

NEWSletter

Northeastern Weed Science Society Fall 2017

Comments from the President



Randy Prostak

I hope the November 2017 NEWSletter finds you completing a successful research season. Preparations for the 72nd Northeastern Weed Science Society Annual Meeting (NEWS) and 3rd annual Northeast Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference (NEPPSC) are progressing. NEWS President-elect Carroll Moseley is hard at work as the 2018 program chair. This year the NEWS will serve as the host society and will be joined by the Northeast Branch of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and the Soil Science Society of America (NE ASA-CSAA-SSSA) and the American Society of Horticultural Science - Northeast Region (NE-ASHS). Great to have NE ASA-CSAA-SSSA and NE-ASHS with us again this year. Representatives from NE ASA-CSAA-SSSA and the American Society of Horticultural Science - Northeast Region (NE-ASHS) joined us at the fall board meeting and stated their commitment to NEPPSC in future years.

Important Dates

Abstract submission deadline has passed.

December 15, 2017: Reserve rooms by this date to receive NEWS rate

December 15, 2017: Register for meeting to avoid the late fee

January 7, 2018: Deadline for PowerPoint presentation upload

January 9-11, 2018: NEPPSC Meeting at Hilton Philadelphia at Penn's Landing, Philadelphia, PA

The NEWS board has been working with Bill Torres on the many planning tasks associate with our annual meeting. Bill Torres is a professional, event planner identified by Carroll Moseley. It is great to have someone with his expertise on our team.

Sudeep Mathew, Kate Venner and Quintin Johnson have tackled the NEWS website. The site was in desperate need of an upgrade. Please take a look.

On the 2018 registration form you will have an opportunity to purchase "Weeds of the Northeast" as a discount. Joe Neal proposed this ideas a few weeks back. The board accepted and money raised by this effort will be place in the NEWS Endowment Fund. A great way to purchase this valuable resource and contribute to the NEWS Endowment Fund as the same time.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful holiday season!!! Looking forward to see you in Philadelphia in January!!!

President-Elect's Report



Carroll Moseley

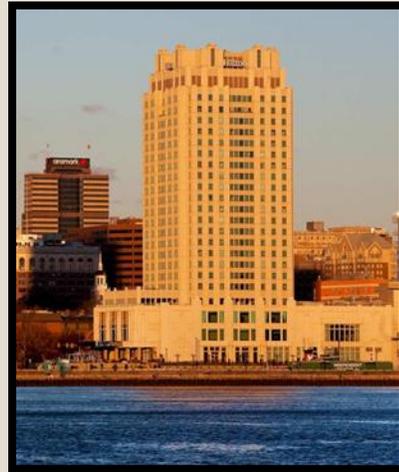
Program planning continues for the 2018 Northeast Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference (NEPPSC) meeting at the Hilton at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia, PA (201 S. Christopher Columbus Blvd). I am looking forward to seeing some great papers and posters at the upcoming annual meeting. Important deadlines include:

PowerPoint Upload for Presentations: Sunday, January 7, 2018

The meeting will begin on Monday, January 8, 2018 (Board Meetings) and will conclude on January 11, 2018 (with a few adjacent meetings rolling into Friday, January 12).

- Industry and Extension Roundtable discussions are planned for Tuesday afternoon, followed by the NEPPSC Opening Ceremony and Social Mixer.
- There will be Graduate Student quiz bowl on Tuesday night that will include questions about NEPPSC societies, questions from different society disciplines, and general agriculture information.
- Dan Kunkel (VP NEWSS) has been planning a symposium on the future innovation needs of the agricultural industry in the Northeast and across the US.
- There will be the traditional student paper and poster contests.

- Another event for Wednesday night (during the dessert social) that will intermix universities, students, professors, and industry representatives in a friendly competition.
- We are looking forward to hosting everyone at the Hilton in Philadelphia. Please be ready to provide us information on your research as we get together in January 2018. If you have questions, please contact me at carroll.moseley@syngenta.com – I look forward to seeing everyone in January!



Vice-President Nomination



Art Gover has graciously agreed to serve as Vice-President of NEWSS beginning in January. Please find his biography below.

Art spent his pre-adolescence moving with his family to Naval installations in the mid-Atlantic and Guantanamo Bay; and spent his adolescent years on a dairy farm in northern Pennsylvania. While at Penn State developing his interest in weed management, he spent a summer in Ohio with Velsicol Chemical Company, where one of his projects was helping promote the use of dicamba as a soil spot treatment for multiflora rose in pastures. This was the summer that metsulfuron began showing up at field days as a numbered compound, controlling rose at all rates by all methods. Plus, farmers were usually pretty willing to share their feelings about having to control plants they had been encouraged to plant just a few years before. He earned his B.S. in Plant Science from Penn State in 1985, and began working with Nate Hartwig in agronomic weed management and living mulch systems. He also worked with Tom Lanini and Bob Hartzler during their respective stints at Penn State. We're not sure if that's part of the reason they returned to U.C. Davis and Iowa State, respectively. He joined the Roadside Vegetation Management Project in 1988, continuing work with Nate, as well as Larry Kuhns and Tom Watschke, conducting field research emphasizing management of dicot weeds in crownvetch (proof that the definition of a 'weed' is a matter of perspective), brush control, plant growth regulators for turf management, total vegetation control, and low-maintenance groundcover evaluation and establishment. This project also featured extensive field and classroom training. In the middle of two stints with the Roadside Project, Art managed Penn State's 'other' turfgrass research facility, herding undergrads to maintain research plots ranging from fairway to home lawn to utility and natural area groundcovers, and will someday write the tome, 'Zen and the Art of Irrigation Repair'. His second stint with the Roadside Project saw, finally, the completion of his M.S., and an increasing emphasis on invasive species management which led to increasing collaboration with land stewardship practitioners, and funding from Pennsylvania's State Park system to plan and implement

invasive species management at the state-wide and park level. Beginning in 2009 and continuing to today, he began working solely with the park system, providing operational support and field and classroom training in identification and management of invasive species, and nurturing native plant species and communities. Strange but True - State Parks are a more pleasant work environment than the shoulders of interstate highways.

Art has provided outreach and training in weed management and restoration throughout the Mid-Atlantic for Extension, State and Federal agencies, and NGOs; and resident education support at Penn State as a guest lecturer.

Art first attended the NEWSS meeting in 1987, and has been to every meeting since 1989. He apparently lacks ambition, and hasn't updated his C.V. for a while, and isn't going to count the number of topics he has presented in the Industrial, Forestry and Conservation; Vegetation Management and Restoration; Turfgrass and Plant Growth Regulators; and Weed Biology and Ecology sections. He has served multiple times as Section Chair, chaired several symposia, on the Poster and Photo judging committees, the NEWSS Future Committee, and coordinated the Farmer Problems when Penn State hosted the Weed Science Contest in 1996 and 2014; and two terms on the Executive Committee, as Research and Education chair, and Society Editor. He has also served as President of the Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council, and coordinated joint society symposia.

Art has six children with his wife Stephanie. He enjoys spending time at work. He also runs an application business, staff of one, working with conservancies, Conservation Districts, and state agencies on afforestation, reforestation, and habitat improvement projects.

Treasurer's Report



Kurt Vollmer

I look forward to seeing everyone at the third Northeastern Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference (NEPPSC). Meeting registration can be completed at <http://neppsc.org/register>. Regular registration is \$240, one-day registration is \$100, and Student Registration is \$50. Members also have the option to bring guests for an additional \$25 per person. A \$30 late fee will be assessed to regular registration after December 15. Sponsorship of NEPPSC events and donations to the endowment fund can also be included with registration. Those who donate to the endowment fund will receive an NEWSS lapel pin.

Registrants will also have the option to order *Weeds of the Northeast* for a discounted price of \$25. If you prefer to mail-in your registration, a form is available at the NEPPSC website. Please note that NEWSS membership dues are included with your meeting registration fee. Those unable to attend the meeting can renew their memberships at <http://www.newss.org/membership/sign-up-or-renew-membership> and sustaining memberships can be renewed at

<http://www.newss.org/about/sustaining-members>.

For questions, please contact kvollmer@udel.edu

July 2017 Financial Report as of August 18, 2017

Savings Balance	\$31,850.92
Checking Balance	\$62,170.46
Endowment Fund	\$26,194.01
Total Net Assets	\$120,215.39

Please note: The mailing address for NEWSS has changed. Please address all correspondence to:

**Kurt Vollmer, NEWSS Treasurer
16483 County Seat Hwy
Georgetown, DE 19947**



Hotel/Meeting Information

Hotel Reservation information for the Hilton Philadelphia at Penn's Landing is available at www.neppsc.org or through http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/P/PHLPNHH-NPPS-20180108/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

Book before December 15, 2017 to take advantage of the group room rate.

Register for the meeting by December 15, 2017 to avoid the late fee at <http://neppsc.org/register/>



HILTON PHILADELPHIA AT PENN'S LANDING
201 S. CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS BLVD.
PHILADELPHIA, PA
1-215-521-6500

Philadelphia International Airport

Take Interstate 95 North to Exit 20 (Washington Avenue/Columbus Boulevard). Turn left onto South Columbus Blvd. Hotel will be one mile north on the right.

Amtrak

Station Building 2955 Market Street 30th Street Station Philadelphia, PA 19104.

Greyhound

1001 Filbert St Philadelphia, PA 19107 * Several popular Chinatown bus routes also connect Philadelphia with Boston, New York and Washington, D.C. for extremely wallet-friendly prices. (Not associated with Greyhound.)

From East

Take Ben Franklin Bridge from Camden, stay in the right lane. Take I-95 South to Exit 20 (Washington Avenue/Columbus Boulevard). Make a left onto Columbus Boulevard. Hotel is one mile north on the right.

From North

Take Interstate 95 South to Exit 20 (Columbus Boulevard). At the bottom of the ramp, turn left onto South Columbus Blvd. The hotel will be one mile north on the right.

From West

Take Pennsylvania Turnpike to 76 East (Exit 326 - Valley Forge). Follow 76 East to 676 East (Exit 344 - Central Philadelphia). Continue on 676 East to I-95 South. Take I-95 South to Exit 20 (Washington Avenue/Columbus Boulevard). At the bottom of ramp, turn left onto South Columbus Boulevard. The hotel is one mile north on the right.

Executive Committee



NEWSS Board 2017

Front Row (L to R): Sudeep Mathew, Katelyn Venner, Randy Prostak, Kurt Vollmer, Quintin Johnson, Lee Van Wychen
Back Row (L to R): Theresa Reinhardt, Carroll Moseley, Wesley Everman, Shawn Askew, Michael Flessner, Dan Kunkel

Executive Committee, Chairs and Representatives

Randy Prostak	President
Carroll Moseley	President-Elect
Dan Kunkel	Vice-President
Shawn Askew	Past President
Kurt Vollmer	Treasurer
Sudeep Mathew	Membership Chair
Michael Flessner	Editor
Katelyn Venner	Public Relations Rep.
Wesley Everman	Sustaining Membership
Quentin Johnson	Research & Education
Theresa Reinhardt	Graduate Student Rep.
Mike Fidanza	WSSA Representative
Dan Kunkel	CAST Representative
Lee Van Wychen	Science Policy Director



NEWSS Executive Committee 2016

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Committee Members

Listed below are the Chairs and Chair-Elects for the various sections in 2017.

2018 NEWSS Annual Meeting

Carroll Moseley – Program Chair

Poster Session:

Michael Flessner – Chair
Katelyn Venner – Co-Chair

Agronomy:

Sandeep Rana – Chair

Turfgrass and Ornamentals:

Kyung-min Han – Chair
Matthew Elmore – Chair-Elect

Vegetables and Fruit:

Thierry Bensacon – Chair
Charlie Cahoon – Co-Chair

Vegetation Management and Restoration:

Lane Heimer - Chair

Program Committees for the 2017

NEWSS Meeting

Site Selection Committee

Carroll Moseley	President-Elect
Randy Prostack	President
Kurt Vollmer	Treasurer

Awards Committee

Shawn Askew	Chair
Rakesh Chandran	
Greg Armel	
Dwight Lingenfelter	
Antonio DiTommaso	

Nomination Committee

Shawn Askew	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

TBA	Chair
TBA	Appointed by President
TBA	Appointed by President
TBA	Appointed by President

Collegiate Weed Contest Committee

Randy Prostack	President
Carroll Moseley	Chair
Grant Jordan	Host in 2017
Shawn Askew	Host in 2016
Jacob Barney	Host in 2016
Dwight Lingenfelter	Host in 2014
John Grande	Host in 2012
Greg Armel	Host in 2011
John Brewer	Graduate Student Rep.
Wes Everman	Sustaining Membership

Audit Committee

Kurt Vollmer	Treasurer
To be selected at 2018 Meeting	

Archives Committee

Dan Kunkel	Chair
Shawn Askew	Past-President

Photo Award Committee

Hillary Sandler	Chair
Erin Hitchner	
Rakesh Chandran	
Art Gover	
Victoria Kleczewski	

Student Paper Awards Committee

Shawn Askew	Past President
Rakesh Chandran	
Greg Armel	
Dwight Lingenfelter	
Antonio DiTommaso	

Weed Science Field Days Committee

Quintin Johnson	Research and Education
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Poster Award Committee

Matthew Elmore	Chair
Art Gover	
Joseph Argentine	
Larissa Smith	
To be selected at 2018 Meeting	

Past President's Committee

Shawn Askew	Chair
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Rakesh Chandran Past-President

Membership Chair's Report

Herbicide Resistance Plant Committee

Mark VanGessel Chair
Russ Hahn
Bill Curran
Dan Kunkel
Dave Mayonado

Endowment Committee

Carroll Moseley President-Elect
Kurt Vollmer Treasurer
Sudeep Mathew Membership Chair
Shawn Askew
Rakesh Chandran
Greg Armel
Renee Keese Appointed by President

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 (Spring 2017).

Sudeep Mathew

The 2018 Annual Meeting is a great time to renew your membership. When you register for the 2018 Annual Meeting, your registration fees will be considered as part of your membership renewal. There is only few scientific societies that provides this convenient and cost effective option and we are one of them. This is of great value not to be missed. So make use of it. If you cannot make it to the annual meeting you may renew your membership by paying \$ 50 annual dues at our website.

Have you checked out our new website www.newss.org? We have revamped our old website and done a beta launch November 1st of this year. We are hoping to add few more features like member pages etc. in the near future, so check back and provide your input when requested. For those who are new to our society, since 2016 our annual meeting is part of a joint conference called Northeastern Plant Pest and Soil Conference (NEPPSC). For those of you who are presenting, the conference participation will be a 3 step process. 1) Submit your title/abstract and upload your presentation 2) Register for the conference 3) Reserve your hotel rooms. All the appropriate web links for these steps can be found at NEPPSC website <http://neppsc.org/joint-meeting>

During the 2017 calendar year we have a total of 126 members of which 26 are student members. We are a member supported, participated and driven scientific organization advancing the knowledge in weed science. Membership is open to all who are interested in the objective of the society. Please encourage your friend/colleague to join the society. Let us take this as a challenge going into 2018 membership drive as "Each One Bring One" campaign.

Have you heard of NEWSS Endowment Fund? The Northeastern Weed Science Society Endowment Fund was established to provide a permanent source of supplemental funding for

undergraduate and graduate education in the weed science field and to support the educational activities of the society. This is a great cause and please consider contributing towards endowment fund. At your convenience, you can contribute for Endowment Fund at the same time you register for the annual meeting if you choose. Your contribution to the fund will qualify for tax deduction and will be recognized with a NEWSS lapel pin.

We are looking for student volunteers who can assist at the registration desk during the conference. If you are available please contact me at sudeep.mathew@syngenta.com. Finally, please make sure that you will attend the NEWSS Awards & Business meeting during the NEPPSC. These will be the forum that our membership could celebrate, recognize and reflect on our activities and prepare us for future. See you in Philly.

Editor's Report



Michael Flessner

Abstracts were due Wednesday, November 15, 2017 for the annual meeting. Submit via wssaabstracts.com. Instructions for submission can be found on the Society's website at <http://neppsc.org/wp-content/uploads/SUBMITTING-TITLES-AND-ABSTRACTS-for-2018-meeting.pdf>. Alternatively, video instructions are available here: http://oak.ppws.vt.edu/~saskew/neppsc_title.

[mp4](#).

When writing the abstract, please follow formatting guidelines, which can be found at:

<http://neppsc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Instructions-for-Contributors-to-the-NEWSS-Proceedings.pdf>.

Please limit abstracts to one page. When entering the abstract text in wssaabstracts.com, there is a field for you to compose or paste your abstract text. **DO NOT ENTER THE TITLE or AUTHORS** into this field. Remember to save prior to exiting the window. Your cooperation and attention to detail are greatly appreciated.

Graduate Student Update



Theresa Reinhardt

As the annual meeting draws closer, I hope you are all looking forward to attend! We have a great line up of papers, discussions, food, and fun planned for the meeting. We have a new location on the river this year that has great views and is not much further to walk to main part of town.

The call for titles has already passed, but there is still plenty that the meeting has to offer even if you aren't scheduled to present. We will be opening the meeting January 9 with Extension talks, the general session, and a social mixer where we will be holding a graduate student quiz bowl of mixed teams from Horticulture, Weed Science, and the Tri Societies. The quiz bowl will have categories of basic science, weed science,

horticulture, general agriculture, and trivia about the societies themselves. Wednesday morning will be the graduate student contest beginning with the poster session and transitioning to oral presentations. Also, Wednesday will be the graduate student luncheon Wednesday, inviting the Horticulture and Tri-Society graduate students as well. Wednesday afternoon we will be having a symposium that should appeal to students and professionals of all disciplines and will have a discussion based format. Then during the dessert social we will have another society wide mixer activity open to everyone that should be a lot of fun and prove to be helpful. Thursday will be another day of talks and end with the awards and business meeting.

For those that have submitted titles, be mindful of the deadlines coming up. Abstracts are due no later than November 15 and oral presentation slides MUST be submitted by Sunday, January 7 through the WSSA abstracts website. Note that the slides are due a full 2 days before the first day of the meeting.

Finally, for those who will not be presenting but still wish to join: early registration prices will end on December 15, which is the last day to book a room at the Hilton at the block rate of \$129 a night. Registration for graduate students is only \$50 a person, which gets you a program, entry to all papers and symposium, entry to the socials, and lunch on Wednesday.

I would like to reiterate: remember to help mentor our new students, make sure they are aware of deadlines, and pass on your skills! Write these deadlines on your calendar and give yourself time to practice. I look forward to seeing you in January. Remember, I am here to represent you so feel free to email me with any comments or questions.

See you in Philadelphia!

WSSA Representative



Mike Fianza

WSSA 2018 Annual Meeting

The 2018 annual meeting of the WSSA is scheduled for January 29 to February 1, 2018, in Arlington, VA, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott.

Import deadlines for the WSSA 2018 Annual Meeting:

- Early-bird registration: Dec 8, 2017
- Undergraduate research award: Dec 20, 2017
- Hotel reservation (Crystal Gateway Marriott): Jan 4, 2018
- Abstract text due: Jan 8, 2018
- Full presentation submission due: Jan 22, 2018

For more information:
<http://wssa.net/meeting/2018-meeting/>.

In addition to hundreds of weed science posters and presentations, six special symposia are scheduled:

- Fostering Sustainable Programs to Improve Pesticide Applications and Promote Resistance Management
- Grade Report for New Dicamba Technology
- Pesticide Registration in the U.S. and How the WSSA Can Inform the Process

- Herbicide Metabolism in Crops and Weeds: A Revisit, Current Understanding and New Insights
- The State of the Weed Control Industry
- Learning by Listening: Herbicide Resistance Listening Sessions

Other highlights include a weed science teaching workshop, a special breakfast for women in weed science, and a career workshop and other events especially tailored for students. Pre-conference activities include tours of both the U.S. Botanic Garden and the Botany Department at the National Museum of Natural History.

For the first time, the WSSA annual meeting registration fee will include a free one-year membership in the Society. In addition, discounted rates are available for early-bird registration. More details available at www.wssa.net.

Director of Science Policy Report



Lee Van Wychen

Dicamba-Tolerant Crop Labels Revised

On October 13, 2017, EPA announced label changes for Extendimax, Engenia, and Fexapan herbicides. These label changes impose the following additional requirements for 2018:

- Classifying products as "**restricted use**," permitting only certified applicators with special training, and those under their supervision, to apply them; dicamba-

specific training for all certified applicators to reinforce proper use;

- Requiring farmers to **maintain specific records** regarding the use of these products to improve compliance with label restrictions;
- Limiting applications to when **maximum wind speeds are below 10 mph** (from 15 mph) to reduce potential spray drift;
- Reducing the times during the day when applications can occur (**sunrise to sunset**);
- Including **tank clean-out language** to prevent cross contamination; and
- Enhancing susceptible crop language and record keeping with **sensitive crop registries** to increase awareness of risk to especially sensitive crops nearby.

The Restricted Use classification only applies to the labeled uses for Extendimax, Engenia, and Fexapan. Pre-existing dicamba herbicides (e.g. Clarity, Banvel) are not subject to the Restricted Use classification. For more information: <https://www.epa.gov/ingredients-used-pesticide-products/registration-dicamba-use-genetically-engineered-crops>

The updated labels can be found at:

- Engenia Herbicide, [EPA Registration Number 7969-345](#)
- XtendiMax with VaporGrip Technology, [EPA Registration Number 524-617](#)
- DuPont FeXapan herbicide plus VaporGrip Technology, [EPA Registration Number 352-913](#)

The label revisions will help address dicamba off-target movement and minimize impacts to sensitive crops, but will those changes be enough to avoid a repeat of what occurred in 2017? Preliminary university research from this summer indicated that vapor drift was likely one of the factors contributing to off-target movement. Vapor drift is much harder to control than particle drift, but to what extent it contributed to off-target movement still remains unknown.

The weed science community needs to have constructive dialogue on how to research and address issues related to herbicide off-target movement. Can we improve educational efforts

for on-target applications of all herbicides? Are there times, locations, or conditions where herbicides cannot be used because off-target risks exceed the benefits? What metrics should we use to quantify those risks and benefits? We'll have a chance to address some of those questions at the upcoming weed science society annual meetings and hope you can join us.

Dicamba: Who's Liable? Insurance Claims Denied as Companies Grapple with Dicamba Injury

By Emily Unglesbee , DTN Staff Reporter. October 20, 2017

There was no question what was to blame for the curled soybeans on the central Illinois farm in late June. The farmer, the neighbor who made the application, even the investigator from the neighbor's insurance company, all agreed. Off-target dicamba movement was the culprit.

Yet the letter the injured farmer received months later from the insurance company was quite clear: "We do not find any negligence on the part of our insured and are respectfully denying your claim." The company concluded that the dicamba damage had occurred from volatility -- a factor beyond the applicator's control -- and that fault lay with the product, not the application of it.

DTN acquired copies of these letters, but because of the sensitivity of the situation, allowed the sources to remain anonymous.

The dicamba injury crisis of 2017 has forced many farmers and applicators to delve more deeply into the world of liability insurance, full of confusing language and important legal implications.

With Xtend soybean acreage set to swell toward 40 million acres in 2018, now is a good time to review what liability insurance does and does not cover -- and how dicamba has thrown a wrench in the works.

1. How does liability insurance handle herbicide damage?
2. What is covered?
3. What is not covered?
4. What have we learned from 2017?

5. How can you prepare for 2018?

The answers to those questions and the rest of the article is at: <https://www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/web/ag/news/article/2017/10/20/insurance-claims-denied-companies>

In Glyphosate Review, IARC Edited Out 'Non-Carcinogenic' Findings

By Kate Kelland, Reuters. October 19, 2017

The World Health Organization's cancer agency dismissed and edited findings from a draft of its review of glyphosate that were at odds with its final conclusion that the chemical probably causes cancer. Documents seen by Reuters show how a draft of a key section of the International Agency for Research on Cancer's (IARC) assessment of glyphosate - a report that has prompted international disputes and multi-million-dollar lawsuits - underwent significant changes and deletions before the report was finalized and made public. **Reuters found 10 significant changes that were made between the draft chapter on animal studies and the published version of IARC's glyphosate assessment. In each case, a negative conclusion about glyphosate leading to tumors was either deleted or replaced with a neutral or positive one.**

The full story is at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-who-iarc-glyphosate-specialreport/in-glyphosate-review-who-cancer-agency-edited-out-non-carcinogenic-findings-idUSKBN1CO251>

EPA Finalizes Herbicide Resistance Management Guidance

In September, after many years of collaboration between EPA and weed scientists, EPA finalized its "Guidance for Herbicide Resistance Management Labeling, Education, Training, and Stewardship", which is referred to as Pesticide Registration Notice (PRN) 2017-2. Please see: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/prn-2017-2-guidance-herbicide-resistance-management-labeling-education>.

This guidance applies to herbicide products applied in pretty much every crop and non-crop area, except for those applied in

residential settings (i.e. lawns). One use category that we asked EPA to exclude from this guidance was herbicides applied for aquatic weed control due to the very different nature in how aquatic weeds are managed. However, aquatic use herbicides will also have to follow this guidance.

All new herbicide products will be required to have this labeling guidance as well as existing herbicides that go through registration review.

The herbicide resistance management guidance is simplified into 3 categories (pg. 10).

1. Label requirements
2. Terms of registration
3. Education, training, and stewardship.

Herbicide registrants will be responsible for the first 2 categories, which include guidance elements like MOA labeling, crop scouting, and reporting suspected and confirmed cases of herbicide resistance. The weed management stakeholder community (crop advisors, university extension, commodity groups, registrants, etc...) will be responsible for the 3rd category, which is basically providing educational and training materials to growers at the local level. EPA states “the most successful strategies for herbicide resistance management will be tailored for local conditions” and that the stakeholder community “work collaboratively” to design effective material. Guidance for developing resistance management plans and remedial action plans are provided in Appendix 1 at the end of PRN 2017-2.

Steve Censky Confirmed as USDA Deputy



Secretary

Action to fill vacancies in USDA leadership positions continues to move slowly. On October 3, 2017, Stephen Censky, USDA Deputy Secretary, and Ted McKinney, USDA Under

Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agriculture were confirmed by the Senate. Censky and McKinney are the first USDA political appointees to get a confirmation hearing since

USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue went before the Senate Ag committee in March.

Steve Censky has been CEO of the American Soybean Association for 21 years. Prior to that he held several appointments at USDA, including administrator of the Foreign Agriculture Service. Steve was raised on a corn and soybean farm in Jackson, MN and received his B.S. in agriculture from South Dakota State. He also has a postgraduate diploma in agricultural science from the University of Melbourne in Australia.

Ted McKinney worked in corporate affairs at Elanco and then Dow AgroSciences for 33 years before becoming director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture in 2014. McKinney grew up on a family farm in Tipton, IN and was active in both 4-H and FFA. He received his B.S. in ag economics from Purdue in 1981.

Other USDA leadership positions are in various stages of the confirmation process. On October 19, the Senate Agriculture Committee approved by voice vote the confirmation of Greg Ibach, Nebraska’s Director of Agriculture, for USDA Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, and Bill Northey, Iowa’s Secretary of Agriculture, for USDA Under Secretary of Farm Production and Conservation. A week later, the full Senate confirmed Ibach, but the confirmation of Northey was sidetracked by Sen. Ted Cruz, who placed a hold on Northey’s nomination, until the Trump administration organizes a meeting on the Renewable Fuel Standard. It is uncertain when this may happen.

Sam Clovis has withdrawn his name from consideration to be USDA Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, due in large part to links to the ongoing Russia investigation. The nomination process for USDA’s Chief Scientist must now begin again.

USDA Moves OPMP to the Office of the Chief Economist

WSSA applauds Secretary Perdue’s decision to move USDA’s Office of Pest Management Policy (OPMP) from the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) to the Office of the Chief Economist, which advises the Secretary of

Agriculture on the economic implications of policies and programs affecting the U.S. food and fiber system and rural areas. OPMP's focus does not match up well with the mission of ARS and will be better situated in the Office of the Chief Economist.

OPMP was established in September 1997, with the mandate to:

- Integrate USDA's strategic planning and activities related to pest management
- Coordinate USDA's role in the pesticide regulatory process and related interagency affairs, primarily with the EPA
- Strengthen USDA's support for agriculture by promoting the development of new pest management approaches that meet the needs of an evolving and sustainable U.S. agricultural system

OPMP is directed by Dr. Sheryl Kunickis and currently has a staff of eight pest management specialists, including Dr. Jill Schroeder, a past president of both WSSA and WSWS.

USDA to Re-engage Stakeholders on Revisions to Biotechnology Regulations

On November 6, USDA-APHIS announced it was withdrawing a proposed rule to revise the Agency's biotechnology regulations and will re-engage with stakeholders to determine the most effective, science-based approach for regulating the products of modern biotechnology while protecting plant health.

In June, the National and Regional Weed Science Societies submitted comments to APHIS regarding their proposed rule for the importation, interstate movement, and environmental release of certain genetically engineered (GE) organisms. While we complimented APHIS on the many positive aspects of the proposal, we encouraged APHIS to re-propose a rule that minimizes regulatory uncertainty related to their weed risk assessment model.

Our submitted comments are at: http://wssa.net/wp-content/uploads/Weed-Science-Societies-Comments-on-APHIS-biotech-proposal_FINAL.pdf

John Deere Buys Blue River's Precision Weeding Technology

On September 6, John Deere announced it was spending \$305 million to acquire [Blue River Technology](#), a developer of crop-spraying equipment that relies on machine learning. The acquisition also gives John Deere a 60-person team in the heart of Silicon Valley where it just opened an office to focus on high tech agricultural solutions.

[Blue River Technology](#) was founded in 2011 by Jorge Heraud, the former head of precision agriculture at Trimble, and Lee Redden, a Stanford PhD student and roboticist who grew up in Nebraska detassling corn on his father's and grandfather's farms. Together, they built and tested their idea in California's Central Valley - proving the applicability of machine learning, computer vision, and robotics to the field of agriculture. With an idea, support from friends & family, and a grant from the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program, Blue River Technology was born.

On a side note, **William Patzoldt, Senior Agronomist (and Weed Scientist) with Blue River**, will be speaking at the upcoming WSSA annual meeting in Arlington, VA as part of Steve Fennimore's symposium titled "The State of the Weed Control Industry In 2018."

Blue River Technology's products have integrated computer vision and machine learning software that enables "See & Spray", a real time precision spot treatment of weeds. Blue River's first smart machine was "LettuceBot", which was developed for precision lettuce thinning. Blue River is also developing an unmanned aerial system that can survey a field of crops and sense various plant and environmental characteristics. Through using a drone, this technology can enable their See & Spray technology to be more accurate - measuring and learning every step of the way.

Blue River has been conducting See & Spray demos in cotton the past couple of years and has developed a labeled image database of plants and weeds. The Blue River system brings together a great deal of computing power into a

single system that not only sprays precisely within a crop row, but essentially checks its work on the way by and autocorrects to be even more precise.

This level of precision is growing for the industry as lower cost sensor technology becomes available. And once mated to machine learning systems that can take in the information to make decisions, more precision tools are possible.

FFAR Contributes \$15 Million Towards Photosynthetic Efficiency Research

The Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR), along with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the U.K. Department for International Development (DFID) announced on September 15 they are co-funding a five-year, \$45-million research project that will continue the work of Realizing Increased Photosynthetic Efficiency (RIPE) for sustainable increases in crop yield.

RIPE, <http://ripe.illinois.edu/>, was formed in 2012 and built on 50 years of photosynthesis research. RIPE is led by the University of Illinois in partnership with the USDA-ARS, University of Essex, Lancaster University, Australian National University, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, University of California, Berkeley, and Louisiana State University.

RIPE has simulated the 170-step process of photosynthesis from the inner workings of enzymes to interactions between neighboring plants in the field. RIPE has used these models to identify seven potential pipelines to improve photosynthesis and turn their ideas into sustainable yield increases. Last year, RIPE published work in *Science* that described how these pipelines could increase crop productivity by 20 percent - a dramatic increase compared to typical annual yield gains of just one percent or less. Two other RIPE pipelines have now shown even greater yield improvements in greenhouse and preliminary field trials. Researchers anticipate commercial seeds benefiting from this research will be available to farmers within approximately 15 years.

Australia's "WeedSmart" Program Helping to Stem Herbicide Resistance Tide

In an August 30 [article in Seed Quest](#), Australian agricultural consultant and WeedSmart representative Peter Newman discusses how Australia is succeeding in stemming the tide of herbicide resistance. This success, he says, is partly attributable to an industry-wide education initiative called WeedSmart (<https://weedsmart.org.au/>).

WeedSmart was established by Australia's agricultural sector about 5 years ago after surveys showed a serious lack of awareness among Australian growers about herbicide resistance, in particular glyphosate resistance. The goal is to enhance on-farm weed management practices and promote the long term sustainability of herbicide use. WeedSmart is guided by an advisory committee and supports the work of three staff members who conduct an ongoing communication program targeted at growers. WeedSmart includes an online resource hub with research and practical solutions for growers on herbicide resistance, webinars, podcasts, social media presence, visits to field days and most recently, WeedSmart Week. WeedSmart is also backed by university research and thus helps researchers communicate directly to growers about the latest findings.

National Cover Crop Survey Results Indicate Weed Control Benefits

Results from the 5th annual cover crop survey conducted by the Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC) with help from Purdue University and funding from the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) and USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE) are now available. The surveys and results are at www.sare.org/covercropsurvey.

The 2016-2017 survey received results back from 2,102 farmers, of which 88% used cover crops while 12% of the respondents did not. About 80% of the farmers who participated were commodity producers, while 20% are involved in some form of horticulture or produce

production. The average volume of cover-crop acres has steadily risen from 217 acres in 2012 to 451 acres in 2017.

Cereal rye remained the top choice of farmers for cover cropping, followed by oats and radish. Sixty-five percent of the cover crop users reported planting mixes of cover crops in 2016. Questions got more detailed on topics such as "planting green," meaning farmers drilled their cash crops into a standing cover crop. The survey showed 39% had done so. Of that group, 61% of those farmers who planted into a standing cover crop considered their weed control had improved. Just 8% stated that weed control was more challenging with that practice.

Another 25% said cover crops always help improve control of herbicide-resistant weeds for those farmers that use cereal rye as a cover. An additional 44% said they sometimes saw benefits controlling herbicide-resistant weeds. About 31% said they saw no benefit from that practice.

And, yet, among farmers who do not use cover crops, another 42% of respondents said one reason they don't use cover crops is their concern over the possible spread of resistant weeds.

U.S. FWS Provides Update On Assessing Monarch Butterfly Status

In August, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) provided an update via a webinar on its Species Status Assessment (SSA) framework for the monarch butterfly. The FWS is developing a status review using the SSA framework as the scientific foundation for their decision on whether the monarch butterfly should be listed under the Endangered Species Act, which is due June of 2019.

[Watch the species status assessment update webinar](#) - August 2017 (24 minutes)

For more info on the monarch butterfly assessment process: <https://www.fws.gov/savethemonarch/SSA.html>

During the webinar, the U.S. FWS discussed their initial work in creating their Monarch Conservation Efforts Database (MCED). Their goal is to capture all monarch conservation

efforts that are ongoing and planned. One of the key components of the MCED is milkweed and blooming nectar plant metrics. U.S. FWS will continue to provide updates and webinars on the MCED through June 2018 when they expect the MCED will be open for data entry.

Meetings of the National and Regional Weed Science Societies

Dec. 4 - 7, 2017 North Central Weed Science Society (NCWSS), St. Louis,

MO www.ncwss.org

Jan. 9 - 11, 2018 Northeastern Weed Science Society (NEWSS), Philadelphia, PA

www.newss.org

Jan. 22 - 24, 2018 Southern Weed Science Society (SWSS), Atlanta, GA www.swss.ws

Jan. 29 - Feb. 1, 2018 Weed Science Society of America (WSSA), Arlington,

VA www.wssa.net

Mar. 12-15, 2018 Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS), Garden Grove,

CA www.wsweedsociety.org

Jul. 15 - 18, 2018 Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS), Buffalo, NY www.apms.org