Comments from the President

Shawn D. Askew

The Northeastern Weed Science Society was host to the Northeastern Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference in 2016. Special thanks are extended to the many individuals that made the meeting a resounding success. Particular thanks go to Rakesh Chandran who chaired the planning committee and other committee members from participating societies. The 2016 meeting was the first joint meeting to bring five scientific societies in our related fields together. The participating societies in 2016 were NEWSS (host society), the Eastern Branch - Entomological Society of America, the Northeastern Division of the American Phytopathological Society, the American Society of Horticulture - Northeast Region, and the Northeast Branch of the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA.

Important Dates

July 25-26, 2016: Northeastern Weed Science Contest hosted by Virginia Tech

October 7, 2016: Title submission deadline

November 25, 2016: Abstract submission deadline

The survey results are in and 65% of all NEPPSC attendees have spoken! When asked "How often would you like your member society to meet together as NEPPSC?", about half of respondents indicated that they would like to meet annually and another half of respondents were split equally between every two years or 3-5 years. Only 7% of respondents indicated that they would not like to meet jointly again. When viewed by society, the percentage of individuals that would like to meet jointly as NEPPSC every year was 73, 60, 40, 31, and 20% for NE-ASA-CSSA-SSSA, NEWSS, NE-ASHS, NE-APS, and NE-ESA, respectively with the latter two societies favoring a biennial or 3-5 year meeting frequency.

Using these survey results and other input from various society members, the NEWSS board has decided to continue to host the NEPPSC every year. In 2017, our inaugural four participating societies will not all replace their normal annual meeting with NEPPSC as in 2016. The reasons for their absence are clearly not
based on survey results of member input, but more likely on the requirement for long-term planning for society annual meetings. In most cases, annual meetings are planned two years in advance. The need for member input before deciding to meet with NEPPSC after 2016 effectively assured that a few of our sister societies would not be able to meet in 2017. The NEWSS board will continue to reach out to affiliated societies in plant, pest, and soil sciences for leadership and help in making NEPPSC better serve members across all associated disciplines. We will also continue to invite affiliated societies to meet jointly as NEPPSC. Regardless, members of all societies will be invited to attend in 2017. We hope to maximize on efficiencies created by meeting annually and ultimately grow NEPPSC in the next five years. Several comments and criticism were noted in the survey and will be extremely helpful in improving next year's meeting.

Past President's Report

Rakesh Chandran

I wish to thank the Executive Committee and the NEWSS membership for a job well done to help organize and host the first Northeastern Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference (NEPPSC) in Philadelphia. Much interest was expressed by attendees to hold similar joint-meetings in the future. The conference generated a net revenue of $24,569.38 which was distributed to participating societies based on a predetermined formula.

The past-presidents met during the last day of the NEPPSC and discussed several important items. It was recommended that in future NEPPSC meetings, a line be included in the registration form to make allow contributions to be made towards the NEWSS Endowment Funds.

Past-Presidents, Drs. Hilary Sandler and James Parochetti have challenged the society members to make contributions to the NEWSS Endowment Fund. Hilary and Jim have decided to match any individual member contribution (not corporations), big or small, with a cap of $500 to match a single contribution, up to a total of $4000. The deadline to make contributions in order to be matched is December 31, 2016, or until the $4000 pool is depleted, whichever comes first. Contributions will be matched on a first-come first-matched basis.

The committee brainstormed ideas to honor late Dr. Robin Bellinder. Since the Endowment funds have not been utilized yet, one of the suggestions was to establish a Travel Award for a speaker from abroad at our annual conference based on the international engagements of Robin. Cornell University has established a Foundation Scholarship in memory of Dr. Bellinder. A goal to raise $10,000 through NEWSS membership towards this Foundation Scholarship was also proposed by the committee. Please consider a contribution to honor Robin.

The membership is encouraged to provide nominations from our region for the "Award of Merit", "Fellow Award", "Outstanding Educator Award", "Outstanding Researcher Award", Robert D. Sweet "Outstanding Graduate Students Awards" and "M. Garry Schnappinger-Service Recognition Award" for the 2017 meeting. Please refer to NEWSS Manual of Operating Procedures (pages 9-12) for the awards criteria. Please let me know if you have potential nominations or any related questions.
Treasurer’s Report

Erin Hitchner


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NEWSS Executive Committee 2016

Front Row (L to R): Sudeep Mathew, Erin Hitchner, Randy Prostak, Shawn Askew, Rakesh Chandran, Carroll Mosley, Kurt Vollmer
Back Row (L to R): Katelyn Venner, Michael Flessner, Prasanta Bhowmik, Wesley Everman, Quentin Johnson, Dan Kunkel, John Brewer
Not Pictured: Lee Van Wychen

Executive Committee

Shawn Askew  President
Randy Prostak  President-Elect
Carroll Mosley  Vice-President
Rakesh Chandran  Past President
Erin Hitchner  Treasurer
Kurt Vollmer  Treasurer-Elect
Sudeep Mathew  Membership Chair
Michael Flessner  Editor
Katelyn Venner  Public Relations Rep.
Wesley Everman  Sustaining Membership
Quentin Johnson  Research & Education
John Brewer  Graduate Student Rep.
Prasanta Bhowmik  WSSA Representative
Dan Kunkel  CAST Representative
Lee Van Wychen  Science Policy Director

NORTHEASTERN WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY
NEWSS Executive Committee 2016

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Committee Members

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

2017 NEWSS Annual Meeting
Randy Prostak – Program Chair

Poster Session:
Michael Flessner – Chair

Agronomy:
John Willis – Chair

Ornamentals:
Sali Barolli – Chair

Turfgrass and Plant Growth Regulators:
Alan Estes – Chair
Kyung-min Han – Chair-Elect

Vegetables and Fruit:
Katherine Ghantous – Chair

Vegetation Management and Restoration:
Brett Hartis - Chair

Weed Biology and Ecology:
Caroline Marschner - Chair

Nomination Committee
Greg Armel Chair
Jennifer D’Appollonio-Cote Appointed by President
Sali Barolli Selected at business mtg.
Darren Lycan Selected at business mtg.
Michael Flessner Selected at business mtg.

Resolutions Committee
Burkhard Schulz Chair
Katherine Ghantous Appointed by President
Brian Hearn Appointed by President

Collegiate Weed Contest Committee
Shawn Askew Chair
Jacob Barney Current Host
Dwight Lingenfelter Host in 2014
John Grande Host in 2012
Greg Armel Host in 2011
Antonio DiTommaso Host in 2010
John Brewer Graduate Student Rep.
Wes Everman Mentor

Program Committees for the 2017 NEWSS Meeting

Site Selection Committee
Randy Prostak President-Elect
Shawn Askew President
Erin Hitchner Treasurer
Sudeep Mathew Membership Chair

Awards Committee
Rakesh Chandran Chair
Greg Armel
Dwight Lingenfelter
Antonio DiTommaso

Mark VanGessel

Audit Committee
Erin Hitchner Treasurer
Kurt Vollmer Treasurer-Elect
Todd Mervosh
Jim Steffel

Archives Committee
Dan Kunkel Chair
Rakesh Chandran Past-President

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

Student Paper Awards Committee
Greg Armel Chair
Dwight Lingenfelter
Antonio DiTommaso
Mark VanGessel
Hilary Sandler

Weed Science Field Days Committee
Editor's Report

Michael Flessner


For the 2017 meeting, we will continue to use the WSSA Abstracts website for submission of titles and abstracts. We will also continue with the Proceedings in an electronic format only. Doing so eliminates time constraints for printing and shipping and allows for submission deadlines to be closer to the meetings.

DEADLINES for the 2017 meeting:
Titles are due Friday, October 7, 2016.
Abstracts are due Friday, November 25, 2016.

Title and Abstract formatting instructions will be posted on the NEWSS website and published in the September newsletter. Similarly, instructions for submission through the WSSA Abstracts website will also be posted on the NEWSS website.

NEWSS News was compiled by Katelyn Venner, Public Relations Representative. Please contact her at katelyn.venner@basf.com with any corrections, suggestions, or items to be included in the next newsletter (August 2016).
Membership Report

2016 marked our successful launch of 1st Northeastern Plant, Pest and Soils Conference (NEPPSC) organized in cooperation with the Eastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America (EB-ESA), the Northeastern Division of the American Phytopathological Society (NED-APS), the Northeast Branch of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and the Soil Science Society of America, and the American Society of Horticultural Science-Northeast Region (NE-ASHS). This combined meeting provided our members a platform for interdisciplinary diversity and extended the opportunity for wider scientific collaboration. As a result of the joint meeting a number of new members were added to our society. Out of total 452 NEPPSC attendees, 139 of them were NEWSS members. We had over 50% increases in member participation from previous years.

The survey conducted after the conference had a response rate of 60% in which 47% of responders were NEWSS members. Here are some highlights of the survey results. 45% of survey responders said they would like to meet as NEPPSC format every year, 23% would like to meet every other year, 25% prefer to meet every 3 to 5 year and the remaining 7% don’t like to meet as NEPPSC. About 55% liked having multiple disciplines in the same sessions while 29% suggested having smaller sessions with specific topics. Over 80% of the attendees considered the hotel and registration costs within the budget. For meeting locations, majority of the responders favored Philadelphia followed by Baltimore and Washington DC.

Finally, if you know of a member who is not receiving communications from NEWSS, please let me know and I will add them to the list. Also if you know someone who is not yet a member but could benefit from the Society, please encourage them and pass their contact information to me so that I can reach out.

Thank you for keeping your contact information with NEWSS current. Please indicate any address changes by sending an email to sudeep.mathew@syngenta.com. It is our goal to serve each and every member of our society to the advancement of weed sciences discipline. If you have any thoughts, ideas or suggestions to improve our services, please don’t hesitate to contact one of the officers. Your talents and contributions to strengthen our organization will be much appreciated.

Graduate Student Update

John Brewer

I hope that everyone’s semesters are going well, and hopefully this odd spring
weather isn’t putting too much strain on your research. I would like to start off by thanking you all for your participation at the first NEPPSC joint meeting in Philadelphia. If you were unable to attend the meeting, you missed out on a wonderful meeting and a great networking opportunity as there were five different societies present for this meeting. The 2016 Graduate Student Paper and Poster competitions were successful, and I would like to thank all of the NEWSS students who participated in the contests. I would also like to congratulate all graduate student award winners for their hard work and dedication.

During the meeting, there were two main events held for the graduate students including the Quiz Bowl and Workshop. The Graduate Student Quiz Bowl was a great success and turn out as the room was packed with students, professors, and industry representatives from all the attending disciplines. If you were unable to attend the meeting or the Quiz Bowl you missed out on a fun and enjoyable event. Graduate students also had the opportunity to attend a workshop held by the Entomology society, which taught students about important key areas to focus on when applying for jobs and how to stand out from other applicants. I thoroughly enjoyed all the graduate student activities and hope to hold many of the same events next year at our 2017 meeting. Please feel free to email me if you have any comments or criticisms about the events this year.

The planning for the 2017 meeting is already underway by the NEWSS Executive board, and they are hoping to plan another joint conference. Even if our meeting next year is joint or just NEWSS, we will still have multiple graduate student events. The first and most important event next year will be our NEWSS graduate student mixer before the start of the meeting to elect a new NEWSS Graduate representative (2 year term) to the Executive board. I also would like to plan another quiz bowl and workshop, so please email me if you have any ideas or requests for either event.

The 2016 NEWSS Weed Contest will be held on July 26 at Virginia Tech. Registration for the contest is due on June 1st, so please remind your advisors/professors of this date. The contest will be a few minutes from the Virginia Tech campus at Kentland Farms. We hope to have a fun and educational contest for the students. It is a great opportunity to network with other students, but also a great time to show other universities and possible employers your knowledge in the field of weed science. I am also looking in to possible graduate student activities or study opportunities the day before the contest. I hope to see you all at the contest this summer.

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.

**WSSA Representative**

Prasanta Bhowmik

**The 2016 Joint Meeting of the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) and Southern Weed Science Society (SWSS) was held in San Juan, Puerto Rico February 8 to 11, 2016. The meeting was very successful with 564 oral presentations and 252 posters, four topical symposiums and one workshop. Graduate students contests included 58 oral and 84 posters presentations.**

The first symposium focused on “21st Century Challenges in Aquatic Weed Management”, organized by John Madsen. The second symposium was on “Weed Control in...”
2050: Imagining Future Strategies and the Knowledge Needed to Achieve Them”, headed by James Westwood. The third symposium was on “Intersection of Agricultural and Wild Areas: Management of the Non-Crop Vegetation as Habitat for Pollinator, Beneficial and Iconic Species”, coordinated by Michael Horak. The final symposium was on “Use of Endemic Plant Diseases and Insect Pests for Biologic Control of Invasive Weeds”, organized by William Bruckart.

A professional development workshop for graduate students “WHO You Are is How You Lead” was organized by Rand Merchant and Greg Elmore.

The Weed Science Society of America presented awards to individuals for their outstanding contributions to the field of weed science. The awards were presented during the organization’s annual meeting, February 8, 2016 held in San Juan, PR. The Highest Society Recognition as Fellow Award went to Donn Shilling, Ph.D., University of Georgia, and William K. Vencill, Ph.D., University of Georgia followed by the Honorary Member Award to Jose Luis Gonzalez-Andujar, Ph.D., Institute of Sustainable Agriculture, Spain.

The NEWSS members received two awards as i) Outstanding Early Career Weed Scientist: Jacob Barney, Ph.D., Virginia Tech. and ii) Outstanding Extension Award: Shawn Askew, Ph.D., Virginia Tech. Congratulations to Jacob and Shawn. For other awards, visit www.wssa.net

New and updated educational materials - WSSA: Educational materials for both weed scientists and the general public are now available for free download from the Society’s website.

Free fact sheet on types of weeds: WSSA is offering a new fact sheet that clarifies the similarities and differences among several categories of weeds, including noxious weeds, invasive weeds and so-called “superweeds.” It also includes a new definition of the word “weed” that has been recently endorsed by WSSA.

Free brochure with informative facts about weeds: In addition to its new fact sheet, WSSA also has released an updated version of its popular brochure Facts about Weeds. The publication includes dozens of interesting and informative tidbits – from weed seeds found near outer space to the impact of weeds on crop production.

Free publication on research methods: Finally, WSSA is offering free, open access to a special online issue of the journal Weed Science, focusing on weed science research methods. The publication contains 13 articles for online reading or download – from “Experimental Methods for Crop-Weed Competition Studies” to “Proving Allelopathy in Crop–Weed Interactions.”

WSSA Committees: Hilary Sandler, Cranberry Experiment Station, Univ. of Massachusetts has accepted the position as Secretary of WSSA. Congratulations to Hilary.

Executive Secretary – WSSA: The WSSA Board is in the process of selecting our new Executive Secretary for 2017.

WSSA Publications: The WSSA Board has decided to change the current publisher, The Allen Press. The new publisher will be The Cambridge University Press (CUP). The CUP will maximize the global visibility of our weed science articles.

WSSA Journals: In 2017, all our publications, Weed Science, Weed Technology and Invasive Plant Science & Plant Management will be online publication by CUP. For future developments, visit www.wssa.net.

Outstanding Paper Awards - 2015: WSSA Outstanding Paper Award in Weed Science - 2015: “Seedbank and Field Emergence of Weeds in Glyphosate Resistant Cropping Systems in the United States”. Weed Science 63(2)425-439, Bryan Young, Purdue University, Corresponding Author.


The WSSA Herbicide Resistance Education Committee is planning to hold
workshops in the fall of 2016. The workshops will reflect the diversity of herbicide resistance challenges, commodities, and other differences between areas or regions. The committee feels that the workshops will lead to discussions with diversity of thoughts in herbicide resistance and management. The committee is reaching out to regional weed science societies for their help and ideas. Bill Curran and Mark Van Gessel from NEWSS will participate in the process.

International Weed Science Society (IWSS): The Seventh International Weed Science Congress will be held at Clarion Congress Hotel Prague, Prague, Czech Republic from June 19-25, 2016. Currently, more than 800 abstracts were received from 57 countries, including almost 100 contributions from USA and Canada. For more information, visit www.iwsc2016.org

2016 IWSS Graduate Student Travel Award: To facilitate participation of graduate (M.Sc. and Ph.D.) students in the International Weed Science Congress, IWSS has awarded several students for outstanding research projects. Mr. Chenxi Wu, Ph. D. student, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL is the recipient of 2016 "IWSS Larry Burrill Graduate Student Travel Award". The research paper “Unraveling the Evolution of Herbicide Resistance: Fitness Costs of Five Herbicide Resistance Traits in Waterhemp” is co-authored by Patrick Tranel and Adam Davis. The award covers all expenses to attend the Congress, including air travel, registration, hotel expenses. In addition, Top 40 graduate student’s research papers have been selected for travel awards (IWSC registration and shared room nights at the conference hotel). Prof. Dr. Baruch Rubin, IWSS Past-President, Prof. Prasanta C. Bhowmik, representing WSSA and Dr. Paolo Barberi, EWRS Past-President served as members of the Judging Committees.

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

Director of Science Policy Report

Lee Van Wychen

National Weed Survey

Last year, the National and Regional Weed Science Societies conducted a survey of the most common and troublesome weeds in 26 different cropping systems and natural areas across the U.S. and Canada. Common weeds refer to those weeds you most frequently see, while troublesome weeds are those that are most difficult to control (but may not be widespread). There were nearly 700 responses from 49 states, Puerto Rico, and eight Canadian provinces. The entire data set for 2015 is available for download at: http://wssa.net/wp-content/uploads/2015-Weed-Survey_final.xlsx

Specific to the states and provinces that comprise the NEWSS membership, I have included the top 5 most common and troublesome weeds in agronomic cropping systems (top) and in horticultural cropping systems (bottom). “Times Listed” is the number of survey respondents who listed that weed as one of their top five species for that particular cropping system.
Top 5 Weeds in NEWSS Agronomic Cropping Systems*

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<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Most COMMON</th>
<th>Times Listed</th>
<th>Most TROUBLESOME</th>
<th>Times Listed</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>common lambsquarters foxtail (giant, green, yellow)</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>horseweed (marestall) Palmer amaranth</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>horseweed (marestail) Palmer amaranth</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>pigweed (redroot, smooth)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>common ragweed</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>common ragweed</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>t3 common lambsquarters</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>horseweed (marestail)</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>t3 Canada thistle</td>
<td>6</td>
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*Agronomic cropping systems included alfalfa, canola, corn, fruits & nuts, pulses, sorghum, soybean, and sugar beet.

Top 5 Weeds in NEWSS Horticultural Cropping Systems**

<table>
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<th>Rank</th>
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<th>Times Listed</th>
<th>Most TROUBLESOME</th>
<th>Times Listed</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>common lambsquarters pigweed (redroot, smooth)</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>yellow nutsedge pigweed (redroot, smooth) common lambsquarters</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>pigweed (redroot, smooth)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>large crabgrass</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>common lambsquarters</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>hairy galinsoga horseweed (marestall)</td>
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<td>quackgrass horseweed (marestall)</td>
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<td>t5</td>
<td>horseweed (marestall)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>t4</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>t5</td>
<td>yellow nutsedge</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>t4</td>
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** Horticultural cropping systems included ornamentals and four categories of vegetable crops: cole, cucurbits, fruiting, and other.

Going forward, the National and Regional Weed Science Societies will conduct this survey every year, but split it into a 3-year rotation. The 2016 survey will cover the most common and troublesome weeds in broadleaf crops (i.e. alfalfa, canola, pulse crops, etc...), fruit & nut crops, and vegetables. The 2016 survey is currently open and available at: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016weeds](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016weeds). In 2017, the survey will cover weeds in grass crops/pasture/turf. In the 3rd year of the rotation, 2018, the survey will cover weeds in aquatic/non-crop/natural areas.

EPA Inspector General Investigating Herbicide Resistance

The EPA’s Office of Inspector General (OIG) has launched an evaluation of how effective the agency is at delaying or preventing the spread of herbicide resistance weeds. While this evaluation was not part of EPA OIG’s original FY 2016 annual work plan, my understanding is that it is a logical offshoot of an EPA-OIG evaluation of the Office of Pesticide Programs’ Genetically Engineered Corn Insect Resistance Management Program which they expect to finish up this summer. I had a very pleasant interview with the EPA OIG team conducting the herbicide resistance evaluation on March 29. The overall objective of the meeting was to obtain external perspectives on federal work to address herbicide resistance, particularly as it pertains to emerging issues and potential opportunities for improvement. The OIG team asked many excellent questions about herbicide resistance, including:

- Please discuss your perspective on federal regulation of GE crops and herbicides.
  - Do you have any opinion on or knowledge of the coordination and interactions between FDA, USDA, and the EPA on GE crops?
  - How well do you feel federal regulators work with and incorporate the perspectives of outside organizations?
  - How well does the regulatory system work to allow farmers and manufacturers to be nimble in adapting to herbicide resistance?

- In your opinion, does the federal community do a good job of managing GE crops and protecting against herbicide resistance?

- What is the extent of the problem of herbicide resistant weeds in agriculture? Please quantify this in financial terms, if possible.
• What are the issues facing in the agricultural community in conveying issues of resistance to federal regulators?

• Please discuss what you see as the greatest challenges facing the agricultural community in herbicide resistance. Are there any instances of resistance emerging in the past about which you can talk, specifically how farmers were affected, how herbicide manufacturers addressed resistance, and what, if any, federal actions were taken in response?

• Please discuss your thoughts on the registration and then withdrawal of Enlist Duo. What were the problems in the registration process? What is the impact of this on farmers?

• What are the areas where more work is needed or missed opportunities that the federal government should encourage?

• How well do you feel issues of risk are communicated by the federal government when it comes to GE crops and herbicide resistance?

The weed science community has been dealing with many of these herbicide resistance issues for several decades and I would encourage you to share your expertise with the EPA OIG herbicide resistance team if they reach out to you.

**EPA Proposes New Paraquat Restrictions**

EPA has proposed new restrictions and mitigation measures for paraquat, which is currently undergoing registration review. Paraquat is an important option for non-selective weed control. It is widely used in non-crop areas and fallow and as a defoliant for crops like cotton and potatoes. We also know that paraquat is highly toxic in mammalian systems and can be lethal if ingested in small amounts. Since 2000, there have been 17 deaths caused by accidental ingestion of paraquat. These cases have resulted from paraquat being illegally transferred to beverage containers like Gatorade bottles and coffee cups, and later mistaken for a drink and consumed. EPA is proposing the following changes:

1. New closed-system packaging designed to make it impossible to transfer or remove the pesticide except directly into the proper application equipment;

2. Special training for certified applicators who use paraquat to emphasize that the chemical must not be transferred to or stored in improper containers;

3. Changes to the pesticide label and warning materials to highlight the toxicity and risks associated with paraquat.

4. Prohibiting application from hand-held and backpack equipment; and,

5. Restricting the use to certified pesticide applicators only (individuals working under the supervision of a certified applicator would be prohibited from using paraquat).

Paraquat is already a Restricted Use Pesticide for use only by certified applicators or persons under their direct supervision. We support increased education and enhanced warning materials for paraquat, but have concerns about application prohibitions or restrictions. EPA’s proposed restrictions on paraquat will be available for comment until **May 9, 2016**. If you have specific concerns or suggestions, please contact me. EPA will consider all public comments before finalizing these proposed actions later this year. For more details: [http://www.regulations.gov/#IdocketDetail;D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0855](http://www.regulations.gov/#IdocketDetail;D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0855)

**EPA Seeks Comments on Decision to Register Dicamba-Tolerant Crops**

EPA is making available a 30-day public comment period for a proposed regulatory decision to register dicamba for use in controlling weeds on genetically-engineered (GE) dicamba-tolerant cotton and soybeans. After the comment period closes on **April 30, 2016**, EPA will review all of the comments and
reach a final decision, which they expect to issue in late summer or early fall. In other words, **dicamba will not be registered for use on dicamba-tolerant varieties in the 2016 growing season.** USDA-APHIS has already announced its final decision to allow the sale of dicamba-tolerant GE crop seeds on January 20, 2015.

EPA’s proposed decision outlines a Herbicide Resistance Management Plan (HRMP) to ensure that use of dicamba on GE cotton and soybeans successfully manages weed resistance problems. The proposed HRMP includes: 1) robust monitoring and reporting to EPA; 2) grower education; and 3) remediation programs. In addition, EPA is proposing a time limited registration of the proposed uses that would **expire in five years.** At the end of 5 years, EPA can work to address any unexpected weed resistance issues that may result from the proposed uses before granting an extension or allow the registration to terminate if necessary. The label will also contain information on resistance management consistent with **WSSA’s Best Management Practices** (BMPs) for comprehensive resistance management approaches.

EPA’s human health risk assessment showed no exceedance of their levels of concern for human health, resulting in a determination that the pesticide’s use, as approved, will not cause health risks to people living near treated fields, even at the edge of those fields. Even so, EPA added protective measures to ensure there is reduced off-field movement of the herbicide:

- The herbicide may not be applied from aircraft.
- The herbicide may not be applied when wind speed is over 15 mph.
- A **within-field buffer that ranges from 110 to 220 feet in all directions,** depending on application rate, has been set to protect endangered plants and will also further protect bystanders and non-target plants.

EPA’s proposed registration of the new use for dicamba on GE cotton and soybean will allow use in **34 states:** Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. (States **NOT** on the proposed label: AK, HI, WA, OR, CA, NV, ID, MT, WY, UT; and CT, RI, MA, VT, NH, and ME.) Additional states may be added to the labeling once an endangered species assessment is completed and demonstrates that a no effects determination is appropriate for any such state.

Public comments on the EPA’s proposed regulatory decision must be submitted no later than **April 30, 2016.** Comments may be submitted to the EPA docket [EPA-HQ-OPP-2016-0187](http://www.regulations.gov) at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). For more details: [https://www.epa.gov/ingredients-used-pesticide-products/epa-seeks-comment-proposed-decision-register-herbicide-dicamba](https://www.epa.gov/ingredients-used-pesticide-products/epa-seeks-comment-proposed-decision-register-herbicide-dicamba)

**WOTUS- Congress Doesn’t Have 2/3rds Majority to Repeal; Federal Courts Will Decide**

The majority of the House and Senate supported legislation (H.R.1732; S.1140, S.J.Res.22) that would have forced the Obama administration to rewrite the controversial Clean Water Act rule that expanded “Waters of the United States (WOTUS). However, neither chamber had the necessary 2/3’s majority needed to override an Obama veto.

On February 22, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals concluded that it has jurisdiction to review challenges regarding the administration’s rule that expanded the scope of WOTUS under the Clean Water Act. Given the Sixth Circuit Court’s decision from October
9, 2015 to put the controversial WOTUS rule on hold nationwide, things would seem to look good for those challenging the rule such as the American Farm Bureau Federation and the National Association of Manufacturers. However, there are still on-going legal proceedings regarding court jurisdiction that have to be resolved.

**NPDES Fix Possible as Part of Bipartisan Sportsmen’s Bills**

Last year the House Agriculture Committee passed The Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2015 (H.R. 897). This legislation had passed the House in two previous sessions of Congress but failed to get floor consideration 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. In the Senate, Crapo (R-ID) and McCaskill (D-MO), along with 14 other Senate Co-sponsors, introduced S. 1500 as a companion bill to H.R. 897, but it has not gotten a vote on the Senate floor. However, S. 1500 was offered and accepted as an amendment to the long awaited “Bipartisan Sportsmen’s Act of 2016” (S. 659) by the Senate Environment Public Works (EPW) Committee on Jan. 20. We’re hoping that S.659 gets a vote in the Senate sometime soon. Similar legislation called the “Sportsmen’s Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act of 2015” (SHARE Act, H.R. 2406) was passed by the House of Representatives on Feb. 26 by a 242-161 vote.

**Glyphosate Not Found in Breast Milk**

Results of a study commissioned by the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) in which renowned research laboratories in Europe developed two independent analytical methods with high sensitivity to test 114 breast milk samples showed that none of the analyzed samples contained glyphosate residues. The BfR confirmed in its opinion that based on the physicochemical properties of glyphosate and on data on the toxicokinetics and on metabolism in laboratory and farm animals that no relevant transfer of glyphosate to breast milk occurs. The study results were published in the January 25, 2016 issue of the Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry.

**Overwintering Monarch Butterfly Numbers Triple, Then Hit with March Snowstorm**

On February 27, the World Wildlife Fund and the Mexican National Commission of Protected Natural Areas reported that the total forest area in central Mexico occupied by overwintering monarch colonies was 4.01 hectares. This is up from last year’s number of 1.13 hectares and 0.67 hectares the year before that. This year’s reported population is estimated to be 200 million monarchs compared to the long-term average of 300 million. The National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators has set a short-term target of 225 million monarchs overwintering in Mexico (approximately six hectares of covered forest) by 2020 through national/international actions and public/private partnerships.

Many anti-GMO groups have been plastering the internet with all kinds of misinformation about the impact of herbicide tolerant crops on milkweed numbers, and thus on monarch numbers. But the fact remains that milkweed spp. have never been a dominant “driver” weed species in farm fields across the Midwest. Farmers have been effectively managing milkweed patches in their fields with tillage and/or herbicides long before the advent of genetically-engineered crops. When I was a crop scout and research assistant in college, the places where I always saw the most milkweed species was in the road ditches, right-of-ways, and other non-tilled, non-farmed areas.

To me, the major factors dominating monarch butterfly population fluctuations are the loss of overwintering habitat in Mexico (the
oyamel fir forest is reportedly only 2% of once it once was) and the weather. Unfortunately, only 2 weeks after the overwintering monarch population numbers were announced in February, a March 11 snowstorm with subfreezing temps and 50 mph wind gusts hit Mexico’s overwintering grounds for the monarch. Only time will tell how many monarchs perished, but the estimates range from 3 – 50% of the reported overwintering population of 200 million.

Weed scientists can advocate steps to promote habitats where pollinators or iconic insects such as the monarch butterfly can flourish, beginning with the adoption of a prudent approach to weed management. While it is crucial that we control invasive, noxious, and herbicide-resistant weeds that can overtake crops and native plants, other weeds such as common milkweed might be left to grow in areas where it is likely to do no harm. The key is to exercise good judgment about which weeds to control, when and where. Let’s hope that science and facts prevail in people’s decisions for promoting monarch butterfly habitat.

National Invasive Species Awareness Week
(NISAW) was February 21-27, 2016. Invasive weeds alone represent a multibillion dollar annual drain on our economy, so it’s important that we educate ourselves, become mindful of invasive species and use what we know to guide our actions throughout the year. Here are some tips for staying informed and making wise decisions:

- Learn about invasive species, especially those found in your region. Your [county extension office](#) and the [National Invasive Species Information Center](#) are both trusted resources.
- Fully comply with all U.S. government regulations regarding the transport of agricultural products into the country through U.S. Customs.
- If you camp, don’t bring firewood along. Instead, buy wood where you’ll burn it, or gather it on site when permitted.
- Clean hiking boots, waders, boats and trailers, off-road vehicles, and other gear to stop invasive species from hitching a ride to a new location.

The following webinars were recorded during NISAW and are available at [www.NISAW.org](http://www.NISAW.org)

- “Let’s Take a Hack at ‘Hack and Squirt’ Individual Plant Treatments”
- “Volunteers Make a Difference in an Early Detection Rapid Response Citizen Science Program”
- “Protecting the Sierra Nevada from Invasive Plants: Incorporating Climate Adaptation into Wildland Weed Management”
- “Treating Firewood is a Hot Topic: Seasoning, Solarizing, Kiln Drying and Heat Treatment”
- “Weed Wrangle: A Template for Engaging Local Communities through Citywide Invasive Plant Events”

In addition to those webinars, February 22 was "rollout day" in Washington, D.C., for the CAST Commentary: [A Life-cycle Approach to Low-invasion Potential Bioenergy Production](#). With the assistance of the National Coalition for Food and Ag Research (NC-FAR), CAST presented the timely paper to a morning session of Senate staffers and then at a lunch gathering of House staffers where I served as moderator. In the afternoon, CAST and the Environmental Law Institute co-hosted a presentation regarding bioenergy and invasive species where CAST EVP Kent Schescke served as moderator. Jacob Barney (Virginia Tech) and
Read Porter (Environmental Law Institute) presented key information from the new commentary and commenters included Aviva Glaser (National Wildlife Federation), Anthony Koop (USDA/APHIS), and Jonathan Jones (USDA/APHIS). The webinar was recorded and is available HERE.

National Invasive Species Awareness Week concluded with a Congressional Reception and Fair on Capitol Hill were many of the Federal Agencies presented information and educational materials on their invasive species activities. Welcoming remarks were given by Congressional Invasive Species Caucus Co-Chairs, Reps. Dan Benishek (R-MI) and Mike Thompson (D-CA), in addition to remarks by Rep. Cynthia Lummis (R-WY). The keynote address was given by the Administrator of USDA-APHIS, Kevin Shea.

Perfect Herbicide? Don’t Expect Help From New Chemistry and This is Why
By Stanley Culpepper and William Vencill, University of Georgia (reprinted with permission).

Ever wonder why weed scientists are so aggressive about protecting herbicide chemistry? Growers are constantly being told to protect the chemistry available today because who knows when, or if, they will get anymore. But why is that? In short, any new chemistry would have to be ‘the perfect herbicide.’

But let’s say we want to try to bring new chemistry to the farm today and make that perfect herbicide. What do we need to do?

To get our new herbicide chemistry venture started, we need at least $250 million. After Brad Haire (reporter for Southeast Farm Press) donates the money, we will begin our research and development of the perfect herbicide. Brad needs to understand he will have to wait 10-15 years to begin getting any of his investment back and then only has 14 years before others can start selling the same product. Let’s say by some miracle Brad coughs up the $250 million. What do we need to do next to get to growers new herbicide chemistry?

Environmentally friendly is a requirement for our new product. It cannot pose a threat to surface waters, ground waters, wildlife, fish and most every other critter on earth. And for sure, it cannot pose any risk to endangered species: to plants as well as animals that eat plants. Persistence of the herbicide also must be understood early in development, or in other words we need the herbicide to last just long enough to help growers, but then we need the herbicide to break down into friendly natural compounds that will not harm the environment or people. The herbicide certainly can’t pose any carryover risk to the crops our growers rotate into either! Additionally, we have to:

1) Make sure the product does not cause unacceptable crop injury under a million different environmental conditions and grower production practices.
2) Make sure the product has an extended shelf life for storage, so it doesn’t go bad in a few years or separate out in the tank.
3) Understand how soil/water pH, as well as other water and soil characteristic, influence the activity or life of our product.

We need to focus on making sure our new herbicide chemistry does not have any potential for an unfriendly odor or be prone to volatilization or drift. And, of course, we have to check every potential tank mix partner for compatibility and impact on spray droplet size. If a mixture influences droplet size by just the tiniest amount, we may have the EPA increasing our buffers as well as restricting our use pattern, which could threaten a grower’s ability to implement a sound weed management program.

As our product is nearing commercialization, we will need to develop a
resistance management plan and strategically figure out the most effective use patterns to maximize weed control, minimize crop injury and prevent resistance development. We have to make sure we can produce the appropriate amount of the product and have perfect, timely distribution across the world, because we’ll need access to the global market if we hope at all to get our initial investment back.

We’re almost there. We almost have the perfect herbicide. But wait, there’s one more hurdle and it can come out of the blue at any time: We better be prepared for various groups to challenge our label in the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals of California in attempts to delay or prevent our new tool getting to the growers who desperately need it as they strive to feed the world.

“Hmmmm.....maybe those weed science guys are on to something. Seems pretty smart to protect the herbicide chemistry we have today by making wise decisions, implementing diversified herbicide modes of action into an integrated program that uses cover crops, tillage and/or hand weeding.” At least we hope this is what you are thinking now if you haven’t thought something similar already. Of course, we still need to be concerned that even if our growers do all the right things to protect current herbicide chemistries in the field today, will the products we do have now survive the current rigorous regulatory processes.

As you can see, to develop and then bring to market a new herbicide chemistry is nothing short of miraculous, which is why we haven’t had any new chemistry in more than two decades. A new chemistry today would have to be perfect. And very few things are perfect. If agriculture and those who like to eat can’t come together to support the development of new effective tools that are friendly within sound-science reason to the consumer, the environment or for our growers, wonder who really will feed our kids and grandkids....... They’ll have to do it 'perfectly.'
On November 13, 2015, we received the sad news that our friend and colleague, Robin Bellinder, professor of Horticulture at Cornell University for 31 years and an international expert in weed control in vegetable crops, died unexpectedly. She was 70 years old. Robin died of a pulmonary embolism after a brief hospitalization and stay in a physical rehabilitation clinic for an unrelated spinal injury.

At Cornell, Robin’s research program focused on weed management for vegetable crops. One of few women in her field at that time, she became a national and international leader. She published research results widely in peer reviewed publications, as well as publications that advised growers about her work’s practical applications. She served as president of the Northeastern Weed Science Society and, in 2005, was named the recipient of Cornell's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences award for outstanding accomplishments in applied research. She will be remembered as a weed scientist who ardently and tirelessly supported New York vegetable growers. Robin had a deep concern for people, whether farmers in South Asia, for whom she championed the introduction of more efficient weed control practices, or hungry families in New York’s southern tier. She initiated Cornell’s efforts to provide fresh fruits and vegetables from the Homer C. Thompson Research Farm to the Food Bank of the Southern Tier. She realized that rather than composting the farm’s edible produce, they could feed hungry area families. Since 2004, as a result of her initiative, Cornell has donated almost 2 million pounds of produce.

Robin will be remembered as an intense, thoughtful, loyal, generous, creative and loving person who tenaciously advocated for the things she believed were important. Mentoring students and seeing them become leaders around the world provided Robin with great satisfaction. At the urging of her colleagues, Cornell is proud to announce the establishment of the Robin Bellinder Graduate Student Fund. The fund will be established “to provide financial support for graduate students working on vegetables crops, with a preference given to projects with a weed science emphasis. The fund will be distributed at the discretion of the chair of the horticulture section, and may be used to supplement travel or research expenses for the successful candidates”.

Those interested in supporting the fund should make their checks payable to “Cornell University” with “Bellinder Fund, Horticulture” in the memo line. We will be happy to share any notes or messages with Robin’s family. Checks can be sent to:

Chair, Steve Reiners, Horticulture Section  
Cornell University  
134 Plant Science Building  
Ithaca, NY 14853 USA

Thank you for your support of the Robin Bellinder Graduate Student Fund.
# NEWSS Weed Science field day tours planned for 2016

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<th>University</th>
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<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<td>Virginia Tech</td>
<td>Weed Tour</td>
<td>Painter, VA</td>
<td>June 28</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Charlie Cahoon</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cwcahoon@vt.edu">cwcahoon@vt.edu</a></td>
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<td>Mark VanGessel</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:bschulz1@umd.edu">bschulz1@umd.edu</a></td>
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<td>July 12</td>
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<td>Bill Curran</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wsc2@psu.edu">wsc2@psu.edu</a></td>
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<td>No Field Crops Weed Tour 2016</td>
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<td>Rutgers</td>
<td>No Tour for 2016</td>
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President-Elect, Shawn Askew (on right), opens the NEPPSC/NEWSS meeting by introducing a Philadelphia icon, Ben Franklin (on left and below), at the start of the General Session.

2015-2016 President, Rakesh Chandran, delivers his address to the meeting attendees.
The Presidents of each participating society took turns welcoming everyone to the first NEPPSC meeting (Clockwise from top left: Mike Fidanza (NE ASA-CSSA-SSSA), Elsa Sanchez (NE-ASHS), Frank Ferrandino (NED-APS), Tracy Leskey (EB-ESA)).
NEWSS Awards Ceremony

NEWSS Fellow Award – Dr. David Yarborough

Dave Yarborough (right) was recognized as a fellow by Past-President, Greg Armel (left).
NEWSS Award of Merit – Drs. Donald Ganske, Kathie Kalmowitz and James Parochetti

Don Ganske (right) is presented is award by Greg Armel (always on left).

Kathie Kalmowitz (right) accepts her award from Greg Armel.

Jim Parochetti (right) accepts his award from Greg Armel.
NEWSS Outstanding Educator Award – Dr. Shawn Askew

Shawn Askew (right) accepts his award for Outstanding Educator from Past-President, Greg Armel (left).

NEWSS Outstanding Researcher – Dr. Steven Mirsky

Steve Mirsky (right) accepts his award for Outstanding researcher from Past-President, Greg Armel (left).
Robert D. Sweet Outstanding Graduate Student Award – Daniel Tekiela and Claire Keene (honorable mention)

Dan Tekiela (right) accepts his award for the Robert D. Sweet Outstanding Ph.D. Graduate Student from Past-President, Greg Armel (left).

Bill Curran (right) accepts the Robert D. Sweet Outstanding Ph.D. Graduate Student Award (Honorable Mention) on behalf of Claire Keene (above) from Past-President, Greg Armel (left).
Kevin Ashley (right) accepts his M. Garry Schnappinger Service Recognition Award from Past-President, Greg Armel (left).

Greg Armel, Past-President (left in both photos) presents Dan Tekiela (1st) and Ann Bybee-Finley (2nd) with their awards for outstanding student oral presentations.
NEWSS Poster Contest – Kabelo Segobye (1st), Connor Youngerman (2nd), John Sanders (3rd)

Darren Lycan, Poster Award Committee Chair (left in all images), presents the awards for the winning posters to (top to bottom), Kabelo Segobye (1st), Connor Youngerman (2nd) and John Sanders (3rd).
NEWSS Photography Contest – Melissa Bravo (1st), Antonio DiTommaso (2nd), Alexandra Knight (3rd)

Art Gover (on behalf of Photo Award Committee Chair, Javier Vargas) handed out the Photography Contest awards to Melissa Bravo (1st), Tony DiTommaso (2nd) and Alexandra Knight (3rd).
NEWSS Business Meeting

The Passing of the Gavel

Shawn Askew (right) recognizes the incredible job of our outgoing President, Rakesh Chandran.

Rakesh Chandran (right) hands the gavel to the incoming president, Shawn Askew (left).
NEWSS Executive Board 2016

Front Row (L to R): Sudeep Mathew, Erin Hitchner, Randy Prostak, Shawn Askew, Rakesh Chandran, Carroll Mosley, Kurt Vollmer
Back Row (L to R): Katelyn Venner, Michael Flessner, Prasanta Bhowmik, Wesley Everman, Quentin Johnson, Dan Kunkel, John Brewer (Not Pictured: Lee Van Wychen)

NEWSS Past Presidents at the 2016 Meeting

Front row (L to R): Joe Neal, Jim Parochetti, Renee Keese, Prasanta Bhowmik, Hilary Sandler, Toni DiTommaso
Back row (L to R): Jeff Derr, Greg Armel, Tim Dutt, Roy Johnson, Dave Yarborough, Rakesh Chandran, Jerry Baron
NEPPSC Quiz Bowl
Sponsored by: NEWSS
Hosted by: Tom Mueller
Assisted by: Randy Prostak, Greg Armel, Rakesh Chandran