

NEWSletter

Northeastern Weed Science Society Summer 2019

Comments from the President



Dan Kunkel

Greetings! I hope everyone survived the winter without too much trouble. I know many areas, especially in the Midwest, were hit with record cold temperatures and snowfall and now are faced with flooding. Wishing for Sunny spring days ahead! The 73rd Northeastern Weed Science Society Annual Meeting (NEWSS) and 4th annual Northeastern Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference (NEPPSC) was held January 8-11, 2019 in Baltimore, MD. The NEWSS continues to serve as the host society and was joined by the Northeast Branch of the Tri-Societies (NE ASACSAA-SSSA), and the American Society of Horticultural Science - Northeast Region (NEASHS). I do want to shout out to all the Committee and Section chairs as well as the many other folks who “helped out” in making the meeting a success again this year. Your extra effort and support was greatly appreciated.

Important Information

July 25, 2019: BASF Midwest Research Farm, Midwest Ag Research Center of Valent, and Klein Farms near Seymour, Illinois

Jan 6-9, 2020: NEPPSC meeting at the Hilton Penns Landing, Philadelphia, PA

The NEPPSC, as a combined meeting, continues to improve each year as seen by the increased camaraderie and interest in shared research papers. There were 96 total papers along with two symposia and a workshop. In particular, I want to mention the exceptional number and quality of papers by the graduate students, and even those by undergraduates. This meeting had several highlights for me. Dr. Timothy Pastoor presented a pre-meeting session on glyphosate, which resulted in many requests for information and further papers and newsletter articles (see: <https://www.newss.org/wp-content/uploads/Pastoor-NEWSS-glyphosate.pdf>). Our general session keynote speaker, Dr. Barbara Glenn, shared all of the great work being done by our State Departments of Ag (see: <https://www.newss.org/wp-content/uploads/NASDA-The-State-of-the-States-1-8-19-BPG.pdf>). The general Symposia was a “great debate”; and the graduate Student Symposia. As the program chair this year, I enjoyed the meeting much more than I had anticipated, having so much help by others made the meeting run smoothly. I would recommend it to everyone who has not experienced it yet 😊 Art Gover will be sharing information and progress regarding our 74th meeting below, but I

can say that The NEWSS Executive Committee has many activities in process as we move toward our society's 74th annual meeting and the 5th annual NEPPSC. The Hilton at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia has now been secured as our site for the meeting. The proposed theme for the meeting will be "Inclusion in Science" and Art Gover and Caren Schmidt will be providing current details for the 2020 program below. The grad students are planning some new activities and maintaining many of the existing activities for the next meeting, so be sure to read Theresa Piskackova's article.

Do not forget that there will be a national weed contest this summer. The 2019 North American Weed Science Contest will be held on Thursday, July 25, 2019 at the BASF Midwest Research Farm, Midwest Ag Research Center of Valent, and Klein Farms near Seymour, Illinois. For Team and individual registration please see: [2019 Weed Science Contest - Participant](#)

Finally, I want to thank Art and the entire Endowment Committee for their work over the past year to amend the NEWSS bylaws, so we can now disburse funds to students or to support student activities. Much thanks go to all of those who have contributed to the fund over the years – keep up the support!

In closing, I feel privileged and honored to serve as President of the NEWSS for 2019. We have a tremendous group of professionals from our students, to the professors, extension and to the industry representatives. Wishing you all a productive and successful spring and summer!

President-Elect's Report



Art Gover

I will briefly recap the 2019 meeting, and look ahead to the 2020 meeting. I am grateful to those who assisted me with the 2019 general symposia, especially the hearty souls who volunteered their time and effort to serve on the debate panel – John Brewer, Eric Jones, Eugene Law, and Uri Menalled. They piled on to their already full plates and provided a stellar example of rigor and collegiality. I must point out the tremendous efforts of Theresa Piskackova and many of the graduate students, who played a pivotal role in recruiting the panelists as well as handling the details of making the "Oxford Style" component of the debate work.

I want to thank Lane Heimer for doing a lot of the heavy lifting for the "Weed Management in Pollinator Plantings" workshop. We had an engaged audience, and our panelists covered a wide array of issues. As with most phases of our meeting, we did take a hit due to the Federal Shutdown in losing a speaker, but there are enough moving parts in this area of endeavor that we had plenty of questions to tackle.

In 2020 we will return to the meeting template typical of our pre-2016 gatherings and run from January 6 to 9 at the Hilton Penns Landing, in Philadelphia. Sunny is a State of Mind. We will gather Monday afternoon/evening for committee meetings and Socializing. Tuesday will feature the posters,

general session featuring Society Awards, the first symposium, and Sectional Roundtables including industry updates, followed by a Social Mixer. The Graduate Students will dominate Wednesday, with the presentation contest and a second symposium; followed by society business meetings, and reconvening that night for the Dessert Social. Thursday we will gather into our Sectional Tribes and feature the remaining submitted presentations, and by lunchtime you'll be homeward bound.

As stated in many places many times, title submission deadline for the 2020 meeting will be September 15, 2019. We will continue to use the wssaabstracts website to handle our submissions. Count on the Section Chairs and me to be hounding you to share your talent, data, and insights for the 2020 program.

As detailed elsewhere in this newsletter, Vice President Caren Schmidt and the Current and Incoming Graduate Student representatives, Theresa Piskackova and Uri Menalled, respectively, are assembling a really appealing array of symposia and social activities supporting our 2020 meeting theme "Inclusion in Science." I feel bad for Dan Kunkel, as I have a much better VP working with me than he did.

In the November edition of this periodical I apprised you of our impending efforts to have the Eastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America (EBESA) rejoin the NEPPSC for 2022, to approximate the gathering we had in 2016. Our board discussed and agreed and proposed to their board an organizing structure featuring an alternating lead role. They discussed during their annual meeting, and politely declined. For the near- to intermediate term, we will not be repeating the societal array featured at the 2016 NEPPSC. That is unfortunate. The 2016 meeting was great gathering, and tremendous credit is due to those from all societies involved in making it happen.

As I write this, responses are coming in for the venue survey for 2021 that Thierry Besançon sent to you via the listserv. I am searching for the mythical venue in an historic but underappreciated town surrounded by a plethora of eclectic local eateries and drinkeries

within walking distance where we can get rooms for \$99. I can do the \$99 with needed meeting amenities, but the "walking distance" metric still falls short. Working on it.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Weed Olympics July 24-25. Though young in emotional development, I am old enough to be nostalgic for the first NEWSS contest held in 1983, hosted by University of Maryland at their Eastern Shore research farm. I'll have to try to remember to see how many alumni of that event are still active in the Society when we gather next January. I need to come up with an alliterative phrase including "decrepit".

Vice President's Report



Caren Schmidt

Greetings from the southern end of the region...North Carolina, that is. I'm thrilled to be contributing my first newsletter submission as the Vice-President of the NEWSS.

This year, one of my responsibilities is to serve as Assistant Program Chair to Art Gover for the 2020 annual meeting in Philly. I've been in touch with all the named section chairs and chair-elects and will continue to reach out as the program evolves. We certainly will rely on you all to solicit program content. Please let me know if serving as a Section Chair at a future meeting is of interest to you.

For the 2020 annual meeting, my main responsibility is to develop the General Symposium. I look forward to you all joining us for an *Inclusion in Science* symposium, which will involve a guest-speaker and round-table discussions. What does Inclusion mean, you may ask – it is about being ourselves and bringing our best to any situation, a feeling of belonging, understanding different perspectives, engaging everyone, and changing mindsets. Why is it relevant to Science - what might we be missing in our scientific and innovation endeavors if we are not inclusive (lacking diversity of thought, background, experience, gender, race, nationality, etc.). Will we get left behind if we don't engage in the discussion?

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 NEWSS. The NEWSS endowment fund is used for the support and enhancement of education within the weed science field, including support for contests, educational seminars, professional development symposia, student travel, scholarships, publications and presentations. As of March 20, 2019, the Endowment fund was at \$31,527. Now large enough to begin disbursing, our goal this year will be to implement additional creative fundraising processes, such as the 50:50 raffle (spearheaded by Renee Keese and Hillary Sandler) at the 2019 annual meeting.

Best wishes for a successful 2019 season. I look forward to seeing many of you at the collegiate weeds contest and the 2020 annual meeting!

Past-President's Report



Carroll Moseley

I was rejuvenated at our 2019 meeting in Hunt Valley, MD. A big thank you to the Executive Committee and others - especially Dan Kunkel, Art Gover, and Theresa Piskakova for a well planned, entertaining, and educational program. We have had lots of interest in the glyphosate presentation that was made available after our meeting and it is currently available on the NEWSS website. I'll defer to Kurt Vollmer to tell us where we are with membership (we are up!) and with finances. We had a very successful 2019 annual meeting and we will continue to use dollars to reinvest in our annual meeting to improve the format and materials available.

Kudos to the graduate students for their activities and helping re-energize me and many other members of the Society. Please remember that you are the lifeblood of Weed Science and many of you will be filling the slots of folks like me as some of us move on to other activities in the next 5-10 years. It seems like only a blink of an eye since I was a graduate student in Blacksburg over 30 years ago. Those were the beginnings of some long lasting friendships and "professionalships" through that time period. I will always be thankful for the opportunities provided to me because of the NEWSS and the special people that make up this group.

Start thinking now about those in our Society that should be recognized at next year's

meeting in Philadelphia – it is not too early! Look for more information from me in later newsletters. Thanks again for letting me serve as your President. It was an honor and a pleasure!

Treasurer's Report



Kurt Vollmer

<i>2019 Financial Report as of March 20, 2019</i>	
Savings Balance	\$31,859.36
Checking Balance	\$86,637.56
Endowment Fund	\$31,527.82
Total Net Assets	\$150,024.74

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

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NEWSS Executive Committee 2019

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**Executive Committee, Chairs and
Representatives**

Dan Kunkel	President
Art Gover	President-Elect
Caren Schmidt	Vice-President
Carroll Moseley	Past President
Kurt Vollmer	Treasurer
Thierry Besançon	Membership Chair
Michael Flessner	Editor
Katelyn Venner	Public Relations Rep.
Wesley Everman	Sustaining Membership
Matthew Cutulle	Research & Education
Theresa R. Piskáčková	Graduate Student Rep.
Rakesh Chandran	WSSA Representative
Hilary Sandler	CAST Representative
Lee Van Wychen	Science Policy Director

**Committee Members
Chairs and Chair-Elects**

2020 NEWSS Annual Meeting

Art Gover – Program Chair
Caren Schmidt

Poster Session:

Katelyn Venner – Chair

Agronomic Crops:

John Wallace – Chair

Turfgrass and Ornamentals:

Jatinder Aulakh – Chair
Anthony Witcher– Chair-Elect

Fruit, Vegetables, and Herb Crops:

Rebecca Brown – Chair
Emmalea Ernest – Chair-elect

Vegetation Management and Restoration:

Lane Heimer – Chair
Art Gover – Chair-elect

**Program Committees for the 2020
NEWSS Meeting**

Program Committee

Art Gover President-Elect
Caren Schmidt Vice President

Site Selection Committee for 2021

Caren Schmidt Vice-President
Art Gover President-Elect
Kurt Vollmer Treasurer

Awards Committee

Carroll Moseley Chair
Randy Prostack
Shawn Askew
Rakesh Chandran
Greg Armel

Nomination Committee

Carroll Moseley Past President
Toni DiTommaso Appointed by President
Sudeep Mathew Selected at business mtg.
Matt Elmore Selected at business mtg.
VACANT Selected at business mtg.

Resolutions Committee

Mark VanGessel Chair, Appointed by Pres
Renee Keese Appointed by President
John Wallace Appointed by President

Collegiate Weed Contest Committee

Art Gover President-Elect
Dan Kunkel President
Katelyn Venner Host in 2018
Stacey Pickard Host in 2017
Jacob Barney Host in 2016
Dwight Lingenfelter Host in 2014
Larissa Smith
Theresa R. Piskáčková Grad Student Rep.
Wes Everman Sustaining Membership

Audit Committee

Kurt Vollmer Treasurer
Barbara Scott
Quintin Johnson

Mark VanGessel Volunteer
Jeff Derr Volunteer
Hilary Sandler Volunteer

Archives Committee

Dan Kunkel Chair
Randy Prostack Past-President

Photo Award Committee

Hilary Sandler Chair
Erin Hitchner
Rakesh Chandran
Art Gover
Shawn Askew

Student Paper Awards Committee

Carroll Moseley Past President
Randy Prostack
Shawn Askew
Rakesh Chandran
Greg Armel

Poster Award Committee

Anthony Witcher Chair
John Wallace Co-Chair

Weed Science Field Days Committee

Quintin Johnson Appointed by Pres-Elect

Past President's Committee

Carroll Moseley Past President
Randy Prostack
Shawn Askew

Herbicide Resistance Plant Committee

Mark VanGessel Chair
Dan Kunkel
Dave Mayonado

Endowment Committee

Caren Schmidt Vice President
Art Gover Chair
Renee Keese Appointed by President
Kurt Vollmer Treasurer
Thierry Besançon Membership Chair
Randy Prostack Past-President
Shawn Askew Past President
Rakesh Chandran Past President

NEWSS Past Presidents



Front (L to R): Rakesh Chandran, Joe Neal, Jim Parochetti, Hilary Sandler, Toni DiTommaso, Jerry Baron, Renee Keese, Carroll Moseley
Back (L to R): Mark VanGessel, Dan Kunkel, Dwight Lingenfelter, Jeff Derr, Tim Dutt, Randy Prostack

NEWSS News was compiled by Katelyn Venner, Public Relations Representative. Please contact her at katelyn.venner@basf.com with any corrections, suggestions, or items to be included in the next newsletter (August 2019).

Editor's Report



Michael Flessner

The 2019 NEPPSC and NEWSS Proceedings are in final review and will be posted to the NEWSS website soon as well as distributed to our partner societies. Thanks to all who submitted titles and abstracts!

In preparing the 2019 NEWSS Proceedings, I found an error in the 2018 volume- The 2018 business meeting minutes were included rather than the 2017. So a revised 2018 Proceedings will also be posted to the NEWSS website soon. My apologies for this error.

For the 2020 meeting, we will continue to use the WSSA Abstracts website for submission of titles and abstracts. Title and abstract submission opens September 1st. We will continue to publish proceedings in electronic format only. Doing so reduces costs and reflects how proceedings are now accessed.

Mark your calendars: 2020 NEPPSC Meeting

Title deadline: September 15, 2019.

Abstract deadline: January 2, 2020.

Slides deadline: January 5, 2020.

Graduate Student Update



Theresa Reinhardt Piskáčková

The 2019 NEPPSC meeting was a success for graduate students! From social activities, academic achievement, and overall student engagement and involvement, I could not be happier with where we stand today in the Society.

On Tuesday night, we had a fun student Quiz Bowl and challenged students to find esteemed members of the society. Wednesday was a riveting session of student talks from all three societies participating in NEPPSC. There were many comments about the interesting research topics, the professionalism, and the overall quality of student presentations during this Wednesday morning session. Students gathered for lunch together to get to know each other, discuss new ideas, and elect a graduate student chair-in-training. Uriel Menalled is our chair-elect who will be our official chair beginning January 2020 but is assisting and observing during this year. Also, Eric Jones and Maria Gannett will be helping plan next year's symposium and organizing social activities for graduate students.

Four of our outstanding graduate students were prepared to be part of the society symposium that afternoon, engaging in an Oxford-style debate on the resolution: "Seedbank management is a more effective farming system than critical period management in non-herbicide crop production". Eric Jones of North Carolina State University and Eugene Law

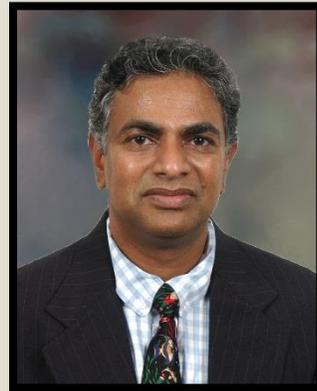
of Cornell University represented arguments in favor of weed seedbank management. Uriel Menalled of Cornell University and John Brewer of Virginia Tech represented the arguments against seed bank control and in favor of critical period of weed control. Ballots were collected Pre and Post debate from 71 society members and the argument for critical period of weed control was declared the winner. Even more important though, was the discussion led afterward by Pennsylvania State University debate coaches who analyzed the effectiveness of their arguments. We had a lot of great feedback from the students on this symposium that this session was informative and entertaining, additionally many were impressed with the graduate students debating. After Wednesday sessions were over, students gathered at a local brewery before joining the dessert social, a tradition we might like to continue. At the dessert social all society members were mixed for a team-building exercise led by Carroll Moseley to build the tallest tower out of marshmallows, spaghetti noodles, tape, and string.

Thursday we had the first graduate student organized symposium: Benefits and Challenges of Participatory Research. Due to the government shutdown at that time, two of our panelists were unable to make it. With great thanks to last minute volunteers of Lee Patrick and John Wallace, we managed to have a well-represented panel.

Plans are in progress for next year, but any additional feedback is still welcome. Some of the ideas that are taking shape are: topics around soft skills; symposiums that focus on self-health, team building, and inclusion; new ways to present information in lightning talks, poster slams, or working on elevator pitches; and reaching out to new industries and universities that would be interested to come to NEPPSC. I am excited for the involvement of the students and the enthusiasm of other board members who we have been working with to make these ideas possible.

This summer our annual weed contest is going to be part of the national Weed Olympics hosted in central Illinois! I hope to see you all there in the beautiful Prairie State July 24-25 to meet weed scientist from ALL around the country in their natural habitat: the field.

WSSA Representative



Rakesh Chandran

Dr. Anita Dille (Kansas State University) was elected as the Vice President of WSSA in 2019. Dr. James Kells (Michigan State University) will be the new NIFA Fellow for WSSA. Dr. Janice McFarland (Syngenta) was appointed as the Science Policy Committee Chair for WSSA.

A total of 474 papers including posters (184) and oral presentations (290) were presented at the New Orleans meeting, along with 6 symposia. The 2020 WSSA Annual Meeting will be held March 2-5 at the [Hyatt Regency Maui Resort and Spa, Hawaii](#). The 2021 meeting will be from Feb 15 to 19 in San Antonio and 2022 meeting will be in Canada with the site is being finalized.

The new Graduate Student representative for WSSA is Nicholas Robert Steppig (nsteppig@purdue.edu). The possibility of an elevator speech/pitch (short presentations) contest for graduate students was discussed for future WSSA meetings. Inputs

from regional society graduate students are sought for this approach. A directory of WSSA member graduate students along with their thesis/dissertation titles, advisor, is also being considered to be published by WSSA in the future. Currently, the Tri-Society has such a directory. A graduate student wellness breakfast was held at New Orleans, which was well attended. The graduate student travel program in 2018 was also considered to be successful.

The [2019 North American Weed Science Contest](#) will be held at Seymour, Illinois, on Thursday, July 25, 2019 at the BASF Midwest Research Farm, Midwest Ag Research Center of Valent, and Klein Farms, approximately 10 miles from Champaign, IL. Wednesday, July 24th will be for travel, volunteer meetings and preparation, and the orientation dinner. Click here for [participant](#) and [volunteer](#) hotel arrangements. Please contact Dawn Refsell for additional details (dawn.refsell@valent.com).

WSSA journals continue to bring in significant revenues for the society. Mechanisms for authors who want to publish code and raw data are being made possible. WSSA is starting to get ORCID identifier for each author. A searchable database for WSSA and Regional proceedings is being looked into. Michael Flessner is taking a lead on this effort along with Sarah Ward, WSSA Publications Director.

Lee Van Wychen, Science Policy Executive Director, was approved for two internships funded by WSSA to work on various projects. For 2019, students from PennState and Michigan State University were identified. Please contact Lee for additional details. Lee was also funded by the WSSA Board to produce the 'Weed-Bingo' game which is expected to be released by 2019. Jim Kells urged weed scientists to submit more proposals to various NIFA programs. Currently the success rate ranged from 20 to 65% for Weed Science proposals depending upon the program. Please contact Dr. Kells (kells@msu.edu) for NIFA programs related to Weed Science.

Director of Science Policy Report



Lee Van Wychen

How Dicamba's Visibility Could Change Ag Pesticide Use Forever

Editorial by Emily Unglesbee, DTN Staff Reporter

ROCKVILLE, Md. (DTN) -- Have you ever heard the phrase, "You can't unsee that?"

I found it rolling through my mind as I watched university scientists display their latest research on dicamba at the Weed Science Society of America's annual meeting in February.

These scientists are doing public studies examining exactly how dicamba behaves from the second it leaves a sprayer tip to the moment fine particles and vaporized gases drift out of field and are sucked into an air sampler stationed nearby. We're learning, down to the nanogram, just how much of a chemical leaves a field in the hours and days following an agricultural pesticide application.

And we can't unsee that.

For better or worse, the widespread use of dicamba is pushing an entire industry to scrutinize how herbicides behave, how they're regulated, who suffers when they don't stay put and how they affect trees, plants and even people.

For now, scientists are behind a lot of this scrutiny. The conclusions that are emerging on off-target dicamba movement are generally data-based and sound. But soon -- perhaps this

year, perhaps the next -- the American public may take the wheel. Production agriculture's chemical use could never be the same again.

DICAMBA WINDS OF CHANGE

Chemical drift is not a new problem in agriculture, but dicamba is especially visible. Minute amounts of dicamba can cause distinctive cupping, strapping and crinkling on a wide range of vegetation, from soybeans to tomatoes and oak trees.

It's easy to understand why some farmers are pushing for unrestricted access to dicamba herbicides. Herbicide-resistant weeds are a costly obstacle for many row crop operations, and as the Roundup Ready era demonstrated, herbicide-tolerant crops are a popular weed-control system.

But for many years, organic, non-GMO and specialty crop growers have paid the price for conventional agriculture's heavy dependence on chemicals. Victims of spray drift bear nearly all the responsibility to investigate the damage, prove who and what chemical was at fault and hunt down compensation, usually in the courts. Organic growers can actually lose the organic certification they rely on for a livelihood when a herbicide drifts into their fields. In contrast, pesticide applicators usually encounter milder repercussions. Even when found at fault by a state investigation, applicators often face citations or fines as low as \$250 in some cases.

But that could be changing.

After a harrowing year dealing with widespread illegal dicamba applications, the state legislature of Arkansas passed a bill increasing the fee for illegal pesticide use up to \$25,000 per violation in 2017. Other states are mulling similar changes.

In a rather remarkable state of affairs, state departments of agriculture have also turned to 24(c) special local needs labels to restrict dicamba use beyond the EPA's federal labels. This use of 24(c) is rare and, some argue, not entirely legal, since this particular section of pesticide law was crafted for states to add

additional uses of a chemical, not further police it. The situation speaks to a dangerously diminished federal regulatory agency. If fellow state regulators don't trust the EPA to fully protect the environment, why should the public?

EPA is now considering ending states' use of 24(c) to restrict pesticides, raising another concern: If states could no longer legally restrict dicamba as needed for their individual environmental concerns, how many would make the difficult decision to ban the chemical altogether?

Remember that those 24(c) state restrictions are in addition to some of the most complex pesticide labels the industry has ever seen. The new dicamba labels are filled with vague language and dozens of use restrictions that render legal use of the product nearly impossible. Indiana weed scientists estimated that applicators had only a handful of days in the entire month of June to apply these formulations legally last year -- and that was before the latest round of label restrictions.

Why write labels that set applicators up to fail? Part of the problem is that spraying dicamba is inherently risky, and lawyers don't like risk. The new dicamba labels essentially shift all legal liability from the manufacturers of these chemicals -- and the agency who registered them -- to the applicator. Now that this precedent is set, farmers and applicators should brace themselves for many chemical jugs of the future to bear this type of complex pesticide label.

THE WAR AGAINST AG CHEMICALS JUST GOT EASIER

Ultimately, dicamba's visibility may soon move this issue out of agriculture and regulators' domain, and into the public's. In August of 2018, I toured the small town of Waverly, Nebraska, with members of the Nebraska Forest Service. In a beautiful little recreation center called Wayne Park, tucked in among residential streets, nearly every tree we walked past bore the same distinctive signs -- cupped, crinkled leaves and shrunken canopies. At nearby tree nurseries, we walked row after row of dicamba-damaged

redbuds, Kentucky coffee trees and a wide range of oak trees.

Nebraska Forest Service landscape specialist Justin Evertson has been noticing herbicide injury to the state's trees for years, especially in the spring. But only now that dicamba has increased the visibility of this problem does he have funding available to study its long-term effects. For the next two years, led by South Dakota State University, Nebraska will join five other Midwestern states to conduct surveys of herbicide injury to trees in rural America.

Their findings will be public. And we won't be able to unsee them.

Agrichemical companies, regulators and farmers have perhaps one more year, maybe two, to take ownership and responsibility for off-target dicamba movement. After that, they may have to accept the consequences of an unsympathetic public calling the shots on this chemical's use.

Consider the recent public outcry over minute glyphosate residues found in our cereal and booze. The American consumer has shown little appetite for ag chemical exposure, even miniscule amounts of relatively safe compounds. Air sampler data showing dicamba particles or vapors lingering in the air well outside agricultural fields for hours or even days will not be well received in the kitchens and playgrounds of this country.

The EPA conducted its usual human health risk assessments on the new dicamba formulations before registering them in 2016. (It declined to redo them when it reregistered the products in 2018.) But the agency's 2016 analysis relied on the assumption that the new formulations had very little volatility, so vaporized dicamba would not be a significant source of exposure for most people. University research on dicamba volatility is now calling that assumption into question. With 60 million acres of dicamba-tolerant crops predicted for 2019, University of Arkansas weed scientist Jason Norsworthy is warning of "atmospheric loading" of dicamba in the summer months in areas of heavy dicamba use.



A redbud tree leaf shows distinctive dicamba exposure symptoms at a nursery in eastern Nebraska, where herbicide injury has been more visible than usual in the past few years. Redbuds are among the most sensitive of tree species to off-target dicamba movement. (DTN photo by Emily Unglesbee)

Questions about human health and safety are already arising. At DTN, we have fielded multiple calls from rural citizens and farmers, who are wondering and worrying how repeated exposure to vaporized dicamba affects them and their families.

No one has answers for them just yet. But they may soon -- and it won't necessarily be weed scientists and qualified toxicologists doling them out.

Agriculture is an industry that has thrived and improved for decades by following new scientific information, from genetically modified crops to self-steering tractors. But sometimes science reveals things the industry doesn't want to know -- such as how a chemical moves after it's applied and where it goes.

Let's not unsee any of this. Let's open our eyes wide, ask the difficult questions and follow the science where it leads us.

Emily Unglesbee can be reached at Emily.unglesbee@dtn.com
Follow her on Twitter @Emily_Unglesbee
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Meetings of the National and Regional Weed Science Societies

Jul. 14 - 17, 2019 Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS), San Diego, CA www.apms.org

Dec. 10 - 13, 2019 North Central Weed Science Society (NCWSS), Columbus, OH www.ncwss.org

Jan. 6 - 9, 2020 Northeastern Weed Science Society (NEWSS), Philadelphia, PA www.newss.org

Jan. 26 - 30, 2020 Southern Weed Science Society (SWSS), Biloxi, MS www.swss.ws

Feb. 2 - 5, 2020 Joint Weed Science Society of America (WSSA)/Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS), Maui, HI www.wsweedscience.org

same tab.

Regarding state pesticide credits we had a total of 50 awarded to individuals from Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, which was down from 54 in 2018. We will try and include, North Carolina, South Carolina, New York and New Jersey in the 2020 annual meeting for pesticide credits. If you have questions, concerns or ideas about the NEWSS website please E-mail me at mcutull@clemsun.edu.

I hope to see everyone in Seymour Illinois at the weed contest this summer.

Research and Education Report



Matthew Cutelle

I am excited about the opportunity to serve the Northeastern Weed Science Society as the newest chair of research and education. There are some new items on the NEWSS website that I would like to highlight.

Dr. Tim Pastoor's seminar on glyphosate is now available on the website by clicking on the meeting link, selecting Dr. Pastoor NEWSS-Glyphosate on the tab. Glyphosate has been in the headlines lately, and this presentation articulates the findings of various epidemiological and toxicological studies on the herbicide. Additionally, Dr. Glenn's summary of the role of the state department of agriculture can be found on the

NEPPSC/NEWSS Meeting 2019



Hunt Valley, MD

2018-2019 President, Dan Kunkel (on left), opens the NEPPSC/NEWSS meeting at the start of the General Session and delivers his address.



CEO of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, Dr. Barbara Glenn (at podium) speaks to the group during the General Session.



NEWSS Symposium



The 2019 NEWSS Symposium was entitled “The Art and Science of Science Communication,” and was presented in two parts. The first part, an Oxford-style debate, consisted of a pre-debate audience vote of yes or no on the resolution, “Weed Seed Bank Management is More Effective than Critical Period Management in Non-Herbicide Production Systems”. The participating students (L to R: Uriel Menalled [Cornell], John Brewer [Virginia Tech], Eric Jones [NCSU], and Eugene Law [Cornell]) gave opening statements, took questions from the audience and made closing remarks. The debate concluded with a vote from the audience, whichever team that changed their vote more positively was deemed the winner. Following the debate, Margaret Michels, Assistant Head and Teaching Professor, and Dustin Greenwalt, Assistant Teaching Professor, both of the Department of communication Arts and Sciences and Penn State analyzed how well the scientific points from each debater was presented.



NEWSS Awards Ceremony

NEWSS Fellow Award – Dr. Antonio DiTommaso

Toni DiTommaso (right) was recognized as a fellow by Past-President, Randy Prostak (left).



NEWSS Award of Merit - Dr. Matthew Mahoney



Matthew Mahoney (right) is presented her award by Past-President Randy Prostak (always on left).

NEWSS Outstanding Researcher Award - Dr. Michael Flessner



Michael Flessner (right), accepts his award from Randy Prostak.

NEWSS Outstanding Educator Award – Dr. Hillary Sandler

Hillary Sandler (right) accepts her award from Past President, Randy Prostak (left).



Robert D. Sweet Outstanding Graduate Student Award – Shawn Beam (Ph.D.)

Shawn Beam (right) accepts his award for the Robert D. Sweet Outstanding Ph.D. Graduate Student from Past-President, Randy Prostak (left).



Robert D. Sweet Outstanding Graduate Student Award – Kara Pittman (M.S.)



Kara Pittman (right) accepts her award for the Robert D. Sweet Outstanding M.S. Graduate Student from Past-President, Randy Prostak (left).

M. Gary Schnappinger Service Recognition Award – Dr. Erin Hitchner

Erin Hitchner (right) accepts her award from Past-President, Randy Prostak (left).



NEWSS Student Oral Paper Contest

1st Place: Eric Jones

Determining Sorgoleone Efficacy on Select Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* spp.) Cultivars and Weed Species. EA Jones, M Bansel, WJ Everman, JT Sanders, DJ Contreras, and MA Granadino. North Carolina State University, Raleigh NC

2nd Place: Katy Deihl

Annual Bluegrass Weevil (*Listronotus maculicollis*) and Paclobutrazol for Annual Bluegrass (*Poa annua*) Control in Fairways. K Deihl, M Elmore, A Koppenhofer, J Murphy, DP Tuck and O Kostromytska. Rutgers University, New Brunswick NJ

Honorable Mention: Danielle Lewis

Interaction of Organic Herbicides and Cover Crops on Weed Suppression and Insect Dynamics in No Till Systems. DG Lewis, MA Cutulle, R Schmidt-Jeffris, C Blubaugh, T Cambell, and J Coffey. Clemson University, Clemson SC

NEWSS Student Poster Contest

1st Place: John Brewer

Bulbous Bluegrass: A weed of Ornamental Turf. J Brewer and SD Askew. Virginia Tech, Blacksburg VA

2nd Place: Theresa Reinhardt Piskáčková

Modeling Palmer Amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*) Emergence Using Chronological, Thermal, and Hydro-thermal Time. TA Reinhardt Piskáčková, C Reburg-Horton, RJ Richardson, KM Jennings, and RG Leon. North Carolina State University, Raleigh NC

Honorable Mention: Diego Contreras

Critical Period of Weed Control for Ryegrass in Wheat. DJ Contreras and WJ Everman. North Carolina State University, Raleigh NC

Honorable Mention: Danielle Lewis

Evaluation of Weed Size and Water Carrier pH on Suppress Herbicide Efficacy. DG Lewis, MA Cutulle, T Campbell, and D Jeffris. Clemson University, Clemson SC

Matthew Cutelle and Matt Elmore presented awards to the winners of the student contests. Students that were awarded demonstrated well developed skills in the realms of public speaking, research objectives/methods, as well as confidence and enthusiasm in their research.

NEWSS Photo Contest

1st Place: Thierry Besançon

Crimson Clover

2nd Place: Dwight Lingenfelter

Musk Thistle

Awards for photographs were presented by Shawn Askew. Photographs were judged based on visual interest and technique.

Many apologies on the lack of award photographs, but rest assured, the Society now has a new, trustworthy camera!

NEPPSC Social Events

Who can build the tallest tower?
Carroll's Dessert Social Challenge

