Northeastern Weed Science Society

NEWSSletter

Winter 2021
I don’t know about you, but it seems like the 6th NEPPSC / 75th NEWSS meeting just ended on one hand and on the other, it feels like a lifetime ago. I blame it on the Covid time warp continuum. I would first like to express my sincere gratitude to the membership for making our first (and hopefully last) virtual meeting a success. The content submitted was outstanding, participation was excellent and fun and fellowship was had along the way. Thanks again to the program committee for their tireless efforts – Jacob Barney, Uriel Menallad, and Maria Gannett (NEWSS), Adrienne Kleintop and Rebecca Brown (NR-ASHS) and Karen Gartley (NEB-CSA).

Annual Meeting Recap:

To kick off the theme, Opportunities for Mutual Learning: Pests and Pandemics, we had an excellent opening keynote address from Dr. Laura Meyerson, Univ of Rhode Island to discuss “A unified approach to biosecurity and biological invasions.” Thanks also to the three society presidents, Karen Gartley (NEB-CSA), Adrienne Kleintop (NR-ASHS) and Art Gover (NEWSS) for offering their insightful opening remarks.

Thanks to the breakout session authors for presenting pre-recorded content. For the Turf & Ornamental / Vegetation Management breakout, we had 15 submissions, 25 submissions for the Agronomic Crops breakout and 24 submissions for the Fruit, Vegetable and Tree Crop breakout. The pre-recorded content and not having concurrent sessions enabled high levels of participation and engagement for the live sessions which featured keynote speakers, Q&A for authors and dynamic roundtable discussions. Thanks to the section chairs/co-chairs (Anthony Witcher / Matt Elmore – T&O, John Wallace / Vijay Singh – Agronomic Crops, and Thierry Besancon / Kurt Vollmer – Fruit & Veg) for securing speakers and leading excellent discussions. For the breakout sessions, we welcomed keynote speakers William Patzoldt, Senior Agronomist, Blue River Technologies to discuss Weed Management Using Artificial Intelligence and Robotics; Paul Neve, Head of Crop Protection and IPM, Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board, Warwickshire, UK to discuss Using Epidemiology For Proactive and Reactive Management of Weeds and Herbicide Resistance; and Susan Yoder, Executive Director, Seed Your Future, to discuss Are We Making Progress Toward Improving our Pipeline of Green-Collar Talent and How Has the Pandemic Created a “Green-Lining” for the Planet? Finally, thanks to the incoming co-chairs for volunteering their services to the society, T&O – David Hillger, Agronomic Crops – Ramon Leon and Fruit & Veg – Roger Batts.

The program committee was very intentional in wanting to have the student presentations as close to a “normal” meeting expe-
rience, so we went with live sessions, at the risk of technology failing. Fortunately, it did not fail and the students did an excellent job, especially given the fact that they had to shorten their talks to 8-minutes. Job well done to the 26 students that competed and to the student moderators – Uriel Menallad, Maria Gannett, and Brandon Miller. Thanks also to the judges from NEWSS - Carroll Mosely, Dan Kunkel, Randy Prostak, Shawn Askew and Rakesh Chandran.

The Lightning Talks (2-minute presentations with one supporting visual aide) were a play on the 2020 Poster Slam and were presented in lieu of the traditional poster format. A live Q&A session was also part of the program. Thanks to the 16 non-student authors for presenting and for the 9 students that competed. Thanks to Anthony Witcher, Adrienne Kleintop and Maria Gannett for developing the metrics and to Anthony Witcher, Matt Elmore, Katelyn Venner and Chris Leon for judging the NEWSS students Lightning Talks.

Finally, a good time was had by all in the Society virtual social, which featured pub style trivia as a fundraiser for the student endowment funds and breakout room Zoom networking, the Graduate Student “luncheon,” and the Past President’s “breakfast,” and the business meeting featuring Award Winners (highlighted later in the newsletter).

Lastly, I’d like to acknowledge the considerable contributions of our outgoing NEWSS board members – Dan Kunkel, outgoing Past President will continue all of his post-presidential track duties, Wes Everman will be handing Sustaining Membership Chair responsibilities to John Wallace, Katelyn Venner will hand of Public Relations Chair to John Kaminski and Kurt Vollmer will hand off to Larissa Smith the Treasure’s responsibilities. Thanks so much for your service, time, and dedication to the Society and thanks to those coming on board.

**What Lies Ahead in 2021/2022:**

As stated at the annual meeting, the 2021 Collegiate Weeds Contest has been postponed, yet again. We will inform you if any virtual opportunities develop.

We are still planning an in-person meeting for 2022. We plan to meet at our original 2021 location, The Wyndham Gettysburg, January 3-6, 2022, with a program template like 2020. It is a nice facility, with a lot of space, that we will have to ourselves. It is also close to the geographic center of the membership. There will be a free shuttle available to get to the heart of Gettysburg, and there is an Appalachian Brewing Company about 100 steps out the front door. The in-house restaurant is fine as well and will stay open as long as you give them a reason.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Gettysburg in 2022. Until then, please have a safe, healthy, and prosperous 2021.

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**Important Dates**

- **September 17, 2021**  
  Title submission deadline for 2022 annual meeting

- **January 3-6, 2022**  
  NEPPSC meeting at the Wyndham Gettysburg, Gettysburg, PA
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Despite us all missing the usual in-person experience of NEPPSC, I must say that the virtual event went smoothly, had some excellent content, and met many of our objectives. As part of the planning committee, I can assure you we spent months working on the program. I am hopeful that some of the elements that were particularly well received may persist in future iterations of our meeting. Obviously, we hope to never do a virtual meeting again, but we learned a lot from the 2021 experience.

Looking to the future I wanted to update you on a few relevant items. First, as you know there will NOT be an in-person weed contest in 2021. The 2022 contest will be hosted by Syngenta in Guelph, Ontario (THANKS!). We are currently discussing the feasibility, interest, and options for hosting a virtual weed contest in 2021. Obviously, missing two years in a row would be disappointing for all, but hosting a digital version is a heavy lift. The Weed Contest Committee is currently working on this, so please stay tuned for more information.

Second, as announced at the annual meeting in January we will be releasing a new graduate student contest this year. The Endowment Committee will be sponsoring a Graduate Student Writing Contest for cash prizes to be awarded at the 2022 annual meeting. This will be an annual event alongside our existing competitions. The rules were recently revised by the contest committee and need board approval, but please be on the lookout for an email this spring announcing the contest with all relevant details. We are excited about this new contest and hope all of the graduate students will consider sending a submission later this year.

Lastly, we are already working on the program and details of the 2022 and 2023 meetings. We are hopeful and planning for a back-to-normal in person meeting in Gettysburg for 2022 (fingers crossed). The theme is likely to be around science communication. I am also working with WSSA folks on the details of our joint meeting in 2023 in Alexandria, VA. Stay tuned for more on all of these items.

Hello from sunny North Carolina! I am excited for the opportunity to serve the society through the next few years working with the current leadership to bring you the best content and programming through our meetings and contest. Generally, this position would be working to coordinate the symposia for the upcoming meeting. With the 2021 meeting being virtual, many aspects have been transferred to 2022 and we will be carrying out Jacob’s theme for science communication. I hope to work with this while helping address any other areas of need. If you have suggestions, concerns, or ideas, please feel free to reach out to me. I wish you all a great start to spring and the field season for many.
Past President’s Report  
Art Gover

If you’re reading this in the Spring NEWSSLetter, then I can finally say with some certainty that the Society survived my tenure as President. As Past President, the damage I can do is quite limited.

Before I cast my view forward to this year’s responsibilities, I remind you that we recently conducted our 75th annual meeting and 6th NEPPSC, in a strictly virtual format. The meeting went well, no qualifiers needed. We were very fortunate to have Caren Schmidt in the driver’s seat as program chair. Her perceptive, persistent, pertinacious approach to problems, and her incoming experience with virtual platforms left us in good stead and resulted in a meeting notable for its high-caliber content and seamless conduct. Some takeaways for me included that a virtual element really opens keynote speaker possibilities, having the traditional breakouts as general sessions was really enjoyable, the student content was across-the-board excellent, and as always, so much of the success once the meeting starts is the volunteers judging the content, providing arduous, critical review for the student content while the rest of us could sit back and simply take in and enjoy the content.

A large thank you must also go to all that invested their time and effort to attend the meeting. A year of all-virtual meetings does open the possibility to attend almost any meeting you want, but also quickly leads to meeting fatigue. I am so grateful that you all chose to support the NEPPSC, and I look forward to seeing everyone in-person in 2022.

My MOP-assigned duties for 2021 include reviewing the MOP, marshalling the Society Awards for the 2022 meeting, chairing the Endowment Committee, and beginning my five-year tenure as a judge for the student presentation contest at the annual meeting. It’s early, but while the meeting is just now fading from memory, remember who won the Society Awards and think of worthy candidates for next meeting. The Endowment Committee will be rolling out the Student Writing Contest for the 2022 Meeting, with the prize money being the first established award coming from the NEWSS Student Endowment.

An additional iron is the activity of an ad hoc committee to evaluate the conduct of the Society. The last such effort was 15 years ago, or 20 percent of the Society’s lifespan. This committee is examining the Society’s mission, our execution of that mission, conduct of the meeting, nature of the Board of Directors, and the current status of Collegiate Weed Science Contest. As I write this, we hope to have a draft of the committee’s recommendations by the July 29 Board meeting, and a final report for

Past President’s Report, Continued
I hope everyone enjoyed the 2021 virtual NEPPSC meetings. While I certainly missed seeing everyone, I think it was a very productive and enjoyable meeting. The annual meeting generated $22,475 allowing us to cover all costs associated with the Pathable event platform. I am also pleased to report that we have received $5,585 in contributions to the endowment fund. As a reminder, it’s never too late to donate! The Board has also unanimously voted to move $50,000 from our checking account to a CD. The CD, opened in late October, has already generated a modest income.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Financial Report as of January 29, 2021</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Savings Balance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Checking Balance</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Month CD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endowment Fund</td>
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<td>Total Net Assets</td>
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The committee includes Rich Bonanno, Hilary Sandler, Steve Pyle, Vijay Singh, John Wallace, John Brewer, and Theresa Piskackova. The intent is to represent long-time members, early-career committed members, and recent student Board members, and cover academic, industry, and regulatory interests.

I hope you’ve a good year so far, that you’ll get your vaccine soon, and that I will see you in person at the 2022 annual meeting.

NEWSS Endowment Fund

The Northeastern Weed Science Society Endowment Fund was established to provide a permanent source of funding for education in the weed science field. Please consider donating to this fund to provide financial support for future Weed Scientists. Contributions to the fund are eligible as tax deductions. Please use the form below to donate, or contributions can be mailed to:

NEWSS
Northeastern Weed Science Society
P.O. Box 303
King Ferry, NY 13081
The 2021 NEPPSC and NEWSS Proceedings will be completed and on the NEWSS Website and distributed to our partner societies by April 1. Thanks you to all for submitting titles and abstracts.

Proceedings are being published in electronic format only for ease of access and practicality and will be available on the society websites. The searchable NEWSS Proceedings are in process.

The 2021 meeting used the latest WSSA Abstracts submission website for the first time. I thought it went well, it would be good to know your thoughts, let me know.

Title and abstract submission opens September 1, 2021 for the 2022 Meeting.

Mark Your Calendars: 2022 NEPPSC Meeting
Title Submission Opens: August 16, 2021
Title Deadline: September 17, 2021
Abstract and Slides Deadline: January 2, 2022

As always, we are grateful for the support provided by the sustaining members of NEWSS and would like to take the opportunity to recognize their support. Our Platinum Sustaining members ($3,000 contribution) include BASF, Bayer and Syngenta. Our Silver Sustaining members ($1,000 contribution) include FMC, Valent, UPL and AMVAC. And our Bronze Sustaining Members ($500 contribution) include GDM Solutions, Inc. and NuFarm. If you would like to contribute in the future, please reach out to me. Thank you all and be well.
A global pandemic can’t keep NEPPSC from providing a space to share research, exchange ideas, and meet one another. Despite worries that participation and attendance would decline this year, due to the virtual conference format, there was record high attendance at the student oral competitions: 317 attendees in total over the 4 NEWSS student sessions. Plus, due to the lack of concurrent scheduling, more participants were able to attend topical breakout sessions, promoting connection between NEWSS, NR-ASHA, and NE-Tri-Societies. As usual, we had lighter participation at the early morning lightning-talks, designed to replace posters, but the pre-recorded videos were popular, allowing presenters to quickly delve into in-depth discussions with live audience visitors. Still the favorite component of this year’s conference was the virtual social, which fits with NEPPSC’s emphasis on connection and social interaction.

There are a few new student opportunities I’d like to highlight. The first is a grad student writing competition, where students can submit weed-science related writing, targeted at practitioners such as Master Gardeners, extension agents, land managers, and turf professionals. Winning entries will be awarded with a monetary prize and their work will be posted on the NEWSS website as a peer-reviewed outreach publication. Once the writing competition rules are officially finalized, they will be circulated, and submissions will be due in the fall. Be on the look-out for those details. We also have a new Twitter account, @NE_WeedSci, where we’d love to highlight your stories, publications and other accomplishments! Follow us and send us good news you’d like us to share!

Unfortunately, we’ve had to cancel the in-person Weeds Competition for this summer. However, we’re considering a virtual contest. Let us know if you have any ideas on how that might look. And now, let’s welcome our new grad-student-representative-elect: Eric Jones!

“Hello friends! I am grateful to start my service as the student representative. I was not sure how I would handle the virtual conference without being able to see everyone in-person since I thoroughly enjoy interacting with everyone. Thankfully, I was able to see many new and familiar faces during the virtual meeting. Additionally, the turnout for presentations was admirable given the current circumstances. I am very excited to work with Maria and the rest of the NEWSS board, to improve and give back to this great society that has done so much for me already.”

- Eric
Weed Science Policy Fellows: Camp Hand and Vasily Lakoba

The Weed Science Policy Fellowship program is a unique opportunity for graduate students to assist me in my role as Executive Director of Science Policy for WSSA while gaining experience dealing with a broad array of weed science policy issues. The 2020 Science Policy Fellows are Lavesta “Camp” Hand at the University of Georgia and Vasily Lakoba at Virginia Tech.

Camp is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Georgia under the direction of Dr. Stanley Culpepper. Camp received a B.S. and M.S. in Horticulture from Auburn University, and is passionate about weed management in vegetable systems, which led him to Dr. Culpepper’s program. Through his studies, Camp became extremely passionate about doing unbiased and based on grower needs. Currently his research focuses on determining the possibility of using 2,4-D or dicamba as preplant burndown herbicides over plastic mulch prior to vegetable transplanting, quantifying the reduction in selection pressure associated with the utilization of cover crops, residual herbicides, and layby applications in cotton, and cereal rye response to commonly used wheat herbicides for improved weed control in rye produced for grain. Camp is interested in policy because he has seen the positive impact that Dr. Culpepper’s involvement in policy has made on Georgia agriculture. Camp wants to help producers in a similar way, and having exposure to policy through this fellowship will allow him to do that, wherever he ends up.

Vasily is a fourth year PhD candidate at Virginia Tech working on invasive plant ecology with Dr. Jacob Barney. His primary research is on local adaptation to climate and stress across the agricultural and non-agricultural ecotypes of johnsongrass. At Virginia Tech, he is an Interfaces of Global Change Fellow, pursuing additional research into noxious weed policy, as well as freshwater salinization. Prior to this, he worked on forest understory restoration while completing an M.S. at Penn State. Vasily is interested in how invasive species policy can be informed by bolstering communication channels between researchers, land managers, industry, advocates, government agencies, and other stakeholders.

Major Changes in the House Ag Committee

There will be a significant transition in leadership for the House Ag Committee as Chair Collin Peterson (D-MN) lost his re-election bid after a 30 year tenure in the House. He has served as either chair or ranking member of the House Ag Committee since 2005. In addition, House Ag Committee Ranking Member, Rep. Mike Conway (R-TX) is retiring this year after 16 years in Congress. He also served as Chair of the committee from 2015-2019.

On December 3, Rep. David Scott (D-GA) was approved by the
House Democratic Caucus to serve as the next House Ag Committee Chair for the 117th Congress. Their primary task will be preparation of the next Farm Bill, due in 2023. Scott was elected to Congress in 2003 and has served on the House Ag Committee during the entire time. “I am honored to have been chosen by my colleagues in the Democratic Caucus to serve as Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee,” said Scott. “I was born on my grandparents’ farm in rural Aynor, South Carolina, during the days of segregation, and the hardships, of those, on whose shoulders I now stand. I owe this historic selection as the first African American Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee to a diverse coalition of members from across our nation. And I will use this critical opportunity to represent the values of our entire caucus and advance our priorities for trade, disaster aid, climate change, sustainable agriculture, SNAP, crop insurance, small family farms, specialty crops, and rural broadband. The fault lines dividing our rural and urban communities are running deep, and climate change is now threatening our nation’s food supply. As Chairman, I will lead the fight to rise up and meet these challenges.”

House Republicans approved Rep. Glenn “GT” Thompson (R-PA) as the House Ag Committee’s Ranking Member. “The challenges ahead of us are considerable, but we will continue to put farm families first and ensure our country has the most safe and affordable food supply chain on the planet,” said Thompson. He was first elected to Congress in 2008 and comes from a family of dairy farmers, and has lived in rural Pennsylvania his whole life. The 117th Session of Congress begins on Jan. 3, 2021. The full list of House Democratic Committee Chairs are here. The full list of House Republican Committee Ranking Members are here.

Sen. Pat Roberts Retires

On the Senate side, Senate Ag Committee Chairman Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS) is retiring after 40 years in Congress. He spent 16 years in the House and 24 years in the Senate. He is the only member in the history of Congress to chair both the House and Senate Ag Committees. Senate Ag Committee Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) is the only one of the four Ag Committee leaders in the House and Senate who will be returning for the 117th Congress. She is in her 4th Senate term and served as Chair of the Senate Ag Committee from 2011-2015. She will remain the top Democrat on the Senate Ag Committee and become chair again, while Arkansas Sen. John Boozman will serve as the ranking member on the GOP side.
Sen. Roberts presided over a Senate Ag Committee hearing on agricultural research and food security on Dec. 2. During the hearing, many committee members -- as well as the witnesses -- praised Roberts’ tenure on the House and Senate agriculture committees. In his opening remarks, Sen. Roberts noted that, in fiscal year 1981, “When I began my service in the House, $1.4 billion in public funding was provided for U.S. agriculture research. By 2015, that annual investment more than tripled to more than $4.5 billion. Even more impressive, private sector investment in food and agriculture research rose over 660% over that same period -- from $1.6 billion to more than $12 billion per year.” Roberts added, “There is still a great deal to do. We must take a fresh look at what agricultural security means in terms of the defense of the agriculture sector and our food supply.”

On December 8, the Biden administration announced they were nominating Tom Vilsack to lead USDA as the 32nd U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Vilsack is currently the CEO of the U.S. Dairy Export Council and served through both terms of the Obama Administration as the 30th Secretary of Agriculture from 2009 to 2017. Prior to that, he served as governor of Iowa from 1999 to 2007. Vilsack would be the first USDA Secretary to serve in two different administrations nonconsecutively. His fellow Iowan James “Tama Jim” Wilson served as Secretary of Agriculture for 16 years from 1897 to 1913 during three consecutive presidencies and holds the record as the longest-serving U.S. Cabinet member.

Haaland was born in Winslow, Arizona and is an enrolled member of the Laguna Pueblo. At 28, she enrolled at the University of New Mexico, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in English in 1994. She earned her J.D. in Indian law from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 2006, but is not a member of the New Mexico State Bar. Haaland served as the tribal administrator for the San Felipe Pueblo from 2013 to 2015 and was elected to a two-year term as chair of the Democratic Party of New Mexico before being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2018 for New Mexico’s 1st District. She was subsequently re-elected for a second term in the House in 2020 before being nominated for Interior Secretary.

Michael S. Regan (pronounced REE-gan) was nominated by the Biden administration to serve as
the next U.S. EPA Administrator. Regan is a native of Goldsboro, NC and received a B.S. in earth and environmental science at North Carolina A&T State University. He received a Master of Public Administration from George Washington University and worked at EPA from 1998 to 2008 working on air pollution issues. He then joined the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) for eight years before being selected by NC Governor Roy Cooper in 2017 to serve as the secretary of the NC Department of Environmental Quality.

**FY 2021 Appropriations Signed Into Law**

Here is a look at the final FY 2021 appropriations levels for various weed and aquatic plant management research programs compared to FY 2019 and FY 2020:

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<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>FY19 Final</th>
<th>FY20 Final</th>
<th>FY21 President</th>
<th>FY21 House</th>
<th>FY21 Senate</th>
<th>FY21 Final</th>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>USDA-NIFA</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>-AFRI Competitive Grants</td>
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<td>-IR-4 Program</td>
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<td>$17</td>
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<td>-Crop Protection and Pest Management (CPPM)</td>
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<td>Army Corp- Aquatic Plant Control research</td>
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<td>$71</td>
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Note: The final FY 2021 appropriations language also directs APHIS to reallocate $3 million from its Field Crop and Rangeland Ecosystems Pests account to create a pilot program to partner with states for the control and eradication of cogongrass.
On Dec. 22, 2020, the Trump administration named Dr. Carrie Castille as the new director to USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). The NIFA director position is a 6 year appointment and she will be the first female to serve in this role in a non-acting capacity.

Dr. Castille served as Assistant Professor and Agriculture and Natural Resource Leader at Louisiana State University prior to serving as Associate Commissioner and Senior Advisor to the Commissioner for the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. She was currently serving as coordinator for USDA's Farm Production and Conservation mission area in the mid-south.

Dr. Castille was appointed by USDA Secretary Vilsack to the National Agriculture Research, Extension, Education, and Economics (NAREEE) advisory board from 2010 – 2017. During this period, she served as Chair of the NAREEE board, and also contributed to many organizations, including the American Public and Land Grant University (APLU) Council on Agriculture Research, Extension, and Teaching.

She holds a Ph.D. in Renewable Natural Resources and M.S. in Environmental Studies from Louisiana State University, and a B.S. degree in Industrial Engineering from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

A new report, released by USDA-NIFA and Purdue University, shows a strong job demand for new college graduates with degrees in agricultural programs. U.S. college graduates can expect approximately 59,400 job opportunities annually between 2020 and 2025. This reflects a 2.6 percent growth from the previous five years. Employer demand will exceed the supply of available graduates with a bachelor’s degree or higher in agriculture-related fields. Read the full report.

The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) issue paper is now available for free download. The paper discusses ground and aerial robots; robotic manipulators; robots used for row crops, orchards, and specialty crops; automated systems in animal agriculture; and enabling factors for the deployment and adoption of robots.

This intriguing webinar was hosted by the Chemical Sciences Roundtable of NAS on November 12th and examined the current landscape of agrochemistry and discussed methods and technologies to sustain crop production into the future using chemistry. Speakers included: Dr. Peter Eckes, BASF Bioscience Research; Dr. George Frisvold, The University of Arizona; and Dr. Tejas K. Shah, Corteva Agriscience. The webinar recording is available here.

In January, the National and Regional Weed Science Societies
submitted comments on EPA’s proposed Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ) regulation revisions. We are pleased that EPA adopted most of those revisions when they released their final AEZ requirements in October 29, 2020. The AEZ is the area surrounding pesticide application equipment that exists during outdoor pesticide applications. Below are some of the improvements made:

- AEZ requirements only apply within the boundaries of the agricultural establishment, removing off-farm responsibilities that were difficult for state regulators to enforce.
- Immediate family members of farm owners are now exempted from all aspects of the AEZ requirements. Farm owners and their family can now shelter in place inside closed buildings, giving them flexibility to decide whether to stay on-site.
- New clarifying language has been added so that applications that are suspended due to individuals entering an AEZ may be resumed after those individuals have left the AEZ.
- Simplified criteria to determine whether applications are subject to the 25- or 100-foot AEZ.

EPA Proposes Interim Registration Decision for Paraquat

EPA issued a proposed interim decision (PID) for paraquat on October 22, 2020 for review and comment. WSSA has previously submitted comments on EPA’s draft human health and ecological risk assessments for paraquat in 2016 and 2019. Given the value of paraquat as a unique weed management tool and the updated human health mitigation measures, WSSA submitted comments opposed to the following application restrictions proposed by EPA: 1) prohibition of all aerial applications of paraquat except for cotton desiccation; and 2) prohibition of all paraquat applications using mechanically pressurized handguns and backpack sprayers. Those application restrictions would eliminate many unique weed management options and put undue pressure on other broad-spectrum burndown treatments.

Triazines and Glyphosate Begin Endangered Species Act Review

On Nov. 5, 2020, EPA released its draft biological evaluations (BEs) for atrazine, simazine and propazine for review and comment. Biological evaluations (BEs) are the beginning of EPA’s Endangered Species Act consultation review process for pesticides where they determine if an endangered or threatened species or critical habitat could be affected by the use of that pesticide. The triazines are the first herbicides to go through EPA’s Revised Method for Species Biological Evaluations of Conventional Pesticides. The BEs make effects determinations for 1,795 endangered or threatened species and 792 designated critical habitats. EPA’s draft BEs for the triazines predict that:

- atrazine is likely to adversely affect 54 percent of all species and 40 percent of critical habitats;
- propazine is likely to adversely affect 4 percent of all species and 2 percent of critical habitats; and
- simazine is likely to adversely affect approximately 53 percent of species and 40 percent of critical habitats.

Comments on the draft BEs for the triazines are due Feb. 19, 2021.

Not far behind the triazines, EPA issued its draft biological evaluations for glyphosate on November 27, 2020. EPA’s draft BEs for glyphosate predict that:

- glyphosate is likely to adversely affect 93% of all species and 96 percent of critical habitats.

Comments on the draft BEs for glyphosate are due Mar. 13, 2021.

If the EPA determines a pesticide may affect a listed species or its critical habitat, it will consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (the Services) as appropriate. The Services will then issue a biological opinion to determine if the population of a species would be adversely affected.
impacted and, if so, propose ways to reduce risks.

**Monarch Butterfly Listing Warranted but Precluded**

On Dec. 15, 2020, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) found that adding the monarch butterfly to the list of threatened and endangered species is **warranted but precluded by work on higher-priority listing actions**. With this decision, the monarch becomes a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act, and its status will be reviewed each year until it is no longer a candidate.

**Interior’s Invasive Species Strategic Plan Finalized**

The National and Regional Weed Science Societies submitted comments on the Department of the Interior’s (DOI) draft Invasive Species Strategic Plan on Oct. 9, 2020. Invasive weeds in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems are estimated to cost nearly $30 billion per year and our main concern was that DOI invasive species efforts are extremely underfunded. In FY 2020, the Department of the Interior estimated it spent $143 million to manage invasive species for 400+ million acres of public lands. That’s roughly 35 cents per acre for all invasive species research, prevention, EDRR, management and restoration.

We also supported increased focus on invasion pathways and vectors; supported the formation and use of a science advisory committee for invasive species; encouraged DOI to explore the possibility of working with the insurance industry to develop tools to mitigate the economic impacts of invasive species; stressed the importance of using integrated pest management (IPM) techniques; and supported increased research and training in taxonomic expertise for identifying invasive species. The DOI released its final Invasive Species Strategic Plan on Jan. 14, 2021. This Plan will guide DOI’s work on invasive species for 2021 – 2025.

**2020 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) Becomes Law**

The 2020 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) was included in the massive 5000+ page Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 that was signed into law (P.L. 116-260) on Dec. 27. WRDA bills are authorization bills enacted by Congress to deal with various aspects of water resources such as environmental, navigational, and flood protection issues that are mostly administered by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE). This is the 14th WRDA bill enacted since 1974 and the fourth since 2014.

We supported passage of the Senate version of 2020 WRDA which had many invasive species provisions that were not in the House passed version. Some of the invasive species provisions included in the final 2020 WRDA bill:

- Authorizes $25 million for a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) demonstration program to “determine the causes of, and implement measures to effectively detect, prevent, treat, and eliminate, harmful algal blooms associated with water resources development projects”. The HAB demonstration program will be carried out by ACOE with focus areas in the Great Lakes, the tidal and inland waters of New Jersey, the coastal and tidal waters of Louisiana, the waterways of the counties that comprise the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, California, the Allegheny Reservoir Watershed in New York, and Lake Okeechobee, Florida.

- Requires ACOE to add “prevention” to its aquatic invasives species research, in addition to its research on the management and eradication of aquatic invasive species.

- Directs ACOE to conduct a terrestrial noxious weed control pilot program in consultation with the Federal Interagen-
The 2020 survey results for weeds in grass crops, pastures & turf are posted at http://wssa.net/wssa/weed/surveys/. Weeds barely mentioned in 2017 that increased in 2020 include medusahead, ventenata, dogfennel, Scotch thistle, vaseygrass, Lehmann lovegrass, milkweed spp., and Lepidium spp. A presentation of the most common and troublesome weeds in grass crops, pastures, and turf that is specific to the NEWSS states and provinces was presented at the NEWSS annual meeting in January.

2021 National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW)

Participate in the largest invasive species awareness effort in North America!
**CAST Report**

**Hillary Sandler**

**Webinars replace face-to-face rollouts.** To help contribute to a safe and healthy environment during COVID-19, CAST used free online webinars to disseminate its new publications, rather than face-to-face rollouts in Washington, D.C.

**New Self-Study Guide Released.** CAST’s *Friday Notes* newsletter, blog, and other social media outlets regularly provide important updates about news headlines, announcements, and pertinent educational resource material related to agriculture, science, and COVID-19’s impacts on the ag industry. A new CAST resource includes self-study guides focused on CAST papers that can then be used by teachers and parents for their online learning activities and in other educational settings.

**2020 Annual Board Meeting.** The annual board meeting was held virtually October 27-29, 2020. Tuesday was the Board of Directors meeting, President’s Report, USDA Science Panel, and work group breakout sessions. Wednesday included the BCCA Panel, Treasurer’s Report, EVP Report, Adaptive Plan Rollout, New President’s Vision, and a second round of work group breakouts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 7</td>
<td>Impact of Recruitment and Retention of Food Animal Veterinarians on U.S. Food Supply</td>
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<td>Producing Food Products from Cultured Animal Tissues</td>
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<td>May 18</td>
<td>Stewardship Challenges for New Pest Management Technologies in Agriculture</td>
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<td>June 29</td>
<td>Economic Impacts of COVID-19 on Food and Agricultural Markets</td>
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<td>July 27</td>
<td>Impacts on Human Health and Safety of Naturally Occurring and Supplemental Hormones in Food Animals</td>
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<td>August 25</td>
<td>Agriculture and the Microbiome</td>
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<td>September 22</td>
<td>Importance of Communicating Empirically Based Science for Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>Food Biofortification—Reaping the Benefits of Science to Overcome Hidden Hunger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 17</td>
<td>Ground and Aerial Robots for Agricultural Production: Opportunities and Challenges.</td>
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</table>
updates, and reports. The President’s Awards were given to three influential leaders: Mark Armfelt, CAST President 2015-16; Dirk Drost, CAST Treasurer; and Mark Cochran, Board of Trustees Liaison. CAST outgoing President Juan Tricarico ended his excellent service to CAST in this role by offering his usual upbeat, thoughtful comments. Incoming President David Baltensperger began his official responsibilities, but he had already been leading webinars and performing many other crucial roles for CAST. The Board of Trustees meeting finished out the three-day meeting on Thursday.

**Annual Report.** The CAST 2019 Annual Report was also released in April and can be found on the website at: [https://www.cast-science.org/about/annual-reports/](https://www.cast-science.org/about/annual-reports/).

**2020 Borlaug CAST Communication Award Presentation.** On October 13, Dr. Alexa Lamm was presented with the 2020 Borlaug CAST Communication Award. CSAT Report, Continued Immediately after receiving the award, she put policy into practice and delivered an insightful presentation on *Effectively Communicating Science in Times of Crisis* detailing the importance of ag/science communication in challenging times. Lamm provided science-based advice about how to consider audiences, messages, channels, and sources. A video of her presentation, informational slides, and the Q&A session.

**WSSA Report**

**Rakesh Chandran, WSSA Representative**

This past fall, the WSSA Board of Directors voted in favor of the following:

- Dr. Carroll Moseley, with Syngenta, elected Vice-President of WSSA
- Dr. Lauren Lazaro, with Louisiana State University, elected Secretary of WSSA
- Dr. Greg Elmore, with Bayer Crop Science, elected Treasurer of WSSA
- The BOD also voted to approve the Award recipients at the 2021 annual meetings; the recipients will be announced at the meeting
- Dr. Jim Kells will be serving a second term as the WSSA Liaison for NIFA
- Dr. Greg Kruger will end his appointment as EPA Liaison of WSSA; WSSA expects to find a replacement by 2021 Annual Meeting (position description and application information posted [here](#))

The 2021 WSSA Annual Meeting, originally planned to be held in San Antonio TX, will be organized as a virtual meeting Feb 15-19 hosted by ‘Community Brands’. Meeting registration will be $350 for regular members and $150 for students. The following format
WSSA Report, Continued

is expected to be followed for this year’s Annual Meeting: Monday (Feb 15th) afternoon - Opening session including presidential address, keynote speaker, liaison updates, awards, and lounge session. Three concurrent sessions will he held, each day, during the remainder of the meeting. Business meeting, student awards will be held on Thursday afternoon. Posters available for viewing during the whole meeting; chat feature with authors also available. Student oral presentations will be 3-min prerecorded presentations and posted; asynchronous to the rest of the meeting. Lounges and networking rooms will be available throughout the meeting.

A new award, sponsored by the Herbicide Resistance Action Committee, for “Team Award for outstanding research and extension work related to herbicide resistance management” was approved and will be launched during the WSSA Annual Meeting in 2021. The Strategic Plan for WSSA is being revised and is expected to be posted by the 2021 Annual meeting. The WSSA website is expected to undergo an overhaul shortly; $10K was allotted towards this effort.

A Code of Conduct for meeting attendees is expected to be put in place by the WSSA. This code of conduct may have be adopted by the regional societies to be incorporated into their respective MOP’s. The Student Travel program supported by WSSA continues to be popular; NEWSS student members are strongly encouraged to participate. The WSSA is working with the Herbicide Resistance Action Committee (HRAC) on the new herbicide Mode of Action classification to harmonize herbicide MOA codes between HRAC and WSSA.

The 2022 Annual Meeting is planned to be held jointly with CWSS in Vancouver, BC, Canada; 2022 at Alexandria, VA, jointly with NEWSS (WSSA will make arrangements for our one-day meeting room needs for NEPPSC, and reduced 1-day registration costs for our partners) ; and 2023 in San Antonio, TX with SWSS.

WSSA’s financial outlook continues to be stable. Losses incurred in the earlier part of the year due to market fluctuations were recovered. As of October 2020, assets include $256K as US Bank account, $1.3 million general fund account, $ 438K Endowment, $ 230K Short term CD account; with total assets of approximately $2.3 million.

Respectfully submitted,
Rakesh Chandran, WSSA Representative
NEWSS Fellow Award
Dr. Gregory Armel
(Formerly Distinguished Member Award)

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

Award of Merit
Quintin Johnson

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

Outstanding Researcher Award
Dr. Sandeep Rana

Was established to recognize NEWSS members for their outstanding research contributions, in the public or private sector, that have had (or have the potential to have) a significant impact on weed management practices in the Northeast.
NEWSS Awards 2021

Outstanding Researcher Award
Dr. Thierry Besançon

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

Robert D. Sweet Outstanding Ph.D. Student Award
Dr. Theresa Reinhardt Piskáčková

Established to recognize outstanding NEWSS students at the M.S. and Ph.D. levels for their work and contributions to the field of weed science in research, teaching, extension, and to the society.

Robert D. Sweet Outstanding M.S. Student Award
Eric B. Scruggs

Established to recognize outstanding NEWSS students at the M.S. and Ph.D. levels for their work and contributions to the field of weed science in research, teaching, extension, and to the society.
NEWSS Awards 2021

Outstanding Educator Award
Dr. John Kaminski

Was established to recognize outstanding contributions to outreach education or resident instruction in Weed Science and weed management.

Accomplishments that may be considered include (but are not limited to) excellence in Cooperative Extension education, resident instruction, or other educational programs; or the development of novel and effective educational resources in Weed Science.

M. Garry Schnappinger Service Recognition Award
Dr. Kurt Vollmer

Was established to recognize outstanding service, above and beyond the call of duty, from someone who works in the area of weed science under the direction of university, federal, industry or private sector scientists.

The nominee must demonstrate significant contributions to the field of weed science and/or to NEWSS. “Special Recognition Award” can be presented to service personnel who are not members of NEWSS but support members of NEWSS.
NEWSS Student Presentation Contest

Supported by BASF with additional support from Syngenta

First Place
Soil Carbon Amendments as a Microbially Mediated Weed Management Tool

Maria Gannett
Cornell University

Second Place (Tie)
Soybean Performance After Chaff Lining at Wheat Harvest

Matthew Spoth
Virginia Tech University

Second Place (Tie)
Home Climate and Land Use Affect Seed, but not Rhizome Cold Tolerance of a Perennial Invader

Vasiliy Lakoba
Virginia Tech University

Honorable Mention
Organic No-till Soybean Seeding Rate and Nitrogen Fertilization Effects on Weed Suppression

Uriel Menalled
Cornell University

Honorable Mention
Evaluating Electrical and Mechanical Methods for Palmer Amaranth (Amaranthus palmeri) Control

Levi Moore
North Carolina State University

Honorable Mention
Crop Response to Simulated Dicamba Drift in Field-Grown Snap Beans

Maggie Wasacz
Rutgers University
FIRST PLACE

Evaluation of Chopped Miscanthus Biomass as a Mulch for Weed Control in Container Grown Nursery Crops

Marshall Warren
North Carolina State University

SECOND PLACE

Imaging Analysis to Quantify Leaf Deformation in Response to Sublethal Rates of Dicamba

Maggie Wasacz
Rutgers University

THIRD PLACE

Characterization of Herbicide Safety in Brassica carinata (A.) Braun in the Piedmont and Coastal Plains of North Carolina

Sandra Ramsey
North Carolina State University
NEWSS Photo Contest

First Place
Maggie Wasacz

Second Place
Dan Kunkel

Third Place
Sandeep Rana
Out of a total of 163 people attending the 2021 virtual NEPPSC meeting, 89 were regular NEWSS members, compared to 94 in 2010, 91 in 2019, and 65 in 2018. Attendance of the 2021 NEPPSC meeting was down from 6 people compared to the 2020 in-person meeting.

Our student membership remains identical in 2021 to what it was in 2020 with 29 students who are members of the society. As a reminder, our student membership was only 19 in 2019.

Following a cleaning of our membership at large directory, we currently have 229 people who attended previous NEPPSC meetings over the last 3 years but do not consider themselves regular members of the society.

All NEWSS communication is circulated to the regular, student, and at-large membership of the society. Members-at-large who have not been active in the society in the past 3 years are removed from the directory if not registered at the next annual meeting, have since passed away, or asked to be removed from the listserv.

In 2020, 12 announcements regarding the organization of the NEPPSC meeting were sent to the NEWSS and NEPPSC listservs and 9 announcements (NEWSS newsletter, position announcements, WSSA elections, NEWSS photo contests…) were sent specifically to NEWSS members (regulars + students) and membership at large. A 2021 NEPPSC meeting survey was conducted in June 2020 and addressed to 252 people (all 2020 NEPPSC participants and 2020 NEWSS members). 102 people answered the survey and results were communicated to the Board for helping with the decision process regarding the organization of the conference.

If you know any past member who is not receiving information from NEWSS and would be interested to stay in touch with the society, please let me know and I will gladly 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 to become a member and pass their contact information to me.

**Thank in advance for keeping your contact information with NEWSS current.** Please indicate any mail or any email address changes by sending an email to thierry.besancon@rutgers.edu.
## Membership Report, Continued

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<thead>
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<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>XX(^c)</td>
<td>XX(^c)</td>
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<td>65</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>87</td>
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<td><strong>Retired or Retired and Distinguished/Fellow</strong></td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>Data not available</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td><strong>Student members</strong></td>
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<td>20</td>
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<td>5(^e)</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td>197(^**)</td>
<td>144(^*)</td>
<td>190(^**)</td>
<td>153</td>
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<td>131</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>128</td>
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\(^a\)2013 Total = all in the 2013 column and number can be a double count of some member via Regular members possibly being part of the Sustaining Companies numbers. Also the numbers are from the WSSA/NEWSS combine meeting were many of the NEWSS members are/signed up as WSSA members.  
\(^b\)2014, 2017 Total does not include the 100% of Sustaining Companies as not all attended; number used was 9 for 2014.  
\(^c\)2015 to 2021 - Combined to make up the Retired or retired and Distinguished/Fellow line.