Southern Weed Science Society

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News from the **SWSS**

President's Report
James Holloway

The Summer Board meeting was held July 15 and 16th, at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi, MS on the heels of hurricane Barry. We had a great meeting with a lot of dialogue and plans for the upcoming 2020 meeting and beyond.

This year continues to be a "typical" year. I have been in this business for more than 30 years, and every year we face challenges that we call typical, but honestly I can't remember a year quite like this one.

Your 2020 Program Chair, Dr. Eric Webster, is busy putting together a great program for the 2020 meeting. Meeting dates and venue for the 2020 SWSS Annual Meeting are the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino in Biloxi, MS to be held on January 27 – 30. There will be a lot going on at this year's conference; with Graduate Student Functions, (Sunday night function, Quiz Bowl, and the Graduate Student Luncheon and elections) Endowment functions, such as the golf tournament and silent auction, as well as a Symposium, as well as our normal posters and papers and a lot of fellowship.

Your past president, Dr. Bob Scott has lined up a great list of candidates for the open board seats going into 2020, of which there are a few! Please look in this issue of your newsletter for a biography on each as well as what each one is running for and remember to vote when the call goes out.

I encourage each of you to get to know your Board of Directors, maybe volunteer for a committee, get in involved in YOUR organization. It is the people that make a Volunteer organization like the SWSS work. If you have any thoughts, ideas, or questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to any of your SWSS Board of directors!

What's Inside

2020 Annual Meeting January 27-30, 2020 Beau Rivage Biloxi, MS
Look for more details at: **www.swss.ws**

Letter from the Program Chair – August 2019

Eric P. Webster

The Beau Rivage Resort and Casino in Biloxi, MS is the site of the 2020 Annual Conference, January 27 – 30. The call for papers will be delayed due to updating of the title and abstract submission site. The call for papers will occur in early October once the APEX program goes on line.

The SWSS Board of Directors is putting together a great program for the meeting in Biloxi. We have a scheduled symposium entitled "Wildlife and Invasive Species Management and the Impact on the Environment and the Economy"

Biloxi is a great location, easily accessible by automobile, plane, or boat. The SWSS Board looks forward to seeing everyone in Biloxi.

Preliminary Call for Paper and Poster Titles for the 2020 SWSS Meeting

You are invited to submit titles for papers and posters to be presented at the 2020 SWSS Annual Meeting of the Southern Weed Science Society. The meeting will be held at the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino in Biloxi, MS, *January 27-30, 2020*.

Submission of title and author information will open in **Early October**, or as soon as the updated online submission program is up and running properly.

We will be using the same software package to handle title submission, abstract collection, and PowerPoint files as the WSSA. We are hoping the glitches in the past will be corrected with the updated system.
Papers and posters may be submitted to one of the following sections:

Section I	Weed Management in Agronomic Crops
Section II	Weed Management in Turf
Section III	Weed Management in Pastures and Rangeland
Section IV	Weed Management in Horticultural Crops
Section V	Weed / Vegetation Management in Forestry
Section VI	Vegetation Management in Utilities, Railroads & Highway Rights-of-way; Industrial Sites
Section VII	Physiological and Biological Aspects of Weed Control
Section VIII	Educational Aspects of Weed Control
Section IX	Regulatory Aspects of Weed Control
Section X	Invasive Plant Species
Section XI	New Technologies
Section XII	Soil and Environmental Aspects of Weed Science
Section XIII	Weed Biology and Ecology
Section XIV	Weed Management in Aquatics
Section XV	Weed Management in Organic Production Systems
Section XVI	Posters

Paper sessions will consist of 15-minute presentations which includes time for questions. Workshop/Sym-

posia presentations are by invitation and may be longer than 15 minutes allotted for volunteer papers. Periods for discussion will be interspersed in the sessions.

The Program will be printed exactly as submitted, other than format and font changes for uniformity; therefore, proofread your submission very carefully. Primary contact authors will receive an email indicating their title was received and a later email confirming the section/day/time when and where the paper will be presented.

Authors are encouraged to submit their best research and other results for presentation at the SWSS meeting. Each author is assured of one senior-author presentation, but multiple senior-author submissions will be accepted only as space and time is available. If you have several papers or posters you wish to present, please indicate which is highest priority by adding a note in the comments section on the title submission form, or by emailing Eric Webster at ewebster@agcenter.lsu.edu.

Participation in Symposia/Workshops will be by invitation and titles will be submitted separately from the other sections.

As in the past, there will be a Graduate Student contest for oral presentations and posters. If you are planning to enter the contest, students will not be allowed to enter the paper and poster contest concurrently in 2020.

Rules for the Student Contest can be found in the Manual of Operating Procedures (MOP) on the SWSS website.

Paper Presentations
To ensure quality presentations and a smooth transition from presentation to presentation all presenters will be required to follow directions provided on the website.

The SWSS has adopted LCD projection for PowerPoint presentations as the standard and will be used exclusively during the annual meeting. LCD projectors and Windows PC laptop computers will be supplied and/or coordinated by section chairs and moderators.

Presenters will NOT be allowed to use their own computers in the sessions. If possible, computers will be located on the podium in each session. If this is not possible, an infrared remote providing forward and backward control of the PowerPoint presentation will be provided in each session. Screens, microphones, carts, and extension cords will continue to be supplied by AV services and paid for by the Society. In order to make this process go as smoothly as possible, please follow the guidelines below.

All presentations MUST be in PowerPoint (Version 2007 or higher) for MS Windows (PC compatible). PowerPoint 2010 will be the software used. Macintosh (MAC) /Apple formats will NOT be supported. Your presentation must be saved as a PowerPoint show file (.PPSX). The section chairs have requested that ALL presentations be prepared and uploaded on the abstract submission site so that preloading prior to the meeting can be accomplished (see Submission of Presentations). Please coordinate with your section chair if you want to preview your presentation at the meeting to ensure that the formats/fonts are all as you intended them to be. Due to the limited time and equipment, last minute editing is highly discouraged. Submission of files at the time of the presentation or at any other time during the session **will not be allowed**.

No audio clips or sounds will be allowed. Video clips are discouraged unless absolutely necessary. PowerPoint animation is discouraged. Please contact the section chair or co-chair one week PRIOR to sending your presentation if you need to use a video clip. Limit fonts used in the presentation to basic fonts, as not all machines may have the same choice of fonts. Examples of standard fonts are Times, Arial, Courier, Tahoma, or similar equivalents. Section chairs and computer operators are not responsible for changes in fonts, bullets, and other formatting at the time of presentation. Use up-to-date virus protection software to avoid infecting the computers provided by the section chairs. Further instructions will be provided in the December newsletter.

Poster Presentations
All contest posters are to be displayed before the first full day of the meeting to provide the judges appropriate time to assess all posters in a timely manner.

Content of Paper - Text, graphs, and tables must be easily read from a distance of 6 feet. Titles and headings should be larger and readable from a greater distance.

Poster contestants will not be required to accompany their poster during the judging period (usually during the first full day of meeting) but if a designated time period has been given for the student's poster he or she can accompany their poster. Note that posters will only be judged on the content of the poster.

Because of cost and logistics, it will not be possible to provide electrical connections, video equipment, or other special equipment for any posters.

Student Information
During past submission process, some students failed to complete the submission form correctly, which caused them to not be entered into the desired contest. This caused numerous program changes after printing and some confusion before and during the conference.

Once the title submission site is activated please be certain to fill out the submission form completely and accurately. Students are eligible to participate in both the Student Paper Contest and Poster Contest multiple times during a M.S. program and a Ph.D. program; **however, a student cannot participate in both contests concurrently during the 2020 meeting**. A student can only win 1st place in the paper and poster contest once per degree program. All students presenting a paper or poster are eligible for any available student benefits whether or not they enter the contest. Specific questions pertaining to the Student Contest should be directed to Chair of the Student Contest: Kelly Backscheider (kelly.a.barnett@corteva.com).
If you have any questions about submitting a title for the 2020 meeting, please contact:

Eric Webster, 2020 Program Chair
Louisiana State University AgCenter, School of Plant, Environmental, and Soil Sciences
104 Sturgis Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70808
Tel: (225) 281-9449, Email: ewebster@agcenter.lsu.edu

2019 SWSS Endowment Enrichment Scholarship

The SWSS Endowment Enrichment Scholarship program provides an opportunity for SWSS graduate and undergraduate students to participate in a week long educational experience with Industry or Academia. The SWSS Endowment Executive Board received applications from a total of 5 Ph.D. and 6 M.S. graduate students representing 4 universities. Below are recipients of scholarships for 2019 and their chosen Industry or Academia host.

Ms. Kayla Eason, Ph.D., University of Georgia, hosted by Tim Adcock, Diligence Technologies

Mr. Gourav Sharma, Ph.D., Virginia Tech, hosted by Gary Schwarzlose, Russ Perkins, John Everitt and Greg Steele, Bayer CropSciences

Ms. Taylor Randell, M.S., University of Georgia, hosted by Jay Mahaffey and Sam Garris, Bayer CropSciences

Presenting the Candidates for the 2020 SWSS Officer Elections
Vice President – Darin Dodds

Darrin Dodds was born and raised in Illinois and received a B.S. degree in Agriculture from Western Illinois University in 1999; a M.S. degree in Agriculture and Life Sciences (Weed Science) at Purdue University in 2002; and Ph.D. in Agriculture and Life Sciences (Weed Science) at Mississippi State University in 2007.

Darrin joined the faculty at Mississippi State University in June 2007 as an Assistant Extension Professor/Extension Cotton Specialist and currently serves as Professor and Head of the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences at Mississippi State University. Darrin has graduated 7 M.S. and 2 Ph.D. students and currently has 1 M.S. students and 2 Ph.D. students under his direction. He has served on an additional 24 graduate student committees. His current and former students have won over 48 oral or poster presentation awards. Darrin has authored or co-authored 41 refereed manuscripts, 2 book chapters, 55 extension publications, and 269 published abstracts.

Darrin has received State Pride awards for Excellence in Extension at Mississippi State University in 2010 and 2011; the Southern Region IPM Center Pulling Together Award; the Wesley Farmer Outstanding Extension Specialist Award; the Cotton Researcher of the Year Award at the 16th annual National Conservation Tillage Systems Cotton and Rice Conference; the Extension Cotton Specialist of the Year award at the Beltwide Cotton Conferences; the Mississippi State University Gamma Sigma Delta Excellence in Extension Award; the Agricultural Achievement Award from the Mid-South Farm and Gin Show; J. Tom Cothren Young Cotton Physiologist of the Year Award at the Beltwide Cotton Conferences, the R.R. Foil Teamwork Award from Mississippi State University, and the Outstanding Extension Grantsmanship Award from Mississippi State University.

Darrin serves annually as a student contest judge at the Beltwide Cotton Conference, the Southern Weed Science Society, and the Weed Science Society of America. In addition, Darrin has served as student presentation contest committee chair or co-chair four times for the Southern Weed Science Society and three times for the Weed Science Society of America. He is currently serving as the chairperson for the SWSS summer weed contest and is a past president of the Endowment Foundation for the SWSS. Darrin has served on the SWSS and WSSA board of directors as the SWSS representative to the WSSA. In addition, he currently serves as secretary on the WSSA board of directors. He has been attending SWSS annual meetings and been active in the society since 2003 and is committed to the continued success of the SWSS as well as the multitude of students with whom he interacts.

Vice President – Jason Norsworthy

Jason Norsworthy completed his B.S. in Plant Sciences – Agronomy from Louisiana Tech University in 1995 and then his M.S. in Plant Sciences – Weed Science at the University of Arkansas in 1997. After completing his Ph.D. in Plant Sciences – Weed Science in 2000 from the University of Arkansas, he spent six years on the faculty at Clemson University. He returned to the University of Arkansas in 2006 and currently holds the academic rank of Distinguished Professor with tenure in the Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences Department, and he holds the University of Arkansas' endowed Chair of Weed Science.

Jason teaches Principles of Weed Control and team-teaches Integrated Pest Management, Advanced Crop Science, and Weed

Science Practicum. He enjoys spending time working with students and takes pride in the accomplishments of those that have completed 25 M.S. degrees, 7 Ph.D. degrees, 6 Postdoctoral Associates under his tutelage. Dr. Norsworthy is currently advising 10 M.S. students, 2 Ph.D. students, and 2 Postdoctoral Associates. He spends much of his time conducting research centered on developing strategies to manage herbicide-resistant weeds and reduce the risk of herbicide resistance. Jason has documented 12 new herbicide-resistant weeds in Arkansas or surrounding states. His research includes applied and basic studies on most Southern row crops in collaboration with R&D companies, other universities globally, and governmental entities who have a stake in sustainable weed management. Dr. Norsworthy has provided six invited international keynote addresses on the status of herbicide resistance in the U.S. and mitigation of resistance. His publication in the journal Weed Science outlining best management practices to mitigate the evolution of herbicide resistance has been one of the most highly cited papers in the journal. Beginning with his days as a graduate student, Jason has been active in the Southern Weed Science Society (SWSS) since attending his first meeting. He has served SWSS as a member of the Site Selection Committee from 2009 to 2013, and he chaired the committee in 2013 when San Juan, Puerto Rico was chosen for the SWSS/Weed Science Society (WSSA) joint meeting in 2016. He has also been actively involved on the SWSS Weed Contest Committee and the SWSS Herbicide Resistance Committee for many years. In 2012, He and colleagues at the University of Arkansas hosted the Southern Weed Contest in Fayetteville.

Jason organized the symposium on “Off-target Movement of Auxin Herbicides” for the 2013 SWSS meeting, and he co-chaired the SWSS symposium in 2018 on “Multiple herbicide and metabolic-herbicide resistance: Where are we?” From 2009 to 2011, he served as the SWSS Representative on the WSSA Publication Board. Dr. Norsworthy has also given invited symposia presentations at annual SWSS and WSSA meetings. He has been actively involved in WSSA, where he chaired the Teaching and Extension Committee in 2002 and served as a member of the Science Policy Committee (2009), the Integrated Weed Management Committee (2008-2009), Outstanding Paper in Weed Science Committee (2011-2013), Publication Board (2009-present), and Outstanding Young Weed Scientist Selection Committee (2018-2019). The SWSS recognized Jason with the Outstanding Educator Award in 2017. The WSSA named him a Fellow in 2018 along with recipient of the Outstanding Researcher Award and co-author of the Outstanding Weed Technology paper. He has served on the Southern Weed Science Board of Directors and the Weed Science Society of America Board of Directors from 2006 to 2009. Dr. Norsworthy served as an Associate Editor for Weed Technology from 2002 to 2011 and has since been serving as Editor-in-Chief for the journal. The Southern Weed Science Society has always been home, and he will continue to look for opportunities to serve in the coming years by increasing the Society’s membership and visibility.

Secretary/Treasurer – Matthew Goddard

Matt Goddard grew up outside of Paris, TN. He obtained a B.S. degree in Plant and Soil Sci. from the University of Tennessee at Martin (2004), a M.S. in Plant Science from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville (2006), and a Ph.D. in Weed Science from Virginia Tech (2009) where he studied the physiological and environmental response of turfgrass and weed species to mesotrione. Matt joined Monsanto Company in January 2010 as an Agronomic Research Manager at the company’s Leland Agronomy Center in Leland, MS. Later that year, he became a Testing Operations Manager for Monsanto’s Global BioEvaluations team where he managed the pesticide efficacy and crop tolerance programs on their 500ac research facility in Leland, MS. In January 2013, Matt joined the Technology Development and Agronomy organization where he currently serves as a Technology Development Representative for Bayer Crop Science in southern Arkansas. In this role, he is responsible for the agronomic testing and development of new Asgrow, DEKALB, and DeltaPine seed products, seed treatments, and herbicide systems. Additionally, he serves as the soybean Field Advancement Specialist for the midsouth and southeastern regions of the U.S. In this role, Matt works with Soybean Breeding, Product Management, and Technology Development teams in

selecting new soybean varieties for pipeline advancement in the Asgrow product portfolio.

In 2017, Matt was honored by his company as a recipient of the Distinguished Development Award for his leadership of the Technology Development Field Sustainability Team. Founded in 2013, this team's objective is to generate data to better understand the value of incorporating cover crops and reduced tillage practices into common cropping systems, and to develop recommendations for customers. Matt was a founding member and has led this team since 2014. They currently have projects with 6 different universities across the USA. Project data are also the subject of several meeting abstracts and peer reviewed journal articles being written to extend this information to the scientific community.

Matt has been actively involved in weed science at the state, regional, and national levels. His service to the Southern Weed Science Society has included hosting and judging the SWSS Weed Contest, he served on the Student Program Committee from 2012-2016 and was committee chair for two years. Most recently, Matt served on the SWSS Board of Directors holding the position of Member-at-Large (Industry) from 2016-2018.

Secretary/Treasurer – Hunter Perry

Hunter is currently serving as Field Operations Leader for Corteva Agriscience at Stoneville Research Center in Leland, MS. Hunter is a native of Greenville, MS where his earliest agricultural research experiences were achieved through working at local crop protection and seed research stations. He earned his B.S. and M.S from Mississippi State University in Golf and Sports Turf Management (2005) and Plant Pathology (2007), respectively. He earned his Ph.D. in Weed Science from Auburn University in 2011, before joining Dow AgroSciences that same year. His current responsibilities include people leadership as well as research center logistics for cotton, corn and soybean breeding, traits and crop protection programs.

Dr. Perry has been actively involved in the SWSS since 2008, both as a student as an industry professional. During his time with the SWSS, he has served as Chair and Vice Chair of the graduate student paper and poster contests multiple times. He has served as an Endowment Trustee for three years where he works with other members of the Endowment Committee to ensure the group accomplishes its educational objectives. Hunter has organized the SWSS Annual Golf Tournament from 2014 – 2019 and with the help of other members has helped raise >$30,000 to benefit the Endowment. Hunter regularly moderates paper sessions, serves on the Environmental and Technology Stewardship Committee and is willing to serve the society whenever he is called upon.

Member at-large (Industry) – Kelly Backsheider

Kelly grew up on a corn and soybean farm in southern Indiana where she spent a lot of time chopping weeds. She did not intend on pursuing a career in agriculture and instead went on to attend Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana to pursue a BS in Biology. After an internship with Dow AgroSciences, Kelly found her passion in weed science and decided to pursue a MS in Crop and Soil Sciences (Weed Science) at Michigan State University with Dr. Christy Sprague. In 2010, she moved to west Tennessee to complete her PhD in Plant Sciences (Weed Science) under the direction of Dr. Larry Steckel. Kelly has been very involved with the SWSS since she started her PhD almost 10 years ago. She's presented at several meetings and competed in the SWSS Weed Contest and won 1st place individual in 2012. She also competed in both the SWSS graduate student paper and poster contest and won 1st place Oral Paper in 2011, 1st place Poster in 2012, and the SWSS Outstanding Graduate

Student Award in 2013. She was also the SWSS Graduate Student Representative in 2012. Since then, Kelly has continued to stay involved in the SWSS and has moderated, judged the graduate student paper and poster contests, and been an active member of the Sustaining membership committee and the Graduate student contest committee (chair – 2020). In 2019, she also started the first SWSS women's event where female graduate students, professors, and industry colleagues gathered to network at the annual meeting.

After completing her PhD in 2012, Kelly took a position as a field development representative with DuPont Crop Protection covering Indiana and Kentucky. She was heavily involved with several discovery and development projects in corn, soybean, wheat, and tobacco. In this role, she not only conducted several trials each year, but also spent time in commercial support for her sales teams and Pioneer agronomists. In December 2018, she transferred to the Data Management & Information Management Strategy Team with Corteva AgriSciences, the Agricultural Division of DowDuPont where she conducts several tasks for Integrated Field Sciences. This includes assisting with IFS data management tools and being a lead for North America IFS related to data manage as well as managing data management contractors.
Kelly resides in southern Indiana on the farm that she grew up on with her husband (Mark) and son (Rhett). She enjoys "hobby farming" with her family, hunting, working out, and teaching fitness classes at a local church

Member at-large (Industry) – Clyde Smith

A native of south Mississippi, where weed control meant a Kaiser blade and fire. Clyde received a BS in Ag and Extension Education at Mississippi State University.

After working on the hoe crew for the weed science program, Clyde decided to pursue a master's degree in Weed Science under David Shaw. He ended up working as a Research Assistant until completing his degree in 1990.

Upon graduation, Clyde worked for American Cyanamid as a Technical Service Representative, a Regional Sales Trainer, and Forestry Herbicide Sales Representative until leaving in 2000 to join Eden Bioscience (big mistake).

In 2001, Clyde started a forestry herbicide application business in the panhandle of Florida focusing on pine release and preplant herbicide applications.

Clyde joined the University of Florida Extension Service as a Regional IPM Agent in 2003, covering all pest control in row crops, vegetables, and forestry. He held this position until 2011 but did work for BASF in the Industrial Vegetation Management Group in 2006.

In 2011, Clyde joined UPI as a Field Development Representative in the Mid-South and Southeast covering all crop protection products. UPI became UPL and purchased Arysta Life Sciences in 2018. After merging Arysta and UPL, Clyde is the Technical Development Manager for Aquatic Products for the US. Hope to be there a while.

Member at-large (Academia) – Shawn Askew

Shawn Askew was born on May 22, 1973 and raised in Mt. Olive, MS. He completed his B.S. in Agriculture Pest Management from Mississippi State University in 1995. He obtained his M.S. degree in Weed Science with a minor in Botany under the direction of Dr. David Shaw at Mississippi State University in 1997 and his Ph.D. degree under the direction of the late Dr. John Wilcut in Crop Science at North Carolina State

University in 2001. His M.S. research dealt with red rice control in soybean/rice rotations and his Ph.D. work concentrated on competition between Polygonum weeds and cotton. Shawn was honored to be the first recipient of the SWSS Outstanding Graduate Student Award at the MS level in 1998 and he also was awarded the WSSA Outstanding Graduate Student Award in 2002.

Barely 10 days after defending his dissertation, Shawn started his career as Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in turfgrass weed science at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg. He is responsible for the state's weed management recommendations in turfgrass and coordinates the Phytochemistry and Radiological Materials Laboratory in the School of Plant and Environmental Science. His research has focused on turfgrass weed management, lateral movement of turfgrass herbicides, and managing transition of overseeded turfgrasses. Shawn's research in turfgrass weed science $3 million and he has mentored 38 undergraduate and hourly employees and 14 graduate students. Shawn has authored or coauthored 79 peer-reviewed journal articles, 247 published abstracts, and 203 extension publications. In addition to his extension endeavors, Shawn currently mentors two Ph.D. students and guest lectures in 7 different courses at Virginia Tech. He was recently promoted to Professor.

Shawn and his students are very active in SWSS, NEWSS, and WSSA and have presented data at every SWSS and NEWSS meeting for these societies since he started at Virginia Tech in 2001. He has served on numerous committees for NEWSS, SWSS, and WSSA.

Member at-large (Academia) – Tom Barber

Tom received his M.S degree in Weed Science from University of Arkansas in 2000 and Ph.D. in Weed Science from Mississippi State University in 2004. In 2004 he accepted a position as Assistant Professor Extension Cotton Specialist for Mississippi State University. In 2007 he moved back to his home state of Arkansas and held an Associate Professor Cotton Extension Agronomist position with the University Of Arkansas Division Of Agriculture until 2012. He currently serves as Professor and Extension Weed Scientist with the University Of Arkansas Division Of Agriculture. Tom's extension and applied research program focuses on weed control and weed resistance management outreach in Arkansas. Each year he conducts over 120 applied research trials in all major Arkansas row-crops including: corn, cotton, grain sorghum, rice, and soybean. In addition he recently accepted a director role over the Extension Research and Outreach Center in Newport.

Tom has been an active member of SWSS since 1998. He has served as vice president and president of the graduate student organization, and held a position as graduate student representative to the board of directors. In addition to serving as a judge numerous years for the graduate student paper and poster contests, Tom has served on the Sales Coordination committee, Local Arrangements committee, and as chair of the poster session. He currently serves on the Sustaining Membership committee, Continuing Education committee and the Finance committee

WSSA Representative – John Byrd

John D. Byrd, Jr. was raised on a small cotton and tobacco farm near Hartsville, SC. He learned the importance of integrated weed management at a young age with a hoe. He received a B.S. from Clemson University, then M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from North Carolina State University. Over his career as Extension

Weed Specialist and Professor at Mississippi State University, he has been responsible for extension weed control education for agronomic and horticultural crops, turfgrass, forages, wildlife food plots, roadside and utility rights of way vegetation management, invasive weed species in natural areas, Master Gardener training, sprayer calibration workshops, etc. His research efforts currently focus on forages, rights of way, and invasive weeds.

John currently has 2 graduate students and has served on committees of 79 additional students. He received the Southern Weed Science Society Outstanding Young Weed Scientist and Fellow Awards, the Mississippi State University Alumni Association Faculty Recognition Award for Service, the Dr. Mark E. Keenum Outstanding Extension Faculty Award, as well as several others. He has served on numerous committees of both the Southern Weed Science Society and Weed Science Society of America. He has more authored or co-authored numerous Extension publications, abstracts, and refereed journal articles.

WSSA Representative – Eric Palmer

Eric Palmer was born in Memphis, TN and grew up on a grain and cattle farm near Mount Pleasant, MS. He received his B.S. in Agricultural Pest Management (1995) and M.S. in Weed Science (1998) from Mississippi State University under the direction of Dr. David Shaw. He went on to complete his Ph.D. in Crop Science at Oklahoma State University under the direction of Dr. Don Murray in 2001.

Dr. Palmer began his professional career as an R&D Scientist with Syngenta Crop Protection at the Eastern Region Technical Center near Hudson, NY in 2001. In 2004, he was transferred to MS where he worked on the Southern Region Technical Center near Leland, MS for two years before becoming the R&D Field Development Rep for Mississippi. In 2008, Eric became an R&D Group Leader for the Weed Control Group at Syngenta's Vero Beach Research Center near Vero Beach, FL were he coordinated Stage 1 herbicide testing for the U.S. and managed four full-time Scientists who conducted a diverse herbicide research program. In 2012, Eric moved to the North American headquarters in Greensboro, NC and is currently the Herbicide Product Biology Technical Manager.

Eric has been involved with the SWSS by serving as the Graduate Student representative while at OSU, been a judge for the Graduate Student paper contest on several occasions, and has served on the Board as a Member At-Large from Industry.
Outside of work Eric enjoys duck and deer hunting, spending time with family, and flying.

Endowment Board Trustee – Jason Bond

Jason Bond earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy and a Master of Science in Weed Science from Louisiana State University. Jason earned his Doctor of Philosophy degree in Agronomy/Weed Science from the University of Arkansas.

Jason served as Assistant Professor in charge of the Rice and Rotational Crops Agronomy project with the Louisiana State University AgCenter at the Rice Research Station in Crowley, LA from 2004 to 2006. He relocated to Mississippi State University's Delta Research and Extension Center in Stoneville, MS, in 2006. As a Research/Extension Professor with Mississippi State University,

Jason serves as the project leader for an applied weed science research/extension program focused in rice and soybean. Jason is also involved in technology transfer to growers through a variety of outlets.

Endowment Board Trustee –Frank Cary

Frank Carey earned his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Weed Science from the University of Arkansas under the direction of Dr. Ron Talbert and Dr. Roy Smith. Upon graduation in 1994, he went to work for Valent USA where he is still employed. During his 25-year career with Valent, Carey has held several positions within the company including Field Research Scientist, Field Market Development Specialist, and Product Development Manager for rice herbicides, and is currently Manager, MSARC Development.

In his current position, Carey serves as a combined R&D and Tech Service rep for Mississippi, manages Valent's 250-acre research facility in Leland, MS and serves as a mentor for several of Valent's young reps around the country. Throughout his career, Carey has been active in local, regional and national Weed Science Societies. Giving back to the next generation is a driver for Carey, and he has done so through serving as a host for Educational Enrichment Scholarship winners from SWSS (2015 and 2018) and WSSA (2018), volunteering at the annual SWSS weed contest, mentoring high school youth through his church youth group as well as interacting with college and graduate school students at every opportunity.

Frank has served SWSS on the Endowment committee and most recently served as chair of the Herbicide Technology and Stewardship Committee. In addition to his service to SWSS, Carey is active in the USA Rice Federation, is the current chair for the USA Rice Foundation and is on the Board of Directors of the Mississippi Agricultural Industry Council. Frank resides in Olive Branch, Mississippi with his wife of 30 years, Vicki.

Proceedings Editor – Paul Tseng (unopposed)

Te-Ming "Paul" Tseng graduated from Bangalore University, India in 2005 with a B.S. in Biotechnology, completed M.S. in Plant Biotechnology in 2007 from Allahabad Agricultural Institute, and then attended the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, where he completed his Ph.D. in Cell & Molecular Biology in Weed Science in 2013. Following his Ph.D., he worked as a postdoctoral research associate in University of Arkansas, and Purdue University. Dr. Tseng is currently an Assistant Professor of Weed Physiology in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences at Mississippi State University (MSU). His research program is focused on studying the molecular basis behind weed species in response to environmental stress, including herbicide pressure and competition with crops. Currently, he is working on identifying herbicide resistant mechanisms in numerous weed species, and characterizing competitive traits in weeds so as to understand the genes and/or biochemical pathways associated with these competitive traits. Courses taught are, "Herbicide Physiology and Biochemistry", and "Environmental Fate of Herbicides". He has served as Major Advisor/co-Advisor of 4 M.S. and 5 Ph.D. students; served on 8 graduate student committees, advised 10 undergraduate honors student research; and hosted 8 International Visiting Scholars.

He has published 23 peer-reviewed journal articles, over 80 in conference proceedings, and, has won several awards including the Outstanding Reviewer Award (Weed Science Society of America (WSSA)); Excel-

lence in Teaching Award (MSU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences); William M. White Special Project Awards (MSU Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine); Schillig Special Teaching Award (MSU Provost's office); Outstanding Mentor Award (MSU Office of Student Leadership and Community Engagement); SEC Faculty Travel Award (Southeastern Conference); and, IWSS Travel Award (International Weed Science Society (IWSS)).

Dr. Tseng has served as, grant reviewer for numerous USDA, Southern SARE, MS NASA, and FFAR grants, where he has reviewed a total of 63 grant proposals; manuscript reviewer of journals including Weed Science, Weed Research, Crop Protection, Pest Management Science, Horticultural Science, and PLOS ONE, where he has reviewed a total of 65 manuscripts; and editorial board of Weed Science, Crop Science, Plant Gene, and Frontiers in Plant Science. He is also the WSSA representative to Technical Advisory Group for Biological Control Agents of Weeds; Strategic Communications Officer of the Gamma Sigma Delta International; president of the MSU Gamma Sigma Delta; and, Chair of the Publicity and Promotion Committee of the International Weed Science Society. Dr. Tseng is an active member of the Southern Weed Science Society (SWSS), WSSA and IWSS, and has been actively involved in these meetings since 2008. He has been married to Sally, and are blessed with one son, and one daughter.

As weed scientists, our occupation is to help manage plants that are out of place. But, how often do e wish we knew more about a particular species? How did it arrive in North America? Why did the early settlers bring it here? Does it have any redeeming value? Useful Wild Plants of Texas, the Southeastern and Southwestern United States, the Southern Plains, and Northern Mexico is an invaluable resource for those interested in learning potential economic uses of plants in that geographic region. Four volumes have been published thus far with the goal of documenting this information on 4000 species of native and naturalized plants. Volume 1 covers covers 267 species in 78 genera Abronia to Arundo; Volume 2 provides detailed information on 254 species in the 79 genera Asclepias to Canavalia; Volume 3 covers 129 species in the 23 genera Canna to Celtis; while Volume 4 covers 175 species in the 66 genera Cenchrus to Convolvulus. These clothbound editions contain not only written descriptions of species and common names, but color photographs, distribution maps, useful chemical compounds, and ethnobotanical uses. They can be ordered online at https://www.usefulwildplants.org/encyclopedias or contacting the Useful Wild Plants office in Austin, Texas at 512-928-4441.

As Chair of the Necrology Committee, I would like to ask for any names and a short biography about members that have died since our last meeting. Please forward any information to me at david.black@syngenta.com

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Dr. Muthu Bagavathiannan has completed the 2019 Proceedings and they are now available at Here is the link: http://www.swss.ws/publications/proceedings/.

Dr. Carroll Johnson has completed the 2019 MOP it is now available on our website. http://www.swss.ws

People and Places

Eric Castner, formerly of Dupont/Corteva (30 years), has joined FMC as Technical Service Manager for Central and South Texas and New Mexico.
Dickie Edmund, formerly of Dupont/Corteva (33 years), has joined FMC in Field Development, covering the Mid-South.

Matt Osterholt completed a M.S. at LSU with Eric Webster. His thesis is entitled "Interactions Observed with Clomazone plus Pendimethalin when mixed with Postemergence Rice Herbicides". Matt is pursuing a Ph.D. under the direction of Bryan Young at Purdue University.

Connor Webster completed a M.S. at LSU with Eric Webster. His thesis is entitled "Strategies to Overcome Antagonism of Quizalofop-p-ethyl when applied in Mixture with other Herbicides". Connor is pursuing a Ph.D. under the direction of Daniel Stephenson at LSU.

Dr. **Ben Lawrence** joined the faculty at the Mississippi State University Delta Research and Extension Center in Stoneville as an assistant professor with an emphasis on cropping systems and agronomy. Lawrence is from New Albany, MS and received his bachelor's degree in agricultural business and his master's and doctorate degrees in weed science, all of which were earned at MSU. Dr. Lawrence's appointment will be 75% Extension and 25% research, and he will work helping local producers improve production.

Drake Copeland began his role as a Technical Service Manager with FMC. He services 5 Retail Market Managers within the Eastern Corn Belt that cover Ohio, Michigan, and Eastern Indiana. Drake will also conduct research and support third party/ university research at both (The) Ohio State University and Michigan State University. Drake and wife, Kasey, daughter, Jane, and live just south of Dayton in Centerville, OH.

David Russell is now Extension Weed Specialist I with Auburn University. David is located at the Tennessee Valley Research & Extension Center at Belle Mina where he will be responsible for weed control information for agronomic row crops in north Alabama and statewide responsibility for weed control in forages and rights-of-way. David's email is dpr0013@auburn.edu and his phone number is 601-757-5663.

Position Vacancy Announcement

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
WEED BIOLOGIST
The Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences in the College of Agriculture at Auburn University is seeking applications for the position of Assistant Professor – Weed Biologist. This position will be a nine-month, tenure-track position with a 75% research and 25% teaching appointment. The projected start date is August 16, 2020.

Responsibilities: The successful candidate will be expected to develop a dynamic, impactful and innovative research program in the area of weed biology, ecology, and evolution. Of specific interest, the research program would focus on enhancing understanding in how weed management practices influence weed communities, how management and environmental selection pressures influence population genetic changes (e.g., genetic drift, allele frequency, genetics) in weed species, and how climate change is impacting weed management practices and the evolution of weed species. The successful candidate would be expected to use basic biological and ecological principles to solve and understand applied weed management issues. Candidates would be expected to transfer knowledge acquired from basic biology research to applied management practices. The successful candidate would be expected to develop novel and creative non-herbicide based weed management concepts and practices that take advantage of improved understanding of management impacts on weed biology. The continued use of herbicides as the primary mechanism of

weed management in agronomic crops is largely seen as unsustainable due to evolved herbicide resistance. Candidates are expected to provide novel insight into improving sustainability of herbicide-based weed management practices. While the primary focus of this position is focused on greater understanding of weeds species biology, some research effort on utilizing herbicides and the impact of herbicide chemistry practices on weed populations can be included in the overall research program. The primary plant systems research focus by the individual in this position will be in agronomic crops. The successful candidate in this position would be expected to work closely and cooperatively with other weed scientists in the Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences, as well as other scientists in related fields.
Teaching responsibilities are 6-8 hours of course credit per academic year, including an upper level undergraduate/graduate weed science course and a graduate level weed science course. The successful candidate will mentor undergraduate students and supervise graduate programs in weed science. As a member of the College of Agriculture and the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, this position will also participate in service and outreach activities.

Qualifications: Minimum qualifications include an earned Ph.D. from an accredited institution in weed science, plant biology, or similar related fields at the time employment begins. Documented evidence of individual and/or collaborative research in weed management resulting in peer-reviewed publications is required. Candidates should be able to demonstrate the ability to work cooperatively with colleagues across disciplines and develop a collaborative research and teaching program. The successful candidate must possess excellent written and interpersonal skills to effectively interact with diverse audiences. The successful candidate must meet eligibility requirements to work in the United States at the time the appointment is scheduled to begin and to continue working legally for the term of employment. Candidates with experience in agronomy or applied weed management is preferred.

Application: Applicants must apply for the position by visiting the link: http://aufacultypositions.peopleadmin.com/postings/3753 and attach the following:
1. Cover letter that addresses the experience pertinent to the responsibilities of the position
2. Current curriculum vita
3. Copies of ALL academic transcripts
4. Statement of research interests and accomplishments
5. Statement of teaching philosophy and/or accomplishments

When prompted during the on-line process, please provide names, email addresses and phone numbers for three (3) professional references. Only complete applications materials will be considered. To ensure consideration for the position, applicants are encouraged to apply by end of business on September 30, 2019. The search will continue until the position is filled. Questions about this position should be directed to: Dr. Scott McElroy, Search Committee Chair, email: jsm0010@auburn.edu

The University: Auburn University is one of the nation's premier public land-grant institutions. In 2019, it was ranked 52nd among public universities by U.S. News and World Report. Auburn University is ranked as an R1 research institution by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education and maintains high levels of research activity and high standards for teaching excellence, offering Bachelor's, Master's, Educational Specialist, and Doctor's degrees in agriculture and engineering, the professions, and the arts and sciences. Its 2018 enrollment of 30,440 students includes 24,628 undergraduates and 5,812 graduate and professional students. Organized into twelve academic colleges and schools, Auburn's 1,450 faculty members offer more than 200 educational programs. The University is nationally recognized for its commitment to academic excellence, its positive work environment, its student engagement, and its beautiful campus.
Auburn residents enjoy a thriving community, recognized as one of the "best small towns in America," with moderate climate and easy access to major cities or to beach and mountain recreational facilities. Situated along the rapidly developing I-85 corridor between Atlanta, Georgia, and Montgomery, Alabama, the combined Auburn-Opelika-Columbus statistical area has a population of over 500,000, with excellent public school systems and regional medical centers.

AUBURN UNIVERSITY IS AN EEO/VET/DISABILITY EMPLOYER

Call for Nominations - 2019 SWSS Awards
Bob Scott - Awards Chair

Please see the listings below describing our award nomination procedures for 2019. For some awards, a short summary document such as a resume or CV may be attached. Please see the description below for details.

The deadline for nominations is **Friday October 4, 2019**.
Please send your nominations to the Awards Subcommittee Chair listed below:
Fellow Award - Barry Brecke, bjbe@ufl.edu
Outstanding Educator Award - Tom Mueller, tmueller@utk.edu
Outstanding Young Weed Scientist Award* - Daniel Stephenson, dstephenson@agcenter.lsu.edu
Outstanding Graduate Student Award** - Nicholas Basinger, Nicholas.Basinger@uga.edu
Excellence in Regulatory Stewardship Award - J.D. Green, jdgreen@uky.edu
* denotes 2 awards, one for industry and one for academia
** denotes 2 awards, one for MS student and one for PhD student

Please nominate your SWSS colleagues for these important awards. Feel free to contact me if you have any comments, questions, or concerns at bscott@ueax.edu or at 501-837-0273.

The SWSS Fellow Award is the highest honor the Society presents. The purpose of this award is to recognize those members who have made significant contributions to the Southern Weed Science Society and advances in the discipline of weed science in the SWSS region.

To be eligible for the SWSS Fellow Award, the potential recipient must:
• Have been an active member of the SWSS for >20 years.
• Be at least 50 years of age at the time of the annual meeting.
• Have made significant contributions of service to the SWSS (including but not limited to: serving on committees or being an officer, hosting SWSS contests, judging at the paper/poster contest, etc.)
• Contributed substantially to the success of his/her company, university, and/or government agency and to advance the discipline of Weed Science in the SWSS region.
• Whereas the Fellow Award has been renamed to envelope both the Distinguished Service and the Weed Scientist of the Year Awards, previous recipients of these awards are not eligible for the SWSS Fellow Award.

The nomination must be by letter and 2 supporting letters are required (All sent in a single pdf file to the Committee Chair, Barry Brecke). The nominating letter should explain in general and specific terms the outstanding contributions of the nominee. The nominating letter should contain a listing of the various contributions to the SWSS, but is limited to 2 pages in total length. The 2 supporting letters are also limited to 2 pages in length for each letter. A summary document describing the nominee (such as a CV) may be added but is limited to a total of 3 pages in length. The contributions must be in regards to SWSS and weed science in the SWSS region.

Awards Committee members are not eligible during their time of service on the awards committee. 8 Award is limited to a maximum of 0.4% of total SWSS membership each year (rounding up from the calculated percentage). The Award recipient(s) receive a plaque at the annual meeting, and each subsequent year all winners will be recognized by a Fellows ribbon to wear at the annual meeting.

The SWSS Outstanding Educator Award (OEA) is presented annually to a weed scientist in recognition of outstanding contributions to the Society and Weed Science through education. The Award is to be given in recognition of a broad range of activities including formal classroom teaching; outreach and public service or extension including workshops, seminars, short courses, or other means of communication; mentoring undergraduate and graduate students; publication of scholarly work in journals, books, or reviews.

To be eligible for the OEA award, the potential recipient must:
• Must be a voting member of SWSS in the year of nomination.
• Must be an active member of SWSS during the last five (5) years.

The nomination must be by letter and 2 supporting letters are required. (All sent in a single pdf file to the Committee Chair, Tom Mueller). The nominating letter should explain in general and specific terms the outstanding educational contributions of the nominee. The nominating letter should contain a listing of the various educational contributions, but is limited to 2 pages in total length. The 2 supporting letters are also limited to 2 pages in length for each letter. A summary document describing the nominee (such as a CV) may be added but is limited to a total of 3 pages in length. Possible information includes classes taught, number of graduate students advised, etc. Award is limited to one award per year. The Award recipient receives a plaque at the annual meeting and a $1,000 cash award presented at the annual meeting.

The SWSS Outstanding Young Weed Scientist Award (OYWSA) is presented annually to a young weed scientist one from academia (teaching, research, extension) to be sponsored by BASF and one from Industry to be sponsored by the SWSS in recognition of outstanding service to weed science.

To be eligible for the OYWSA, the potential recipient must:
• Must have been a voting member of the Society for at least three of the last five (5) years and must be a voting member of the Society in the year that the person is nominated for the award.
• Must be 40 years of age or younger on January 31 of the year she or he receives the award.
• Must have completed at least five (5) years' work in weed science other than that related to academic studies.
• Previous recipients of this award will be ineligible for re-nomination. The nomination must be by letter and 2 supporting letters are required. (All sent in a single pdf file to the Committee Chair, Daniel Stephenson). The nominating letter should explain in general and specific terms the outstanding contributions of the nominee. The nominating letter should contain a listing of the various contributions to the SWSS and to the discipline of weed science, but is limited to 2 pages in total length. The 2 supporting letters are also limited to 2 pages in length for each letter. A summary document describing the nominee (such as a CV) may be added but is limited to a total of 3 pages in length. The contributions must be in regards to SWSS and weed science in the SWSS region. 9 Awards Committee members are not eligible during their time of service on the awards committee. Award is limited to two awards each year, one award to an industry member and one to an academic member. The Award recipient(s) receive a plaque at the annual meeting and a $1,000 cash award by BASF.

The SWSS Outstanding Graduate Student Award (OGSA) (one each for students at the MS level and the PhD level) - These awards are sponsored by the SWSS Endowment Foundation and consist of a $400 cash award and a plaque for MS level and $400 cash award and plaque for PhD level. The awards are given annually to a graduate student (one at the MS level and one at the PhD level) who has demonstrated outstanding performance in graduate studies and related weed science activities. Winners at the MS level are not eligible for this award at the PhD level. Students must have received the degree for which they are nominated since the previous SWSS Annual Meeting.

To be eligible for the OGSA, the potential recipient must:
• Must be enrolled as a graduate student in the degree program for which she/he is nominated within the calendar year prior to the SWSS annual meeting in January.
• Have actively participated in SWSS sponsored activities such as the annual meeting, weed contest, student paper contest, or committee work.
• Must have been a member of SWSS during their time as a student at an SWSS member institution.
The nomination packet should include a nomination letter, 2 supporting letters, 1-3 page CV, and an unofficial copy of the students transcripts are required. (All sent in a single pdf file to Committee Chair, Nick Basinger). The nominating letter should explain in general and specific terms the outstanding contributions of the nominee. The nominating letter should contain a listing of the various contributions to the SWSS, but is limited to 2 pages in total length. The 2 supporting letters are also limited to 1 page in length for each

letter. One of the letters (nomination or supporting) must be from the student's advisor at the time of the nomination.

A summary document describing the nominee (such as a CV) should be limited to a total of 3 pages in length. Transcripts of the student, including a listing of courses taken and grades earned should be included with the packet. Unofficial copies are acceptable, but the advisor agrees that the transcript represents the actual course of study of that student.
Students of Awards Committee members are not eligible during their time of service on the awards committee. Award is limited to two awards each year, one for MS student and one for PhD student. The Award recipient(s) receive a plaque at the annual meeting and a cash award.

The Excellence in Regulatory Stewardship Award (ERSA) is for specific collaborations in the emerging applications of science and technology that require regulatory and stewardship protocols. This award recognizes scientists that demonstrate great interaction and collaboration between public and private institutions, establish multiyear outreach and support of the new technologies, and provide nonbiased feed- back while extending research findings to the scientific and farming communities through publications and extension activities.

Eligible nominees include industry personnel, primary research/extension project leaders, and primary graduate students actively involved in conducting the research.

The nomination must be by letter and 2 supporting letters are required. (All sent in a single pdf file Committee Chair, J.D. Green). The nominating letter should explain in general and specific terms the regulatory stewardship contributions of the nominee. The nominating letter should contain a listing of the various regulatory stewardship activities performed and how they relate to the discipline of weed science, but is limited to 2 pages in total length. The 2 supporting letters are also limited to 2 pages in length for each letter. A summary document describing the nominee (such as a CV) may be added but is limited to a total of 3 pages in length.

The selected program will be awarded a plaque and monetary awards are to be allocated as follows: Principal Investigator, $2000, and remainder of the graduate team ($250 each), to a maximum total award of $3,000 unless extenuating circumstances. The graduate students should be the primary researchers and does not include technicians. Team members should be named during the nomination process. If a project has two lead PI's they should be awarded and the primary funds divided evenly. Graduate students providing minimal assistance should not be nominated.

The Excellence in Regulatory Stewardship Award (ERSA) is sponsored by Bayer CropScience and awarded yearly for five years starting in 2017.

Weed Contest

Graduate and Undergraduate students from across the United States gathered to test their skills at the North American Weed Science Contest held July 25 at the BASF Midwest Research Farm, Midwest Ag Research Center of Valent and Klein Farms near Seymour, Illinois.

Winners fromthe SWSS region were:

1st University of Arkansas
2nd Texas A and M University
3rd University of Georgia

Overall Indvidual Winners from the SWSS were:

1st Zachary Lancaster (Arkansas)
2nd Rodger Farr (Arkansas)
3rd Hannah Wright (Arkansas)

WASHINGTON REPORT

July 30, 2019
Lee Van Wychen

Kansas City Announced as New Home for USDA NIFA & ERS

On June 13, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced that USDA will relocate the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and Economic Research Service (ERS) to the Kansas City Region. "Following a rigorous site selection process, the Kansas City Region provides a win win – maximizing our mission function by putting taxpayer savings into programmatic outputs and providing affordability, easy commutes, and extraordinary living for our employees," said Secretary Perdue. USDA conducted a Cost Benefit Analysis and conservative estimates show a savings of nearly $300 million nominally over a 15-year lease term on employment costs and rent or about $20 million per year, which will allow more funding for research of critical needs like rural prosperity and agricultural competitiveness, and for programs and employees to be retained in the long run, even in the face of tightening budgets. On top of that, state and local governments offered generous relocation incentives packages totaling more than $26 million. Please click here to view USDA's Cost Benefit Analysis.

Out of NIFA's 315 positions, 294 will relocate while 21 will stay in Washington DC. Of the 329 ERS positions, 253 will relocate while 76 will stay in Washington DC. USDA has stated that no ERS or NIFA employees will be involuntarily separated and every employee who wants to continue working will have an opportunity to do so, although that will mean moving to the new location for most. Employees will be offered relocation assistance and will receive the same base pay as before, and the locality pay for the new location.
Initial reports indicate that up to two-thirds of the NIFA and ERS employees may decline their reassignments or retire. Employees could begin reporting to the Kansas City location the week of July 22 and will have until Sept. 30 to do so. The department expects relocation numbers may "fluctuate" until the Sept. 30 cutoff, according to a statement provided by USDA. "These anticipated ranges were taken into account in the department's long-term strategy, which includes both efforts to ensure separating employees have the resources they need as well as efforts to implement an aggressive hiring strategy to maintain the continuity of ERS and NIFA's work."

IR-4 Will Move from Rutgers to NC State

On July 10, 2019, the IR-4 Project Management Committee (PMC) considered a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) drafted by North Carolina State University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (NC State). This MOA presented an opportunity for IR-4 Headquarters to relocate its operations from the long-term host institution, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station/Rutgers University, to NC State. After significant discussion, the PMC unanimously agreed to advance the agreement to Rutgers legal counsel for concurrence.

The PMC based its decision on the 10-year commitment by NC State to host IR-4 Headquarters as well as the vision of the leadership of the NC State's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences on the many ways that IR-4 fits into the strategic direction of the college. While New Jersey Agricultural Experimental Station continues to value the IR-4 Project, Rutgers could not make a long-term commitment to continue as the host institution.

The relocation, once approved by Rutgers, will transition over the next two years, with scheduled completion by September 30, 2021. The long transition will allow IR-4 Headquarters to remain operational with minimal interruptions and lessen the impact of the move on current employees at IR-4 Headquarters. Rutgers administrators are committed to working closely with NC State to ensure a smooth transition.

The IR-4 Project provides safe and effective pest management solutions to specialty crop growers. It is funded through federal funds administrated by USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Agriculture Research Service and Foreign Agriculture Service with significant direct and in-kind funds from the land-grant university system, specialty crop commodity associations and the crop protection industry. Field research farms, analytical laboratories and coordination offices are located in over 20 states to facilitate na-

tional registrations of needed chemical and bio-based pesticides. Since 1963, IR-4's national headquarters has been hosted by Rutgers. Rutgers will continue to participate in IR-4 with activities at two of its research farms in New Jersey.

EPA Seeks Comments on Glyphosate Proposed Interim Registration Review Decision

In the ongoing registration review of glyphosate, EPA issued this proposed interim registration review decision in May so that it can move forward with aspects of the registration review case that are complete and implement interim risk mitigation. Registration review issues that still need to be addressed include its Endangered Species Act assessments and its Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program activities.

In 2017, EPA published comprehensive ecological and human health risk assessments for glyphosate. No human health risks were identified. The agency determined that glyphosate is not carcinogenic to humans. Potential ecological risks were identified for terrestrial and aquatic plants, birds, and mammals, primarily from exposure to spray drift. To ensure pollinators and their habitat are adequately protected from glyphosate, EPA included an evaluation of risk to pollinators and milkweed in the ecological risk assessment. Available data (laboratory and field-based) indicate no risk to pollinators.

In this proposed interim registration review decision for glyphosate, EPA is proposing various spray drift management measures (e.g., release height, droplet size, and wind speed restrictions) to reduce off-site exposure to non-target wildlife. EPA is also proposing weed resistance management labeling (e.g., information on mode of action, scouting instructions, and reporting instructions for weed resistance) and certain labeling clean-up/consistency efforts to bring all glyphosate labels up to modern standards.

The proposed interim registration review and associated documents are posted at https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0361-2340. Comments are due Sept. 3, 2019.

APHIS Seeks Comments on Proposed Rule Deregulating Some GM Crop Traits

USDA APHIS is seeking comments on their proposed rule titled "Movement of Certainly Genetically Engineered Organisms" that would revise their regulations regarding the importation, interstate movement, and environmental release of certain genetically engineered organisms in response to advances in genetic engineering and their understanding of the plant pest risk posed by them, thereby reducing regulatory burden for developers of organisms that are unlikely to pose plant pest risks. This would mark the first comprehensive revision of the regulations since they were established in 1987. According to APHIS, the proposed rule would provide a clear, predictable, and efficient regulatory pathway for innovators, facilitating the development of new and novel genetically engineered organisms that are unlikely to pose plant pest risks. The proposed rule is posted at: https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=APHIS-2018-0034. Comments are due Aug. 6, 2019.

Congress and White House Agree on 2-Yr Budget Deal

Congressional and White House leadership reached a budget deal that will lift budget caps that were set to take effect this fall and raise the debt ceiling until July 2021. It provides nearly equal increases for defense and domestic programs, raising federal spending by a total of $320 billion. And while the compromise only contains $77 billion in offsets, which is far less than the $150 billion initially sought by the Trump administration, House Majority Leader Pelosi has agreed to not include any "poison pill" riders in upcoming funding bills. Without a budget deal, defense spending would be cut by $71 billion and nondefense spending – which includes most research funding programs – would be cut by $55 billion in FY 2020 alone.

Cover Crop Economics

A new USDA-SARE report titled "Cover Crop Economics" found that farmers are likely to see returns from planting cover crops within three years if the practice is used to deal with herbicide-resistant weeds, to graze livestock or to reverse soil degradation. Based primarily on yield and economic data gathered through five years of national cover crop surveys from about 500 farms, the report addresses the kinds of economic returns that can be expected from cover crops, both under various management scenarios and as cover crops improve soil health over time. The 2017 Census of Agriculture revealed that national cover crop acreage increased by 50% from 2012 to 2017.

Tranel Presents Capitol Hill Seminar on Weed Gene Drives

On June 10, Patrick Tranel presented a seminar on Capitol Hill titled "Gene Drives to Combat our Worst Weeds". The seminar was part of the National Coalition for Food & Agricultural Research (NCFAR) Lunch-n-Learn Seminar Series. Dr. Tranel has been a weed scientist at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign since 1997. He has been at the forefront of using molecular and genomic tools to study weeds, and his research findings have informed how weeds evolve resistance to herbicides and strategies that can be used to mitigate that process. The advent of gene editing tools, such as CRISPR-Cas9, makes such genetic strategies more feasible. Gene drives can be used in weed management approaches to reduce seed dormancy or reverse herbicide resistance in weeds. For genetic control of weeds to become a reality, significant basic research is needed as well as efforts in training future scientists.

Photo: J*ust outside the U.S. Capitol. From left to right: Lee Van Wychen, WSSA Executive Director of Science Policy, Patrick Tranel, University of Illinois, and Jim Kells, WSSA NIFA Fellow.*

House Approves Nine FY 2020 Appropriations Bills

In June, the House passed nine of their 12 appropriations bills, even though there was no agreed to spending limits set yet. The Senate has yet to unveil any of their FY 2020 spending bills. For the House passed bills, all programs listed below either increased or stayed level compared to FY 2019.

Selected Discretionary Appropriations Accounts

Program	2016 Final	2017 Final	2018 Final	2019 Final	FY 2020 House
	---------- Millions of Dollars ----------				
USDA- NIFA	1326	1363	1412	1471	1614
Hatch Act (Exp. Stations)	244	244	244	259	265
Smith-Lever 3(b) & (c)	300	300	300	315	325
AFRI competitive grants	350	375	400	415	460
IR-4	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9	12
Crop Protection & Pest	17.2	20	20	20	20
USDA- ARS	1143	1170	1203	1303	1347
USDA- ERS	85	87	87	87	88
USDA- NASS	168	171	192	175	181
USDA- APHIS	894	946	982	1011	1034

Public Lands and Water Management Bill Becomes Law

This spring, the "John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019" became law (P.L. 116-9). It's the first major public lands and water management bill passed since 2009 and contains over 100 pieces of legislation that are laid out in nine titles. In Title VII, "Wildlife Habitat and Conservation", the new law amends the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act to protect federal "water, oceans, coasts, and wildlife from invasive species". The new law defines a number of terms, including "invasive species" and directs the head of each federal Agency (specifically Army Corp of Engineers, Agriculture and Interior) to

plan and carry out activities on land directly managed by the Agency to protect water and wildlife by controlling and managing invasive species: (1) to inhibit or reduce the populations of invasive species; and (2) to effectuate restoration or reclamation efforts.

While the new law does not authorize any additional appropriations, it directs the Agency heads to allocate their existing invasive species funding in the following manner:

- use not less than 75 percent for on-the-ground control and management of invasive species, which may include: (1) the purchase of necessary products, equipment, or services to conduct that control and management; (2) the use of integrated pest management options, including options that use pesticides; (3) the use of biological control agents; (4) the use of revegetation or cultural restoration methods; (5) the use of monitoring and detection activities for invasive species, including equipment, detection dogs, and mechanical devices; (6) the use of appropriate methods to remove invasive species from a vehicle or vessel capable of conveyance; or (7) the use of other effective mechanical or manual control methods

- use not more than 15 percent for investigations, development activities, and outreach and public awareness efforts to address invasive species control and management needs.

- not more than 10 percent may be used for administrative costs incurred to carry out those programs, including costs relating to oversight and management of the programs, recordkeeping, and implementation of a strategic plan.

2019 Weed Survey Available

The 2019 Survey of the Most Common and Troublesome Weeds is available at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019weeds.

Please take a moment to list your top 5 most common and top 5 most troublesome weeds in the following broadleaf crops:
1) Alfalfa, 2) Canola, 3) Cotton, 4) Fruits & Nuts, 5) Peanuts, 6) Pulses- field pea, chickpea, lentil, etc., 7) Soybean, 8) Sugarbeet, 9) Vegetables- Cole crops, 10) Vegetables- Cucurbits, 11) Vegetables- Fruiting, 12) Vegetables- Other

Common weeds refer to those weeds you most frequently see, while troublesome weeds are those that are most difficult to control (but may not be widespread). The survey has a 3-year rotation, so next year we will be surveying weeds in grass crops, pasture and turf and the following year will be weeds in aquatic and non-crop/natural areas. This survey will remain open until Labor Day 2019. Thanks!

2019 Weed Survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019weeds

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