Northeast.
- d. Awards Committee members are not eligible.
- e. Award is limited to a maximum of three recipients per year.
- f. 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 five 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.

- a. At least five years attendance at the Annual Meeting
- b. A combination of two or more listed below:
  1. Presented or was the author/co-author of at least two papers at the Annual Meeting, or
  2. Served the Society for at least two years on the Executive Committee, or
  3. Served the Society for at least two years as a Section Chair
- c. 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?
- d. A nomination letter and one supporting letter are required.
- e. 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:

- a. Significant impact of an educational program (or programs) on weed management practices in the Northeast; and / or
- b. 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
- c. Excellence in teaching, as evidenced by innovative teaching methods or significant impact on their audiences (understanding of Weed Science and weed management).
- d. Candidates for the award must be active members of the NEWSS.

- e. Public and private sector members are eligible.
- f. A nomination letter and one supporting letter are required. In case of doubt as to whether a nominee qualifies, the Awards Committee will decide.
- g. 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:

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

- a. 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.
- b. Students are judged on academic and work history, research, teaching, and outreach activities, service, and honors and awards.
- c. 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.
- d. Winners are student members of NEWSS.
- e. Winners of the M.S. level award are also

- eligible for the award during their Ph.D. program.
- f. A nomination letter and one supporting letter are required.
- g. The Award is a plaque.

The **M. 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:

- a. Presented or was the author/co-author of a paper at the Annual Meeting, or
- b. Served the Society for at least two years as a Section Chair, or
- c. Organized or had significant input into the Collegiate Weed Contest, or
- d. Assisted a NEWSS member with other society duties, or
- e. Published a paper in other Weed Science journals, or
- f. 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.

## TREASURER'S REPORT



Erin Hitchner

### NEWSS Financial Report

#### **NEWSS Account Balances as of July 31, 2015**

<i>Savings</i>	\$31,836.61
<i>Checking</i>	\$24,166.00
<i>CD Balance (Meeting in reserve)</i>	\$25,274.37
<i>Education Fund</i>	\$22,296.27
<b><i>Total Net Assets</i></b>	<b>\$103,573.25</b>



## 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).

### 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
Todd Mervosh	Public Relations Rep.
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

## NEWSS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2015

### OFFICERS

**Rakesh Chandran** *PRESIDENT*  
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### COMMITTEE CHAIRS & REPRESENTATIVES

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## 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**

Gregory Armel	Chair
Dwight Lingenfelter	
Antonio DiTommaso	
Mark VanGessel	
Hilary Sandler	

<b>Nomination Committee</b>	
Dwight Lingenfelter	Chair
Jennifer D'Appollonio	Appointed by President
Sali Barolli	Selected at business mtg
Darren Lycan	Selected at business mtg
Michael Flessner	Selected at business mtg

<b>Resolutions Committee</b>	
Burkhard Schulz	Chair, Appointed by Pres
Katherine Ghantous	Appointed by President
Brian Hearn	Appointed by President

<b>Collegiate Weed Contest</b>	
Shawn Askew	Chair
Dwight Lingenfelter	Current Host
John Grande	Host in 2012
Greg Armel	Host in 2011
Antonio DiTommaso	Host in 2010
John Brewer	Graduate Student Rep.
Wes Everman	Mentor

<b>Audit Committee</b>	
Erin Hitchner	Treasurer
Todd Mervosh	
Jim Steffel	

<b>Archives Committee</b>	
Dan Kunkel	Chair
Greg Armel	Past President

<b>Photo Award Committee</b>	
Javier Vargas	Chair
Erin Hitchner	
Rakesh Chandran	
Art Gover	
Victoria Kleczewski	
Hilary Sandler	

<b>Student Paper Awards Committee</b>	
Greg Armel	Chair
Dwight Lingenfelter	
Antonio DiTommaso	
Mark VanGessel	
Hilary Sandler	

<b>Poster Awards Committee</b>	
Keith Burnell	Chair
Donald Ganske	
Todd Mervosh	
Art Gover	
Joseph Argentine	

<b>Weed Science Field Days Committee</b>	
Bryan Dillehay	Research & Education
Quintin Johnson	Appointed by Pres-Elect

<b>Past Presidents' Committee</b>	
Greg Armel	Chair
Dwight Lingenfelter	Past President

<b>Herbicide Resistant Plants Committee</b>	
Mark VanGessel	Chair
Russ Hahn	
Bill Curran	
Dan Kunkel	
Dave Mayonado	

<b>Education / Endowment Committee</b>	
Randy Prostack	Chair
Erin Hitchner	
Keith Burnell	
Dwight Lingenfelter	
Antonio DiTommaso	
Mark VanGessel	
Renee Keese	Appointed by President

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NEWSS NEWS was compiled by Todd Mervosh, Public Relations Representative. Please contact him at [tmervosh@att.net](mailto:tmervosh@att.net) with any corrections, suggestions, or items to include in the next newsletter (November 2015 issue).

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## EDITOR'S REPORT



Art Gover

**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 reinstating 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](mailto:aeg2@psu.edu).

## MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Introducing NEWSS Membership Chair  
Sudeep Mathew



Sudeep Mathew is an Agronomy Service Representative for Syngenta, Inc. He is the key interface for Syngenta in Mid-Atlantic States with growers, channel partners, retailers, institutions and farm organizations for Syngenta's integrated crop solutions. In this role, he provides technical training, coaching and coordinates local agronomic trials in VA, WV, MD and DE.

Until recently he was an Extension Educator for Agriculture and Natural Resources for University of Maryland Extension (UME) based in Cambridge, MD. While he was at UME, his research and extension program included potato germplasm evaluation, vegetable weed control, aronia production and potato crop modeling collaborating with USDA Crop Systems and Global Change laboratory. He was the founder and editor of "Agronomy News", a bi-weekly newsletter of University of Maryland Extension, circulated to over 3000 subscribers of farmers and agricultural professionals in the region. His major extension programs were in agronomy, weed control, agriculture risk management through grain marketing, crop insurance, good agricultural practices (GAP) and specialty crop market development. Since 2010 his extension work focused educating growers on managing glyphosate resistant palmer amaranth in vegetable rotations in eastern shore of Maryland. His international work in managing parasitic Egyptian broom rape in tomatoes and agronomic production improvement of potatoes has impacted farmers in Egypt and China.

Prior to coming to Maryland he worked for Michigan State University where he was a Regional Extension Educator for Commercial Vegetable Production covering four southeast

Michigan counties. Prior to that, he worked in applied agriculture research at North Dakota State University conducting field and green house studies in high-value crops, weed control, physiological disorder management, and cropping systems agronomy. Sudeep also worked in the Ag industry as Territory Officer for Aventis Crop Science (now Bayer) and Project Officer for Zeneca Agro Chemicals (now Syngenta) in India. While he was with Zeneca, he successfully launched an insecticide brand in the rice and vegetable sector to receive a 5% market share in the initial year of launch.

Sudeep is currently serving as Maryland State Manager for United States Potato Board (USPB). In this role he serves as a liaison between USPB and state potato growers, handlers and processors. He is a Board of Director for Mid-Atlantic Aronia Growers Association. Previously, he served a term as Board of Director for Future Harvest – Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture, Dorchester County Farm Bureau and Dorchester Soil Conservation District.

Sudeep holds a Masters Degree in Plant Sciences from North Dakota State University and Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture from University of Allahabad in India. He is an Affiliate Agent of University of Maryland Extension.

## GRADUATE STUDENT UPDATE



John Brewer

Dear NEWSS Graduate students,

I hope you all had a cool and stress free summer, and hopefully your research is going well. It was great to see all of the schools representing the Northeastern society at the Weed Olympics, and I would like to congratulate the top three teams and individuals in the NEWSS. The top three schools included: NC State in 3rd place, Guelph in 2nd place, and

Virginia Tech in 1st place. If you were unable to attend the contest, you missed out on an awesome learning experience and networking opportunity.

The next big event for the NEWSS will be the Northeastern Plant, Pest, and Soil Conference (NEPPSC) on January 3-7, 2016. I hope everyone is planning on attending this joint meeting. It will include 5 major societies from multiple disciplines including entomology (ESA), plant pathology (APS), horticulture (ASHS), agronomy (ASA), and weed science (NEWSS). This will be a great opportunity to network with students and faculty outside of your field. Meeting sections will be interdisciplinary and arranged by commodity or research foci. In lieu of our typical grad student social, we will be having a fun filled night competing in a multidisciplinary quiz bowl on Monday (Jan. 4th) evening. Each school is responsible for recruiting one or more teams comprised of students from all societies (no cap on # of students or teams per school). Students will be able to present as many papers or posters as they like in the sessions, but only one presentation (either poster or paper) will be judged in the contest. Although students may present contest papers or posters in a joint session, all judging and awards for the student contests will be administered by the student's host society. For all people attending the meeting, titles are due on Oct. 2 and abstracts are due on Nov. 27, so start thinking about them now because those deadlines will approach quickly. Points will be deducted from students contest scores if titles and abstracts are submitted late, just like in past meetings. A special NEPPSC web site will be launched by September 1, and it will have all the information you will need to reserve hotel rooms, submit titles/abstracts, and even pay registration fees. I'll send the link once the site is launched. Congratulations to all students that are finishing up their degrees, and good luck to students starting another school semester.

Best,

John Brewer  
NEWSS Graduate Student Representative

## WSSA REPRESENTATIVE



Prasanta Bhowmik

### **NEWSS News, August 10, 2015**

**The 2016 WSSA/SWSS Joint Annual Meeting** will be held in February 8-11, 2016, Monday to Thursday at the Sheraton Puerto Rico Hotel, San Juan, Puerto Rico. The hotel facilities are very good and all meeting rooms will be at the same floor. Four symposia are being planned as follows: i) Weed control in 2050: Imagining future strategies and the knowledge needed to achieve them, ii) Use of endemic plant diseases and insect pests for biological control of invasive weeds, iii) Twenty first century challenges in aquatic weed management, iv) The intersection of agricultural lands and wild areas considerations for pollinators, beneficial, and vegetative habitat. A graduate student workshop "Workplace personality assessment" is planned. Abstract Titles and Author Information must be submitted electronically by October 1, 2015 to be considered. Abstract texts must be submitted by January 15, 2016.

If you have never submitted an abstract into a WSSA or regional meeting using this system, you will need to "create an account", and follow the directions for establishing a log-in, prior to "joining" the 2016 WSSA meeting, and clicking "Enter." Individuals who already have an account need to log-in, "join" the 2016 WSSA meeting, and "enter" the meeting. To submit a title/abstract/presentation, please visit the [WSSA Abstract Submission System](#) (link will be available soon).

**2016 WSSA Student Poster Contest:** A joint WSSA/SWSS poster contest will be held at the 2016 meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Darrin Dodds, Mississippi State Univ. is a member of the contest committee for both contests which should help with logistics between SWSS and

WSSA. More information, visit <http://www.wssa.net>

**The 2015 National Weed Science Contest** was held during July 20-22, 2015. The contest was hosted by Ohio State University. WSSA Board approved \$5000 funding to support the Weed Science Contest. The Board also approved grants for four nights of lodging and complimentary meeting registration to 2016 WSSA/SWSS Joint Annual meeting in San Juan for the First Place Team and Individual winners (undergraduate and graduate division). The National Weed Science Contest was very successful. The results will be published in upcoming newsletters of regional societies and WSSA.

### **Weed Science Special Issues:**

"Research Methods in Weed Science" is available online now. For more information, visit [www.wssa.net](http://www.wssa.net). The other special issue on "Weed Science Special Issue on Socioeconomic Aspects of Managing Herbicide Resistance" is in under review and will be available this year.

### **International Weed Science Society (IWSS):**

Seventh International Weed Science Congress will be held at Clarion Congress Hotel Prague, Prague, Czech Republic from June 19-25, 2016. For more information, visit [www.iwsc2016.org](http://www.iwsc2016.org)  
**2016 IWSS Graduate Students Travel Grants and Award:** The IWSS has decided to continue with its tradition to facilitate participation of graduate (M.Sc. and Ph.D.) students in International Weed Science Congress. A limited number of travel grants will cover part of expenses such as registration fee, accommodation and travel costs. The most outstanding paper as determined by the Graduate Students Award Committee will receive the "**IWSS Larry Burrill Graduate Student Travel Award**", which covers all expenses to attend the Congress. If you plan to participate in the 2016 IWSS conference in Prague, graduate students are encouraged to apply for potential awards. The deadline for submission is January 1, 2016. All material should be sent via e-mail, no later than January 1, 2016 to the three members of the Graduate Students Award Committee. Follow this link for

instructions: [IWSS Instructions Graduate Students Award](#)

**The IWSS Student Award Committee consists of three members:** Prof. Dr. Baruch Rubin, IWSS Past-President; Prof. Prasanta C. Bhowmik, representing WSSA; Paolo Barberi, EWRS Past-President.

**The 2017 WSSA Annual Meeting** is slated for February 6-9, 2017 at the Hilton Tucson El Conquistador, Tucson, Arizona.

## CAST REPRESENTATIVE REPORT



Randall Prostak

CAST-Annual Fall Board Meeting will be held in Des Moines, Iowa: October 27-29, 2015

Dan Kunkel has agreed to replace Randy Prostak as the Northeastern Weed Science Society's representative on the CAST board of representatives.

### Kent Schescke Becomes CAST EVP

On June 1, Kent Schescke moved smoothly into the role of Executive Vice President at CAST--his Midwest ag roots and his years of experience in Washington, D.C., give him the firm footing needed to hit the ground running. He also benefits from a two-week transition period with the previous EVP, Linda Chimenti. As Schescke said, "Linda and the other staff members here at the Ames office have provided the information and insights I've needed to settle in quickly. I appreciate their help and professionalism."

A large part of Schescke's rich agricultural background comes from his FFA connections. He served as an FFA student officer, taught agriculture education for 14 years, and then spent 24 years with the National FFA

Organization and Foundation. "Kent has been instrumental in the overall success of the National FFA," says a colleague. "He has led numerous divisions, departments, and teams toward the delivery of the FFA vision and mission."

While Schescke handled numerous managerial and executive-level responsibilities in Washington, D.C., he is especially proud of the work he has done with agricultural education and youth development. This experience should serve him well, as CAST works with many universities and high school programs.

Along with the traditional publication and communication aspects of CAST, Schescke will take over several key programs that Ms. Chimenti successfully developed--including the popular Ag quickCAST publications and the new "Top Fifty Food Questions" video series. "I am also excited about the Ag Innovation Series," said Schescke. "It is an ambitious project that examines smart science and global food security."

Schescke is familiar with CAST's history and mission. As he points out, "I have had the opportunity to work with CAST in many capacities. I have great respect for the organization and the work it does to elevate the importance of agricultural science and technology."

Schescke's experience and philosophy fit smoothly with CAST's overall goals. He agrees that agriculture sectors face many challenges and opportunities, and he is positive about the future. "Advances in technology through research and innovation hold bright promise as long as we continue to secure the social license, political will, and funding to make it possible."

Schescke was born in Nebraska, grew up in Missouri, and has worked in several states from Colorado to Indiana to Virginia. Now he has returned to the Midwest, and he brings with him plenty of agriculture insights and connections. As he puts it, "I am very proud of the experiences gained over a quarter century working for one of the most successful nonprofit youth development organizations within the agriculture, food, and natural resources sector."

CAST is also proud to welcome him as its new leader.

### **Forthcoming publications**

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

The Need for Agricultural Innovation to Sustainably Feed the World by 2050: An Introduction (Issue Paper)

Technologies on the Shelf—A Series Keynote Paper (Issue Paper) (Chair) Amit Dhingra, Washington State University

Food Biofortification—Reaping the Benefits of Science to Overcome Hidden Hunger (Issue Paper)

Crop Protection Contributions toward Agricultural Productivity (Issue Paper)

Gene Editing in Food Production, Regulatory Review, and Public Acceptance (Issue Paper)

Irrigation and Precision Crop Management Technologies (Issue Paper)

Plant Breeding and Genetics (Issue Paper) (Cochair) Stephen Baenziger, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Precision Production Technologies in Animal Agriculture (Issue Paper) (Chair) Jeff Bewley, University of Kentucky

Protecting Food Animal Gene Pools for Future Generations (Issue Paper) (Chair) Julie Long, USDA-ARS

Impact of Free-Range Poultry Production Systems on Animal Health, Human Health, Productivity, Environment, Food Safety, and Animal Welfare Issues (Issue Paper) (Cochairs) Jacquie Jacob and Tony Pescatore, University of Kentucky

Process Labeling of Food: Consumer Behavior, the Agricultural Sector, and Policy Recommendations (Issue Paper) (Chair) Kent Messer, University of Delaware

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

Bioenergy Production Does Not Have to Result in Biological Invasions: A Life-cycle Approach (Commentary) (Chair) Jacob Barney, Virginia Tech

Recruiting and Educating Graduate Students to Become Researchers and Leaders in Global Agricultural Sciences (Issue Paper) (Chair) Charles Rice, Kansas State University

Scientific, Ethical, and Economic Aspects of Farm Animal Well-being (Task Force Report) (Cochairs) Candace Croney and William Muir, Purdue University

# WASHINGTON DC REPORT

Lee Van Wychen  
Science Policy Director

August 2015



Lee Van Wychen

## **Definition of a “Weed”**

At their summer board meeting in July, the WSSA Board of Directors unanimously approved the following definition of a weed:

***A plant that causes economic losses or ecological damage, creates health problems for humans or animals, or is undesirable where it is growing.***

The plan is for the WSSA Public Awareness committee to do a press release on this and then incorporate it into a WSSA Fact Sheet that will include definitions for other specific types of weeds such as noxious weed, invasive weed, and “superweed”.

## **FY 2016 USDA Appropriations**

The FY 2016 appropriations process could be pretty brutal. There’s a big fight between Congress and the President over adhering to the spending caps set forth in the Budget Control Act (i.e. sequestration). Those spending caps are back in full effect for FY 2016 after a two year hiatus due to the Murray-Ryan budget deal in 2013. Non-defense discretionary spending would take a big hit under Congress’s joint budget resolution which adheres to the spending caps. The President’s budget, which ignores sequestration, includes a 7% increase for both defense and non-defense discretionary spending, and is more favorable for research funding. Below are FY 2016 numbers from the President, House, and Senate for some USDA agencies.

USDA Agency	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 President	FY 2016 House	FY 2016 Senate
	(in thousands of dollars)			
APHIS	871,315	855,803	870,945	876,465
ARS	1,132,625	1,191,540	1,122,454	1,136,075
ERS	85,373	86,023	78,058	85,373
NASS	172,408	180,346	161,206	168,108
NIFA	1,289,500	1,503,058	1,284,461	1,293,687
NRCS	846,428	831,231	832,928	855,209

There will likely be a filibuster for every Senate spending bill, unless an agreement is reached for spending cap offsets for defense and non-defense discretionary spending. It's impossible to tell how this will all end up, but many in the federal government are already starting to prepare for a shutdown. However, the current consensus is that there will be a Continuing Resolution funding the government for at least the first few months of FY 2016.

### **Aquatic Plant Control Research Program Gets Support in Both the House and Senate.**

While Senate support for the Army Corp's of Engineer's (ACOE) Aquatic Plant Control Research Program (APCRP) has been unwavering, for the first time in 4 years, the House included \$4 million in their mark-up of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill for APCRP. Last year, Congress passed new authorizing language in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA), which increased the authorization of funding for APCRP from \$15 million to \$20 million per year and expanded the scope of research directed to control not just aquatic plant growths, but all aquatic invasive species.

### **Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research Names First Executive Director**

The Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR) named Dr. Sally Rockey as its first executive director. Dr. Rockey is currently the deputy director of extramural research at the National Institutes of Health and will bring her 19 years of experience at USDA to the Foundation starting in September, 2015.

FFAR was established in the 2014 Farm Bill. Congress provided \$200 million for the Foundation that must be matched by non-federal funds as the Foundation identifies and approves research projects. The Foundation operates as a non-profit entity seeking to address problems of national and international significance. For more background on FFAR, as well Dr. Rockey's bio, please visit:

<http://www.far.foundation/first-executive-director.html>

(Optional High Res Image)

Available at:

<http://www.marketwire.com/library/MwGo/2015/6/11/11G044526/Images/FFAR-2411-1364954847192.jpg>

Image caption: "FFAR's Chairman of the Board and Former Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman (left) helped select Dr. Sally Rockey (right) as FFAR's first executive director."

### **Milkweed, Monarchs, and Pollinator Protection**

The issues of milkweed, monarchs, and pollinator protection continues to be a hot topic in Washington D.C. In mid-May, the White House, through the Office of Science and Technology Policy issued the [Pollinator Research Action Plan](#). The plan focuses on increasing honeybee and monarch butterfly numbers through the creation and maintenance of pollinator habitat. In conjunction with this effort, the EPA has also issued a [Proposal to Protect Bees from Acutely Toxic Pesticides](#). These regulations would prohibit the application of pesticides that are acutely toxic to bees during bloom in crops where honey bee pollination services are contracted. The [comment period](#) on these regulations will remain open until August 28.

On June 24, the EPA also published a document in the federal register titled "[Risk Management Approach to Identifying Options for Protecting the Monarch Butterfly](#)". This document is the start of the process which will depend upon (i) input from a diverse group of stakeholders to identify and integrate information with respect to influences on the population dynamics of the monarch butterfly and the milkweed plant; and, (ii) cooperation and collaboration from these diverse stakeholders to identify activities that will balance weed management needs across varied landscapes with conservation of the milkweed plant." The comment period ends August 24.

As a bit of good news regarding pollinator protection, the Senate Environment and Public Works committee marked up a 6 yr transportation bill (DRIVE Act, S. 1647) that included an amendment from Sen. Gillibrand (D-

NY), which WSSA supported, that encourages pollinator habitat along transportation rights-of-ways. This is the first time a provision like this was included in the Senate to encourage pollinator habitat on transportation rights-of-ways. Some of the provisions in the amendment include: 1) conduct or encourage integrated vegetation management practices on roadsides and other transportation rights-of-way, including reduced mowing; 2) enhance the development of habitat and forage for Monarch butterflies, other native pollinators, and honey bees through plantings of native forbs and grasses, including noninvasive, native milkweed species that can serve as migratory way stations for butterflies and facilitate migrations of other pollinators; 3) encourage leveraging through partnerships and coordination with stakeholders in support of pollinators and plantings of native forbs and grasses, such as environmental groups, research institutions, other agencies, businesses, and community organizations; and 4) conduct or facilitate research and demonstration projects on the economic and environmental benefits and best practices for integrated vegetation management, reduced mowing, and plantings of native forbs and grasses for pollinator habitat, forage, and migratory way stations for Monarch butterflies and other migrating pollinators.

### **EPA Responses to IARC Reports for Glyphosate and 2,4-D**

**Glyphosate:** In 1991 EPA concluded that glyphosate should be classified as a Group E (evidence of non-carcinogenicity for humans) based on a lack of convincing carcinogenicity evidence and considering the criteria in EPA Guidelines for classifying a carcinogen. Since then, EPA has monitored emerging research on the carcinogenicity of glyphosate.

In 2014, EPA reviewed over 55 epidemiological studies conducted on the possible cancer and non-cancer effects of glyphosate. Our review concluded that this body of research does not provide evidence to show that glyphosate causes cancer, and it does not warrant any change in EPA's cancer classification for glyphosate. This is the same conclusion reached in 2004 by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture

Organization and affirmed this year by Germany's pesticide regulatory officials. In a few months, EPA will be releasing for public comment our preliminary human health risk assessment for glyphosate as part of our program to reevaluate all pesticides periodically. EPA is aware of the recent International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) report and will address it in detail in the preliminary risk assessment. Additional information regarding glyphosate and EPA's ongoing registration review can be found at:

[http://iaspub.epa.gov/apex/pesticides/f?p=CHEMICALSEARCH:31:0::NO:1,3,31,7,12,25:P3\\_XCHEMICAL\\_ID:2477](http://iaspub.epa.gov/apex/pesticides/f?p=CHEMICALSEARCH:31:0::NO:1,3,31,7,12,25:P3_XCHEMICAL_ID:2477)

**2,4-D:** On June 23rd, IARC released a scientific assessment which retains the group's previous classification of 2,4-D as a "2B carcinogen" (possibly carcinogenic to humans). This resulted from the June 3rd, 2015 United Nations World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) meeting to review the carcinogenic potential of 2,4-D.

EPA reviewed 2,4-D in 2014 as part of its decision to register Enlist Duo and found that the data do not support a cause and effect relationship between exposure to 2,4-D and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. This is the same conclusion reached by an earlier review of the issue by the FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel.

2,4-D is currently undergoing registration review, EPA's periodic review of pesticide registrations to ensure that each pesticide continues to satisfy the statutory safety standard for registration; that is, the pesticide can perform its intended function with reasonable certainty of no harm to people from residues in food and water and that it will not cause unreasonable adverse effects on the environment when used according to the product label. Through this program, EPA is ensuring that each pesticide's registration is based on current scientific and other knowledge, including its effects on human health and the environment.

The scope of the registration review process is to evaluate previously conducted human health risk assessments using the most recent scientific

information, agency policies, and risk assessment methodologies in order to identify data deficiencies and future actions/work needed for the pesticide. The risk assessments and toxicology for 2,4-D will be revisited during this process and will include IARC's assessment after publication of Volume 113 of the IARC Monographs. EPA will determine whether any risk mitigation is needed to address unreasonable risks to humans.

Currently, we expect to release for public comment the draft human health risk assessment for 2,4-D in March 2016.

### **Illinois Farm Data Indicates Mixing MOA's More Effective Than Rotating Them**

*Reprinted with permission from Stephanie Henry, University of Illinois.*

A recently published study by weed scientists at the University of Illinois and USDA-ARS, looking at glyphosate-resistant waterhemp, is providing valuable evidence that points to management practices as the driving force behind herbicide resistance, and that herbicide mixing, as opposed to herbicide rotation, is the most effective tool in managing resistance.

Pat Tranel said this is not the first time researchers have presented evidence that herbicide rotation is not the best resistance management strategy. "This paper is valuable because these conclusions were obtained doing our experiment in a more 'real-life' fashion," Tranel said. "This study confirmed previous conclusions that farmers should use herbicide mixing rather than rotation."

During the study, they evaluated glyphosate-resistance incidences, as well as landscape, soil, weed, and farm-management data from 105 central Illinois grain farms, including almost 500 site-years of herbicide application records. Having this data, collected between 2004 and 2010, helped the researchers identify relationships between past herbicide use and current glyphosate-resistance occurrences.

Tranel said when glyphosate-resistant waterhemp was first reported in Illinois in 2006,

researchers working at the site saw some fields that were infested with waterhemp, but adjacent fields that were free of the weed.

"We asked, 'what is different between these two fields? Is it what the farmers are doing?' We asked a retail applicator to let us review all the management practices data from 100 fields—50 that have resistant waterhemp and 50 that don't," Tranel said.

"We took the results of what farmers have already done, and asked what is different in the fields that have resistance versus the ones that don't," he added.

After collecting the management data, sampling waterhemp from the fields, and screening seeds from the field for resistance back in their greenhouses, the researchers analyzed that data for management factors most associated with resistance. Overall the researchers examined 66 variables related to environment, soil, landscape, weed community, and weed management.

"We looked at every factor we could think of in terms of management and landscape," Tranel said. "We found that it was management factors that are the most important. It doesn't matter whether you're next to a water course that might bring in new seed, what the waterhemp density of your field is, etc. It's what you did in your field that matters.

"That's what's encouraging," he added. "It's not inevitable that if your field is next to a water course, for example, you will have resistance."

Aaron Hager, a co-author on the study, explained that the occurrence of glyphosate-resistant waterhemp was greatest in fields where glyphosate had been used in over 75 percent of the seasons included in the analysis, where fewer MOAs were used each year, and where herbicide rotation occurred annually. "Simply rotating herbicide MOAs actually increased the frequency of resistance," he said.

On the other hand, Tranel said that the farmers who were using multiple herbicides per application were least likely to have resistance.

“When using an average of 2.5 MOAs per application, you are 83 times less likely to have resistance compared to if you used only 1.5 MOAs per application,” he explained.

“That’s pretty amazing that adding one additional mode of action in your tank reduces your chances of resistance by that much,” Tranel added.

Hager pointed out that this strategy will work only if each component of the tank mixture is effective against the target species. “Effective, long-term weed management will require even more diverse management practices,” he added.

Another piece of good news for farmers is that the researchers did not find an association of proximity between neighboring fields and resistance. “The good thing is not only does management matter, it’s what you do in your own field that matters. Even if a neighbor’s resistance moves, it’s at a small frequency. If you’re doing the right thing it will stay at a small frequency,” Tranel said.

Although there may be some concerns with herbicide mixing, Tranel said it is still the best tool to manage resistance. One concern is the greater expense and environmental load of using multiple herbicides.

Another concern is using the correct mix of herbicides in the tank. Particularly as waterhemp becomes resistant to other herbicides, such as PPO inhibitors, mixing glyphosate and a PPO inhibitor, is not going to be a good management strategy if there is already resistance to a PPO inhibitor, Tranel explained.

“As we have new tools coming like 2,4-D and dicamba-tolerant soybeans, some people may think ‘I’ll throw in 2,4-D with glyphosate, because that’s using two modes of actions,’ but if you already have glyphosate resistance then you are not really using two effective modes of action,” he added.

“We don’t say that mixing is the end-all solution. What we saw from this study if success for farmers is measured by lack of resistance or

lower frequency, then successful farmers use multiple herbicides per application.”

### **USDA Releases Federal Noxious Weed Disseminules ID Tool**

The [Federal Noxious Weed Disseminules of the U.S.](#) (FNWD) was developed by the USDA APHIS Identification Technology Program (ITP) in collaboration with the California Department of Agriculture (CDFA). Most of the content in FNWD is a work of the U.S. Government and is in the public domain. The ID tool was developed to enable accurate identification of federal noxious weeds (FNW) disseminules and to assemble a set of high-quality images of the disseminules of all the FNW taxa. The ID tool and its identification keys were designed to be used by officials at U.S. ports responsible for identification of plant pests. It may also be a useful resource for seed professionals and anyone else with an interest in, or a need to know about, the U.S. federal noxious weeds and what their disseminules look like.

The ID tool provides photographs, text, and keys that aid in determining whether or not an unknown disseminule (e.g., seed, fruit) found as a contaminant in imported botanicals and agricultural products is a FNW and is therefore actionable. The total list of 114 FNW taxa is broken down into smaller groupings, first by Disseminule type—Spores vs. Vegetative vs. Fruits & Seeds. This page describes the various types of disseminules represented within the tool. Taxa with spore and vegetative disseminules are described in fact sheets. The taxa with fruit and seed disseminules (further broken down into three groupings: Poaceae, Fabaceae, and Other Families) can be separated using one of the three associated keys. A Key to Keys assists the user in deciding which of these three keys is appropriate to use for taxon identification. Fact sheets for each FNW taxon pull together relevant descriptions, including distinguishing characteristics and photographs. See: <http://idtools.org/id/fnw/>

### **USDA-ERS Report on the Economics of Glyphosate Resistance Management**

Data obtained by USDA’s Agricultural and Resources Management Survey (ARMS),

conducted every year targeting about 5000 fields and 30,000 farms, along with data from the Benchmark study (Shaw et al., 2011) show that weed-management choices that account for the yield and cost effects of glyphosate resistance and maximize returns over time differ from those that ignore the effects of glyphosate resistance by: 1) using glyphosate during fewer years; 2) often combining glyphosate with one or more alternative herbicides; and 3) most importantly, not applying glyphosate during consecutive growing seasons. As a result, glyphosate resistance is managed more cost effectively and the cumulative impact of returns is higher after about 2 years of managing resistance instead of ignoring it.

The findings of the USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) study suggest that education about the negative consequences of glyphosate resistance and the economic benefits of managing resistance, as well as the common-pool-resource nature of weed susceptibility to glyphosate and the potential benefits of cooperation, could promote resistance-management practices, encourage neighboring farmers to collaborate in managing glyphosate resistance, and increase long-term returns to corn and soybean production.

The USDA-ERS report “The Economics of Glyphosate Resistance Management in Corn and Soybean Production” can be found at: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/media/1832877/err184.pdf>

### **WOTUS Rule Finalized. 27 States Sue.**

On June 29, the Waters Of The U.S. (WOTUS) rule was officially published in the Federal Register, and subsequently, 27 states filed lawsuits in four separate federal courts seeking to block the administration’s expansion of which waters are covered under the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act (CWA). The rule will take effect Aug. 25, but for judicial review purposes, the rule would be considered final on July 13.

Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi filed a joint lawsuit in Houston asserting that the EPA’s final rule is “an unconstitutional and impermissible expansion of federal power over the states and

their citizens and property owners.” While the EPA has the authority to regulate water quality, the suit says Congress has not granted the EPA the power to regulate water and land use.

Similarly, Ohio and Michigan filed a joint complaint in an Ohio federal court, while the following 13 states: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming are seeking to have the rule overturned in a North Dakota federal court. A fourth lawsuit was filed by nine more states in a Georgia federal court that includes West Virginia, Alabama, Florida, Kansas, Kentucky, South Carolina, Utah, Georgia, and Wisconsin.

The EPA and Army Corps of Engineers first proposed the WOTUS rule in April 2014 and finalized it in May 2015. The rule will reportedly add some two million acres of streams and 20 million acres of wetlands under the jurisdiction of the CWA.

There is also legislation in both the House (H.R. 1732) and Senate (S. 1140) that would repeal the WOTUS rule and require the administration to develop an alternative rule in consultation with state and local governments. In May, the House voted 261-155 to pass its bill. The Senate version was passed by the Environment and Public Works Committee in June, but is awaiting a vote from the full Senate. The Administration said it would likely veto the House and Senate bills, so a two-thirds majority would be needed in both chambers. In addition to the stand alone bills that would repeal WOTUS, there are also “riders” in the appropriations bill in both the House and Senate that would prevent EPA and the Army Corp of Engineers from using any money to implement WOTUS. However, that is only a 1 year solution, and according to the lawyers, the states would still have the burden to implement the new WOTUS rule, even without the federal money.

### **U.S. is 22,500 College Graduates Short for Agricultural Jobs**

A report from USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and Purdue University, released in May, has found tremendous demand

for recent college graduates with a degree in agricultural programs. An estimated 57,900 high-skilled job openings are available annually in the food, agriculture, renewable natural resources, and environment fields, the report found, but there are only about 35,400 new U.S. graduates with a bachelor's degree or higher in agriculture related fields, 22,500 short of the jobs available annually.

College graduates with a degree in "Plant science" can expect to see a very strong job market.

Read the report on agriculture jobs in the U.S. at: ["Employment Opportunities for College Graduates in Food, Agriculture, Renewable Natural Resources, and the Environment, United States, 2015-2020."](#)

### **Voluntary GMO Labeling Bill Gets A Lot of Attention**

The Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015 (H.R. 1599) would require the FDA to regulate the distribution and labeling related to bioengineered foods. The bill was introduced in March and has had hearings in both the House Agriculture and the House Energy and Commerce Committees. In July, the House passed the bill by a vote of 275-150. H.R. 1599 defines the term "bioengineered organism" as an organism that meets the following three conditions: (a) the organism is a plant (or a seed, a fruit, or any other part thereof), (b) the organism contains genetic material that has been modified through in vitro recombinant DNA techniques; and (c) the modification could not otherwise be obtained using conventional breeding techniques.

H.R. 1599 would require food producers to notify FDA of any bioengineered foods intended to be sold interstate and would prevent the sale

of any bioengineered foods not deemed safe by FDA. The bill would prevent FDA from requiring the labeling of bioengineered foods only on the grounds that the foods are bioengineered, however, the FDA could require that alterations of nutritional properties, allergens, or other characteristics of food be listed on food labeling.

The second title of H.R. 1588 directs FDA to define the term "natural" for its use on food and beverage products. The third part of the legislation directs FDA to establish federal standards for food producers who choose to voluntarily label their product for the absence or presence of bioengineered organisms. Finally, H.R. 1599 deals with the issue of preemption (the doctrine that federal law takes precedence over state law) by affirming FDA as the nation's authority for the use and labeling of bioengineered food ingredients and would prevent states from issuing their own food labeling requirements. Although there appears to be support for the measure in the Senate, its path is unclear in the Senate and beyond.

### **WSSA Survey of Most Common and Troublesome Weeds**

The winner of the \$100 drawing for completing the survey of the most common and troublesome weeds was WSWS member, John Vickery, Member, Education & Outreach Committee, Colorado Native Plant Society. Congratulations John!

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# NORTHEASTERN WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY

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