



Note From the President:

I hope that this newsletter finds you well and enjoying the “dog days” of summer from an air-conditioned office or maybe even from a vacation destination. As I gather my thoughts for the August newsletter, I find myself reflecting on the uniqueness of the agriculture industry and specifically the various career paths that have brought us all together to address the various challenges that face the American farmer and to be part of the solution. We are all truly blessed to be a part of the agriculture industry and community connected to the production of the abundant and safe food supply that our country and the world enjoys every day. At times, the agriculture community seems very large, but in reality we represent only a small slice of the population and all have a unique calling and bond that brings us together not only in agriculture but as part of the Southern Weed Science Society. My hope is that we all recognize the opportunity that we have to advance science and to promote collaboration through our involvement in the SWSS!



2024 Joint WSSA/SWSS Annual Meeting: I couldn’t be more excited about the progress the SWSS and WSSA Board of Directors are making towards the joint meeting on the Riverwalk in San Antonio! It is going to be a meeting to remember and a great opportunity to extend our Southern hospitality to colleagues from around the country. Todd Baughman (SWSS President-Elect) and Greg Dahl (WSSA President-Elect) are working together as program chairs for the meeting and doing a remarkable job of planning and overseeing all meeting activities. Luke Etheridge and Gary Schwarzlose have teamed up to serve as local arrangement chairs and already proposed some unique and memorable Texas tour experiences.



As part of our Southern hospitality, the SWSS Graduate Student Organization and SWSS Endowment will be hosting and extending invitations to WSSA students to join them at the TopGolf Student Networking Event on Sunday evening as well as to be a part of the famous SWSS Quiz Bowl with host Peter Dotray later in the week. Be on the lookout for the TopGolf event invitation and be sure to RSVP. This is a great opportunity to have fun and build your professional network, so please plan to attend. Also, look for other student events well including the WSSA/SWSS GSO luncheon.

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National Weed Contest: A huge THANK YOU to Bayer for hosting and sponsoring the National Weed Science Contest in Union City, TN and a special callout to Joey Williams and Garret Montgomery for their planning and hard work that made the contest a tremendous success. A big THANK YOU to Matthew Wiggins (SWSS Weed Contest Chair) for his dedication and attention to detail and for organizing the contest which hosted 27 universities and 217 contestants! In 2023, Matthew chaired both the National Weed Contest and the SWSS student contests at our annual meeting in Baton Rouge. Please join me in thanking Matthew for his dedication and many contributions to the SWSS.

Board of Directors/Endowment Foundation Elections: We have an outstanding slate of candidates for the SWSS Board of Directors and for the SWSS Endowment Foundation. Many thanks to all the candidates and their willingness to step up and serve our society. Please participate in the SWSS elections by voting and supporting those elected. If you would like to serve as an elected officer or volunteer for a committee, please reach out to me or any of the SWSS Board of Directors.

It continues to be an honor and privilege to serve as your SWSS President and to be given the opportunity to work with so many talented and dedicated individuals. It is truly inspiring to see the talent and energy of the graduate students and knowing that the society is in good hands for the future. It is also rewarding to see the continued dedication of our “seasoned” members and the desire to make our society even better. Thank you for allowing me to be part of the journey and I look forward to seeing all of you in San Antonio.

Eric Castner
2023 SWSS President

2023 Weeds Contest Winners

Overview: The National Weed Science competition was held in Union City, TN on July 25-27, 2023. This event was hosted by Bayer Crop Science, with local arrangements being handled by Garret Montgomery, Joey Williams, and Matthew Wiggins. There were 27 universities from the US and Canada represented at the competition. A total of 217 total contestants, 64 undergraduates and 153 graduate students, participated this year. Over 120 individuals served as a volunteer to help make this contest a success.

SWSS Contest Participation:

Year	Universities	Contest Participants		Total Participants
		Graduate	Undergrad	
2023	10	52	7	59
2022	11	57	9	66

Student Contest Overview

The contest followed the official rules in place for the National Weed Science Contest. Students competed in weed identification, application technology (written exam and team calibration), identification of unknown herbicides, and problem solving. Individual and team scores were tabulated and redistributed to the contestants after the awards ceremony.

WSSA Awards

Graduate

Award	Name(s)	University
1st place team	Jared Smith, Tristen Avent, Pamela Carvalho-Moore, Samuel Noe	University of Arkansas; Team A
1st place individual	Jared Smith	University of Arkansas
1st place weed ID	Jared Smith	University of Arkansas
1st place team sprayer calibration	Kayla Broster, Antonio Tavares, Jake Patterson, Amy Wilber	Mississippi State; Team 1
1st place written problems	Tristen Avent	University of Arkansas
1st place problem solving	Marcelo Zimmer	Purdue
1st place unknown herbicide*	Tristen Avent, Jared Smith, & Alex Mueth	University of Arkansas; University of Arkansas; Purdue

*Three-way tie for first place unknown herbicide

Undergraduate

Award	Name(s)	University
1st place team	Curtis Vanrooy, Stephanie Fletcher, Noelle Adams, Joe Rastapkevicius	University of Guelph; Team 1
1st place individual	Cody Lehman	Penn State
1st place weed ID	Rhet Baxley	University of Arkansas
1st place team sprayer calibration	Alisha Sherman, Sophie Van Den Borre, Kaitlin Woods, Lucy McNiven	University of Guelph; Team3
1st place written problems	Yudai Takenaka	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
1st place problem solving	Jillion Ohm	University of Guelph
1st place unknown herbicide	Ethan Whitmoyer	Penn State

SWSS Awards

Graduate

Top Individual Graduate Students		
Place	Name	School
1 st	Jared Smith	University of Arkansas
2 nd	Tristen Avent	University of Arkansas
3 rd	Maria Carolina Souza	University of Arkansas
4 th	Pamela Carvalho-Moore	University of Arkansas
5 th	Tanner King	University of Arkansas
6 th	Cole Woolard	University of Arkansas
7 th	Gustavo Silva	Texas A&M
8 th	Samuel Noe	University of Arkansas
9 th	Wade Reiter	Auburn University
10 th	Hannah Lindell	University of Georgia

1 st Place by Contest		
Contest	Name	School
Weed Identification	Jared Smith	University of Arkansas
Unknown Herbicide Identification*	Tristen Avent/Jared Smith	University of Arkansas
Problem Solving	Jared Smith	University of Arkansas
Individual Calibration	Tristen Avent	University of Arkansas

* Tie for unknown herbicide identification

Team Calibration Results		
Place	Names	School
1 st	Kayla Broster, Antonio Tavares, Jake Patterson, Amy Wilber	Mississippi State; Team 1
2 nd	Wade Reiter, Annu Kumari, Akashdeep Singh, Claudia Ann Rutland	Auburn
2 nd *	Ubaldo Torres, Joe Johnson, Purushottam Gya-wali, Megan Schill	Texas A&M; Team B

* Tie for second place

Top Overall Teams		
Place	Names	School
1 st	Jared Smith, Tristen Avent, Pamela Carvalho-Moore, Samuel Noe	University of Arkansas; Team A
2 nd	Maria Carolina Souza, Tanner King, Cole Woolard, Juan Velasquez	University of Arkansas; Team B
3 rd	Kayla Broster, Antonio Tavares, Jake Patterson, Amy Wilber	Mississippi State University; Team 1

Undergraduate

Top Individual Undergraduate Students		
Place	Name	School
1 st	Colton Fuller	University of Tennessee-Martin
2 nd	Tyler Ward	University of Tennessee-Martin
3 rd	Lorna Stemen	University of Tennessee-Martin

1 st Place by Contest		
Contest	Name	School
Weed Identification	Rhet Baxley	University of Arkansas
Unknown Herbicide Identification	Colton Fuller	University of Tennessee-Martin
Problem Solving	Colton Fuller	University of Tennessee-Martin
Individual Calibration	William Yates	Auburn

Team Calibration Results		
Place	Names	School
1 st	Colton Fuller, Tyler Ward, Ali Prince, Lorna Stemen	University of Tennessee-Martin

Top Overall Teams		
Place	Names	School
1 st	Colton Fuller, Tyler Ward, Ali Prince, Lorna Stemen	University of Tennessee-Martin

Contest Awards

- Contest awards were presented at the awards banquet on July 26, 2023
- Plaques were awarded to National and Regional winners.
- The Broken Hoe trophy is currently full and is currently getting redesigned to be able to accommodate future contest winners.
- The original Broken Hoe trophy will be auctioned at the annual SWSS meeting in San Antonio, TX.

Future Contests

- Virginia Tech has agreed to host in 2024 in Blacksburg, VA
- Nutrien is considering hosting in 2025 in Winterville, MS



Call for 2024 Joint SWSS/WSSA Paper and Poster Titles

Annual Meeting of the WSSA/SWSS

San Antonio, TX

January 22-25

2024 INVITATION

You are invited to submit titles and abstracts for papers and posters to be presented at the WSSA/SWSS Joint Meeting in San Antonio, TX January 22 – 25, 2024 - Monday to Thursday. Volunteer papers may be presented orally in one of the meeting sections or as a poster. **An individual may personally present only one volunteer, non-poster paper.** This rule will be strictly followed. In addition to the volunteer paper, an individual may present a poster, may be co-author of papers presented by other authors, and may present an invited sym-

posium paper. The abstract submission site will be open after September 30, 2023, and can be found at: <https://www.weedscimeetingabstracts.com/>.

DEADLINES FOR TITLES and AUTHOR, ABSTRACT, and PRESENTATION SUBMISSIONS

Titles and Author Information must be submitted electronically **by November 1, 2023**, to be considered. Those not submitted by this deadline will not be accepted. This deadline applies to symposium papers, as well as to volunteer papers and posters.

Abstract texts must be submitted **by January 9, 2024**. The program will be posted on the WSSA website (<http://www.wssa.net>) and members will be informed when it is available.

MEETING SCHEDULES

Volunteer papers will be presented within a **15-minute schedule**. Concurrent sessions dictate that the time schedule be strictly followed. To allow for introduction, transition of speakers, and questions, you should plan to present your paper in 12 or 13 minutes. Papers should report the results of completed research or other substantive information. Ideally, research reported at the WSSA Meeting should be publishable in *Invasive Plant Science and Management*, *Weed Science*, *Weed Technology*, or a similar scientific journal.

SYMPOSIUM PAPERS

Speakers participate in symposia by invitation. Deadlines and procedures for preparing and submitting abstracts of symposium papers are the same as for volunteer papers, except that the author must send a copy of the abstract to the symposium organizer.

COMPUTER AND PROJECTION EQUIPMENT

The WSSA 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 by WSSA members and coordinated by section chairs. 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.

FORMAT

All presentations **MUST** be in PowerPoint (any version) for MS Windows (PC compatible)... 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 limit the size of presentations to less than 200 MB. If your presentation contains video clips or animation you must contact the section chair for approval one week **PRIOR** to sending your presentation to ensure compatibility with the equipment. 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.

SUBMISSION OF PRESENTATIONS

Presentations must be uploaded on the submission site prior to the meeting. Section chairs must receive the presentation at least one week in advance of the meeting **no later than January 15th, 2024**. 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.

Be alert to changes, modifications, and refinements to these guidelines between now and the meeting. This information will be published in the October and January issues of the WSSA Newsletter. For non-WSSA members, the WSSA Newsletter is available on the WSSA website (<http://www.wssa.net>).

SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACT

Volunteer papers, posters, and symposium papers all require abstracts to be submitted electronically. To submit abstract titles/authors and abstract texts electronically, go to the NEW Weed Science Society of America Submission website (<http://weedscimeetingabstracts.com>). • After September 30, 2023, you will be able to access the Title/Abstract Submission Page from the WSSA website. Additional instructions will be provided on the Title/ Abstract Submission Page. 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 abstract was received and a later email confirming the section/day/time when and where the paper will be presented.

STUDENT CONTEST INFORMATION

A. ELIGIBILITY

1. Any student who is a WSSA/SWSS member and has registered to attend the current annual meeting is eligible to compete in the poster or oral presentation contest. WSSA will not be hosting a 15-minute oral presentation contest but will offer the -Single Slide Talk (SST) competition. SWSS will offer SWSS students the opportunity to participate in a 15-minute oral presentation contest.
2. A Single Slide Talk competition is being offered to both WSSA and SWSS students at the 2024 meeting. It provides students with the opportunity to profile their research and enhance communication skills. A separate document will be available describing this activity in more detail including how students will be judged and the rules for the competition.
3. A student can only participate in one contest per annual meeting, either the oral presentation (SWSS 15-minute or SST) contest or poster presentation contest during the same annual meeting. Students are eligible for participation in the Student Competition multiple times during a M.S. program and a Ph.D. program.
4. A student can only win 1st place in the poster or oral presentation contest once per degree program. Once a student places 1st in a given contest (i.e. oral, SST, or poster presentation contest), they are no longer eligible to compete in said contest during the course of their current degree program. A student may win 1st place in the poster presentation contest and 1st place in the oral presentation contest while in a M.S. or Ph.D. program; however, a student may not enter both contests at the same annual meeting. A student may win 1st place in the poster or oral presentation contest in the M.S. degree program and then compete and win 1st place for an oral or poster presentation while in a Ph.D. degree program.

B. RULES AND PROCEDURES

1. Notice of the contests will be included with the Call for Papers.
2. A contestant may enter the poster or oral presentation contest multiple years per degree program. Persons who have graduated from a degree program (M.S. or Ph.D.) and are actively pursuing an additional degree may only enter the contest for that degree program during the first annual meeting following graduation.

3. Contestants will indicate in the title submission that they wish to enter either the poster or oral presentation contest. Title and contest declaration must be turned in by the deadline that title submissions are due. If a contestant does not turn in a title and contest declaration by the time that title submissions are due, they will be ineligible for the contest unless the Student Program Chairperson declares the student eligible based on student's situation. ABSTRACTS FOR CONTEST PRESENTATIONS must be submitted electronically by January 9, 2024. This allows time for the committee to prepare copies or e-mail abstracts to the appropriate judges prior to the contest.
4. Evaluation forms and rules will be posted to the WSSA and SWSS websites.

CALL FOR WSSA/SWSS STUDENT CONTEST JUDGES – ORAL AND POSTER

The Graduate Student Contest is an integral part of the 2024 joint meeting of the WSSA and SWSS. Please consider serving the WSSA/SWSS as an oral or poster competition judge and contributing to the development of young weed scientists. The opportunity to serve as a volunteer contest judge is open to all registered WSSA or SWSS members. This includes government, university, private industry, and student members.

Please respond by December 1 with your ability to serve the WSSA/SWSS to Marty Schraer: marty.schraer@syngenta.com

In responding as volunteer contest judge:

- **Indicate your preference for 15-minute oral, SST, or poster contest judging assignment. “No preference” is also an acceptable indication.**
- **You're welcome to judge in multiple contests if your schedule permits. Multiple assignments will be made only as need dictates.**
- **When responding indicate whether or not you may have a particular conflict of interest. (i.e. advised student presenting in SST, my office mate is presenting in the PhD poster contest)**

PREPARATION OF ABSTRACT

Following are the guidelines for the preparation and submission of an abstract. Be alert to additional instructions that may appear on the site itself.

1. **Contents** – The abstract should include a brief overview of essential aspects of experimental procedures and should highlight significant results and their interpretation. Write the abstract so it consists entirely of information. Do not include statements such as “The results of the experiments will be presented” or “The significance of these results will be discussed.”
2. **Formatting** – Typing and format instructions will be provided on the Title/Abstract Submission Page of the website.

Capitalize the first letter of all major words in the title and end the title with a period. Include both the common and scientific names of weeds and uncommon crop plants in the title (authorship of plants is not necessary), but only the common names of herbicides and well-known crop plants. **You do not need to type the title in bold-face;** the system will do that automatically. The site will provide a method for indicating the presenter, be sure to specify the presenting author.

Title Example. Role of Adjuvants on Sulfonylurea Herbicide Efficacy.

3. **E-mail Address** – For better communication among researchers, place the e-mail address of the senior author following the last sentence of abstract.

4. **Herbicide nomenclature** – A list of common and chemical names of herbicides approved by the WSSA is available at <http://wssa.net/Weeds/Tools/Herbicides> . When the common name refers to the parent acid, salt or ester forms used in the experiments should be identified at the first mention of the common name (e.g., methyl ester of diclofop). At the first mention of an herbicide application rate, list whether the weight is acid equivalent (ae) or active ingredient (ai) (e.g., kg ai ha⁻¹). If no common name is available, use its designation (trade name or code) followed by the full chemical name. If the chemistry is confidential, identify the source (company) in parentheses after designation.
5. **Adjuvant nomenclature** – Where possible, use the WSSA *Herbicide Handbook*, 10th edition (2014), p.479–481; *Weed Science* (1985) 33 (Suppl. 1): 22–23; or the *WSSA Monograph* (1982) Adjuvants for Herbicides. Otherwise, use the most complete available chemical description of the adjuvant.
6. **Weed nomenclature** – Identify weeds by common names. At first mention of a weed, whether in the title or text, follow the common name with the scientific name (underlined and in parentheses). Do not repeat the scientific name in the text if given in the title. A list of WSSA approved common and Latin names of common weed species can be found at <http://wssa.net/wssa/weed/composite-list-of-weeds/>. If there is no WSSA-designated common name, use common scientific names from another source such as *Hortus Third Dictionary*.
7. **Crop nomenclature** – Scientific names for crop plants are optional. They are not needed for well-known crops but should be included for less common crops and whenever needed for clarity. Place scientific names, underlined and in parentheses, following first mention of the common name, whether in the title or text.
8. **Soil nomenclature** – Include the soil series with textural classification and the subgroup name using the terminology of the U.S. Dept. Agric. Natr. Res. Conserv. Serv. publication, *Soil Taxonomy*, U.S. Gov. Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 1988. For soils outside the U.S.A., use the local official terminology.
9. **Measurements** – Report all measurements in International System of units (SI). Abbreviate units of measure if preceded by a number. See *Weed Science* (2003) 51:1029–1033 for additional suggestions and *WSSA Herbicide Handbook*, 10th edition (2014), p. 488–491 for metric conversions.
10. **Abbreviations** – Use abbreviations as shown at [https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-file-manager/file/620670584ea75bf1c628d10b/WSSA□APPROVED-ABBREVIATIONS-FOR-FREQUENTLY-USED-TERMS-Feb2022.pdf](https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-file-manager/file/620670584ea75bf1c628d10b/WSSA%20APPROVED-ABBREVIATIONS-FOR-FREQUENTLY-USED-TERMS-Feb2022.pdf)
11. **Numbers** – Use Arabic numerals for all numbers with two or more digits and for all measurements such as time, weight-length, area, quantity, or degree except when the number is the first word in the sentence. Spell out numbers when they are the first word in a sentence or when they are less than 10 and not measurements.

POSTERS

The information presented as a poster is very similar to that presented as an oral paper, but it is presented on poster board rather than orally at the meeting. Directions for preparing a poster can be found under POSTER SESSION (see below). There are key differences between a poster and a commercial exhibit. The commercial exhibits are presented by Sustaining Members of WSSA and consist of educational information that may be of a promotional nature about products and/or services. Posters may be presented by personnel of the same sustaining member companies and may concern commercial products, but they must present results of completed research with these products rather than promotional material about them.

POSTER SESSION

There may be split sessions for presentation of posters. In addition to specifying Poster Session, authors should indicate a category from Section 1 through 14. Poster presentations will be grouped by these categories.

1. Authors are expected to be at their poster during the period reserved for viewing the poster to answer questions and to discuss their research with interested parties.
2. Participants in Section 15, the Poster Session, will meet at a location designated in the program before the Poster Session begins to elect a vice-chair of the section and discuss recommendations for improvement of the Poster Session.
3. **Poster Boards. One space 48 x 48 inches will be provided for each poster. There will be no exceptions to the rule of one space per paper. Posters should be no larger than this size.**
4. 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.
5. Because of cost and logistics, it will not be possible to provide electrical connections, video equipment, or other special equipment for posters.
6. Groups of authors may present more than one poster, but at least one author must be present at each poster during the time designated exclusively for viewing the poster.

Committee Members:

WSSA Program Chair: Gregory Dahl (contact: gkdahl@landolakes.com)

SWSS Program Chair: Todd Baughman (contact: Todd.baughman@okstate.edu)

Ex-Off: Eric Gustafson (contact: info@wssa.net)

Section	WSSA Section Chair	SWSS Section Chair
1. Agronomic Crops	Craig Alford	Connor Webster
2. Horticultural Crops	Thierry Besancon	Gregory Steele
3. Turf and Ornamentals	Mayank Malik	Shawn Askew
4. Pasture, Range, Forest, Rights of ways & Natural Areas	Byron Sleugh	David Clabo
5. Wildlands & Aquatic Invasive	None	Ryan Bryant-Schlobohm
6. Regulatory Aspects	Kyle Russell	Matt Inman
7. Teaching and Extension/ Teaching and Technology Transfer	Debalin Sarangi	Liberty Galvin
8. Formulation, Adjuvant, & Application Technology	Gourav Sharma	Scott Nolte
9. Weed Biology and Ecology	Shilpa Singh	Swati Shrestha
10. Biocontrol of Weeds	Rin Ragamahi	Aniruddha Maity
11. Physiology	Chad Brabham	Tommy Butts
12. Soil and Environmental Aspects	Cameron Douglass	Kayla Eason
13. Integrated Weed Management	Ramawater Yadaz	Matthew Wiggins
14. Sustaining Member Exhibits	Kyle Kepner	Nicholas Basinger
15. Poster Sessions	Tom Mueller	Michael Lovelace
16. Student Contest	Marty Schraer	Pratap Devkota
17. Targeted and Autonomous Weed Control Technologies	Nathan Boyd	Luis Avila

2024 SWSS Awards

The Awards Committee consist of a Parent Awards Committee with the Immediate Past President (Darrin Dodds) as chairperson and five Awards Subcommittees: (1) Fellow Award, (2) Outstanding Educator Award, (3) Outstanding Young Weed Scientist Award, (4) Outstanding Graduate Student Awards, and (5) Excellence in Regulatory Stewardship Award. The Awards Subcommittees are broadly representative of all interests of the society. Individual members of the Awards Subcommittees shall be responsible for soliciting other SWSS members to make nominations and seeing that the nominators submit biographical information and a black and white photo for each nominee prior to the deadline (Subcommittee members must not personally submit nominations). If you, as an SWSS member, wish to contact a specific Awards Subcommittee, and support nominating another member for an award, please contact a member of the particular Award Subcommittee, or the Award Subcommittee Chair (listed below) well before Oct. 20, 2023 (having a bio and photo of the person you're recommending might be expected by this date as well, so check earlier than Oct. 20, as these bio submissions can be up to each subcommittee chair). No person shall be eligible to receive the same award a second time.

Award Subcommittee Chairs and contact information:

Fellow Award: Henry McLean – henry.mclean@syngenta.com

Outstanding Educator Award: Eric Prostko – eprostko@uga.edu

Outstanding Young Weed Scientist Award: Matthew Wiggins – matthew.wiggins@fmc.com

Outstanding Graduate Student Awards: Nathan Boyd – nsboyd@ufl.edu

Excellence in Regulatory Stewardship Award: Garrett Montgomery – garrett.montgomery@bayer.com

Descriptions of Awards:

There are five major awards presented by the SWSS at each annual meeting, their descriptions are below:

SWSS Fellow: The 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.

Outstanding Educator Award: This award of \$1,000 cash (sponsored by Corteva) and a certificate or plaque will be 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.

Outstanding Young Weed Scientist Award: These awards of \$1,000 cash and a certificate or plaque to be 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.

Outstanding Graduate Student Awards: (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.

Excellence in Regulatory Stewardship Award: This award is sponsored by Bayer CropScience and awarded yearly for five years beginning in 2023. This award 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 feedback while extending research findings to the scientific and farming communities through publications and extension activities. The selected program will be awarded a plaque and monetary awards 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.

Award Qualifications (Minimum Qualifications for Prospective Candidates)

FELLOW AWARD: The potential recipient must have been an active member of the SWSS for >20 years, 2) Be at least 50 years of age at the time of the annual meeting, 3) Have made significant contributions of service to the SWSS (including but not limited to: serving on committees or being an officer, hosting the SWSS Weed Contest, judging at the paper/poster contest, etc.), 4) 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 maximum number of Fellow awards per year is set at two (2), with no distinction between those from academia or industry.

OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARD: Recipients must be a voting member of SWSS in the year of nomination. 2) Must be an active member of SWSS during the last five (5) years.

OUTSTANDING YOUNG WEED SCIENTIST AWARDS: Recipients (1 from academia, 1 from industry): Recipients 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. 2) Must be 40 years of age or younger on January 31 of the year she or he receives the award. 3) 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.

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS: (1 each from the MS level and the PhD level) Must be enrolled as a graduate student in the degree program for which she/he is nominated within the calendar year for which the nomination is made and has actively participated in SWSS sponsored activities such as the annual meeting, weed contest, student paper contest, or committee work during the past two years including the year nominated and the previous year.

EXCELLENCE IN REGULATORY STEWARDSHIP AWARD: Eligible nominees should be active members of the SWSS; and include industry personnel, primary research/extension project leaders, and primary graduate students actively involved in conducting the research.

Awards (Timelines)

Oct. 20, 2023 – Nominations due no later than this date, check with Awards Subcommittee Chairs

Nov. 6, 2023 – Each Awards Subcommittee Chair sends nomination forms and ballots listing nominees for each Award to their appropriate Award Subcommittee

Nov. 24, 2023 – Each Awards Subcommittee Chair sends Award recipients and recommendations to the SWSS Exec. Board members.

Dec. 8, 2023 – Awards Committee Chair (D. Dodds) to receive confirmation of the recipients for the Exec. Board

Dec. 15, 2023 – Awards Committee Chair to inform SWSS President (E. Castner) of the names of all Award candidates.

Jan. 24, 2024 – Awards presented to winners

Thanks,
Darrin Dodds
SWSS Past President / Awards Chair

2023 SWSS Endowment Enrichment Scholarship Winners

The Southern Weed Science Society Endowment Foundation once again provided Enrichment Scholarships to three student members. This program allows selected students the opportunity to enrich their graduate career through a week-long immersion with an academic or industry host partner. This year there were 19 student submissions from 8 academic institutions. The quality and rigor of these applications was outstanding and continues to make the selection process by the endowment board extremely difficult. The three students selected this year were:

Name	University	Chosen Sponsor
Navdeep Godara	Virginia Tech	Bayer CropScience - Greg Elmore
Annu Kumari	Auburn	FMC - Matthew Wiggins
Cynthia Sias	Virginia Tech	Syngenta - James Holloway

We thank all the students that submitted applications and those who took the time to write letters of support. The endowment board is honored to be able to provide these opportunities for our students, and we greatly appreciate the support of all those that contribute to the SWSS Endowment Foundation. The SWSS Endowment Committee strongly encourages everyone who didn't win this year to submit another package for the 2024 year.

Once again, congratulations to all the winners!!

On behalf of the Endowment Foundation,
Greg MacDonald

Updates Corner

Silent Auction Items Needed!

Donations are needed for the SWSS Endowment Silent Auction during the 2024 SWSS / WSSA Meeting.

Previous items have included: ice chests, paintings, Yeti merchandise, historical weed science items, golf balls, etc. If you have something you would like to donate to the 2024 SWSS Endowment Silent Auction, please contact me.

The proceeds from this Silent Auction are used to support your SWSS Endowment Fund.

Greg MacDonald, pineacre@ufl.edu
President, SWSS Endowment Committee

SWSS Membership Reminder!

If you are unable to attend the joint annual meeting this year, remember you can still renew your SWSS membership!

Make sure to go through the meeting registration process, and select SWSS membership only. It should be a one-time fee of \$75 for your annual membership for 2024.



Thank you for your continued support of our organization!



@SouthWeedSciSoc

For other society information,
visit our website:

<http://www.swss.ws/>.

Election Details

It's SWSS Officer Election Time! Please take the time to review the submitted bios for the candidates. **Voting will open soon through the SWSS website in the Members Only tab.**

Member at Large – Academia

David Russell – Auburn University

Hannah Wright-Smith – University of Arkansas

Member at Large – Industry

Matthew Wiggins – FMC

Tom Eubank – Nutrien

VP – Academia

Shawn Askew – Virginia Tech

Tom Barber – University of Arkansas

Endowment Foundation—(Regular Election)

Connor Webster – Louisiana State University

Luis Avila – Mississippi State University

Endowment Foundation—(Special Election, 4 Year Term)

Lawson Priess – FMC

Joey Williams – Bayer CropScience



Member-at-Large—Academia

David Russell



David Russell is an Assistant Professor and Extension Weed Specialist in the Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences at Auburn University. David grew up in south Mississippi where he learned early the value of hard work on his family's small cow-calf operation. He received dual undergraduate degrees in Landscape Architecture and Contracting in 2009 and his M.S. degree in Agronomy in 2012 from Mississippi State University. In 2013, David began working as an Extension Associate with Dr. John Byrd at MSU where he conducted Weed Science research and provided statewide outreach programs in forages and non-crop areas. During this time, he earned his PhD in Weed Science focusing on pasture renovation techniques and controlling toxic and invasive species in forages. David continued working as an Extension Associate until he joined Auburn University in 2019 where he was stationed at the Tennessee Valley Research & Extension Center.

David has an applied weed science program that focuses on troublesome species in corn, soybean, small grains, forage pasture, and non-crop areas across Alabama. He and his family recently moved in June 2023 to Auburn where he continues his statewide weed management and Extension programs from Auburn University's main campus.

David has been actively involved in the Southern Weed Science Society and the Weed Science Society of America since 2013. He has served as chair or co-chair on the program committee for Pastures, Rangeland, Utility, & ROW; Soil & Environmental Aspects; and the Forest Vegetation Management sections. David has also worked as a contest judge for student competitions at the annual WSSA and SWSS conferences as well as a volunteer and coach for regional weed contests since 2019. He is actively involved in the Alabama Association of County Agricultural Agents & Specialists and has been awarded 5 Communications Awards with the organization since 2020. He is currently serving on the boards of the Alabama Vegetation Management Association and the Alabama Invasive Plant Council. David has authored or co-authored 5 peer-reviewed papers, 21 peer-reviewed Extension publications, and 48 meeting abstracts. David currently advises or co-advises 6 M.S. students and has served, or currently serves on, 4 M.S. and 2 PhD students' committees.

Hannah Wright-Smith



Hannah Wright-Smith joined the University of Arkansas Horticulture Department in October of 2022 as an Assistant Professor and Extension Weed Specialist for Turf and Specialty Crops. Hannah grew up on small vegetable farm in Long Creek, SC where she and her family sold fresh produce at the local farmers market and to restaurants in a nearby town. She attended Mississippi State University, earning her B.S. degree in Agribusiness in the fall of 2016. During her undergraduate career Hannah had three summer internships with FMC as a sales and marketing intern. During her sales internships she had the opportunity to experience southern agriculture from the Carolinas to Arkansas and Louisiana, and work in corporate headquarters in Philadelphia, PA. After completing her undergraduate degree, Hannah attended the University of Arkansas and began working on her M.S. degree as a student of Dr. Jason Norsworthy. After completing her Masters thesis work, she joined Dr. Stanley Culpepper's program at the University of Georgia and defended her dissertation in September 2022. Throughout her graduate career, Hannah worked

with multiple row and specialty crops, including rice, cotton, cantaloupe, and broccoli. She has authored or coauthored 5 peer-reviewed publications and is preparing several more, 28 meeting abstracts, 3 research series articles, 4 Extension publications, and given 18 Extension presentations and 3 invited presentations.

As a student Hannah was active in WSSA and SWSS, serving as the Social Chair and Endowment Committee student representative for the SWSS Student Organization. She was the recipient of the 2021 SWSS Endowment Enrichment Scholarship and placed 1st in the SWSS oral Ph.D. contest (2021), 2nd in the M.S. poster contest (2018), and 3rd in the WSSA 3MT Ph.D. contest (2021). Hannah competed multiple times at the SWSS Weed Contest, placing in the top 5 twice (4th – 2018; 5th – 2021), as the top individual in the Farmer Problem twice (2018, 2021), and as a member of the 1st place team (2018). At the North American Weed Science Contest (Weed Olympics), she placed in the top 3 for the Southern Region and top individual in unknown herbicide identification for the Southern Region (2019). She continues her involvement by serving on the SWSS student contest committee and as the Turf and Ornamentals Section Vice Chair for WSSA. Additionally, Hannah serves as treasurer for the Sports Field Managers Association – Arkansas Chapter, and secretary for SERA48. Hannah resides in Little Rock, AR with her husband Tyler and dog, Doug. In her free time, she loves cooking with Tyler, cuddling with Doug, and crocheting.

Member-at-Large—Industry

Matthew Wiggins



Matthew Wiggins serves as a Regional Business Manager with FMC covering the Mid-south. His passion of agriculture started from being active in 4-H and FFA showing beef cattle and participating in many different development events. Matthew received a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, with an emphasis in Agricultural Engineering Technology (2009) from Tennessee Technological University. Upon graduation, Matthew attended the University of Tennessee and received his M.S. (2012) in Plant Sciences and Ph.D. in Weed Science (2014), under the guidance of Dr. Larry Steckel. His Ph.D. research focused on herbicide-resistance management by integrating winter-annual cover crops and herbicide programs to control Palmer amaranth in corn, cotton, and soybean systems.

Matthew received several awards during his graduate school career and professional career from regional and national organizations. Most recently, he was recognized by SWSS as the Outstanding Young Weed Scientist – Industry in 2021. FMC also recognized Matthew by awarding him the Ignite Award and the Tower Award in 2020. Additionally, he was recognized in 2017 by the Weed Science Society of America as an author for the Outstanding Paper Published in Weed Technology in 2016.

Matthew is involved in many organizations both regionally and nationally, including the Tennessee Agricultural Production Association (past president), Southern Soybean Diseases Workers, Kentucky Agriculture Training School, the Crop Protection Network (advisory board), and SWSS. He continues to serve the Southern Weed Science Society by volunteering to participate on various committees and supporting graduate student activities. Matthew currently serves as the past Student Contest Program Chair, SWSS Weed Contest Chair, and will rotate on to committees and sub-committees in the coming years.

Tom Eubank



Tom Eubank has over 30 years' experience in the field of agricultural in and around the Mississippi Delta. Tom began his career on his family-owned cotton farm near Scott, MS. Upon graduating from Mississippi State University in 1992 with a B.S. in Agronomy he worked as a field agronomist for a local farmers cooperative. In 2004, Tom returned to MSU to further his education and completed both his master's and Ph.D. in Weed science under the tutelage of Dr. Dan Poston and Dr. David Shaw. Afterward, he accepted a role as a soybean weed scientist and agronomist at the MSU Delta Research and Extension Center in Stoneville, MS. During his time with MSU, Dr. Eubank conducted research on many troublesome weeds such as glyphosate-resistant horseweed, Italian ryegrass, and Palmer amaranth.

Dow Agrosciences hired Tom in 2014 as a Grain Development Specialist for Mycogen Seeds and supporting the Enlist technology. After the merger of Dow and Dupont to form Corteva Agrisciences, Tom accepted the role of Cotton Development Specialist with PhytoGen cottonseed. In 2022, Dr. Eubank accepted his current role of farm supervisor and agronomist at the Nutrien Innovation Farm in Winterville, MS. His current responsibilities include testing and demonstrating innovative and sustainable farming practices while working in collaboration with many major chemical companies. Tom is active with many professional organizations including Southern Weed Science Society, American Society of Agronomy, National Cotton Council, MS Ag. Industry Council, MS Seedsman Assoc., MS Weed Science Society, MS Agronomy Society, and the MS Agricultural Consultants Assoc. Tom is also very involved with his local church, First Baptist Church in Greenville, MS, as a deacon and men's Sunday school teacher.

Endowment Foundation (Regular Election)

Connor Webster



Dr. Connor Webster joined Louisiana State University as an Assistant Professor and Statewide Extension Weed Specialist in February of 2022, working in Rice Weed Science. Connor is a native of north Alabama where he grew up scouting/consulting in cotton, soybeans, and corn. He received a B.S. in Agronomy and Soils from Auburn University in 2017, where he served as the President of the Agronomy and Soils Club. Connor then went on to earn a M.S. in Weed Science from LSU in 2019 and a Ph.D. in Weed Science from LSU in 2022.

As a graduate student, Connor was an active member of the WSSA, SWSS, and the Rice Technical Working Group (RTWG). He was recognized for several accomplishments across these societies throughout his graduate career. He placed first place in the student oral competition at the RTWG meeting in 2018, placed second place in the Ph.D. oral competition at the SWSS meeting in 2020, and placed second in the student poster competition at the RTWG meeting in 2020. Connor was also a member of the third place LSU weed team in both 2018 and 2021, and in 2021 he finished as the fourth-place individual overall and first-place in the weed identification section of the contest.

Connor is an author of four peer-reviewed journal articles and serves as an active reviewer for Weed Technology. He also serves on the editorial board for the Louisiana Agriculture magazine that is distributed by the LSU AgCenter. He is an author of 65+ abstracts, 11 invited international presentations, and gives numerous extension presentations at winter grower meetings, field days, etc. each year. Connor is serving as the student contest chair and the weed control chair for the International Temperate Rice Conference, which will be held in June of 2024 in New Orleans.

He serves as the coach of the LSU weed team and teaches Weed Biology and Ecology as well as Plant-Herbicide Physiology on campus. Connor is currently advising 3 MS students, 1 PhD student, and serving as a co-advisor for another MS student and two other PhD students. Connor served as the Local Arrangements Chair for the SWSS meeting in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 2023 and continues to be a very active member of the Southern Weed Science Society. In his spare time, Connor enjoys spending time with his family, hunting, and shooting competitive sporting clays. Connor resides in Zachary, Louisiana with his wife Reagen and daughter Annie.

Luis Avila



Luis Avila is an Associate Professor and Dr. Glover B. Triplett Endowed Chair within the Plant and Soil Sciences Department, Mississippi State University. Dr. Avila is originally from Brazil where he started his 23-years career in weed science. More recently, he has made a significant transition to the United States to assume a role in teaching and research at MSU. Dr. Avila's research interest is broad in weed science, including integrated weed management, building resilient and sustainable weed management systems, and in innovation in weed science.

Endowment Foundation (Special Election - 4 Year Term)

Lawson Priess



Lawson a Weatherford, TX native, found his passion in agriculture during highschool. He worked on a cattle ranch, raised livestock, and was involved in various FFA activities. Lawson spent multiple summers working in the Panhandle of Texas as Crop Scout and Independent Research Assistant, and interned for DuPont in Arkansas. He graduated from Stephen F. Austin University in 2016 with a B.S. in Agronomy and completed his M.S. and Ph.D. in Weed Science from the University of Arkansas.

His Ph.D. research assessed interactions of auxin herbicides and glufosinate as well as identifying glufosinate resistance in Palmer amaranth populations. Lawson was successful at competing at the SWSS Weed Contest, winning 1st place overall individual in 2021 and 5th place overall individual in 2017 and 2018. During his time as a M.S. and Ph.D. student, Lawson served as Vice President and President of the SWSS graduate student organization. and was recognized for his academic and extracurricular achievements with awards such as the 2019 and 2021 Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences Outstanding M.S. and Ph.D. Student Award, Outstanding M.S. student in SWSS, and Outstanding Ph.D. student in WSSA.

After graduate school, Lawson currently serves as a Technical Service Manager with FMC and services the Midsouth States. He works on a team of bright individuals who he enjoys tremendously. Lawson currently resides in the Benton, AR with his wife Rachel and their Labrador JoJo.

Joey Williams



Dr. Joey Williams is a native of Franklin, TN and was raised on a small two-century old family farm raising cattle and small grains. He received his B.S. in Agriculture Science in 2015 from University of TN at Martin and M.S. in Agronomy from Miss. State University in 2018, under the direction of Dr. Brien Henry. He also received his Ph.D. from Miss State in 2021 with a concentration in Agronomy and minor in Entomology under the direction of Drs. Darrin Dodds and Brien Henry. During his time at Mississippi State, he attended and competed in an array of student contests at scientific society meetings such as WSSA, SWSS, and Agronomy Society of America.

Currently, he serves as an Agronomic Research Manager with Bayer Crop Science. Joey aids in field testing, protocol development, and trial execution of new plant health and herbicide-tolerant native and biotechnology traits, crop protection products, and system improvement concepts in corn, cotton, soybean, wheat, and weeds research. He also co-hosted the 2023 WSSA National Weed Science Contest in Union City, TN.

Vice President

Shawn Askew



Shawn Askew is originally from Mississippi, USA and obtained his B.S. and M.S. degrees at Mississippi State University. He received his Ph.D. degree in weed science at North Carolina State University in 2001 and currently serves as professor of turfgrass weed science at Virginia Tech's School of Plant and Environmental Sciences. Dr. Askew's primary responsibility is to provide statewide leadership in the development of weed control programs for turfgrass and serves as the state's extension specialist for turfgrass weed science. His research in turfgrass at Virginia Tech has generated over \$13 million in funding with \$4.5 million to his lab. He has graduated 23 graduate students and currently mentors 4 Ph.D. students, and 1 M.S. student. Dr. Askew has authored or coauthored 115 peer-reviewed journal articles, 505 scientific abstracts, 300 extension articles, and over 1300 invited talks, lectures, and extension

presentations. He is Past President and Fellow of the Northeastern Weed Science Society, Outstanding Young Weed Scientist (2012) for the Southern Weed Science Society and Outstanding Early Career Weed Scientist (2011) for the Weed Science Society of America.

Tom Barber



Dr. Tom Barber was born and raised on a small cattle and row-crop farm near Texarkana in Southwest Arkansas. Tom received his B.S. in Agronomy (1998) and M.S. in Weed Science (2000) from the University of Arkansas under the leadership of Dr. Dick Oliver. In 2001 he moved to Mississippi State University where he pursued a PhD in Weed Science (2004) under the direction of Dr. Dan Reynolds, and immediately accepted his first role as Extension Cotton Specialist for Mississippi State. In 2007 Tom returned to Arkansas where he currently holds the position of Professor/Extension Weed Scientist and Director of the Jackson County Extension Center with the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. Tom has received numerous awards from colleagues, associations, conferences and the Division of Agriculture for his work as both as an Extension Agronomist and Weed Scientist. Tom currently conducts applied weed control research in corn, cotton, grain sorghum, peanut, soybean and rice to provide accurate recommendations to farmers, consultants and other members of the Arkansas

Agricultural Industry. In 2018 Tom accepted administrative responsibilities to manage research projects and construction of a new office and meeting facility at the Jackson County Extension Center. Over his career he is listed as author or co-author of 69 peer reviewed journal articles, 127 extension publications and 260 abstracts submitted to regional and national symposia.

Tom has always had a passion to serve both the agricultural industry and various support organizations. Among others, Tom has served on the Board of Directors and as President of the Arkansas Crop Protection Association, Section Chair and Steering Committee for Beltwide Cotton Conferences, Associate Editor for the Journal of Cotton Science, and WSSA Herbicide Resistant Plants Committee. Tom has been an active member of SWSS since 1998 and he began serving the society as President of the Graduate Student Organization in 2003. Over the last 20 years, Tom has volunteered to judge the student paper and poster contests and serve as section chair over numerous poster and paper sessions. In addition, he has served on various committee assignments including Sales Coordination, Sustaining Membership, Continuing Education, and Finance. Tom recently rotated off the SWSS Board of Directors where he served for the last three years as Member-at-Large for academia.

Washington Report

August 25, 2023
Lee Van Wychen

Weed Science Society Presidents Visit Washington DC.



*Pictured (L to R): **Wes Everman**, NC State, NEWSS President; **Reid Smeda**, University of Missouri, NCWSS President; **Carroll Moseley**, Syngenta, WSSA President; **Eric Castner**, FMC, SWSS President; and **Curtis Rainbolt**, BASF, WSSS President*

As President Castner mentioned in the last newsletter, the presidents from the four regional weed science societies and WSSA traveled to Washington DC to advocate on behalf of weed science policy initiatives and help WSSA achieve its mission of promoting research, education, and awareness of weeds in managed and natural ecosystems. Our primary mission was meeting with their elected members of Congress and staff. We discussed an array of weed science related topics, including:

Support for **\$8 billion in mandatory agricultural research funding in the next Farm Bill**. U.S funding peaked in 2002 and has declined by 1/3 since then, hitting the lowest levels since 1970. While U.S. investments decline, China's funding for ag research has grown to more than \$10 billion – double of what the U.S. currently spends. Current U.S. ag research funding is just under \$5 billion and most of that is discretionary funding that relies on year-to-year appropriations from Congress.

Support for **USDA-NIFA IR-4 Project funding at \$25 million in FY 2024**. The IR-4 Project was funded at \$15 million in FY 2023.

There is a phenomenal need for specialty crop protection products to help feed the world. The IR-4 Project was established in 1963 by USDA to conduct research and develop the data needed to facilitate the registration of crop protection products, including reduced risk and bio-based pesticides, for minor use crops such as fruits, vegetables, herbs, spices, ornamental plants and other horticultural crops. The IR-4 Project provides an incredible return on investment as it contributes \$8.97 billion to the annual U.S. GDP.

Support for the **USDA-NIFA Crop Protection and Pest Management (CPPM) program at \$25 million in FY 2024**. The CPPM program was funded at \$21 million in FY 2023.

The CPPM program is a highly effective competitive grant program that tackles real world weed, insect, and disease problems with applied solutions through the concepts of integrated pest management (IPM). The CPPM also funds the Regional IPM Centers and Extension IPM programs.

Amending the definition of a “plant pest” in the Plant Protection Act so that it includes noxious weeds and invasive plants. Currently, only “parasitic plants” are listed in the definition of “plant pest” ([7 USC 104, S.7702 – Definitions, \(14\) Plant Pest, \(C\)](#)).

USDA-APHIS receives almost \$400 million per year in their Plant Health account to prevent the introduction and spread of “plant pests” in the U.S., but only a fraction goes toward weed prevention and surveillance. One example is their Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention (PPDMDP) program, which directs \$75 million a year to state governments, universities, non-profit institutions, industry, and tribal nations – to support projects that protect specialty crops, nursery systems, forestry, and other agricultural production systems and natural resources from harmful and exotic “plant pests.” Very few of the 300+ “plant pest” projects supported by the PPDMDP involve noxious weeds or invasive plants.

The weed science society presidents also attended a number of other events and receptions while on Capitol Hill. This included a House Ag Committee hearing with EPA Administrator Michael Regan. This was the first time an EPA Administrator testified to the House Ag committee since 2016.

Off the Hill, they met with the American Soybean Association and attended the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (NCFAR) board of directors meeting, which featured a lively discussion of agriculture research priorities in the next Farm Bill. They also attended part of the CropLife America (CLA) – Responsible Industry for Sound Environment (RISE) Spring Regulatory Conference where the keynote speaker was Rod Snyder, Senior Advisor for Agriculture to EPA Administrator Regan.

Another highlight of the CLA/RISE Spring Conference was the retirement reception for Ray McCallister. Ray is a lifetime weed scientist and a member of WSSA’s Science Policy Committee. Ray is highly regarded here in DC for his expertise on pesticide regulatory policy. He semi-retired from CLA on April 1 after 33 plus years of service. Ray’s contact info is (202-577-6657) and rsm6consulting@gmail.com. Congratulations Ray!

Many thanks to presidents’ Carroll Moseley, Reid Smeda, Wes Everman, Eric Castner, and Curtis Rainbolt for their professionalism and leadership during the week. I can assure you that the national and regional weed sciences are in good hands! I’d also like to thank them for taking the time out of their busy schedules to travel to DC.

USDA Announces New USDA NIFA Director



On April 24, USDA announced the appointment of Dr. Manjit K. Misra as the new Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Dr. Misra started new role on Monday, May 8, 2023.

Prior to joining USDA, Dr. Misra served as a Professor of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering at Iowa State University. For more than 30 years, he was Director of the university’s Seed Science Center. The center has administered the National Seed Health System, authorized by USDA APHIS since 2001. Dr. Misra also was founding Director of Iowa State’s Biosafety Institute for Genetically Modified Agricultural Products.

In 2012, Dr. Misra was appointed Chair of the USDA National Genetic Resources Advisory Council (NGRAC), a position he held until 2017. Misra has served on more than 60 local, national, and international boards and committees. These include the Steering Committee for the Food and Agriculture Organization’s (FAO) International Conference on Biotechnology, the Scientific Advisory Council of the American Seed Re-

search Foundation, the Board of Directors of the Iowa Seed Association, the Iowa Crop Improvement Association, and the First the Seed Foundation.

Dr. Misra earned a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Engineering in India, a Master of Science and a Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural Engineering at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He is a researcher with 137 publications and an innovator with ten patents. During his tenure as the Director of the Seed Science Center, the faculty and staff conducted seed programs in 79 countries, including 34 countries in Africa.

Support for FY 2024 Appropriations and Farm Bill

Since January, the national and regional weed science societies have signed onto five ag research coalition letters that have been submitted to Congress regarding the Farm Bill and the FY 2024 budget. Current requests for the FY 2024 budget include:

Provide \$2.080 billion for the USDA NIFA research, providing increased support for the ag research capacity programs such as the Hatch Act and Smith Lever Act that are fundamental to the extramural research, education, and Cooperative Extension system. This includes:

- \$300 million in FY 2024 for the Hatch Act account, which supports 1862 land-grant university federal - state partnerships

- \$108 million in FY2024 for the Evans-Allen account to provide capacity funding for food and agricultural research at the 1890 land-grant universities and Tuskegee University

- \$46 million to support McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry research, which investigates carbon sequestration, the development of bio-based products, and the prevention of forest fires

- \$420 million in Smith-Lever3(b) and 3(c) funds to support the Cooperative Extension System

- \$88 million for the Extension Services of 1890 land-grant universities

- \$17.5 million in FY2024 for Tribal Colleges Extension

- Provide \$500 million in funding for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), USDA's premier competitive research program.

Provide \$500 million in funding for the Research Facilities Act

- A 2021 Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) report found that 70% of research facilities at US public agricultural colleges are at the end of their useful lives, with **\$11.5 billion in deferred maintenance**. The Research Facilities Act allows for the construction of modern facilities at colleges that support agricultural research, which will increase pest and disease preparedness and the use of advanced technologies nationwide.

Provide \$1.95 billion for the Agricultural Research Service (ARS)

- As the USDA's principal in-house research agency, ARS is one of the only funding sources available for long-term agricultural research. The ARS labs and research sites foster synergistic research collaborations across scientific disciplines and geographic locations. This funding would also help address ARS infrastructure improvements critical to carrying out its research responsibilities.

Provide at least \$50 million in funding for the Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority ([AGARDA](#)).

- Advanced research agencies have been effectively deployed in defense ([DARPA](#)), energy ([ARPA-E](#)), and health ([ARPA-H](#)) to tackle the biggest challenges facing those areas in novel and groundbreaking ways. AGARDA was established in the 2018 Farm Bill and modeled after DARPA, ARPA-E, and ARPA-H. When funded, AGARDA will foster research, development, and technology transfer, resulting in significant benefits across the US food and agriculture value chain.

USDA Unveils New Tool to Track Federally Funded Investments

USDA has released [two new data dashboards](#) that allow users the unprecedented ability to access high-level data about NIFA's agricultural research funding investments and track the status of their grant applications.

The public can now access, download, and save data on all NIFA competitive and capacity funds granted since FY 2018. This tool offers users the ability to pull information on funding investments by research program and

grant type, congressional district, recipient (including land-grant, minority-serving institutions, tribal, Hispanic-serving institutions, and Extension), and other focused searches.

The [NIFA Grant Funding Dashboard](#) allows users to search for information related to requirements, waivers, and the amount of match funding provided by recipient type and award. Users can also explore a funding map to find NIFA funding obligations by states and congressional districts. The [NIFA Application Status Dashboard](#) enables users to quickly check the status of their application using their assigned Grants.gov tracking number.

[Learn more about these new tools.](#)

A Survey of Weed Research Priorities: Key Findings and Future Directions

The WSSA Research Priorities Committee published the results of their weed research priorities survey in *Weed Science* on June 13, 2023. The survey was conducted in 2021/2022. The last time there was a published report of weed science research priorities was in 2007. The paper authors are: Daniel C. Brainard, Erin R. Haramoto, Ramon G. Leon, James J. Kells, Lee R. Van Wychen, Pratap Devkota, Mithila Jugulam, Jacob N. Barney. [DOI: 10.1017/wsc.2023.24](#) Abstract:

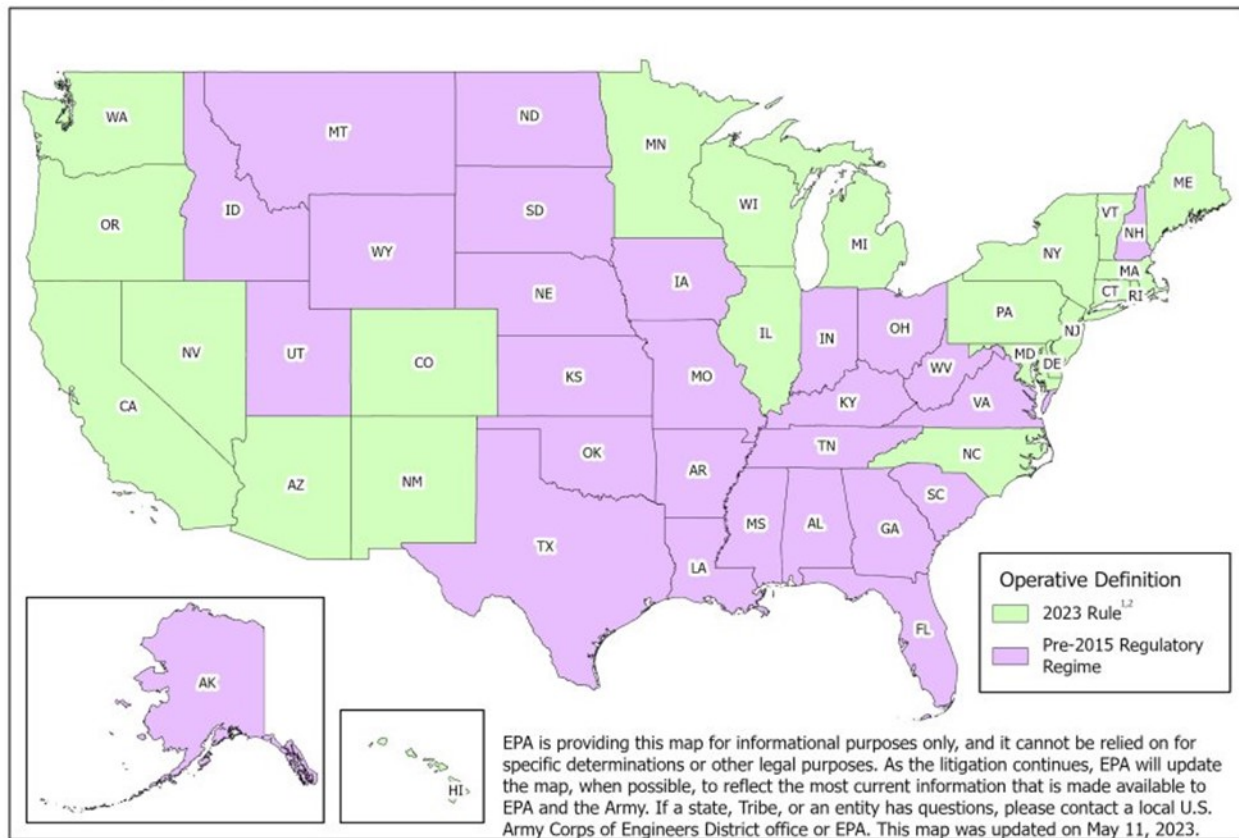
*We conducted an online survey of weed scientists in the US and Canada to 1) identify research topics perceived to be important for advancing weed science in the next 5-10 years, and 2) gain insight into potential gaps in current expertise and funding sources needed to address those priorities. Respondents were asked to prioritize nine broad research areas, as well as five to ten subcategories within each of the broad areas. We received 475 responses, with the majority affiliated with academic institutions (55%) and working in cash crop (agronomic or horticultural) study systems (69%). Results from this survey provide valuable discussion points for policymakers, funding agencies, and academic institutions for allocating resources for weed science research. **Notably, our survey reveals a strong prioritization of Cultural and Preventative Weed Management (CPWM) as well as the emerging area of Precision Weed Management and Robotics (PWMR).** Although Herbicides remain a high-priority research area, continuing challenges necessitating integrated, non-chemical tactics (e.g., herbicide resistance) and emerging opportunities (e.g., robotics) are reflected in our survey results. Despite previous calls for greater understanding and application of weed biology and ecology in weed research, as well as recent calls for greater integration of social science perspectives to address weed management challenges, these areas were ranked considerably lower than those focused more directly on weed management. **Our survey also identified a potential mismatch between research priorities and expertise in several areas including CPWM, PWMR, and Weed Genomics, suggesting that these topics should be prime targets for expanded training and collaboration.** Finally, our survey suggests an increasing reliance on private-sector funding for research, raising concerns about our discipline's capacity to address important research priority areas that lack clear private-sector incentives for investment.*

Supreme Court Rules on Waters of the United States

The US Supreme Court released its opinion on May 25 in *Sackett v. EPA* and ruled in favor of the Sacketts. All **nine members of the court rejected** the federal government's "significant nexus" test, which was crafted by former Justice Anthony Kennedy in the 2006 *Rapanos* decision. In other words, the "significant nexus test" is no longer an appropriate measure to determine a Water of the United States (WOTUS). Although there was a 5-4 split over what the test should be, not one justice attempted to defend "significant nexus" as an appropriate test.

The Court held that for a wetland to qualify as a WOTUS and be subject to federal regulation, there must be a **continuous surface connection** to a waterbody. Justice Alito's majority opinion said "adjacent" wetlands have to be close enough to other waters covered by the Clean Water Act (CWA) as to be indistinguishable. It also said the "significant nexus test" results in an unchecked definition of WOTUS which means that a staggering array of landowners are at risk of criminal prosecution or onerous civil penalties.

Operative Definition of "Waters of the United States"



¹Also operative in the U.S. territories and the District of Columbia

²The pre-2015 regulatory regime is operative for the Commonwealth of Kentucky and Plaintiff-Appellants in *Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, et al. v. EPA* (No. 23-5345) and their members (Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Associated General Contractors of Kentucky, Home Builders Association of Kentucky, Portland Cement Association, and Georgia Chamber of Commerce).

Justice Brett Kavanaugh, in the minority opinion joined by Justices Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Ketanji Brown Jackson, said the majority engaged in a rewriting of the law by interpreting “adjacent wetlands” to mean “adjoining.” Kavanaugh, however, noted that in 1977, Congress added “adjacent” wetlands to the definition of WOTUS in the law. **“Adjacent wetlands”** means not only wetlands adjoining covered waters but also those wetlands that are separated from covered waters by a manmade dike or barrier, natural river berm, beach dune, or the like. Thus, “adjacent wetlands” includes more WOTUS than “adjoining wetlands.”

EPA is expected to release post-Sackett guidance soon. However, as a result of on-going litigation, 27 states (in purple) should use the **pre-2015 regulatory rule** where WOTUS are:

- Traditional interstate navigable waters
- Relatively permanent bodies of water connected to traditional interstate navigable waters
- Wetlands that have a continuous surface connection with either (1) or (2)

The May 25th WOTUS decision in *Sackett v EPA* is also another sign that the Supreme Court may reverse the **Chevron doctrine**. The Chevron doctrine is an administrative law principle that compels federal courts to **defer to a federal agency's interpretation** of an ambiguous or unclear statute that Congress delegated to the agency to administer. The principle derives its name from the 1984 U.S. Supreme Court case *Chevron U.S.A., Inc. v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.* The Supreme Court has already signaled its concern for agency interpretations of existing law, ruling in a case last year that EPA exceeded its authority in regulations designed to curb greenhouse gas emissions from power plants.

LSU and Army Corps of Engineers Host Aquatic Weed Tour in Louisiana



*Touring Dr. Chris Mudge's mesocosm research trials on giant salvinia at LSU. Pictured (L to R): **Kristy Crews**, Product Manager, EPA Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) Registration Division (RD), Fungicide Branch; **Jessica Post**, Economist, EPA OPP Biological and Economic Analysis Division, **Francisco Llarena-Arias**, Environmental Protection Specialist, EPA OPP RD, Fungicide and Herbicide Branch; **Chris Mudge**, Research Biologist: U.S. Army Engineer Research & Development Center and Adjunct Professor: LSU School of Plant, Environmental & Soil Sciences; **Jeremy Crossland**, US Army Corps of Engineers, Land Uses and Natural Resources Program Manager; and **Lee Van Wychen**, WSSA Executive Director of Science Policy.*

During the week of June 5, I had the chance to tour Dr. Chris Mudge's aquatic weed research trials at LSU along with staff from the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers. We also got to explore the different aquatic weed problems they face in the Atchafalaya National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and Lake Henderson. The Atchafalaya NWR is approximately 44,000 acres and encompasses Lake Henderson, which was formed by man-made levees in the 1930's and serves as a relief outlet for the Mississippi River. The elevation of Lake Henderson is set at 9 feet above mean sea level (MSL), but can range from 6 feet MSL to 18 feet MSL. From August through October, the lake is lowered to 6 feet MSL. These draw-downs expose the lake bottom, which helps to control aquatic plant infestations like water hyacinth, hydrilla, giant salvinia and Cuban bulrush.

I would like to send a special thank you to Dr. Mudge and his staff for organizing the tour and sharing their knowledge and expertise on aquatic weed management. It takes a lot of work to set these tours up, especially for aquatic weeds where you have to line up airboats to tour some of the swamps and bayous. We got some unique insights into the aquatic weed management challenges faced by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Army Corps of Engineers.

Touring Belle River in the Atchafalaya National Wildlife Refuge about 30 miles west of Baton Rouge, LA. Dr. Chris Mudge attempts to drive his boat through an untreated area full of giant salvinia. Note: behind us is open water that has been treated by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.



Weed Science Societies Support Agricultural Labeling Uniformity Act (HR 4288)

Below is a support letter for H.R. 4288, the Agricultural Labeling Uniformity Act that was sent to Congressional leaders. This is a bipartisan bill sponsored by Reps. Dusty Johnson (R-SD) and Jim Costa (D-CA) regarding FIFRA pesticide labeling uniformity. The six national and regional weed science societies endorsed the letter (below) along with 355 other signers.

We write to express our great concern with recent misinterpretations of long-standing policy regarding the regulation and labeling of pesticide products, as some states have begun to regulate pesticides in a manner contradicting decades of scientific guidance from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Lack of certainty on EPA-approved, science-based nationwide labels will erode access to current and future pesticides, threatening crops and grower incomes, conservation practices, public health, vital infrastructure, and ultimately raise food prices for families amidst record-high inflation.

*Growers and users need reaffirmation from Congress that while **states have authority to regulate the sale and use of pesticides within their jurisdiction, they cannot impose labeling or packaging requirements in addition or different from the scientific conclusions of the EPA.***

*To that end, we support and urge Congress to enact **H.R. 4288, the Agricultural Labeling Uniformity Act**, bipartisan legislation which would reaffirm federal pesticide labeling uniformity and prevent state and local governments from adopting inconsistent labeling or packaging which would disrupt commerce and access to these vital tools.*

EPA Releases New Interactive Maps of Data Used in Endangered Species Act Assessments

The EPA is making the geographic data used to conduct Endangered Species Act (ESA) assessments for pesticides publicly available for the first time via interactive maps. These data are not new. Rather, EPA is making existing data broadly accessible and providing a new tool to help users access the data. The maps also show which crops are grown near these species and habitats, which can help users determine which pesticides might be used in these areas. EPA relies on the Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service (the Services) for information on the biology and location of listed species. As the Services continue to learn more about where some listed species are likely located, information will be updated and refined in the maps.

Prior to this, EPA was technologically unable to release all its ESA Geographic Information System (GIS) data because of the amount of data involved, but advances in technology have allowed EPA to overcome this problem. The maps allow anyone to access the GIS data online, and are particularly useful for federal, state, and local governments, tribal partners, environmental organizations, and pesticide registrants who want to conduct their own endangered species analysis.

Users will have access to information that may be incorporated into future ESA evaluations. EPA will update the spatial data it uses for its ESA analyses on a regular basis and will post updates as they occur. Visit [EPA's website](#) to learn more about these new maps and how to use them.

EPA FIFRA SAP on Atrazine Conducted on August 22 – 24

The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) provides independent scientific advice to the EPA on health and safety issues related to pesticides. There was a call for nominations this summer for an SAP on the “**Examination of Microcosm/Mesocosm Studies for Evaluating the Effects of Atrazine on Aquatic Plant Communities**”.

Four of the nine members selected for the panel included the following WSSA and/or APMS members: 1) Aaron Hagar, University of Illinois; 2) Jay Ferrell, University of Florida; 3) John Madsen, retired USDA-ARS, and 4) Kurt Getsinger, US Army Corps of Engineers. The SAP will take place August 22-24, 2023, from 10 a.m. to approximately 5:30 p.m. (ET). There was excellent dialogue and a great [white paper](#) on the atrazine studies in question. The SAP is currently deliberating and writing their final recommendations for EPA. More info at: <https://www.regulations.gov/search?filter=EPA-HQ-OPP-2023-0154>

Culpepper and Chism Present Capitol Hill Seminar on Endangered Species Issues

On July 11, approximately 70 Congressional staffers and interested stakeholders attended a seminar in the House Agriculture Committee hearing room titled: “**Protecting Endangered Species While Feeding the World**”. The seminar was presented by Dr. Stanley Culpepper and Dr. Bill Chism and organized by me through WSSA’s membership in the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (NCFAR).



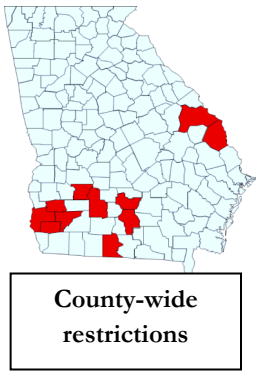
Dr. Bill Chism, chair of WSSA’s Endangered Species Committee, talks to Hill staffers about “Protecting Endangered Species While Feeding the World.” (Not pictured: Stanley Culpepper)

The event sponsors were: WSSA, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP), CropLife America (CLA), and Syngenta. Additional collaborators were the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) and the American Soybean Association (ASA).

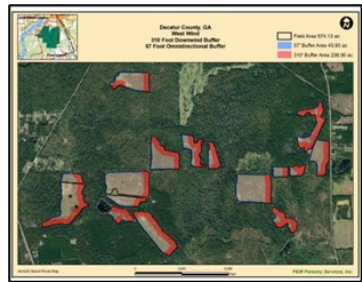
One-Page Leave Behind:

*Fifty years ago, the **Endangered Species Act (ESA)** was signed into law to protect and conserve imperiled species from extinction. Few understand the complexities and challenges associated with this Act and how it potentially threatens agriculture, family farm sustainability, and having an ample supply of food, feed, and fiber needed by humankind.*

*In an abundance of caution to protect species listed under the ESA and help minimize the risk of litigation, the **U.S. EPA has been inserting large spatial buffers** on certain pesticide labels that restrict applications in counties where listed species **may be present**. For example, an herbicide was eliminated from use on approximately one million acres in 11 counties in Georgia. However, after further research, only 0.37 percent of the total acres in those counties represented suitable habitat. Although the effort of protection is important and supported by agriculture, current label restrictions are excessive in some situations as restrictions are not based on high-resolution data where a species likely occurs nor where and how pesticides are applied.*



County-wide restrictions



In-field downwind buffers (in red)

*While entire counties have been removed from some product labels, EPA has also imposed in-field restrictions to mitigate **potential** off-target movement such as conservation practices to reduce runoff and no-spray buffers to reduce spray drift. For example, some required downwind buffers could eliminate as much as 49.6% of the field from a product application. These restrictions are preventing the use of tools needed to control threatening weedy pests in fields that are nowhere near the documented historical habitats of concerned species.*

*As the **number of farms decline** rapidly and the **loss of U.S. agricultural land exceeds 200 acres every hour**, there is an expectation that we will need to **produce 70% more food by 2050** to sustain a growing population. This monumental task will only be accomplished if economically effective tools are available helping farmers prevent pests from*

stealing food, feed, and fiber.

*Methods developed from sound science can protect both concerned species and agriculture; in fact, protecting agriculture is the key to providing healthy habitats for wildlife. **Funding is needed to help educate farmers on ways to protect endangered species, create better maps of where species occur, and research additional ways to reduce the risks from pesticides.***

EPA Did Not Find PFAS in Pesticide Products Tested

On May 30, EPA released a summary of the laboratory analysis of 10 pesticide products reported to contain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) residues. **EPA did not find any PFAS in the tested pesticide products**, differing from the results of a published study in the Journal of Hazardous Materials. EPA also released its newly developed and validated analytical methodology used in the testing process alongside the summary of its findings. EPA is confident in the results of this newly released method, which is specifically targeted to detect the presence of PFAS in pesticide products formulated with surfactants.

Since learning about potential PFAS contamination in a small number of mosquitocide products in September 2020, EPA has taken a number of steps to address this issue. This includes [releasing data in March 2021](#) that preliminarily determined that PFAS in those specific products was most likely formed from a chemical reaction during the container fluorination process which then leached into the pesticide product, [releasing another study in September 2022](#) testing the leaching potential of PFAS over a specific time into test solutions packaged in different brands of HDPE fluorinated containers, and [notifying manufacturers \(including importers\), processors, distributors, users, and those that dispose of fluorinated HDPE containers and similar plastics](#) that the presence of PFAS formed as a byproduct in these containers may be a violation of the Toxic Substances Control Act.

Following that notification, the Department of Justice, on behalf of EPA, filed a complaint against Inhance, the company that manufactured the plastic mosquitocide containers in which PFAS was found, for its failure to comply with TSCA's notice, review, and determination requirements prior to manufacture.

As a continuation of these ongoing efforts, EPA has completed its verification analysis of a study published in September 2022 in the Journal of Hazardous Materials entitled "[Targeted analysis and Total Oxidizable Precursor assay of several insecticides for PFAS.](#)" This study reported the presence of PFOS in six of 10 pesticide products tested. EPA evaluated the 10 pesticide products included in this study using two different test methods to detect PFAS. The first method was developed by the Agency to specifically measure PFAS in pesticide samples containing surfactants and non-volatile oils, and the second method was used in the study published in the Journal of Hazardous Materials.

EPA obtained samples of the specific pesticide products from the study author and purchased additional products with the same EPA registration numbers on the open market to conduct analyses. EPA tested all samples using both methods and did not detect the presence of PFOS, nor any of 28 additional PFAS it screened for, above the lowest level that our lab instruments can detect (0.2 parts per billion) in any of the pesticide products using either method of detection. The equipment and methodology used by EPA would have shown PFAS detections if present in those pesticide products given that their level of detection (LOD) is 2,500 times more sensitive than the LOD reported by the equipment used by the study author.

EPA requested additional information, including raw data from the study author, but did not receive any beyond the published results. EPA's study [report](#) contains additional scientific details regarding how the two methods differ and the significance of using the Agency's new method when testing these specific formulations.

One of the most important differences between the two methods is that EPA's [method](#) ensures accurate measuring of PFAS by eliminating interference from the oils and surfactants present in these formulations which can result in false positive detections.

EPA will continue to invest in scientific research to fill gaps in understanding of PFAS, to identify which PFAS may pose human health and ecological risks at which exposure levels and develop methods to better test and measure them.

A Future Without Glyphosate Report

A [new study](#) from Aimpoint Research finds that if glyphosate were no longer available, U.S. farmers would bear the burden of increased input and operating costs, with small farmers disproportionately affected. Further analysis reveals a cascading chain of likely higher-order effects and unintended consequences, the most impactful being the rapid release of additional greenhouse gases and the reversal of decades of conservation and sustainability gains. Key points from the report:

Farmers' profits fall as labor costs rise and they turn to more expensive glyphosate alternatives.

Use of alternatives would represent a 2-2.5X increase in cost/acre while switching to tillage could increase production costs by \$1.9B+

Small farmers are hit the hardest by decreased profits.

Costs to consumers rise as food prices experience marginal, inflationary pressures.

CO2 emissions and fuel use increases

A Future Without Glyphosate: <https://report.aimpointresearch.com/>

USDA-ARS NPL Steve Young Publishes Quarterly Weed Science Newsletter

Dr. Steve Young, National Program Leader (NPL) for Weeds and Invasive Species at USDA-ARS is now publishing a quarterly newsletter about [ARS weed science research news and highlights](#). It's an excellent short read on current weed science research, events and announcements such as recent ARS weed science hires, as well as completed searches and current openings.

Recent Hires

Mark Bernards – ARS [Soil Management Research Unit](#), Morris, Minnesota

James Kim – ARS [Sugarbeet and Potato Research Unit](#), Fargo, North Dakota

Dale Halbritter – ARS [Invasive Plant Research Lab](#), Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Completed Searches

Chemist – ARS [Natural Products Utilization Research Unit](#), Oxford, Mississippi

Weed Scientist – ARS [Crop Production Systems Research Unit](#), Stoneville, Mississippi

Research Leader – ARS [Invasive Plant Research Lab](#), Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Current Openings

Weed Ecologist – ARS [Columbia Plateau Conservation Research Center](#), Pendleton, Oregon (TBD)

Weed Scientist – ARS [Northwest Sustainable Agroecosystems Research Unit](#), Pullman, Washington (TBD)

Download the [Summer 2023 ARS Weed Science Newsletter](#) or [Subscribe to Newsletter](#).

WSJ - Why Grass Is a Culprit in Some of the World's Worst Wildfires

In Maui, abandoned pineapple and sugar-cane fields filled up with flammable invasive grasses. *By Daniela Hernandez, Wall Street Journal, Aug 22, 2023. 4 min, 7 sec. (best on Chrome)*

<https://www.wsj.com/video/series/daniela-hernandez/why-grass-is-a-culprit-in-some-of-the-worlds-worst-wildfires/0AF272ED-97BA-472C-8559-24171F997763>

49 Stakeholders Seek Funding for U.S. DOT Invasive Plant Elimination Program

The six national and regional weed science societies are signatories on a [letter to Congress](#), which requests \$10 million to start a pilot program for the Invasive Plant Elimination program authorized the 2021 Infrastructure bill. The letter is addressed to House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for Transportation leadership. The [Invasive Plant Elimination Program](#) was authorized in the 2021 Infrastructure Law at \$50 million annually

from FY 2022 – 2026, but has not been appropriated any money yet. We are requesting \$10M to start a pilot program. [Link to PDF](#).

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National and Regional Weed Science Society Meetings

Dec. 11 - 14, 2023 North Central Weed Science Society (NCWSS), Minneapolis, MN www.ncwss.org
Jan. 8 - 11, 2024 Northeastern Weed Science Society (NEWSS), Boston, MA www.newss.org
Jan. 22 - 25, 2024 Southern Weed Science Society (SWSS), San Antonio, TX www.swss.ws
Jan. 22 - 25, 2024 Weed Science Society of America (WSSA), San Antonio, TX www.wssa.net
Feb. 26–Mar. 3, 2024, 25th National Invasive Species Awareness Week, Washington DC www.nisaw.org
Mar 4 - 7, 2024 Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS), Denver, CO www.wsweedsociety.org
Jul. 14 - 18, 2024 Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS), St. Petersburg, FL www.apms.org