

NEWSletter

Northeastern Weed Science Society Summer 2018

Comments from the President



Carroll Moseley

I hope you took time this summer to stop and reflect on the things that provide you some enjoyment!! In addition, I hope Mother Nature has been kind to those conducting research during this unpredictable season. As I view the most recent Drought Monitor, it looks like northern New York and most of Vermont are dealing with drought. In the southern part of our territory (Virginia and North Carolina), we have been having daily storms over the past 4 weeks and pretty wet overall conditions.

The 2018 Collegiate Weed Contest was held on July 24 in Pine Level, NC. Cloud cover (with only a small amount of rain) kept the high around 84° that day, 5° below the historical average!! Thanks to Caren Schmidt and the BASF crew, the contest went off without a hitch! Having the tents available – especially for

Important Dates

September 30, 2018: Title submission deadline

January 4, 2019: Abstract submission deadline

January 6, 2018: Deadline for presentation upload

January 8-10, 2018: NEPPSC Meeting at Delta Hotels Baltimore Hunt Valley, 245 Shawan Road, Hunt Valley, MD

those working the field portion of the contest – was especially appreciated. If you have hosted a contest, you know what an undertaking this is, and it was certainly appreciated by the Society! Great prep, great contest, and awesome venue afterwards. The 2019 Weed Olympics will be held on Thursday, July 25th in Seymour, IL. Please prepare accordingly!!

Preparations for the 73rd Northeastern Weed Science Society Annual Meeting (NEWSS) and 4th annual Northeast Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference (NEPPSC) on January 7-10, 2019 are progressing. We will continue the tradition of meeting with 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). The program committee continues to work on putting together a great meeting. Art Gover is working on the 2020 location for our meeting and we will

have a contract signed in the next few months. Our meeting survey pointed us back to Philadelphia for 2020. More to come on that at a later date.

I hope to see a large crowd at our 2019 meeting in Baltimore. Look for more information about the program as we get closer to the meeting!

President-Elect's Report



Dan Kunkel

The 2018 NEWSS Collegiate Weed Science Contest was a great success. Much thanks to the great work by our friends and colleagues at BASF Corporation, and the many other volunteers. In total, there were 2 graduate individuals and 22 teams, with 9 being undergraduate, 13 graduate teams, and a total 87 of contestants. The total number of volunteers was almost 70. There will be a National Weed Olympics next year, currently scheduled for July 25, 2019 near Champaign, IL.

Program planning has been underway for the 2019 Northeast Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference (NEPPSC) meeting at the Delta Hotels Baltimore Hunt Valley, 245 Shawan Road, Hunt Valley, Maryland. I am looking forward to seeing some great papers and posters at the upcoming annual meeting. Important deadlines include:

Title Submission: September 30, 2018

Abstract Submission: January 4, 2019

Presentation Upload: Sunday, January 6, 2019

Title submissions made after the deadline may be delegated to the poster session or cancelled all together, if there is no place in the program. Title and abstract submissions will be made through

<http://wssaabstracts.com/user/home.php?m=login> . SUBMIT TITLES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

Hotel Reservation Deadline is Friday, December 7, 2018 (NOON!! A week earlier from previous years). The meeting will begin with committee meetings etc on Monday, January 7, 2019 and will conclude on January 10, 2019 (with a few adjacent meetings rolling into Friday, January 11). Industry and Extension Roundtable discussions are planned for Tuesday afternoon, followed by the NEPPSC Opening Ceremony and Social Mixer. Art Gover and Theresa Piskackova have been working hard on the 2019 symposiums; please see their sections for additional information and progress. We will have the traditional student paper and poster contests. We have also been working on a student quiz bowl and another event to get students together. We are looking forward to hosting everyone in Baltimore. Please be ready to provide us information on your research as we get together in January 2019. If you have questions or other considerations of the program, please contact me at daniel.kunkel@rutgers.edu – I look forward to seeing everyone in January!

Vice President's Report



Art Gover

As Vice President, the Manual of Operating Procedures tasks me with things I can't break. Much. By design, if I falter, more-capable people surround me and clean the mess. Let's see how they're doing.

Chronologically. The bulk of the 2019 program, as always, will be the papers and posters you share. Plan on sharing a lot. I will be personally nagging the Section Chairs to nag you. Theresa Piskackova is working with our graduate students to conduct a separate symposium on Participatory Research, as well as create more occasions to share their work with each other and the society at large. The general symposium is still in the development stage, though believe it or not, much closer to an actual title than when I last wrote words like this in April.

As I mentioned in the April newsletter, if you would like to develop programming in addition to the submitted paper Sections, please let Dan Kunkel and I know so that we can block time and space for you. Well, he can. I'll help.

We are close to signing a contract with the 2020 conference venue. Bill Torres and the hotel have worked out the details and are patiently waiting on the Vice President to review and sign. We will be meeting January 6-9, in Philadelphia, and returning to our pre-2016 template of arrive Monday, get to it Tuesday morning and part ways by lunch on Thursday. Start thinking ahead to 2020 and locations.

Along with our partners in scientific fellowship, the NE-ASHS and the Regional Tri-Societies, we are continuing to reach out to some of our other partner societies from the 2016 NEPPSC and the Northeastern IPM Center to reconvene a similar gathering. Current target is 2022.

The Endowment Committee will be convening this month to revise and finalize the existing bylaws that guide their efforts, then studying the ways of other societies so we can turn our attention towards creating established fundraising processes, rather our current model of relying on the random kindness of very generous supporters.

Past President's Report



Randy Probst

I hope this newsletter finds you having a productive and rewarding research and field season in weed science while allowing for a bit summer R & R! Would like to express my sincere appreciation to the NEWSS memberships for all of your support during the past two years as I served as president-elect and president. We have always been, and will continue to be, a society of people willing to step forward and assist when needed. I know that you, as am I, are proud of our society and the work it does. Thank you very much!!!

One of the past-president responsibilities is to serve as chair of the awards committee. This is an opportunity for you and

other membership to come together and recognize NEWSS members for their contributions to our society and the discipline of weed science. Please consider nominating a colleague for an NEWSS award.

The NEWSS awards are "Award of Merit", "Fellow Award", "Outstanding Educator Award", "Outstanding Researcher Award", "Robert D. Sweet-Outstanding Graduate Students Award" and the "M. Garry Schnappinger-Service Recognition Award". Award criteria are available in the NEWSS MOP on pages 9-11. Nominations are submitted using the nomination (Addendum 6) on the NEWSS website. Nominations are due September 20, 2018. Please email me (rprostak@umass.edu) and let me know, as soon as possible, if you are going to be submitting a nomination.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and I look forward to seeing you in Maryland in January.

Treasurer's Report



Kurt Vollmer

<i>NEWSS Financial Report as of July 31, 2018</i>	
Savings Balance	\$65,416.37
Checking Balance	\$31,855.13
Endowment Fund	\$31,251.16
Total Net Assets	\$128,522.66

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**



Executive Committee



NEWSS Board 2018

Front Row (L to R): Randy Prostak, Kurt Vollmer, Stacey Pickard, Carroll Moseley, Art Gover

Back Row (L to R): Rakesh Chandran, Quintin Johnson, Theresa Reinhardt Piskáčková, Michael Flessner, Katelyn Venner

Not Pictured: Dan Kunkel, Rob Richardson, Wes Everman, Lee VanWychen, Thierry Besancon

Executive Committee, Chairs and

Representatives

Carroll Moseley	President
Dan Kunkel	President-Elect
Art Gover	Vice-President
Randy Prostak	Past President
Kurt Vollmer	Treasurer
Thierry Besancon	Membership Chair
Michael Flessner	Editor
Katelyn Venner	Public Relations Rep.
Wes Everman	Sustaining Membership
Quentin Johnson	Research & Education
Theresa Piskackova	Graduate Student Rep.
Rakesh Chandran	WSSA Representative
Dan Kunkel	CAST Representative
Lee Van Wychen	Science Policy Dir.



NEWSS Executive Committee 2018

Officers

Carroll Moseley PRESIDENT

Syngenta

Ph. (336) 253-3194

carroll.moseley@syngenta.com

Dan Kunkel PRESIDENT-ELECT

IR-4 – Rutgers University

Ph. (732) 932-9575 x 4616

daniel.kunkel@rutgers.edu

Art Gover VICE PRESIDENT

Penn State University

Ph. (814) 863-9904

aeg2@psu.edu

Kurt Vollmer TREASURER

University of Delaware

Ph. (302) 856-7303

kvollmer@udel.edu

Randy Prostak PAST PRESIDENT

University of Massachusetts

Ph. (413) 577-1738

rprostak@umext.umass.edu

Committee Chairs and Representatives

Rob Richardson CAST REPRESENTATIVE

North Carolina State University

Ph. (919) 771-9068

rob_richardson@ncsu.edu

Michael Flessner EDITOR

Virginia Tech

Ph. (540) 315-2954

flessner@vt.edu

Theresa Reinhardt Piskáčková GRAD STUDENT REP

North Carolina State University

Ph. (618) 580-6466

tareinha@ncsu.edu

Thierry Besancon MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Rutgers University

Ph. (609) 726-1590 x 4442

thierry.besancon@rutgers.edu

Katelyn Venner PUBLIC RELATIONS REP

BASF

Ph. (919) 659-3436

katelyn.venner@basf.com

Quintin Johnson RESEARCH & EDUCATION

University of Delaware

Ph. (302) 856-2585 x 513

quintin@udel.edu

Wesley Everman SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP

North Carolina State University

Ph. (919) 518-0488

wes_everman@ncsu.edu

Rakesh Chandran WSSA REPRESENTATIVE

West Virginia University

Ph. (304) 376-4514

rschandran@mail.wvu.edu

Lee Van Wychen SCIENCE POLICY DIRECTOR

Weed Science Society of America

Ph. (207) 746-4686

Lee.VanWychen@wssa.net

Committee Members

Listed below are the Chairs and Chair-Elects for the various sections in 2018.

2018 NEWSS Annual Meeting

Dan Kunkel – Program Chair

Poster Session:

Katelyn Venner – Chair

Student Oral Papers:

Shawn Askew - Chair

Agronomy:

Larissa Smith – Chair

Turfgrass and Ornamentals:

Matt Elmore – Chair

Jatinder Aulakh – Chair-Elect

Vegetables and Fruit:

Charlie Cahoon – Chair

Ramon Arancibia – Chair-elect

Vegetation Management and Restoration:

Lane Heimer – Chair

Art Gover – Chair-elect

Program Committees for the 2018

NEWSS Meeting

Program Committee

Dan Kunkel	President-Elect
Art Gover	Vice President

Site Selection Committee for 2020

Art Gover	Vice-President
Dan Kunkel	President-Elect
Kurt Vollmer	Treasurer

Awards Committee

Randy Prostak	Chair
Shawn Askew	
Rakesh Chandran	
Greg Armel	
Antonio DiTommaso	

Nomination Committee

Randy Prostak	Past President
Jeff Derr	Appointed by President
Thierry Bensacon	Selected at business mtg.
Sudeep Mathew	Selected at business mtg.
Shawn Askew	Selected at business mtg.

Resolutions Committee

Jerry Baron	Chair, Appointed by Pres
Matt Cuttelle	Appointed by President
Matthew Elmore	Appointed by President

Collegiate Weed Contest Committee

Dan Kunkel	President-Elect
Carroll Moseley	President
Katelyn Venner	Current Host
Caren Schmidt	Current Host
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	

Archives Committee

Dan Kunkel	Chair
Randy Prostak	Past-President

Photo Award Committee

Hillary Sandler	Chair
Erin Hitchner	
Rakesh Chandran	
Art Gover	
Shawn Askew	

Student Paper Awards Committee

Randy Prostak	Past President
Shawn Askew	
Rakesh Chandran	
Greg Armel	
Dwight Lingenfelter	

Poster Award Committee

Matt Elmore	Chair
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Weed Science Field Days Committee

Quintin Johnson Appointed by Pres-Elect

Past President's Committee

Randy Probstak Past President
Shawn Askew
Rakesh Chandran

Herbicide Resistance Plant Committee

Mark VanGessel Chair
Dan Kunkel
Dave Mayonado

Endowment Committee

Art Gover Chair
Renee Keese Appointed by President
Kurt Vollmer Treasurer
VACANT Membership Chair
Randy Probstak Past-President
Shawn Askew Past President
Rakesh Chandran Past President
Mark VanGessel Volunteer
Jeff Derr Volunteer
Hilary Sandler Volunteer

Editor's Report



Michael Flessner

The 2017 NEPPSC and NEWSS Proceedings are complete and have been posted the NEWSS Website (<https://www.newss.org/publications/>).

Dates for the 2019 NEPPSC meeting title and abstract submission have been set: Title and abstract submission opens: September 1, 2018.

Title submission deadline: September 30, 2018.

Abstract submission deadline: January 4, 2019.

When submitting titles and abstracts, please follow the instructions below.

SUBMITTING TITLES AND ABSTRACTS

We will again be using <http://wssaabstracts.com> for title and abstract submissions for our 2018 Annual Meeting. Deadlines and instructions are below.

DEADLINES: Titles are due on September 30th, 2018. Abstracts are due January 4th, 2019. These deadlines are FIRM. *If an abstract is not entered by the end of the annual meeting, the title will not be included in the meeting's proceedings.*

LOG-IN. Go to <http://wssaabstracts.com>. If you submitted a presentation last year, your user

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 (Winter 2018).

login and password have been carried forward. Enter your login (usually your email address) and password and then click 'login'. If you have forgotten your password, click 'Reset Password' and follow the instructions. Be sure your email program/server is able to receive emails from admin@wssaabstracts.com and it is not blocked as junk email. If you are a new user, click 'Setup Account' and follow the instructions.

SUBMIT TITLE (September 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018). Once logged in using the instructions above, click 'Join a Conference'. You should then see a drop-down list appear at the bottom of the screen. Select "2019 Northeastern Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference" and click 'Add'. Now click the green 'Enter' button that will appear next to "2018 Northeastern Plant, Pest, and Soils Conference". Click 'My Titles and Abstracts' and then 'Add Title/Abstract'. Enter title using WSSA approved common names for crops and weeds (hover cursor over green question mark for formatting hints). Choose Poster or Oral presentation. If an Oral presentation, select your preferences for paper section (e.g. Agronomy, Ornamentals, Biology and Ecology, etc.).

Limit titles to 150 characters, including spaces. Include weed scientific names, italicized, in parentheses, without botanical authority. Format titles based on capitalization of the first word in all proper nouns (use previous two programs as a guide).

Students wishing to compete in the oral competition need to select Student Presentations as your 1st Section choice. Students that are presenting papers but do NOT wish to be in the competition should NOT choose Student Presentations section but other appropriate sections. If competing in either the Oral or Poster student competition, choose 'yes' paper is to be judged.

All Authors from the previous year have been carried forward. Add the applicable authors from the drop-down list or click 'new author' to enter information for any author not already listed. Select the blue box next to the author that will be presenting the paper and use

the green arrows to adjust the order the authors are listed if needed.

Once you have double-checked your information, click 'Save'. The submitter and presenter should both receive a confirmation email that your title has been received. You will be able to log back in to edit, add, or delete any title, section, or author information until September 30, 2018. After that time, contact Michael Flessner (flessner@vt.edu) and Dan Kunkel (daniel.kunkel@rutgers.edu) to make changes.

SUBMIT ABSTRACT (September 1, 2018 to January 4, 2019). Prior to submission, refer to *Instructions for Authors* at <http://neppsc.org/submissions/>. Login to wssaabstracts.com using instructions above. Click 'My Titles and Abstracts' and select 'Edit' next to the desired title. Click 'Add Key Words' and choose the appropriate selections from the drop-down lists. NOTE: All key words contained in your Title should be actively selected as key words. They will NOT automatically appear in the index if not selected here. If a key word is not found in the prepopulated lists, you can enter additional terms in the User Defined category. Abstract text can be entered directly into the text window or copied from another program. DO NOT reenter any title or author information into the text window. Please use Arial font size 12 if copying abstract from another program. This will help ensure that no unintended changes in content or clarity occur when abstracts are converted to Arial font size 12 for the Proceedings. The proceedings are online only - not printed. However, abstracts should not exceed one page. To ensure your abstract is one page, the character count (visible at the bottom of the 'Abstract Text' window on the submission page) should not exceed 3200. If you do not intend to publish your data elsewhere, you may include a table on a second page.

Once you thoroughly review all information and abstract text and any corrections have been made, click 'Save'. Edits can be made until **January 11, 2019** when the Abstract submission site will be closed. After that

time, contact Michael Flessner (flessner@vt.edu). These deadlines are FIRM. *If an abstract is not entered by January 11, 2019, the title will not be included in the meeting's proceedings.*

QUESTIONS: Please send an email to both Michael Flessner (flessner@vt.edu) and Dan Kunkel (daniel.kunkel@rutgers.edu).

of all the participants. Once again, I have gotten great feedback from the participating students which will be used to improve the weed contest in the future. Thanks again to all the coaches, students, and volunteers that make this mid-summer contest a valuable learning experience and a memorable networking event!

Looking forward to a great year!

Graduate Student Update



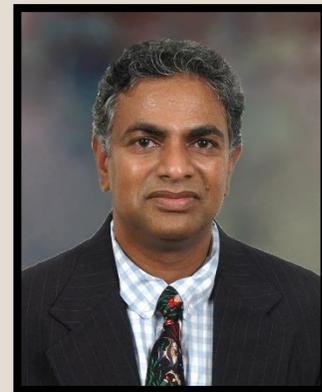
Theresa Piskackova

Fellow Graduate Students,

I hope everyone's summer field data is going well and wrapping up. Time to analyze and submit titles for the annual meeting in January! Title submission opens September 1-30 but early registration will be open until December. I am excited to be working with Alex Mayberry and Eugene Law on our first NEWSS graduate student symposium on Participatory Research. Additionally, we are working on a new mixer event in addition to the Quiz Bowl. Mark your calendars of the deadlines and check the website often for updates, we will be posting some resources soon.

This year's weed contest was hosted by BASF in Pine Level, NC. Students adjusted to the weather-induced altered schedule easily due to the fast action of our host and amiable attitudes

WSSA Representative



Rakesh Chandran

The Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) Board of Directors met in New Orleans for its summer meeting on June 25th and 26th, 2018. The meeting was held at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, venue for the 2019 WSSA Annual Meeting. The following paragraphs highlights the discussions

New Orleans Meeting. The 59th Annual Meeting of the Weed Science Society of America will be held from February 11-16, 2019 at the Sheraton New Orleans, New Orleans, LA. Dr. Eric Webster from LSU is chairing the Local Arrangement Committee. The hotel facility is centrally located with excellent amenities and a magnificent view of the crescent city (bend on the river). Tours to sites of interest such as the aquarium, dock, WW2 museum etc. are being planned. Symposia proposals were discussed

and are being finalized. Potential topics include: Herbicide Banning - An International Forum, Weather and Off-Target Movement, Effects of Urbanization, Weed Seeds in Commodity Exports, Resistance in Turf Weeds, IPM to Manage Resistance, etc.

NIFA Fellow for WSSA. Dr. Don Shilling the current NIFA Fellow of WSSA is stepping down from his current position. Dr. Jim Kells from Michigan State University was selected as the next NIFA Fellow by the search committee. Dr. Kells will be transitioning into the new position over the course of the next several months. NIFA encourages better involvement with WSSA and will work closely to identify areas to improve research (to develop RFA's, dedicated website for Weed Science etc.). A National Program Leader for Weed Science is of interest to WSSA.

WSSA Research Workshop. WSSA conducted a workshop with invited attendees in April to discuss the state of research related to dicamba and similar traits. A report was finalized and a press-release based on the report was since released. It was debated whether WSSA should take a position on this complex issue. The supporting science is still evolving although there are concerns from different group regarding its adverse effects. It was felt that it needs to be tackled by multidisciplinary teams with extensive additional research needed to shed light on this topic. The board was unresolved about taking a formal position as a result.

EPA Liaison Report. A tour for EPA officials was organized by Dr. Greg Kruger, WSSA's EPA Liaison in the upper Midwest (Nebraska, Western Iowa) in late summer. The EPA officials visited with producers and various groups during this tour. Off target injury was one of the main emphasis of this tour.

Membership for 2018. There are 715 regular members for WSSA currently, along with 124 student members. These numbers fell from

724 and 149, respectively, from 2017. There are 228 Emeritus members, and 12 Honorary members (lifetime). There are 17 sustaining members currently. It was by the board that although we are on a downward trend lately it was not alarming situation, historically.

The Graduate Student Organization of WSSA discussed plans for Annual Meeting. Social events were always considered to be effective. Wednesday Open Night, Short/Elevator speech preparation, Take a Student for Dinner, GSO Enrichment/Endowment Funds, World of Weeds etc. were brought by Ms. Jess Bunchek, GSO Representative. The Summer Travel Program supported by WSSA has been very effective. For 2018, there were 18 applications (1 from NEWSS) with 5 winners (none from NEWSS). Better participation is encouraged from NEWSS. The board also encouraged better regional representation among the winners.

Journalism Award. A new journalism award was proposed by Lee Van Wychen for outstanding contributions from popular press. The Board approved this award. Nominations will be sought this year.

WSSA Publications. BioOne is the main client for WSSA Journals. In 2017, a revenue of \$215,150 was generated (\$207,969 by summer of 2018). Currently WSSA uses a hybrid approach. An Open Access format is being explored. There was a discussion of APMS journal to merge with IPSM which will also be explored. Dr. Sarah Ward's term will end 2020 as Director of Publications.

Director of Science Policy. The Board decided to change the title of the Director of Science Policy to the Executive Director of Science Policy and to provide a salary raise. It was felt as a necessary action based on a long period of no salary raises or promotion for this position. The Board felt that Lee Van Wychen is carrying out a commendable to job with this position.

Regional Society Membership Fees.

Adjustments were made to the regional society membership annual dues based on individual society membership numbers. As a result, NEWSS dues were reduced to \$2,100 (from \$2,500). Discussions are underway whether added costs to meet the salary raise for Executive Director of Science Policy should be shared by regional societies. If so, it would add \$300 to NEWSS dues to WSSA.

Switching from WSSA Composite Weed List to Plants.gov list. The WSSA Board voted to follow the Plants.gov (usda.plants.gov) database for all its publications. The justification for doing so was due to lack of revisions and maintenance in the WSSA Composite Weed List as opposed to the latter which is kept current based on changes in taxonomic nomenclature. It was questioned as to how this would affect weed names followed by students and practitioners for Annual Weed Contests and other publications/dissemination outlets. This is an ongoing discussion and inputs from regional society board/membership are being sought.

Future Meeting Sites. Following Hawaii meeting in 2020, WSSA is considering Florida/San Antonio for 2021, followed by Canada in 2022. A joint-meeting with NEWSS is being explored for 2023.

Executive Director of Science Policy Report



Lee Van Wychen

WSSA Research Workshop for Managing Dicamba Off-Target Movement: Final Report

The full report, press release and workshop presentations are available at:

<http://wssa.net/wssa/technology-stewardship/dicamba-off-target-movement/>

Executive Summary: The Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) sponsored a research workshop on off-target movement of dicamba on April 16 -17, 2018 in Arlington, VA. WSSA invited a broad group of subject experts including weed scientists, state and federal regulators, application technology specialists, and representatives of dicamba registrants to discuss technical issues related to the off-target movement of dicamba observed and reported in 2016 and 2017, and to identify potential research objectives. The research workshop agenda was divided into four topic areas: I) Non-target impacts; II) Volatility; III) Application; and IV) Formulation. Within each topic area, presentations were made to provide an overview and to identify information that was not known and data gaps to be addressed going forward. Following the presentations, discussion was facilitated among participants to identify areas of concern and research questions that were subsequently ranked in order of importance. Following this compilation, suggested action items within each

topic area were identified and included the following:

- Compile a comprehensive account of areas planted in dicamba-resistant crop cultivars by county, and quantities of all formulations of dicamba sold at minimum by state.
- Relate reported damage complaints to terrain and weather conditions.
- Improve deficiencies with herbicide labels to address: 1) lack of uniformity in label organization; 2) difficulty in finding and interpreting use instructions; 3) names of dicamba sensitive crops, landscape and native plants, and trees; 4) “neighboring distance” for sensitive crops; 5) descriptions of conditions leading to atmospheric inversions to protect applicators and neighbors.
- Coordinate applicator training such that all trainers present the same detailed message.
- Perform research to better characterize the potential volatility of new herbicide formulations.
- Perform research to better determine: 1) dose vs. damage relationships for key crops; 2) how to protect growers, property owners, and the public from off-target movement; and 3) modes of dicamba movement that are not currently accounted for.

There was sentiment from the group that the widespread non-target movement of dicamba was egregious and resulted in damage to crops, private properties, and native vegetation. Although amelioration of this situation was partly outside of research, attribution of liability should be addressed by appropriate authorities, particularly for horticultural growers who are suffering heavy financial losses. More funding for public research is needed. Concern was expressed that USDA-ARS and USDA-NIFA were not funding the type of research needed to manage off-target pesticide movement.

After a bipartisan budget agreement this spring that set spending limits for FY 2018 and FY 2019 above the sequestration caps Congress self-imposed in 2013, both the House and Senate have passed all 12 of their spending bills out of committee before the August recess. A number of those appropriations bills have also cleared the House and Senate floor, including the funding bill for Interior and Environment, which marked the first time since FY 2010 that the Senate debated and approved an Interior and Environment spending bill without considering it as a part of a year-end omnibus spending package.

In the House ag appropriations bill, USDA agricultural research programs (ARS, NIFA, ERS and NASS) are funded at \$3.101 billion – \$72 million above FY 2018. USDA-ARS is slated for a \$56 million and \$98 million increase above FY 2018 in the House and Senate, respectively. In addition, House and Senate Appropriators both rejected the White House proposal to close 20 ARS research facilities. AFRI is marked up \$15 million in the House and \$5 million in the Senate, compared to FY 2018. Both the Hatch Act (Experiment Stations) and Smith-Lever 3b & c (Extension) capacity funds received a \$15 million increase in the House version of the ag appropriations bill, which is the first time since FY 2013 those funding lines were increased. Unfortunately, the Senate held those funding lines the same as FY 2018. One other disappointment was that neither the House nor Senate provided an increase for the IR-4 Project funding, which has been stuck at \$11.9 million since at least 2010.

House and Senate on Track with FY 2019 Appropriations

**Selected Discretionary Appropriations
Accounts**

Program	2016 Final	2017 Final	2018 Final	FY 2019 House	FY 2019 Senate
	----- Millions of Dollars -----				
USDA- NIFA	1326	1363	1407	1447	1423
Hatch Act (Exp. Stations)	244	244	244	259	244
Smith- Lever 3(b) & AFRI competitive grants	300	300	300	315	300
IR-4	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9
Crop Protection & Pest	17.2	20	20	20	20
USDA- ARS	1143	1170	1203	1259	1301
USDA- ERS	85	87	87	87	87
USDA- NASS	168	171	192	174	175
USDA- APHIS	894	946	982	998	1000
USDA- NRCS	850	864	874	890	879

Farm Bill Still Moving Forward

The House passed their version of the Farm Bill on June 21 by a vote of 213-211, after voting it down on their first attempt on May 18. On June 27, the full Senate was able to advance its version of a Farm Bill on a strong bipartisan vote of 86-11 on their first attempt. In July, the House appointed 47 members and the Senate appointed 9 members to the Farm Bill Conference Committee. The Chairs and Ranking Members of both the House and Senate Ag Committees have met to lay the groundwork for the Conference Committee. They have expressed optimism that they will have a bill ready for action prior to the expiration of the current Farm Bill on September 30.

There are many good weed science related provisions in House bill regarding regulatory

reforms that are not in the Senate bill. This includes a legislative fix for the duplicative National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program permits, a legislative repeal of the 2015 Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule, legislative guidance to streamline the FIFRA-ESA consultation process on endangered species, and reauthorization of the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA). Both the House and the Senate Farm Bill authorize a new \$5 million per year grant program for research equipment. The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) and Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) are reauthorized at existing levels in both the House and Senate bill. The \$20 million per year Organic Agriculture and Extension Initiative (OREI) is increased by \$10 million in the House and \$30 million in the Senate. The Senate bill reauthorizes mandatory funding for the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR), which was created in the 2014 Farm Bill, but the House bill does not. The bottom line is that the conference committee will have to negotiate a bipartisan bill to get 60 votes in the Senate.

Wheeler In; Pruitt Out at EPA



In April, the Senate confirmed Andrew Wheeler as EPA Deputy Administrator on a 53 – 45 vote. Wheeler served as the No. 2 at EPA until he took over as Acting Administrator on July 6 when Scott Pruitt

announced his resignation. Wheeler is a native of Ohio and received a BA in English and in Biology from Case Western Reserve University, a JD from Washington University in St. Louis School of Law, and an MBA from George Mason University School of Management. His first job was with EPA between 1991-1995 working on toxic chemical and pollution prevention issues. He is a long time Senate staffer having worked for Sen. George Voinovich (R-OH), Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-OK), and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Wheeler most

recently served as Senior VP for Faegre Baker Daniels Consulting, a national advisory and advocacy firm dealing with energy and natural resources practice.

Hutchins Nominated to Lead USDA Research



President Trump has nominated Dr. Scott Hutchins, the Global Head of Integrated Field Sciences for Corteva as the USDA Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics. If confirmed by the Senate, he will serve as

USDA's Chief Scientist and will oversee the operations of ARS, NIFA, ERS and NASS. Hutchins has a Ph.D. in entomology from Iowa State University, where he studied the effect of insect-induced injury on alfalfa. Hutchins has bachelor's degree in entomology from Auburn University and a master's degree from Mississippi State University. Presently, he works on pest management chemicals at Corteva and is an adjunct professor at the University of Nebraska. He is a past President of the Entomological Society of America.

USDA NIFA, ERS Moving from DC

On August 9, USDA announced that the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and Economic Research Service (ERS) will be moving from D.C. While the new location for the agencies has yet to be determined, the timeframe for the move is expected to occur within the next year where families with children could start the fall 2019 school year at the new location. USDA said it was undertaking the relocations for three main reasons:

- To improve USDA's ability to attract and retain highly qualified staff with training and interests in agriculture, many of whom come from land-grant universities. USDA has experienced significant turnover in these positions, and it has been difficult to recruit employees to the Washington, DC area, particularly given the high cost of living and long commutes.

- To place these important USDA resources closer to many of stakeholders, most of whom live and work far from the Washington, DC area.
- To benefit the American taxpayers. There will be significant savings on employment costs and rent, which will allow more employees to be retained in the long run, even in the face of tightening budgets.

"The Rise of Resistance" – a Special Issue in Science

Available at:

<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/360/6390>. *"Today, we find ourselves at the nexus of an alarming acceleration of resistance to antibiotics, insecticides, and herbicides. Through chemical misuse, resistance also brings widespread collateral damage to natural, social, and economic systems. **Evolution will always circumvent head-on attack by new biocides, and we may not be able to invent all the new products that we need.** We must therefore harness evolutionary approaches to find smarter ways to minimize the erosion of chemical susceptibility".*

National Academies Release Report on the Future of Agriculture Research

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine has released a new report, "[Science Breakthroughs 2030: A Strategy for Food and Agricultural Research](#)," which identifies the innovation needed in the next decade to make the U.S. food and agricultural system more efficient, resilient, and sustainable. Using input from the broad scientific community, the report identifies five scientific breakthrough areas that could have the greatest positive impact on food and agriculture:

- Transdisciplinary Research and Systems Approach
- Sensing Technologies
- Data Science and Agri-Food Informatics
- Genomics and Precision Breeding
- Microbiome

The report also recommends investing in physical and cyber infrastructures, engaging non-agricultural professionals, and recruiting talented individuals into food and agriculture research.

New CAST Issue Paper: “Genome Editing in Agriculture”

On July 9, CAST released its newest publication, [*Genome Editing in Agriculture: Methods, Applications, and Governance*](#). Science Policy Committee Chair and WSSA-NIFA Fellow Donn Shilling and I attended one of the kick off sessions in Washington DC where Dr. Adam Bogdanove from Cornell, lead author and Task Force Chair, gave a great overview on the current status of gene editing, including policy implications. The issue paper describes how genome editing is performed, the types of “edits” that can be made, how the process relates to traditional breeding and conventional genetic engineering, and the potential limitations of the approach.

Wild Spotter: Mapping Invasives in America’s Wild Places

A new nationwide citizen science volunteer capacity-building program called [Wild Spotter \(https://wildspotter.org\)](https://wildspotter.org) has been launched that is designed to help locate and map aquatic and terrestrial invasive species in Wilderness Areas, Wild & Scenic Rivers, and other wild places across the 193 million-acre National Forest System. This new program engages and empowers the public, local communities, states, tribes, and many other groups to help the Forest Service confront the threats from harmful exotic plants, animals, and pathogens that invade America’s beautiful and economically important wild places. The *Wild Spotter* program provides the tools these volunteers need to help locate, quantify, map, and report invasive species infestations in a simple and effective manner, while raising public awareness about invasive species and promoting collaborations across the landscape.

Meetings of the National and Regional Weed Science Societies

Dec. 3 - 6, 2018 North Central Weed Science Society (NCWSS), Milwaukee, WI

www.ncwss.org

Jan. 7 - 10, 2019 Northeastern Weed Science Society (NEWSS), Baltimore, MD

www.newss.org

Feb. 3 - 7, 2019 Southern Weed Science Society (SWSS), Oklahoma City, OK

www.swss.ws

Feb. 11 - 14, 2019 Weed Science Society of America (WSSA), New Orleans, LA

www.wssa.net

Mar. 11 - 14, 2019 Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS), Denver, CO

www.wsweedscience.org

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

www.apms.org

CAST Representative Report



Rob Richardson

Attached is a [Summary of Activities to update on CAST's January – May events](#), activities, projects, and new board members. As you can see from the summary, the beginning of 2018 has been very productive. We anticipate continued success for the remainder of the year with the rollout of several publications, CAST's Annual Meeting in Sacramento/Davis, California (October 23-25), and the 2018 Borlaug CAST Communication Award event in October at the World Food Prize in Des Moines.

The Plant Work Group continue to be active. We have identified some timely issues that we're currently developing proposals for and have begun the process of creating task forces for papers to be released in 2019 and 2020. And to see the latest impact reports on CAST's recently released publications, please [visit the CAST website](#).

If you have any suggestions or questions for the CAST staff or boards, please share those with me and I will bring them forward on a future work group call. Also, remember that there is a "Submit an Idea" button on the CAST homepage where anyone can make a suggestion.

NEWSS Collegiate Weed Contest 2018
Hosted by BASF Corporation, Pine Level, NC



(Photos courtesy of Katelyn Venner)

The 2018 NEWSS Annual Weed Contest was hosted at BASF Corporation in Pine Level, NC, on July 25, 2018. Thirteen graduate teams, nine undergraduate teams and two individuals competed for a total of 88 students from seven universities across the region. The contest went smoothly despite threats of heavy rain and storms. Luckily, it only rained a little bit and the contest was a success! The contest concluded with the awards ceremony at Hinnant Family Vineyards, where students were given a taste of muscadine grape juice made at the vineyard. The contest was quite competitive, Virginia Tech Graduate Team 1 won the graduate student division and University of Guelph Undergraduate Team 1 won the undergraduate division. BASF put on a challenging contest, and it was a resounding success. They could not have done this without support from management, and each and every volunteer.



Farmer Problems



At the Vineyard
Hinnant Family Vineyards, Pine Level, NC



After a long day, everyone is cleaned up and enjoying good food and company.



A proud Caren Schmidt (BASF) hands out the awards to the highest performing teams and individuals.



Ryan Aldrich (BASF) walks the students through Weed ID.



Shawn Askew can't seem to get rid of two of his favorite students, Sandeep Rana and Kate Venner.

Awards
Undergraduate Team Awards



First Place Undergraduate

Guelph Undergraduate Team 2

(Christena Jenkins-Giffen, Bernard Wierenga, William Kell, Amy Rodenburg)

Second Place Undergraduate

Guelph Undergraduate Team 1

(Luke Hannam, Alan Abdulkader, Allison Bailey, Mackenzie Mahon)



Third Place Undergraduate

Guelph Undergraduate Team 3

(Bryce Ribey, Thomas Bowman, John Fluttert, Kyle Rutherford)



Awards...cont'd
Undergraduate Individual Awards



First Place Undergraduate

Allison Bailey (Guelph)



Second Place Undergraduate

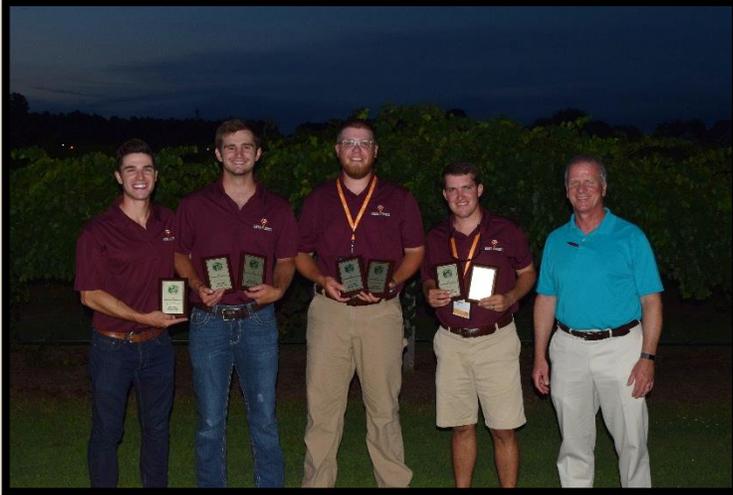
Aleah Butler-Jones (Cornell)



Third Place Undergraduate

Jonathan Berlingeri (Cornell)

Awards...cont'd
Graduate Student Team Awards



First Place Graduate Team

Virginia Tech Graduate Team 1

(Shawn Beam, Jordan Craft, Lucas Rector,
Wykle Greene)

Second Place Graduate Team

Guelph Graduate Team 1

(Lauren Benoit, Andrea Smith,
Brendan Metzger, Todd Frey)



Third Place Graduate Team

Virginia Tech Graduate Team 3

(Harrison Ferebee, Hunter Blake, Eric Scruggs)



Awards...cont'd
Graduate Individual Awards

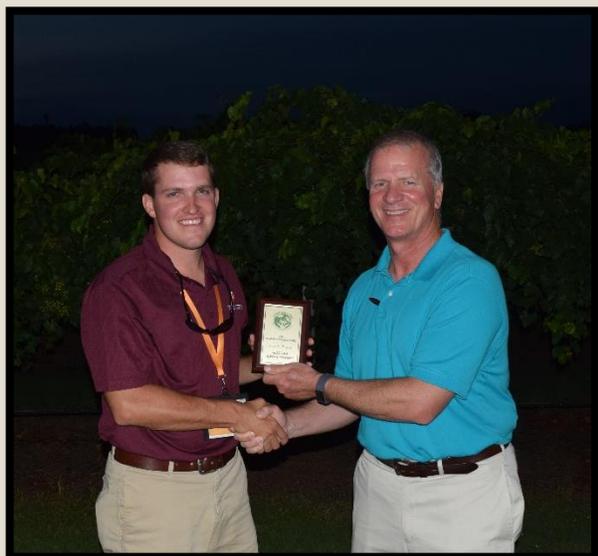
First Place Graduate Student

Shawn Beam (Virginia Tech)



Second Place Graduate Student

Lucas Rector (Virginia Tech)



Third Place Graduate Student

Jordan Craft (Virginia Tech)