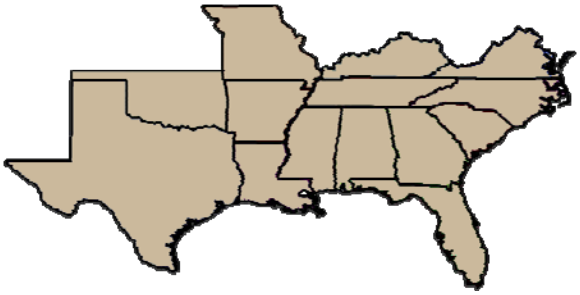
Vol. 30, No. 3
December, 2007

News from the

SOUTHERN WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY

SWSS



What's Inside

President's Message

David Monks

As you complete your research and extension projects for 2007, I hope you took the time to submit a title for your participation in the upcoming Southern Weed Science Society's annual meeting in January. Our meeting is fast approaching and I want to encourage you to be a part of the meeting.

Ann Thurston, Program Chair, and the Program committee have done a good job in putting together an excellent program for our 2008 program. Your involvement in our meeting and our society is very important for our success as a society. The Southern Weed Science Society's Board of Directors has given a lot of thought as to how to improve participation in our society. If you have any ideas that will improve participation by members and get non-members involved, please take the time to send us a note.

Greg MacDonald and the Local Arrangements committee have been busy working with the hotel staff for our meeting to make sure all our conference needs are met. More information on the meeting is included in the newsletter, and in the program that you will receive in the near future.

As we approach the upcoming meeting, turn your thoughts to how you can become more involved in our society by serving on committees, etc. Ann Thurston will begin looking early in 2008 for members to serve next year. If you are willing to serve, see Ann at the annual meeting and let her know that you are interested.

Finally, I wish each of you a safe holiday season. Take some time to relax and spend quality time with family and friends. I look forward to seeing you at our annual meeting.

Best Regards and Happy Holidays!!

2008 SWSS Meeting Reminder
Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront
January 28-30, 2008
http://jacksonville.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/index.jsp

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
ASSISTANT/ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR/SPECIALIST
(WEED SCIENCE)

October 5, 2007

WORK LOCATION: State-wide, domiciled at the Dean Lee Research and Extension Center, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Alexandria, Louisiana.

NATURE OF WORK: Full-time 12 month, tenure-track position with an 75% Research (soybean, cotton, corn, and grain sorghum weed control) and 25% Extension (state-wide row crop weed control specialist) appointment. Partial appointment in the LSU School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences available.

Research Responsibilities (75%): The selected applicant will be responsible for developing a weed control research program in corn, cotton, soybeans, and grain sorghum. Research will focus primarily on, but not limited to: evaluate weed control and crop response of experimental preemergence and postemergence herbicides, weed control programs utilizing newly developed herbicides, developing weed management systems, evaluation of reduced rates, adjuvants, and herbicide combinations, weed management programs utilizing genetically transformed varieties while monitoring for weed shifts and herbicide resistance. He/she will be required to collaborate with researchers and extension specialists within the LSU AgCenter system to identify critical research projects, as well as partner with industry and other universities on various studies. He/she will also be required to document and publish results from research in refereed journals and other scientific appropriate outlets. The selected applicant will be expected to pursue and secure grant funding for support of their research program.

Extension Responsibilities (25%): The selected applicant will collaborate with and provide assistance to the Extension Weed Specialist located in Winnsboro, LA for the coordination, development, and promotion of state-wide extension education programs for row crop weed control using Best Management Practices (BMPs). This applicant will also provide assistance to annually update the LSU AgCenter's Suggested Chemical Weed Control Guide and collaborate with the Extension Weed Specialist in Winnsboro, LA to deliver pesticide applicator certification programs. Participation in parish, regional and state-wide production meetings, field days, and conferences to provide current information regarding research and/or other critical information needed by clientele is expected.

QUALIFICATIONS: Ph.D. in weed science, agronomy, plant/soil science, or other closely related field of study is required. Experience and training in farm management, field research, weed science, and row crop agriculture are highly desirable.

SALARY AND BENEFITS: Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. The LSU AgCenter has an attractive benefits package with a wide variety of benefit options. Benefits offered include retirement, multiple medical insurance options, supplemental insurances (dental, life, long-term disability, accident, vision, long-term care, etc.), Tax Saver Flexible Benefits Plan (saves tax dollars on some child care and medical expenses), university holidays (14 per year, typically includes a week off at Christmas), generous annual (vacation) and sick leave benefits, Employee Assistance Program, and possible educational leave and tuition exemption for coursework at campuses of the LSU System. Specific benefits depend on job category, percent effort and length of employment.

DATE AVAILABLE: Upon completion of the selection process

APPLICATION DEADLINE: **December 10, 2007 or until a suitable candidate is identified**.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE: Submit a letter of application, resume' including a statement of professional interest and goals, official university transcripts, and three letters of reference sent to:

Dr. John Barnett, Regional Director
Dean Lee Research and Extension Center
8105 Tom Bowman Drive
Alexandria, LA 71302
Phone: 318.427.4424 Fax: 318.473.6503
Email: mailto:jbarnett@agcenter.lsu.edu
Web Site: www.lsuagcenter.com

POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
ASSISTANT/ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
(WEED MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST)

October 5, 2007

RANK AND NATURE OF POSITION: Assistant/Associate Professor; 12-month tenure track appointment. The position is 75% extension
(statewide weed management specialist) and 25% weed science research. The individual will be a faculty member of the LSU AgCenter Northeast Region. Partial appointment in the LSU School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences is available.

OFFICE LOCATION: Tom H. Scott Research and Extension Center, Winnsboro, Louisiana

JOB DESCRIPTION: The successful candidate will have statewide extension responsibilities for developing, coordinating and conducting weed management education programs in agricultural crops including cotton, soybean, corn, small grains, forages and sweet potatoes. He/she will prepare extension publications in format suitable for both hard copy and web-based dissemination, including contributing to electronic newsletters and commodity-based web sites. The individual will also provide leadership to an applied weed management research program to compliment existing weed science research programs in northeast Louisiana. The specialist will also provide in-service training opportunities for extension agents across the state and assist them in planning and conducting applied research and demonstrations. He/she will work collaboratively with other LSU AgCenter faculty, private crop consultants, commodity groups, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry and Louisiana Farm Bureau to address weed control problems and regulatory issues in the assigned crops. The incumbent will also be responsible for annually updating the LSU AgCenter's Suggested Chemical Weed Control Guide and working collaboratively with other specialists to deliver pesticide applicator certification programs. The successful candidate will be required to develop a plan of work for extension programming, implement a system of program evaluation and report accomplishments. He/she will also be required to develop a research project proposal for appropriate research activities, publish findings of research in peer-reviewed journals and other outlets, and seek extramural funding to support his/her research and extension programs. The successful candidate will work closely with the regional director as well as other research and extension faculty to ensure that his/her research and extension programs support the mission of the LSU AgCenter. Effective communication and collaboration with extension personnel and stakeholders are essential. Participation in regional, departmental and AgCenter committees as well as professional societies is expected as a faculty member in a land grant university.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: Ph.D. in Weed Science, Agronomy, Plant Science or closely related field is required. Coursework and experience in weed management of agronomic crops is highly desirable. Good interpersonal skills and leadership abilities are required for working effectively with diverse professional and lay audiences and cooperators. The candidate must be able to communicate effectively (orally and in writing) with diverse audiences including scientific peers, producers, agrichemical company representatives, etc.

SALARY AND BENEFITS: Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. The LSU AgCenter has an attractive benefits package with a wide variety of benefit options. Benefits offered include retirement, multiple medical insurance options, supplemental insurances (dental, life, long-term disability, accident, vision, long-term care, etc.), Tax Saver Flexible Benefits Plan (saves tax dollars on some child care and medical expenses), university holidays (14 per year, typically includes a week off at Christmas), generous annual (vacation) and sick leave benefits, Employee Assistance Program, and possible educational leave and tuition exemption for coursework at campuses of the LSU System. Specific benefits depend on job category, percent effort and length of employment.

DATE AVAILABLE: Upon completion of the selection process

APPLICATION DEADLINE: **November 30. 2007 or until a suitable candidate is identified**

APPLICATION PROCEDURE: APPLICATION PROCEDURE: Letter of application should specifically address the candidate's qualifications for the position and provide (1) complete professional resume, (2) transcripts of all college credits, (3) three letters of recommendation, and (4) other pertinent data. Letters of recommendation should address the candidate's qualifications for the position and potential for development. Letters of recommendation should candidly evaluate both strengths and weaknesses of the applicant for the position. Submit application to:

Dr. Robert Hutchinson, Regional Director
Scott Research and Extension Center
212 Macon Ridge Road, Bldg. B
Winnsboro, LA 71295
Telephone: 318/435-2903
Web site: http://www.lsuagcenter.com

position announcements continued from page 3

Assistant Professor – Turfgrass Weed Science

Description: The Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, University of Georgia, Griffin Campus invites applications for a 12-month tenure track position (60% Extension, 30% Research, and 10% Teaching) in Weed Science. The successful candidate is expected to develop extension, research, and instructional programs that focus on weed management in turfgrass. Areas of investigation may include, but are not limited to, cultural management; herbicide physiology and resistance; environmental fate; and weed ecology. The candidate must work cooperatively with UGA faculty, the interdisciplinary Turfgrass Team, county extension personnel, industry, and commodity groups. Instructional responsibilities will include participation in graduate student education and involvement in the undergraduate teaching program on the UGA Athens and Griffin Campuses.

Salary: Commensurate with qualifications and experience

Basic Qualifications: Ph.D. in Weed Science, Agronomy, Crop Science or a closely related field. The candidates should have strong credentials in Weed Science that relate to the job responsibilities. Experience in turfgrass is desirable but not essential. The incumbent should have a demonstrated ability to work collaboratively, secure extramural funding and publish research findings and outreach education materials. Teaching experience is also desirable.

Application: Application packages and letters of recommendation can be electronically sent to:

Dr. Clint Waltz
Department of Crop and Soil Sciences
The University of Georgia – Griffin Campus
1109 Experiment Street
Griffin, GA 30223
E-mail: mailto:cwaltz@uga.edu
Phone: 770-228-7300

Applicants must submit the following documentation: a letter of application, curriculum vita, official transcripts, four letters of reference, and any other information that reflects on professional qualifications.

To assure full consideration, applications must be received by **December 7, 2007**. The University of Georgia is an Affirmative Action/ Equal Opportunity Employer.

People & Places

Scott McElroy has accepted a research/teaching faculty position at Auburn University. Scott had been in a research/extension position at the University of Tennessee. Scott will begin at Auburn in January, 2008. His research at Auburn will focus on right-of-way vegetation management and fine-turfgrass weed management.

Greg Armel has accepted an extension/research faculty position at the University of Tennessee. His areas of responsibility include weed management in horticultural crops including vegetables and nursery crops, and invasive plants in natural areas.

Neil Rhodes will be stepping down as Department Head of Plant Sciences at the University of Tennessee effective March 2008. Neil will be in a faculty position with Extension and research responsibilities for weed management in forages, bioenergy crops, and aquatics.

SWSS Members Honored by the International Parasitic Plant Society

Doug Worsham and **Bob Eplee** were honored at the 9th International World Congress on Parasitic Plants, held in Charlottesville, VA, June 3-7, 2007. This Congress is sponsored by the International Parasitic Plant Society. Both honorees received Ph. D. degrees from North Carolina State University. Worsham of Scottville, NC was a Crop Science Weed Science faculty member, full and part-time for 40 years, retiring in 1993 when he was President of SWSS. Eplee of Whiteville, NC joined the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health and Inspection Service upon completing his degree in 1965 and joined the newly established Witchweed Control Methods and Development

Laboratory in Whiteville. He was with USDA for 35 years as the Laboratory's Director.

Worsham was honored "In recognition of extraordinary contributions to witchweed research and training of students." In presenting the Society's "Legacy Award" to Worsham, Dr. Lytton Musselman, Chair of the Awards Committee, stated, "—as a graduate student at North Carolina State University, you were involved with witchweed biology and control from the beginning in the United States. Your research on seed dormancy and herbicide management of witchweed not only lead to expanded research and understanding – most notably the discovery and characterization of strigol – but to standardization of lab techniques, field experiments, and herbicide control. Students you have trained are carrying on this work."

Eplee was honored "In recognition of extraordinary contributions to understanding the biology, control, and quarantine of witchweed for over three decades." In presenting Eplee's "Legacy Award", Musselman said "—almost since the discovery of witchweed in the United States, you have lead efforts to understand and control this parasitic plant pest. Most notably was the establishment and your being Director of the US Department of Agriculture Witchweed Laboratory, where many of the currently established methods of studying and controlling species of *Striga* were developed. In addition, through your efforts, workers from several countries were trained at the Whiteville, NC facility so that today such techniques as "Eplee bags" and recovery of seeds through elutriation are standard. All of this with characteristic Eplee innovation and humor."

Included in the activities of Worsham and Eplee in the realm of parasitic weeds, was organizing and sponsoring the 2nd World Congress on Parasitic Plants in 1979. At that time, this meeting was termed the "International Symposium on Parasitic Plants." This was held on the NCSU campus and at the Witchweed Laboratory in Whiteville. In 1982 Worsham and Eplee, with the help of other NCSU faculty members and USDA employees, conducted a two-week "Biology and Control of Witchweed Workshop for African Agricultural Workers" at NCSU and Whiteville.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION
Instructions and Deadlines

ISSUE DEADLINE
May 2008 …….…..... April 1, 2008
August 2008 ……..…..... July 1, 2008

Please send text information as Microsoft Word or WordPerfect files, and pictures as JPEG or BMP files to:

Al Rankins, Jr., Editor
Box 9555
Mississippi State, MS 39762
Phone 662-325-3341
mailto:arankins@pss.msstate.edu

"What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

Ted Webster

While reviewing the forthcoming book, **Weeds of the South** from the Southern Weed Science Society, I discovered that many of the weeds that I work with frequently have changed names. Some changed their common name. Others changed their scientific name. Some species changed both common and scientific names. Moreover, some species have just disappeared.

This table of species is an effort to alert the society membership to these name changes. This is not an exhaustive list, but instead a list of species that I recognized as being different. Some of these species changed names a several years ago (e.g. sicklepod and horseweed), but I still will see the old names used in manuscripts, so they were also included. There are likely many other species that I do not commonly work with that also have changed names; prior to submitting manuscripts to Weed Science or Weed Technology, I suggest consulting the on-line list of approved common and scientific names that is available through the WSSA home page (http://www.wssa.net/Weeds/ID/WeedNames/namesearch.php). This list was last updated April 2007.

Weed name changes continued from page 5

Old common name	New common name	Old scientific name	New scientific name
Bitter nightshade	Bittersweet nightshade	*Solanum dulcamara*	No change
Broadleaf signalgrass	No change	*Brachiaria platyphylla*	*Urochloa platyphylla*
Coffee senna	No change	*Cassia occidentalis*	*Senna occidentalis*
Common teasel	No change	*Dipsacus sylvestris*	*Dipsacus fullonum*
Cotton morningglory	No change	*Ipomoea trichocarpa var. torreyana*	*Ipomoea cordatotriloba* var. *torreyana*
Cutleaf eveningprimrose	Cutleaf evening-primrose	*Oenothera laciniata*	No change
Field sandbur	No change	*Cenchrus incertus*	*Cenchrus spinifex*
Hairy galinsoga	No change	*Galinsoga ciliata*	*Galinsoga quadriradiata*
Hemp Sesbania	No change	*Sesbania exaltata*	*Sesbania herbacea*
Honeyvine milkweed	Honeyvine swallowwort	*Ampelamus albidus*	*Cynanchum leave*
Horseweed	No change	*Erigeron canadensis*	*Conyza canadensis*
Hyssop spurge	No change	*Euphorbia hyssopifolia*	*Chamaesyce hyssopifolia*
Italian ryegrass	No change	*Lolium multiflorum*	*Lolium perenne* ssp. *Multiflorum*
Itchgrass	No change	*Rottboellia exaltata*	*Rottboellia cochinchinensis*
Kudzu	No change	*Pueraria lobata*	*Pueraria montana* var. *lobata*
Mouseear chickweed	No change	*Cerastium vulgatum*	*Cerastium fontanum* ssp. *vulgare*
Nodding spurge	No change	*Euphorbia nutans*	*Chamaesyce nutans*
Oldfield toadflax	No change	*Linaria canadensis*	*Nuttallanthus canadensis*
Partridgepea	No change	*Cassia fasciculata*	*Chamaecrista fasciculata*
Pineappleweed	No change	*Matricaria matricarioides*	*Matricaria discoidea*
Poison ivy	Eastern poison-ivy	*Rhus radicans*	*Toxicodendron radicans*
Poison oak	Atlantic poison-oak	*Rhus toxicodendron*	*Toxicodendron pubescens*
Poison sumac	Poison-sumac	*Rhus vernix*	*Toxicodendron vernix*
Prostrate spurge	No change	*Euphorbia humistrata*	*Chamaesyce humistrata*
Purple cudweed	No change	*Gnaphalium purpureum*	*Gamochaeta purpurea*
Quackgrass	No change	*Elytrigia repens*	*Elymus repens*
Sharpod morningglory	No change	*Ipomoea trichocarpa*	*Ipomoea cordatotriloba*
Shattercane	No change	*Sorghum bicolor*	*Sorghum bicolor* ssp. *arundinaceum*
Sicklepod	No change	*Cassia obtusifolia*	*Senna obtusifolia*
Smooth groundcherry	No change	*Physalis subglabrata*	*Physalis longifolia* var. *subglabrata*
Sorghum	No change	*Sorghum vulgare*	*Sorghum bicolor* ssp. *bicolor*
Spotted spurge	No change	*Euphorbia maculata*	*Chamaesyce maculata*
Tall fescue			
Texas panicum	Texas millet	*Panicum texanum*	*Urochloa texana*
Tropical spiderwort	Bengal dayflower	*Commelina benghalensis*	No change
Wild mustard	No change	*Brassica kaber*	*Sinapis arvensis*
Yellow foxtail	No change	*Setaria glauca*	*Setaria pumila*

WSSA PHOTO CONTEST – 2008

Attention photographers! Submit images to the WSSA Photo Contest. Please read below:

GENERAL RULES

1. Contest is open only to WSSA members.
2. Subject of photo is to be any photogenic subject associated with Weed Science.
3. There are two divisions: 1) Color Print and 2) Digital File.
4. Each contestant can enter a maximum of 5 images per division but can win only one prize per division.
5. Prizes in each division are $100 for 1st, $75 for 2nd, and $50 for 3rd.
6. In some cases, an overall winner may be selected and presented the "WSSA Outstanding Photographer Award," which includes a $300 prize.
7. Members of the Photo Contest Subcommittee will judge the contest.
8. Judges will consider factors such as subject, composition, technical aspects, and overall appeal.
9. MAIL OR EMAIL IMAGES TO CHAIRPERSON BY JAN 24 OR SUBMIT BY 1:00PM AT WSSA REGISTRATION DESK ON FIRST REGISTRATION DAY. The current chairperson is Shawn Askew at 435 Old Glade Road, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0330, (540)-231-5807, saskew@vt.edu.
10. Prints will either be returned at the WSSA annual meeting or mailed to the photographer within 2 months of the annual meeting. PLEASE REMOVE IMAGES FROM THE POSTER-SESSION DISPLAY PRIOR TO THE END OF THE MEETING. Images are submitted at the photographer's own risk and the WSSA Photo Contest Subcommittee is not responsible in the unlikely event of damage or loss.

COLOR PRINT DIVISION

1. Up to 5 prints may be submitted.
2. Prints should be no smaller than 35 sq. in. and no larger than 80 sq. in.
3. Photo processed or computer-generated prints are acceptable.
4. Prints should be mounted.
5. Name and address or business card should be attached or written on the back of each print. Designate which side should face up by placing arrows on the back of each print. A separate card should be included with a title, approximate date, and approximate location where the image was photographed and the photographers name. See example below.

DIGITAL FILE

1. Digital Files can be submitted for a total of 5 entries.
2. Include a .txt file in place of the description card shown below (all images can be described on one file).
3. Digital files must be on PC-formatted CD-R compact discs or USB jumpdrive if submitted at the contest. Otherwise, files may be emailed to the chairperson as attachments or as internet links.
4. Digital files must be .jpg format and should be a minimum of 1440 x 960 resolution or at least 1.3 megapixel. Digital media should be labeled with your name and address. Name your files to match all or a portion of your image title.

Separate card required for every image submitted can be hand written but should be neat (example):

Water Drops on Palmleaf Morningglory
Circa 1998
Raleigh, NC
Shawn Askew

WASHINGTON REPORT

by Lee Van Wychen, Director of Science Policy

Weed Scientists: Apply for 1 of over 100 AAAS Fellowships

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) solicits candidates from a broad array of disciplinary backgrounds to apply for a year-long Science and Technology Policy Fellowship in Washington DC. Fellows come from a range of sectors, including academia, industry, and non-profits, and represent a spectrum of career stages from recent PhD graduates to faculty on sabbatical, to retired scientists and engineers. The age range of the 2006 Fellows class was 26 to 66. The AAAS also serves as the "umbrella" organization for other scientific societies that sponsor a Fellow, such as the American Society of Agronomy.

The AAAS Fellowship program is a great opportunity to work closely with federal decision-makers in agencies such as the USDA, EPA and the National Science Foundation among others. Fellows receive a stipend of up to $87,000 for the year. Relocation expenses of up to $3500 are also provided. The deadline for applications for the 2008-2009 Fellowship class is December 20, 2007. For more information, please visit: http://fellowships.aaas.org

2007 Farm Bill Passed by House of Representatives

The House of Representatives passed the 2007 Farm Bill (H.R. 2419) by a vote of 231-191. The Senate will mark up their version of the 2007 Farm Bill when they return to Washington DC after Labor Day. The 2002 Farm Bill expires on September 30, 2007.

The House Farm Bill vote was unusually partisan (instead of geographically divided) due to a last minute move by Democrats to find money to pay for the bill's nutrition programs. Democrats said the funds would come from closing tax loopholes that allowed foreign companies in the United States to shelter their earnings in tax havens. Republicans called the move a tax increase that would cost American jobs. The White House has threatened a possible veto of the bill because of the tax provision and because of the level of farm subsidy payments. The final House vote of 231-191 fell far short of the margin that would be needed to override a veto, but many things could change with the Senate version of the Farm Bill and the final conference agreement between both chambers.

Despite the partisan wrangling, there are some good proposed changes in the House version of the Farm Bill that will benefit our discipline:

- $1.6 billion in priorities to strengthen and support the fruit and vegetable industry in the United States. A new section for Horticulture and Organic Agriculture includes nutrition, research, pest management and trade promotion programs.
- Making important new investments in renewable energy research, development and production in rural America. While the Energy Title (Section 9) does not exclusively prohibit the planting of known invasive plants for biomass production, Section 9008 (g)5(C) states that the Secretaries of Agriculture and Energy shall only support biofuels research that is "consistent with the integrity of soil and water resources and with other environmental considerations".

- Amends certain conservation programs to improve awareness and financial assistance to land managers who focus on pest management practices. Some of these changes include:

    - Allowing producers to conduct prescribed grazing for the control of invasive species on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands.

- Providing flexible assistance to producers enrolled in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to install and maintain conservation practices that: A) enhance soil, water, and related natural resources, including grazing land, forestland, wetland, and wildlife; and B) conserve energy.
- Assisting producers in EQIP to make beneficial, cost effective changes to cropping systems, grazing management, energy use, forest management, pest or irrigation management, or other practices on agricultural and forested land including control of invasive species.

- Establishes a new National Agriculture Research Program Office (NARPO) composed of 6 Program Offices, each led by a Director appointed by the Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics, currently Dr. Gale Buchanan. The purpose of NARPO is to coordinate the programs and activities of USDA's research agencies "in an integrated, multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, interagency, and inter-institutional manner" to minimize duplication and maximize coordination at all levels
  - The 6 Program Office are: (1) Renewable energy, natural resources, and environment ; (2) Food safety, nutrition, and health; (3) Plant health and production; (4) Animal health and production and animal products; (5) Agriculture systems and technology; and (6) Agriculture economics and rural communities.
  - The Under Secretary shall fund each Program Office through the appropriations available to the various agencies within the research, education and economics mission area. The aggregate staff for all Program Offices shall not exceed 30 full-time equivalent positions and shall be filled by current full-time equivalent positions.
  - The Under Secretary shall integrate leadership functions of the national program staff of the research agencies (i.e. CSREES, ARS, ERS) into NARPO to ensure that the Directors of the Program Offices are the primary program leaders for the mission areas of the integrated agencies and that administrative duplication does not occur.

House FY2008 Ag Appropriations Bill Leaves Much to be Desired

Rep. Rosa L. DeLauro (D-CT) is the new chairwoman of the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee. While there is still hope that she will comprehend the value of agricultural research and extension, her subcommittee's FY2008 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration Appropriations Bill left much to be desired. While her funding priorities such as food stamps and nutrition programs were not unexpected, it seems clear that we need to convince her and her staff about the importance of agricultural research. Independent studies have shown that the average social **rate of return** to public investment in **agricultural research ranges from 35 to 53 percent**. Agricultural research investments will influence agricultural productivity in as few as 2 years and the impact will be felt for as long as 30 years. These returns are shared by all levels of the industry, from producers to consumers.

In the House-passed Agriculture Appropriations Bill on August 3, USDA-ARS would receive $1.1 billion, a **decrease of $52 million** below FY2007. USDA-CSREES would receive $671 million, the same as FY2007. Within USDA-CSREES, the National Research Initiative (NRI) would get $190 million, the same as FY2007. The NRI, authorized at $500 million annually, has been slowly increasing over the past 6 years, at least keeping pace with inflation. We will definitely lose ground if the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee flat lines the NRI.

Meanwhile, the Food Stamp Program is provided at $39.8 billion, an **increase of $1.7 billion** over 2007. The House ag appropriations bill rejects the Administration's proposal to restrict eligibility for food stamps to families who are receiving other

public nutrition services. The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program gets $5.6 billion, which is **$415.6 million above** FY2007. I don't want to sound like a heartless Science Policy Director, but it begs the question of whether a $2 billion increase in food stamp and nutrition programs will provide the same social benefits and returns to the American people compared to reducing or flat lining agriculture research programs.

Executive Branch Releases FY2009 R&D Priorities

On 16 August, the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released the annual memorandum identifying research and development (R&D) priorities for the federal government. The memo, which is sent to the heads of executive branch agencies and departments, details what programs the Administration intends to prioritize during fiscal year (FY) 2009. To read the full report, please visit: http://www.ostp.gov/html/FY2009FINALOMB-OSTPRDPriorityMemo.pdf

The American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI) remains a focal point for the administration, as the President has begun work to double research budgets for the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy's Office of Science, and the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology.

The Administration favors R&D investments that: 1) Advance fundamental scientific discovery to improve future quality of life; 2) Support high-leverage basic research to spur technological innovation, economic competitiveness and new job growth; 3) Strengthen science, mathematics and engineering education based on the recommendations of the Academic Competitiveness Council and the National Math Panel to ensure a scientifically literate population and a supply of qualified technical personnel commensurate with national need; 4) Enable potentially high-payoff activities that require a Federal presence to attain long-term national goals, especially national security, energy independence, and a next-generation air transportation system; 5) Sustain specifically authorized agency missions and user facilities that support the authorized missions of other agencies; 6) Enhance the health of our Nation's people to reduce the burden of illness and increase productivity while respecting the inherent dignity and value of every human life; 7) Improve our ability to understand and respond to climate change and other global environmental issues and natural disasters through better observation, data, analysis, models, and basic and social science research; 8) Maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of the science and technology enterprise through expansion of competitive, merit-based peer-review processes; 9) Phase out programs that are only marginally productive or are not important to an agency's mission; and, 10) Encourage interdisciplinary research efforts on complex scientific frontiers and strengthen international partnerships to accelerate the progress of science across borders.

Understanding Complex Biological Systems: The memorandum directs agencies to target research on a deeper understanding of complex biological systems through multi-disciplinary collaborations aimed at developing new and improved measurement and management tools to provide valid data that can be compared across laboratories and platforms. Agencies should concentrate research at 1) the cellular and sub-cellular, and the organism, population, and community levels; and 2) the interface of the life, physical and computational sciences.

The Administration highlighted the importance of **global earth observations** and their supporting role in various areas of research. Agencies need to place a greater emphasis on coordinating their Earth observation activities. To ensure coordinated, long-term collection of critical land imaging data, agencies should respond to the recommendations of the Future of Land Imaging report in their budget requests. The full 120 page report can be found at: http://www.ostp.gov/html/FLI-IWG%20report%20Print-ready%20low-res.pdf

Executive Order 13443: Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation

On August 16, President Bush issued Executive Order 13443. The purpose of this order is to direct Federal agencies that have programs and activities

that have a measurable effect on public land management, outdoor recreation, and wildlife management, including the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture, to facilitate the expansion and enhancement of hunting opportunities and the management of game species and their habitat. To view the full Executive Order as printed in the Federal Registrar, please visit: http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/07-4115.htm

To advance the goals of the Executive Order, President Bush is calling for a White House Conference to convene within the year to focus specifically on North American wildlife policy. Of relevance to weed and invasive plant management, federal agencies are directed to: 1) Manage wildlife habitats on public lands in a manner that expands and enhances hunting opportunities; and 2) Work collaboratively with State governments to manage and conserve game species and their habitats in a manner that respects private property rights and State management authority over wildlife resources.

Nearly **700 million acres of public lands** are managed by the departments of the Interior and Agriculture, which is approximately 1/3 of the total land area in the United States (2.1 billion acres). And according to the latest figures released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, more than 12 million hunters spend a total of 225 million days pursuing their game, spending an estimated $23 billion annually on hunting activities.

New Invasive Species Management Bill Introduced in Senate: 100th Meridian Invasive Species State Revolving Loan Fund (S. 1949)

On August 2, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) along with co-sponsors Wyden (D-OR), Domenici (R-NM) and Craig (R-ID) introduced the 100th Meridian Invasive Species State Revolving Loan Fund bill. S. 1949 was referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, led by Senator's Bingaman and Domenici, both from New Mexico. S. 1949 defines an invasive species as a nonnative species introduced into a specified ecosystem, whether intentional or unintentional, which causes, or may cause, harm to the economy, the environment, or human, animal, or plant health.

S. 1949 directs the Secretary of the Interior to provide loans to any combination of public or private stakeholders; Federal agencies; Indian tribes; state land, forest, or fish and wildlife management agencies; and academic institutions in the 13 most western states (NM, CO, WY, MT, ID, UT, AZ, NV, CA, OR, WA, AK, and HI) that demonstrate an effort to address or prevent invasive species. In general, 1) at least 25% of the loan must be repaid directly to the US. Treasury Department or through in-kind contributions by each qualified organization; and 2) at least 25% of the loan must be repaid by the state in which the project is carried out. S. 1949 authorizes a federal appropriation of $410 million, in total, over 5 years (2008 to 2012).

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NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION
Instructions and Deadlines

ISSUE	DEADLINE
May 2008 …….….....	April 1, 2008
August 2008 ……..….....	July 1, 2008

Please send text information as Microsoft Word or WordPerfect files, and pictures as JPEG or BMP files to:

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SOUTHERN WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY GRADUATE STUDENT POSTER CONTEST – WORKSHEET FOR JUDGES

Contestant's Name:	**Poster No.**	**Exc.**	**Good**	**Fair**	**Poor**
1. ABSTRACT		**3 POINTS**			
Clear statement of Objectives, Materials and Methods, Results and Conclusions					
2. CREATIVITY AND INVENTIVENESS		**17 POINTS**			
Creativity and imagination in poster development					
Color balance of poster					
Overall appearance of poster and its appeal to the observer					
Use of innovative techniques and ideas to convey results					
3. POSTER DEVELOPMENT		**20 POINTS**			
Printing on poster easy to read					
Correct spelling and terminology used					
Figures and graphs effectively used to highlight major concepts					
Pertinent information presented on poster					
Overall layout and organizational flow of the poster					
4. JUSTIFICATION, STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES, ORIGINALITY, AND SCIENTIFIC MERIT		**20 POINTS**			
Objectives and/or hypothesis stated clearly, concisely, and well defined					
Problem chosen is of scientific merit					
Problem approached in original and creative manner					
5. MATERIALS AND METHODS		**20 POINTS**			
Materials and methods clearly explained					
Results summarized concisely					
Proper use of statistics and experimental design					
Appropriate and current experimental technique used					
6. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS		**20 POINTS**			
Results summarized concisely					
Conclusions relevant to objectives					
Conclusions supported by results					
Relevance of data to resolution of problem					
Data collected compared to work of others					
Recommendations for future research					
GENERAL COMMENTS:	**TOTAL SCORE**				
	FINAL RANKING				

SOUTHERN WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER CONTEST – WORKSHEET FOR JUDGES

Contestant's Name:	**Paper No.**	**Exc.**	**Good**	**Fair**	**Poor**	**Score**
1. ABSTRACT		**3 POINTS**				
Clear statement of Objectives, Materials and Methods, Results and Conclusions						
2. JUSTIFICATION, STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES, ORIGINALITY, AND SCIENTIFIC MERIT		**20 POINTS**				
Objectives and/or hypothesis stated clearly, concisely, and well defined						
Problem chosen is of scientific merit						
Problem approached in original and creative manner						
3. VISUAL AIDS		**17 POINTS**				
Printing on slides easy to read						
Correct spelling and terminology used						
Slides effectively used to highlight major concepts						
Pertinent essential information presented on slides						
4. VOICE, LANGUAGE, AND PHYSICAL MANNERISMS		**20 POINTS**				
Speaker confident and enthusiastic about talk						
Effective use of gestures during talk						
Voice inflection evident and effectively used						
Pointer effectively used to guide audience's attention						
Questions repeated to general audience						
Confident and effective response to questions						
5. MATERIALS AND METHODS		**20 POINTS**				
Materials and methods clearly explained						
Proper use of statistics and experimental design						
Appropriate and current experimental technique used						
6. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS		**20 POINTS**				
Results summarized concisely						
Conclusions relevant to objectives						
Conclusions supported by results						
Relevance of data to resolution of problem						
Data collected compared to work of others						
Recommendations for future research						
Allowed adequate time for questions						
GENERAL COMMENTS:	**TOTAL SCORE**					
	FINAL RANKING					