



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we move into spring, a wealth of knowledge awaits us in the field, greenhouse, and laboratory. Conducting sound research and effectively communicating the results of those efforts to our diverse clientele is essential for the future of agriculture and the environment. Our 62nd annual meeting was a perfect example of how bright the future of weed science is as our students took

center stage. As I attended each of our student presentations, I was prepared for computer glitches, microphone malfunctions, or camera failures but to my delight every single presentation went perfectly. Of course, this success was a result of well-prepared students, moderators Anita Dille, Marty Schraer, and David Clements, and our all around go to guy Eric Gustafson. With 46 student presentations from the WSSA and CWSS being shared virtually, it is clear that these young talents will propel weed science forward at an unprecedented rate. Not to be overshadowed, 57 students competed in poster contests, further highlighting their amazing research and creative methods of communication.

Although our students were the stars of the show, the general session had two excellent and diverse speakers. I have heard nothing but rave reviews about Conrad Bérubé, who discussed first-hand experience dispatching the first Asian giant hornet nest discovered in America (those bug guys are definitely interesting), and about Stephen Novak, who discussed lessons learned from the long-running battle with cheatgrass in the Pacific Northwest. Our WSSA President Anita Dille and CWSS President Marie-Josée Simard shared important messages recapping the past, while also looking into the future. Mandy Bish and Charles M. Geddes concluded the evening by sharing the year's award winners. Congratulations to all of our award winners.

As a reminder, presentations and abstracts that were shared at the annual meeting remain available on the virtual platform for one year. In addition to student oral presentations and posters, our members submitted an additional 148 presentations (posters and pre-recorded oral) that are also accessible on the platform. A search function is available to guide you to presentations of interest; start with the lead author's name.

The symposiums that were selected to be presented during our annual meeting have been delayed to mitigate virtual meeting fatigue. However, each symposium organizer has the opportunity to present their symposiums throughout the year as webinars. Our first event with USDA-ARS will be a webinar series

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**CALL FOR
2023 SYMPOSIA**

(see inside, page 3)

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beginning April 5 and continuing weekly through June 7 on Tuesdays from 2 to 3 pm ET. Both the WSSA and USDA are sharing details regarding the topics that will be discussed; be sure to register for those that interest you.

The WSSA Board of Directors met before and after the annual meeting to conduct business on behalf of the membership. Members of the BOD and WSSA are actively engaged in numerous topics including implementing our strategic plan, creating an Endangered Species Act Committee to be led by Bill Chism, enhancing the functionality of our website while having more social media influence, and addressing MOP updates. Vice President Greg Dahl is hard at work organizing our many committees. As you know, volunteer committee participation and activities are the backbone of our society. If you are interested in serving, please reach out to him (you too, students). The Finance Committee led by Greg Elmore is working on the new WSSA Innovative Grants Program call for proposals, which will provide support of up to a total of \$100,000; the funds will be available as seed money to explore innovative ideas in weed science. More information will be provided soon regarding timing for submissions and availability of funds. Also, our President-elect and Program Chair Carroll Moseley is organizing the local arrangements committee for our joint annual meeting in Arlington, Virginia, for 2023 and preparing the call for symposia. We look forward to seeing you at our annual meeting IN-PERSON!!!

Our liaisons are extremely busy, with USDA-NIFA liaison Jim Kells hosting webinars on NIFA grant programs for our members this past March. Mark VanGessel, our EPA liaison, has now been in his new role for a year and is heavily engaged with members of the U.S. EPA, assisting in both providing data as requested as well as organizing various WSSA speakers to provide seminars on topics of interest. Dr. Jill Schroeder is the WSSA representative to CAST and is part of the Plant Working Group. This subgroup is looking at a potential update to previous CAST papers on invasive species. The proposal for an issue paper, "Preventing the next invasive plant: Opportunities and Challenges," was approved by the CAST Plant Working Group at the annual meeting and has subsequently been approved by the Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees of CAST. The next steps will be to identify a task force chair and task force members to draft the paper. Also, of great importance to the WSSA, Jill has agreed to serve a second three-year term as our CAST representative. Dr. Lee Van Wychen, our Executive Director of Science Policy, has a unique and impactful connection with numerous organizations and individuals in Washington, DC. His efforts to foster science-based information delivery is extremely critical to agriculture, the environment, and weed science. He also continues to mentor two Science Policy Fellows and will share much more with his report in the newsletter.

Official changes to the WSSA BOD occurred during the annual business meeting. We want to acknowledge the leadership, contributions, and energy that the following individuals have provided to the WSSA this past year and in their service on the BOD: Bill Curran (Past-President), Dawn Refsell (member-at-large), Delaney Foster (graduate student organization liaison), Francois Tardif (CWSS rep), and Rakesh Chandran (NEWSS rep). We are excited to welcome new BOD members: Greg Dahl (Vice-President), Michael Flessner (member-at-large), Sarah Kezar (graduate student organization liaison), Steve Pyle (NEWSS rep), and Darren Robinson (CWSS rep).

Our goal over the next year is to be efficient and extremely productive; this requires a large number of committed and invested volunteers, great communication, and a team approach! Additionally, please reach out to any board member if there is a topic that needs to be addressed.

Regards,
Stanley Culpepper
President, WSSA

WSSA FUTURE MEETING SITES AND DATES

Jan. 30–Feb. 2, 2023
WSSA-NEWSS Joint Meeting
Arlington, Virginia
www.wssa.net and
www.newss.org

WSSA HOME PAGE
ACCESSED AT:
www.wssa.net

THINK NEWSLETTER

Deadline for July issue
June 1, 2022

SEND NEWSLETTER

MATERIAL TO:

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WSSA NEWSLETTER

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CALL FOR SYMPOSIA

2023 Annual Meeting of WSSA

**The 2023 Annual Meeting of the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA)
meeting jointly with the Northeastern Weed Science Society (NEWSS)
Crystal Gateway Marriott • Arlington, VA • January 30 to February 2, 2023**

WSSA/NEWSS members are invited to submit proposals for symposia at our annual meeting. **The proposal deadline is June 10, 2022.** The boards will evaluate the proposed symposia based on the justification, the target audience, publication plans, and the completeness of the proposal agenda and budget. Symposia organizers are strongly urged to consider publication of the symposium papers in one of the WSSA's journals and publication will be one of the factors considered in selecting symposia for the meeting.

Please see the guidelines below for symposia funding from the WSSA. Requests for travel support can be made for non-members only.

Symposium proposals should be emailed directly to the WSSA President Elect and Program Chair Carroll Moseley (carroll.moseley@syngenta.com) and copied to the NEWSS Program Chair Wes Everman (wesley_everman@ncsu.edu) by **June 10, 2022**. *You will receive an email confirmation that your proposal has been received.* If you have any questions, feel free to email Carroll.

SYMPOSIUM PROPOSAL FORM

2023 Annual WSSA/NEWSS Meeting, Arlington, VA

Title:

Organizers:

Contact Person:

Phone:

Email:

Justification and Objectives (approximately 300 words):

Target Audience:

Publication or Outreach Plans associated with symposium presentations:

Associated Section(s):

Length of Proposed Program:

Proposed Titles and Speakers:

Budget Requested: **(Please specify the expenditure of the funds as opposed to submitting an overall amount. The more detailed the budget, the better the WSSA/NEWSS Boards of Directors can evaluate the proposal.)**

GUIDELINES FOR DISPOSITION OF WSSA FUNDS FOR SYMPOSIA EXPENSES

Funds are available to support symposia approved by the WSSA Board of Directors for the upcoming meeting. These funds can be used by the symposium organizers, working in conjunction with the Program Chair, for expenses incurred in securing speakers. The intent of these funds is to support travel of non-member speakers.

The following guidelines are intended to help the symposia organizers and the Program Committee in allocating available funds. For a half-day symposium, the maximum allowable budget will be \$5,000 of which up to \$2,000 can be used for symposium publication costs. For full day symposia, the maximum allowable budget will be \$6,000 of which up to \$2,000 can be used for symposium publication costs. The funds will be allocated as necessary to partially cover non-member speaker travel expenses.

No honoraria will be offered to any speaker. No more than three nights lodging will be offered to non-member symposium speakers. All symposium speakers who are not members of the WSSA will be offered free registration at the annual meeting and a free ticket to society events (other than tours) during that week. Funds for reimbursement of some, or all, travel expenses (travel, meals, and lodging) will be made available to non-member symposium speakers based on need, availability of funds, and the value of the speakers to the program.

Room rates at the Crystal Gateway for the 2023 meeting will be \$215 per night.

If less than the maximum allowable funds (\$5,000 for the half-day; \$6,000 for a full day) are used for speaker travel expenses, the difference cannot be used for other purposes. Chairs should contact their intended speakers and determine their financial needs for participation. This information should be incorporated into the detailed budget for the proposed symposium.

Symposium proposals should be emailed directly to the WSSA President Elect and Program Chair Carroll Moseley (carroll.moseley@syngenta.com) and copied to the NEWSS Program Chair Wes Everman (wesley_everman@ncsu.edu) by **June 10, 2022**. *You will receive an email confirmation that*

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CALL FOR SYMPOSIA CONTINUED from pg 3

your proposal has been received. If you have questions, feel free to email Carroll.

The WSSA/NEWSS Boards will evaluate the submitted proposals and decide which symposia will be funded. The WSSA Program Chair will inform the organizers of the symposia selected for funding. Symposium organizers that receive funding can then proceed with offers of funding to non-member speakers. In no event should symposium organizers make commitments for more funding than what was approved by the board. Symposium organizers are free to seek additional or alternate funding sources if symposia budget limits are insufficient to cover travel expenses for non-member speakers. Symposium organizers should

strongly consider publication of symposia papers in *Weed Science*, *Weed Technology* or *Invasive Plant Science Management*.

Carroll Moseley, 2023 WSSA Program Chair
Wes Everman, 2023 NEWSS Program Chair



WSSA 2022 Student Contest Awards

WSSA 3MT[®] M.S. Contest

Finalists

- Jeanine Arana, Purdue University
- Justine Fischer, Michigan State University
- Benjamin Pritchard, University of Tennessee-Knoxville
- Austin Schleich, Iowa State University
- Hannah Lindell, Oklahoma State University
- Caitlyn Carnahan, Oklahoma State University
- Gursewak Singh, Clemson University

Winners

- 1st Place: Austin Schleich, Iowa State University
2nd Place: Jeanine Arana, Purdue University
3rd Place: 2-way tie:
- Caitlyn Carnahan, Oklahoma State University
 - Gursewak Singh, Clemson University

WSSA 3MT[®] Ph.D. Contest

Finalists

- Wenzhou Wu, University of California-Davis
- Mandeep Singh, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- Chad Abbott, University of Georgia
- Hannah Wright, University of Georgia
- Pamela Carvalho-Moore
- Josiane Argenta, Mississippi State University

Winners

- 1st Place: Hannah Wright, University of Georgia
1st Place: Josiane Argenta, Mississippi State University
3rd Place: Chad Abbott, University of Georgia

M.S. Poster Contest Winners – Sections 1 & 2

Section 1

- 1st Place: Isabel Werle, University of Arkansas
2nd Place: Christopher Galbraith, Michigan State University
3rd Place: Alisha Ray, North Carolina State University

Section 2

- 1st Place: Eeshita Ghosh, Texas A&M University
2nd Place (Tie): Vipin Kumar, Virginia Tech
Ryan Hamberg, Iowa State University

Ph.D. Poster Contest Winners – Sections 1, 2, 3

Section 1

- 1st Place: Taylor Randell, University of Georgia
2nd Place: Benjamin Westrich, Purdue University
3rd Place: Ubaldo Torres, Texas A&M University

Section 2

- 1st Place: Sachin Dhanda, Kansas State University
2nd Place: Andrew Osburn, Texas A&M University
3rd Place: Daewon Koo, Virginia Tech

Section 3

- 1st Place: Estefania Gomiero Polli, North Carolina State University
2nd Place: Jesse Haarmann, Purdue University
3rd Place: Vikas Tyagi, Texas A&M University

2022 WSSA AWARDS



Patrick Tranel, Ph.D.
WSSA Fellow Award



David Monks, Ph.D.
WSSA Fellow Award



Ram Kanwar Malik, Ph.D.
WSSA Honorary Member Award



Joe Neal, Ph.D.
Outstanding Extension Award



Peter Sikkima, Ph.D.
Outstanding Research Award



Ramawater Yadav, Ph.D.
Outstanding
Graduate Student Award



Lawson Priess, Ph.D.
Outstanding
Graduate Student Award



Paul Tseng, Ph.D.
Outstanding Early Career
Weed Scientist



Ramon Leon, Ph.D.
Outstanding Teacher Award



Chandrashekar Aradhya, Ph.D.
(Chandra)
Outstanding Industry Award



Amy Asmus
Public Service Award



Adam Davis, Ph.D.



Aaron Hager, Ph.D.



Dean Riechers, Ph.D.



Patrick Tranel, Ph.D.

----- US-HRAC Herbicide Resistance Management Awards -----



Lauren Quinn, Ph.D.
Excellence in Journalism
Award



Linsey Milbrath, Ph.D.
Invasive Plant Science and
Management



Sarah Lancaster, Ph.D.
Weed Technology



Steve Li, Ph.D.
Weed Science

----- Outstanding Reviewer Awards -----

OUTSTANDING PAPER AWARDS

Outstanding Paper: Invasive Plant Science and Management
*Assessing vulnerability and resistance to plant invasions:
a native community perspective*

Authors:

- Ines Ibanez, Ph.D., University of Michigan
- Gang Liu, Ph.D., Shaanxi Normal University
- Lais Petri, University of Michigan
- Sam Schaffer-Morrison, University of Michigan
- Sheila Schueller, Ph.D., University of Michigan



Ines Ibanez, Ph.D.



Lais Petri

Outstanding Paper: Weed Science
*Species identification and morphological trait diversity
in ryegrass (*Lolium spp.*) populations from the Texas Blackland Prairies*

Authors:

- Aniruddha Maity, Ph.D., Texas A&M University
- Vijay Singh, Ph.D., Virginia Tech
- Matheus Bastos Martins, Texas A&M University
- Paulo José Ferreira, Texas A&M University
- Gerald Ray Smith, Ph.D., Texas A&M University
- Muthukumar Bagavathiannan, Ph.D., Texas A&M University



Sam Schaffer-Morrison



Sheila Schueller, Ph.D.

Outstanding Paper: Weed Technology
*Off-target pesticide movement: a review of our current understanding
of drift due to inversions and secondary movement*

Authors:

- Mandy Bish, Ph.D., University of Missouri
- Eric Oseland, Ph.D., Bayer
- Kevin Bradley, Ph.D. University of Missouri



Mandy Bish, Ph.D.



Eric Oseland, Ph.D.



Kevin Bradley, Ph.D.



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WASHINGTON REPORT

by Lee Van Wychen, Director of Science Policy

CONGRESS FINALIZES FY 2022 APPROPRIATIONS

Nearly six months overdue, the House and Senate passed a much awaited FY 2022 omnibus spending package on March 9 and March 10, respectively. President Biden signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022 (H.R. 2471) into law on March 15. The \$1.5 trillion legislative package combines all twelve FY 2022 appropriations bills and includes \$13.6 billion in military and humanitarian aid for Ukraine.

For FY 2022, USDA-ARS funding increased \$141 million to \$1.63 billion while USDA-NIFA funding increased \$67 million to \$1.64 billion. The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) competitive grants program increased by \$10 million for the fourth year in a row to \$445 million in FY 2022. Noteworthy highlights include a \$5 million increase in **Smith Lever** funding for Extension and a \$2.5 million increase for the **IR-4 Minor Crop Pest Management** program, its first increase in over a decade. Every dollar invested in the IR-4 Project generates \$524 in economic activity for the US.

There is also language in the FY 2022 omnibus that supports the creation of a regionally focused **Herbicide Resistance Initiative** for the Pacific Northwest to identify and overcome herbicide resistance associated with the crop production pathway, reducing production losses and reducing or eliminating pressure on trade limits due to contamination. It directs \$2 million to support research to address weed management strongly affecting the long-term economic sustainability of food systems in collaboration with ARS, research institutions, and stakeholder support.

For aquatic plant management, the Army Corps of Engineers received \$8 million for its Aquatic Plant Control Research program, its second \$1 million increase in a row. Of the \$8 million, \$1 million is designated for activities for monitoring, surveys, and control of **flowering rush** and **hydrilla** and \$7 million is for nationwide research and development to address invasive aquatic plants. The appropriations language also encourages the Army Corps to support cost-shared aquatic plant management programs, and in particular, to evaluate and address prevention of new infestations of **hydrilla** in the Connecticut River Basin.

Overall funding for the Department of the Interior (DOI) increased \$776 million to \$14.1 billion in FY 2022,

with \$1.4 billion (+8 percent) directed to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM); \$3.3 billion (+5 percent) to the National Park Service (NPS); \$1.65 billion (+4 percent) to the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and \$1.4 billion (+6 percent) to the US Geological Survey (USGS), which includes at least \$2.75 million for research on **harmful algal blooms**.

Within specific DOI programs important for invasive species management, BLM's Rangeland Management account received a \$3 million increase to \$109 million after being held level in FY 2021. The FWS's Wildlife and Habitat Management account under its National Wildlife Refuge System received a \$10 million increase to \$250 million in FY 2022. The appropriation

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The table below includes final appropriations for FY 2019–FY 2022 for various Federal programs important to weed and invasive plant research and management in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
	----- \$ Millions -----			
USDA – ARS	\$1,303	\$1,414	\$1,492	\$1,633
USDA – NIFA	\$1,471	\$1,527	\$1,570	\$1,637
- AFRI Competitive Grants	\$415	\$425	\$435	\$445
- Hatch Act (Exp. stations)	\$259	\$259	\$259	\$260
- Smith Lever (Extension)	\$315	\$315	\$315	\$320
- IR-4 Program	\$12	\$12	\$12	\$14.5
- Crop Protection and Pest Management	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20
- SARE: Sustainable Ag Research & Educ.	\$37	\$37	\$40	\$45
- McIntire-Stennis Forestry Research	\$36	\$36	\$36	\$36
USDA – APHIS: Cogongrass eradication**	n/a	n/a	\$3	\$3
Army Corps – Aquatic Plant Control research	\$6	\$6	\$7	\$8
EPA – Great Lakes Restoration Initiative	\$300	\$320	\$330	\$348
NOAA – National Sea Grant College Program	\$68	\$74	\$75	\$76
DOI – BLM: Rangeland Management	\$104	\$106	\$106	\$109
DOI – FWS: National Wildlife Refuge System: Wildlife and Habitat Management	\$234	\$239	\$240	\$250
DOI – NPS: Resource Stewardship	\$334	\$342	\$362	\$382
DOI – Wildland Fire: Fuels Management	\$189	\$194	\$220	\$227

language directs \$15.9 million from this account to focus on high priority invasive species including nutria, **buffelgrass**, and **cheatgrass**. In addition, this account helps fund the FWS's invasive species strike teams. Finally, the National Park Service's (NPS) Resource Stewardship account received a \$20 million increase to \$382 million, which helps fund the NPS's invasive plant management teams.

EPA ANNOUNCES ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT PROTECTION POLICY FOR NEW PESTICIDES

On January 11, 2022, the EPA announced that, effective immediately, the Agency's review of applications for new pesticide active ingredients (AI) pursuant to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) will uniformly incorporate analysis under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) with the intention of prioritizing protection for listed species as much as possible. The new policy applies to AI applications already submitted for consideration as well as incoming applications. [EPA press release](#).

Prior to this policy change, EPA has not uniformly required ESA analysis for all applications for new AIs, which often resulted in litigation against EPA. EPA expects the new policy to reduce litigation in general and improve the overall legal defensibility of new AI registrations.

EPA has explained that it intends to provide several mitigation options to allow the greatest flexibility for pesticide users while still ensuring protections for listed species. Mitigation efforts often include measures intended to avoid or minimize exposure routes between where pesticides are used and where the species live, restrict the geographic or temporal scope of pesticide applications, and reduce the number of pesticide applications allowed on a treated site.

To learn more about EPA's Endangered Species Act Protection Policy for New Pesticides, please see the [Q&A document](#).

EPA UPDATES ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BULLETINS

The EPA has released an improved version of Bulletins Live! Two (BLT), an online application for Endangered Species Protection Bulletins. BLT describes geographically specific pesticide use limitations to protect threatened and endangered species and their designated critical habitat. Pesticide applicators are required to reference the Bulletins Live! Two (BLT) website (<https://www.epa.gov/endangered-species/bulletins-live-two-view-bulletins>) when directed by a product label. If the pesticide label directs you to this website, you are required to follow the pesticide use limitation(s) found in the Bulletin for your intended application area, pesticide active ingredient or product and application month.

EPA's Bulletins contain the following information:

- A map of the user-defined intended application area.
- The user-selected active ingredient and/or pesticide product to be applied.
- Pesticide use limitation(s).
- The month for which the Bulletin is valid.

Important Notes about Bulletins

- Bulletins may be accessed up to six months before pesticide application. Be sure that you follow the correct Bulletin for the month of your pesticide application.
- When referenced on a pesticide label, Bulletins are enforceable use limitations under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).
- The pesticide use limitations found in Bulletins Live! Two are part of EPA's federal program to protect

listed species. Your state may have pesticide use limitations beyond those found in your Bulletin. Bulletins are not intended to replace or override any restrictions that your state may impose. You need to be aware of and follow pesticide limitations according to both the state AND federal requirements.

For more information:

<https://www.epa.gov/endangered-species/endangered-species-protection-bulletins>

VILSACK ANNOUNCES 10-YEAR STRATEGY TO CONFRONT WILDFIRE CRISIS

In response to the nation's growing wildfire crisis, USDA Secretary Vilsack and Forest Service Chief Moore have launched a strategy to address the threat to millions of acres and communities across the nation. The strategy will first target areas defined as being at the highest risk based on community exposure, including the Pacific Northwest, the Sierra Nevada Range in California, the front range of Colorado, and the Southwest. The plan highlights the importance of collaboration with the Department of Interior, Tribes, states, local communities, and private landowners to effectively address the crisis. For more information, click [here](#).

WILKES CONFIRMED AS USDA UNDERSECRETARY FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT



Homer Wilkes was sworn in on Feb. 11, 2022 to serve as Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment at USDA.

His nomination was confirmed by the Senate by a voice vote. Wilkes is expected to work closely between USDA NRCS and the Forest Service on land

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restoration projects, including the 10-year wildfire mitigation plan.

Wilkes is a native of Port Gibson, Mississippi. He earned a B.S. in business finance, an M.B.A. and Ph.D. in urban higher education from Jackson State University. From 1984 to 2007, Wilkes served as a supply officer in the United States Navy Reserve. During his career, Wilkes has served within the NRCS as acting CFO, acting associate agency chief, and as Mississippi's state conservationist. Since 2013, Wilkes has worked as the director of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force.

WILLIAMS CONFIRMED AS USFWS DIRECTOR



On February 17, 2022, the U.S. Senate confirmed Martha Williams by voice vote to serve as the next Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), a position that has been vacant since January 2021. Williams has been leading the agency since January as Principal Deputy Director. Prior to that Williams served as Director of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks from 2017 to 2020. She previously served as an Assistant Professor of Law at the Blewett School of Law at the University of Montana and co-directed the university's Land Use and Natural Resources Clinic. Williams earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia and her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Montana School of Law.

DR. CHAVONDA JACOBS-YOUNG SENATE NOMINATION MOVES TO A VOTE

On January 12, the Senate Agriculture Committee advanced the nomination of Chavonda Jacobs-Young to be USDA's Undersecretary for Research,

Education, and Economics. Dr. Jacobs-Young's nomination will now head to the Senate floor for a full-Senate vote. She is the Administrator of the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and currently serves as the Acting Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics and as Acting USDA Chief Scientist.

USDA-NIFA DIRECTOR NAMED TO LEAD UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE



The director of the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), Carrie Castille, has been selected to serve as the next senior vice chancellor/senior vice president for the University of Tennessee (UT) Institute of Agriculture. This role oversees and leads the Herbert College of Agriculture, the College of Veterinary Medicine, UT AgResearch, and UT Extension, while also serving as the university's chief advocate on issues of agricultural policy in support of the state.

Dr. Castille will conclude her service at USDA in April and assume this new role July 1, 2022, pending approval of the UT Board of Trustees Executive Committee. In the interim, USDA and NIFA leaders are working closely together to plan for the agency's leader-

ship transition and ensure operations continue seamlessly to best serve the mission and stakeholders.

ORGANIC WEED MANAGEMENT REMAINS #1 PRIORITY OF ORGANIC INDUSTRY

In March, the Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF) and Organic Seed Alliance (OSA) released the National Organic Research Agenda (NORA) and State of Organic Seed (SOS). The two reports are published every five years to examine organic farming challenges across the U.S., identify research needs, and better understand the organic seed needs of producers. Those reports were based on survey data from over 1,100 certified organic and 71 transitioning organic farmers and ranchers across North America.

Certified organic survey participants identified the following production challenges:

1. **Controlling weeds – 67% of respondents**
2. Managing production costs – 59%
3. Maintaining adequate yields – 48%
4. Managing soil fertility and crop nutrition – 43%
5. Controlling insect pests – 41%
6. Finding appropriate organic crop varieties and seeds – 38%
7. Controlling disease pressure – 36%
8. Adapting to climate change – 36%

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Send Newsletter material to:

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WASHINGTON REPORT CONTINUED from pg 9

Controlling weeds clearly emerged as the most pressing production challenge, and the broader topic of “soil health” was second only to weeds in response to the open-ended survey question. **Focus group participants discussed difficulties managing weeds without degrading soil health, which underscores the need for additional research in organic weed management strategies that require less cultivation.** In addition, focus group

discussions revealed that climate disruptions can accentuate other challenges in managing weeds, pests, soil, and water resources. These challenges appeared especially intense for Southern organic farmers, while producers in the moisture-limited Great Plains and Mountains found cover crops and other organic soil management practices more challenging than producers elsewhere.

Survey details:

https://ofrf.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/OFRF_National-Organic-Research-Agenda-NORA_2022.pdf

Lee Van Wychen, Ph.D.
Executive Director of Science Policy
National and Regional Weed Science Societies
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Herbicide Handbook Assistant

The Weed Science Society of America is in the process of revising and updating the WSSA Herbicide Handbook. Dr. Travis Gannon is leading the editorial process with the assistance of other committee members from Industry and Academia.

The WSSA Herbicide Handbook committee is seeking a motivated individual to assist with herbicide entry editing and updating. Updates will include technical and grammatical as well as formatting updates. Experience with InDesign is preferred but not required. The timeframe for the position will be from spring 2022 through fall 2022.

Salary: commensurate with experience

Interested individuals should contact Dr. Travis Gannon at the contact information provided below:

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2023 Annual Meeting
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THINK NEWSLETTER

Deadline for July issue
June 1, 2022

WSSA Makes It Easier To Access Information on Weed Science Careers

WSSA's Public Awareness Committee has taken steps to make information on careers in weed science more readily available to both students and current professionals. They have expanded WSSA's [careers webpage](#) to support multiple stages of career planning.

Our website now provides centralized access to a wide range of information. Examples include:

- Current [job postings](#)
- A [new poster](#) on careers in weed science that points individuals to the updated website
- Information on [weed science careers](#)
- [Profiles](#) of weed scientists working in academia, industry, government, regulatory and policy positions

“Our goal is to drive interest in weed science by showing the wide variety of career tracks available and what it takes to succeed,” says Caren Schmidt of BASF, Public Awareness Committee chair.

The idea for the project originated with committee member Dilpreet Riar of Corteva Agriscience. Three other Public Awareness Committee members were instrumental in helping to bring that idea to life:

- **Meghan Dilliot**, a graduate student representative on the committee, designed the new careers poster. She recently launched her own career by joining Belchim Crop Protection in Canada.
- **Rebecca Fletcher**, a biological scientist with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), helped to gather information on the wide range of weed science career categories and job titles.

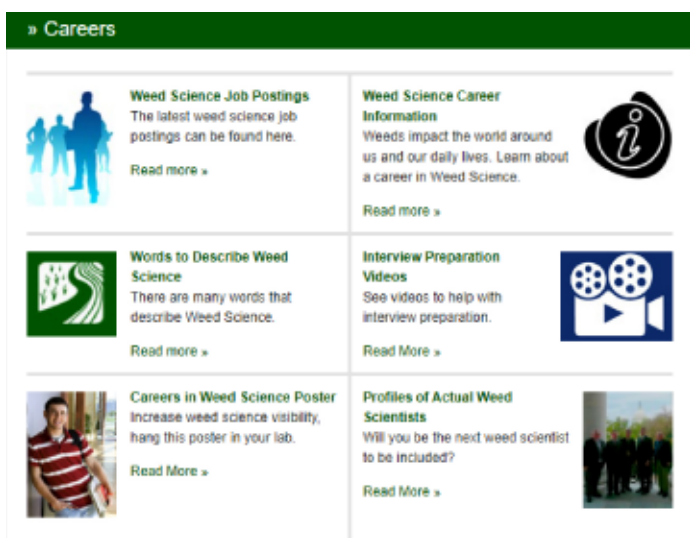


- **Theresa Reinhardt Piskáková**, a post-doctoral researcher at Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, gathered career profiles for working weed scientists and organized the careers content for posting on [wssa.net](#).

How You Can Help

WSSA members are encouraged to download and display the [new poster](#) on weed science careers in classrooms, laboratories and workspaces. Try to get it in place now – before students start showing up for summer internships and jobs and in advance of the recruitment season for weed science labs.

Also, consider having your career profile added to the website. Simply submit the details [online](#) and send a supporting, high-resolution photo to: tpiskackova@af.czu.cz.



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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
July 18–21, 2022	Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS) Annual Meeting	Greenville, South Carolina	www.apms.org
November 13–19, 2022	Canadian Weed Science Society (CWSS) and Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA) Joint Annual Meeting	Halifax, Nova Scotia	www.weedscience.ca and www.agronomycanada.com
December 5–8, 2022	North Central Weed Science Society (NCWSS) Annual Meeting	St. Louis, Missouri	www.ncwss.org
January 23–26, 2023	Southern Weed Science Society (SWSS)	Baton Rouge, Louisiana	www.swss.ws
January 30–February 2, 2023	Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) and Northeastern Weed Science Society (NEWSS) Joint Annual Meeting	Arlington, Virginia	www.wssa.net and www.newss.org
February 27–March 2, 2023	Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS) and Western Aquatic Plant Management Society (WAPMS) Joint Annual Meeting	Boise, Idaho	www.wsweedscience.org and www.wapms.org

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

THINK NEWSLETTER

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