



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this, I hope everyone is working through what has been a very challenging and late spring. I know a number of y'all have pushed back the dates for your field tours. I hope they go well! This spring has also been very busy for the WSSA. In early April I had the pleasure to go to Washington, DC as part of the Weed Science Policy team and meet with many on Capitol Hill, EPA, and USDA. It was a great experience! Many thanks to Lee Van Wychen who put this meeting together and who kept us in a full gallop visiting. I knew that Lee was good at his job but until I saw him in action on the Hill did I come to fully grasp what an awesome job he does representing the WSSA. You can read more about this trip inside this edition of the newsletter.

After exploring other options, the board of directors has voted to upgrade the APEX system to better fit our needs. It has served us well for over a decade, but with all the changes in presentation size, styles and demand for easier access to abstracts clearly an upgrade was needed.

All the litigation surrounding glyphosate has caused a lot of confusion and concern for many. Those of us with Extension positions, as an example, are often asked questions on a weekly basis from our clientele. The WSSA has been asked as well. We are all weed scientists and not toxicologists, but still we are often pressed for answers. In response to this we formed an ad hoc committee chaired by our Past President Scott Senseman and charged them to draft a statement on glyphosate. They did an excellent job on the draft. Many thanks to all the folks who put in so much time and energy crafting the statement. It has now been sent on to the public awareness committee to be vetted. After the public awareness committee review, it will go to the full board for a vote.

Bill Curran has received an outstanding slate of symposium proposals for the board to vote on. Having just read through all twelve proposals, they all are clearly worthy. The board will have to make some tough choices as there will not be enough time to field them all.

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**CHECK OUT
COMING EVENTS**

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Several exciting activities are ongoing. Pesticide resistance continues to be a primary issue for our society and beyond. The WSSA and the Entomological Society of America (ESA) are coordinating a two-day event titled "2019 Science Policy Experience: Collaborative Approach to Resistance Management." Many thanks to David Shaw, who is leading this effort on behalf of WSSA. A unique group of stakeholders, including national leaders from USDA and EPA, commodity groups, crop advisors and local producers, will explore how communities can form and effectively work together to manage wicked resistance issues. The tour is scheduled for early August in Iowa and Nebraska. Also, the WSSA Travel Enrichment Experience Scholarships for Graduate Students have been reviewed by our committee and we have an excellent slate of students selected. We received no less than 29 applications from all over North America from some tremendously capable M.S. and Ph.D. students. By reviewing these materials, it is obvious that we are going to be surrounded by scientific talent to help solve the problems of our discipline. The Travel Enrichment Experience (TEE) will provide an opportunity for WSSA graduate students to participate in a five day, four night educational experience with professionals in a different WSSA region. Finally, the highly anticipated Weed Olympics will be held in Seymour, Illinois on July 25th. They can still use more students and volunteers. You can sign up with this link: https://wssa.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com_mcform&view=ngform&id=2014019#/

Our next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS) and will be in Maui, HI, March 2-5, 2020. I hope to see all of you at the meeting. Please do not hesitate to contact me, Eric Gustafson, Lee Van Wychen, or any board member if you have questions, suggestions, or concerns regarding WSSA business or activities.

Larry Steckel
President, WSSA

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WSSA FUTURE MEETING SITES AND DATES

March 2-5, 2020

60th Annual Meeting WSSA
73rd Annual Meeting WSWS
Hyatt Regency Resort and Spa
Maui, Hawaii

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**WSSA HOME PAGE
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www.wssa.net

THINK NEWSLETTER

Deadline for October issue
September 1, 2019

SEND NEWSLETTER

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WSSA PUBLICATIONS NEWS

Open access and sharing content

The number of open access articles in WSSA journals is increasing, especially in *Weed Science*. However, not all authors know that open access publishing is an option when submitting manuscripts to WSSA journals. *Weed Science*, *Weed Technology* and *IPSM* all allow open access publication of accepted articles. If you select “GOLD” access when completing the copyright form, your paper will be published with full permanent open access and you can redistribute it as you wish. The fee for publishing open access is \$2,000 for WSSA members and there are no page charges if you select this option.

If you select the “GREEN” copyright option your published article will be placed behind the journal paywall, restricting access to journal subscribers and WSSA members. However, Cambridge University Press provides a “read-and-share” service for these papers. Clicking on the title of any article published in a WSSA journal from 2016 onwards opens the abstract, below which is a “SHARE CONTENT” button. Clicking on this button generates a link to a read-only non-downloadable version of the paper — this link can be e-mailed to colleagues, posted on your website, embedded in a PDF, etc. to allow you to share your research.

Revised author instructions

Author instructions have been further updated to reflect recent editorial board decisions on nomenclature. WSSA journals are now using the plants.usda.gov database as the source for scientific names. Please check the new author instructions before submitting your next manuscript.

Preprint manuscript posting

We are working with Cambridge to allow raw PDFs of manuscripts to be posted online immediately after acceptance. These preprint articles will not be formatted or copyedited, but will be assigned a DOI and can be cited. Once formatting and copyediting are complete, the raw PDF will be removed from Cambridge Core and the DOI will be transferred to the final version of the paper when it is published as a FirstView article. Stay tuned for updates on this.

Ian Burke to lead WSU wheat conservation research as newest Cook Endowed Chair

Ian Burke, weed scientist with Washington State University’s Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, will lead conservation research benefiting Washington’s \$800 million wheat industry as the new R. James Cook Endowed Chair in Wheat Research. Named for one of WSU’s most renowned scientists, the Cook Endowed Chair was established in 1997 by the then-Washington Wheat Commission, now the Washington Grain Commission, to deliver innovative research and teaching that benefits the state’s wheat growers.

A professor of weed science, Burke

has worked at WSU since 2006, coming to Pullman from the USDA-ARS Southern Weed Science Research Unit in Stoneville, Mississippi. His recent work explores new methods to control troublesome weeds that are increasingly resistant to chemicals.

“Ian Burke has established himself as an outstanding researcher in weed biology and ecology, helping find solutions to the fast-evolving threat of resistance that Washington farmers face. Ian is also well known for his teaching, outreach, and Extension efforts, making him an ideal partner to growers and industry,” said André-

Denis Wright, Dean of the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Science.

“I’m deeply honored to be recognized by the people and the organization that I work to help,” said Burke. “This role gives me new opportunities to reflect and work on issues that are truly critical.”

Congratulations to Ian as the new Cook Endowed Chair.

Seth Truscott
Public Relations/Communication
Coordinator
WSU College of Agricultural,
Human, and Natural Resource
Sciences

WASHINGTON REPORT

by Lee Van Wychen, Director of Science Policy

WEED SCIENCE PRESIDENTS VISIT DC

During the first week of April, WSSA President Larry Steckel, NCWSS President Aaron Hager, SWSS President James Holloway, and WSWS Past President Andrew Kniss traveled to Washington, DC for science policy visits to Federal agencies and Capitol Hill. Also joining us was weed science grad student John Schramski from Michigan State who is currently serving as my Science Policy Fellow.

On April 2 we attended a USDA-ARS Stakeholder Workshop to review and provide input for their 5-year plan for the Crop Protection and Quarantine Program (NP 304), which covers weeds and insects, systematics and identification, and protection of post-harvest commodities, quarantine, and methyl bromide alternatives. In addition to the presidents and many weed scientists from USDA-ARS, I'd also like to thank Jim Kells, Arlene Cotie and Mark VanGessel for attending and in particular Janis McFarland who chaired the retrospective review panel. Overall, weed science was well represented. Areas of interest we emphasized for inclusion in their 2020–2024 Draft Action Plan included: weed genomics, biology, and ecology; weed seed identification tools; and integration of technologies such as drones, robotics, and artificial intelligence.

On April 3, we had another full day as we headed to Capitol Hill for visits with members of the Congressional delegations from Illinois, Michigan, Tennessee, and Wyoming. We also traveled to USDA where we met with Dr. Scott Hutchins, USDA's Deputy Under Secretary for Research, Educa-

tion, and Economics and finally to the EPA where we met with Dan Kenny, EPA's Herbicide Registration Branch Chief, and members of the Biological and Economic Analysis Division team. We covered a wide range of weed science related issues during our meetings, including the importance of ag research funding for both competitive and capacity building grant programs, the critical need of the IR-4 program for minor crop pest control, herbicide resistance management, minimizing off-target movement, and glyphosate non-carcinogenicity. Overall it was a very productive few days and we greatly appreciate the time and effort of these leaders to advance our discipline of weed science!

TRANEL PRESENTS CAPITOL HILL SEMINAR ON WEED GENE DRIVES

On June 10, Patrick Tranel presented a seminar on Capitol Hill titled "*Gene Drives to Combat our Worst Weeds.*" The seminar was part of the National Coalition for Food & Agri-

cultural Research (NCFAR) Lunch-n-Learn Seminar Series. Dr. Tranel has been a weed scientist at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign since 1997. He has been at the forefront of using molecular and genomic tools to study weeds, and his research findings have informed how weeds evolve resistance to herbicides and strategies that can be used to mitigate that process. The advent of gene editing tools, such as CRISPR-Cas9, makes such genetic strategies more feasible. Gene drives can be used in weed management approaches to reduce seed dormancy or reverse herbicide resistance in weeds. For genetic control of weeds to become a reality, significant basic research is needed as well as efforts in training future scientists.

KANSAS CITY ANNOUNCED AS NEW HOME FOR USDA NIFA AND ERS

On June 13, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced that USDA will relocate the Economic Research Service (ERS) and National

Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to the Kansas City Region. "Following a rigorous site selection process, the Kansas City Region provides a win win – maximizing our mission function by putting taxpayer savings into programmatic outputs and providing affordability, easy commutes, and extraordinary living for our employees," said Secretary Perdue. USDA conducted a Cost Benefit Analysis and conservative estimates show a savings of



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

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nearly \$300 million nominally over a 15-year lease term on employment costs and rent or about \$20 million per year, which will allow more funding for research of critical needs like rural prosperity and agricultural competitiveness, and for programs and employees to be retained in the long run, even in the face of tightening budgets. On top of that, state and local governments offered generous relocation incentives packages totaling more than \$26 million. You may [click HERE](#) to view USDA's Cost Benefit Analysis.

As part of the site selection process, USDA narrowed the 136 Expressions of Interest received using a set of established criteria defined by USDA, NIFA, and ERS leadership. The top Expressions of Interest were reviewed in detail, and USDA selected a short list of locations offering existing buildings with sufficient space to meet ERS and NIFA requirements. While 90% of USDA employees are located outside of the D.C. area, ERS and NIFA are the only USDA agencies that don't have representation outside of the national Capital Region (NCR). Upon the relocation announcement, USDA proposed that sufficient staff levels would remain in the NCR to complete mission critical activities that require physical presence in or near Washington, D.C. at the recommendation of customers and stakeholders. In both the cases of ERS and NIFA, leadership reviewed the critical functions and staffing needs within and outside the NCR. Senior ERS and NIFA staff, with input from partner agencies and stakeholders, recommended to Secretary Perdue the critical functions to be retained within the NCR.

Out of NIFA's 315 positions, 294 will relocate while 21 will stay in the NCR. Of the 329 ERS positions, 253 will relocate while 76 will stay in the Washington, D.C. area. As a result of this move, no ERS or NIFA employees will be

involuntarily separated. Every employee who wants to continue working will have an opportunity to do so, although that will mean moving to a new location for most. Employees will be offered relocation assistance and will receive the same base pay as before, and the locality pay for the new location.

EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON GLYPHOSATE PROPOSED INTERIM REGISTRATION REVIEW DECISION

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

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

In this proposed interim registration review decision for glyphosate, EPA is proposing various spray drift management measures (e.g., release height, droplet size, and wind speed restrictions) to reduce off-site exposure to non-target wildlife. EPA is also proposing weed resistance management

labeling (e.g., information on mode of action, scouting instructions, and reporting instructions for weed resistance) and certain labeling clean-up/consistency efforts to bring all glyphosate labels up to modern standards.

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

APHIS SEEKS COMMENTS ON PROPOSED RULE DEREGULATING SOME GM CROP TRAITS

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

HOUSE APPROVES NINE FY2020 APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

On June 25, the House passed a five-bill "minibus" spending package for
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FY 2020 that includes \$383 million for the Commerce-Justice-Science, Agriculture, Interior-Environment, Transportation and Military Construction-Veterans Affairs spending bills. A week earlier, the House passed a four-bill “minibus” spending package for Labor-Health and Human Services-Education, Defense, State-Foreign Operations, and Energy and Water Development. The Senate has yet to unveil any of its FY 2020 spending bills and, most importantly, both chambers still need to reach a budget agreement before they can pass any final FY 2020 spending plan. (See chart at right.)

COVER CROP ECONOMICS

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

2019 WEED SURVEY AVAILABLE

The 2019 Survey of the Most Common and Troublesome Weeds is available at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019weeds>

Please take a moment to list your top 5 most common and top 5 most troublesome weeds in the following broadleaf crops:

- 1) Alfalfa, 2) Canola, 3) Cotton,
- 4) Fruits & Nuts, 5) Peanuts,

Selected Discretionary Appropriations Accounts

PROGRAM	2016 Final	2017 Final	2018 Final	FY 2019 Final	FY 2020 House
(Millions of Dollars)					
USDA-NIFA	1326	1363	1412	1471	1614
Hatch Act (Exp. Stations)	244	244	244	259	265
Smith-Lever 3(b) & (c)	300	300	300	315	325
AFRI competitive grants	350	375	400	415	460
IR-4	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9	12
Crop Protection & Pest Mang't	17.2	20	20	20	20
USDA-ARS	1143	1170	1203	1303	1347
USDA-ERS	85	87	87	87	88
USDA-NASS	168	171	192	175	181
USDA-APHIS	894	946	982	1011	1034
Army Corp of Engineers					
Aquatic Plant Control	4	4	5	5	0
Flowering Rush Control	n/a	n/a	1	1	0
Watercraft Inspection	4	5	5	6	20
Great Lakes Restoration	300	300	300	300	320
National Sea Grant Program	64	63	65	68	73

- 6) Pulses – field pea, chickpea, lentil, etc.,
- 7) Soybean, 8) Sugarbeet,
- 9) Vegetables – Cole crops,
- 10) Vegetables – Cucurbits,
- 11) Vegetables – Fruiting,
- 12) Vegetables – Other

Common weeds refer to those weeds you most frequently see, while **troublesome weeds** are those that are most difficult to control (but may not be widespread). The survey has a 3-year rotation, so next year we will be surveying weeds in grass crops, pasture and turf and the following year will be weeds in aquatic and non-

crop/natural areas. This survey will remain open until Labor Day 2019. Thanks!

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

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
September 3–6, 2019	27th Asian Pacific Weed Science Society Conference	Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia	https://apwss.org/ https://www.apwss2019.org/
November 18–21, 2019	Canadian Weed Science Society Annual Meeting (CWSS)	Delta Hotel Kelowna, British Columbia	www.weedscience.ca
December 10–13, 2019	North Central Weed Science Society Annual Meeting (NCWSS)	Hyatt Regency Hotel Columbus, Ohio	www.ncwss.org
January 6–9, 2020	Northeastern Weed Science Society Annual Meeting (NEWSS)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	www.newss.org
January 26–30, 2020	Southern Weed Science Society Annual Meeting (SWSS)	Beau Rivage Biloxi, Mississippi	www.swss.ws
March 2–5, 2020	Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) and the Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS) Joint Annual Meeting	Hyatt Regency Maui Resort and Spa Maui, Hawaii	www.wssa.net and www.wsweedscience.org

Additional Weed Science Meetings and Events can be found at <http://wssa.net/meeting/calendar-of-meetings/>

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