



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This has been one crazy year to grow a crop. One artifact of this is that the spring planting season ended here in Tennessee sometime in August. As we are now into what likely will be a very long, drawn out fall, I hope everyone has good fortune getting their field research out.

Our meeting plans for the 60th Annual WSSA meeting in Maui, Hawaii are coming together. The meeting will be held March 2–5, 2020 at the Hyatt Regency Maui Resort and Spa. Bill Curran, our program chair, is working on a great program that will run the gamut of extension, research, and education activities in weed science. Dr. Curran is working closely with Eric Gustafson, our Executive Secretary, to finalize activities and events. They have numerous events and tours available to enjoy the island, and we look forward to what Maui has to offer. Symposia are going to be plentiful once again this year, and the topics include:

- 2020 vision for Hawaiian Invasive Plant Management
- The role of intelligent machines in weed management
- Genomics of weedy and invasive species – 2025 and Beyond
- The ecological and biodiversity impact of invasive grass species and their management
- Toxicology and weed science

Our discipline has most definitely been connected to newsworthy items in the last several months. Glyphosate continues to get media coverage in a large way, both in the news and in numerous commercials, mostly sponsored by law firms. The WSSA has been asked to give our opinion and we have responded with what I feel is a very good statement about this on-going issue. Many thanks to Dr. Scott Senseman for chairing the committee to draft this statement concerning glyphosate and to all the hard work from the volunteers on his committee.

Dicamba issues are still on the forefront in the Midwest and Midsouth regions of the United States. Unfortunately, reports from Departments of Agriculture would indicate that off-target dicamba issues have gotten worse in some of the

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**CALL FOR PAPERS
2020 GUIDELINES**
(details inside on pages 4–7)

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big soybean producing states in the Midwest and are still a persistent issue across the Midsouth. Our scientists continue to be connected with decision makers, and our Executive Director of Science Policy, Lee Van Wychen, has kept us in touch with key individuals to discuss these issues surrounding dicamba that have no easy answers.

We are clearly in an important time in our society's history where sound science and connection to decision makers needs to come together. Others have come to this conclusion as, recently, APCO (Association of Pesticide Control Officers) and ASTA (American Seed Trade Association) have contacted the WSSA about establishing more formal connections. These new requests for the expertise of our members adds to the on-going formal and informal interaction WSSA members have daily with decision makers and really helps point out the primary strength of the WSSA, which is the quality of our membership.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Maui in March. It has been an active year so far and we are pleased that we continue to get feedback from many of you on WSSA issues. Please do not hesitate to contact me, Eric Gustafson, Lee Van Wychen or other members of our Board of Directors if you have questions, concerns or suggestions related to WSSA.

Larry Steckel
President, WSSA

**Your Source for Books and More!
Check It Out!**

<https://wssa.memberclicks.net/books>

WSSA Contacts

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2020 Annual Meeting

Bill Curran, President-Elect

williamscurren@gmail.com

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**

Bill Curran, Chair WSSA

williamscurren@gmail.com

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corey.ransom@usu.edu

**WSSA HOME PAGE
ACCESSED AT:**

www.wssa.net

THINK NEWSLETTER

Deadline for January issue

December 1, 2019

SEND NEWSLETTER

MATERIAL TO:

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WSSA NEWSLETTER

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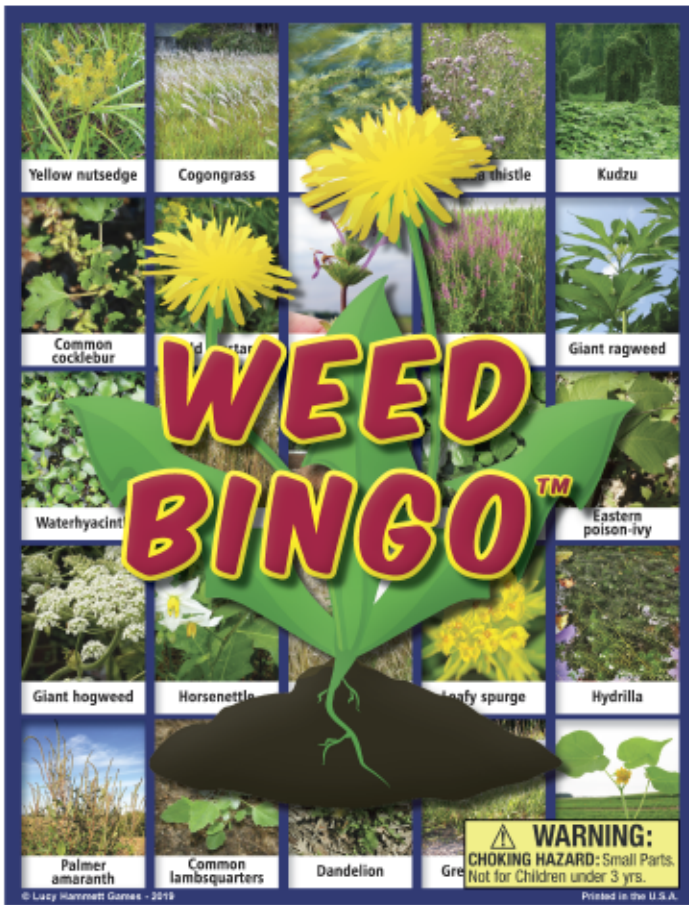
WSSA PUBLICATIONS NEWS

PREPROOF POSTING

We are working with Cambridge University Press to increase the speed at which accepted journal articles become available to readers. *Weed Science*, *Weed Technology*, and *IPSM* now post accepted manuscripts as pre-proofs 3–5 days after acceptance. The accepted raw manuscript is assigned a permanent Digital Object Identifier (DOI) and posted on Cambridge Core as an unformatted pdf. This DOI is transferred to the final version of record when it is posted on Cambridge Core as a FirstView article after copyediting and formatting. This is not the same as posting an unreviewed manuscript to an outside preprint server such as BioRxiv (which could jeopardize subsequent publication in a WSSA journal) — we will only post as pre-proofs articles that have been peer-reviewed, revised by the authors, and accepted by the journal editor. However, posting pre-proofs on Cambridge Core does allow accepted manuscripts to be read and cited immediately.

Authors who do not wish to have their unformatted manuscripts uploaded as pre-proofs can opt out and wait for publication on FirstView. Posting a preproof requires slight changes when uploading manuscript and figure files to Editorial Manager, so please check the Instructions for Authors on the journal website before submitting your next paper.

Sarah Ward
Director of Publications



NOW AVAILABLE IN THE WSSA BOOKSTORE!

WEED BINGO is a fun game that blends a bit of science with interesting and unusual facts about some of the world's most common and troublesome weeds. Each of the 42 weed cards included in our game includes the common and scientific name of a weed, a photo and a brief description.

WEED BINGO would make a great holiday gift! The games are a fun, educational tool that will help raise awareness of weeds and invasive plants in managed and natural ecosystems.

WEED BINGO is produced by the Weed Science Society of America, with support from the Aquatic Plant Management Society, North Central Weed Science Society, Northeastern Weed Science Society, Southern Weed Science Society and Western Society of Weed Science. Each game is \$14.95 + \$5.00 shipping and handling for domestic shipping.

To purchase a game, please visit our website:
<https://wssa.memberclicks.net/books>

AGES 3 TO ADULT
FUN * FAMILY
EDUCATIONAL



CALL FOR PAPERS

2020 JOINT WSSA/WSWS MEETING

Annual Meeting of the WSSA/WSWS Maui, Hawaii • March 2–5, 2020

INVITATION

You are invited to submit titles and abstracts for papers and posters to be presented at the WSSA/WSWS Meeting in Maui, Hawaii, March 2–5, 2020, Monday to Thursday. Volunteer papers may be presented orally in one of the section meetings or as a poster. An individual may personally present only one volunteer, non-poster paper. This rule will be strictly followed. In addition to the volunteer paper, an individual may present a poster, may be co-author of papers presented by other authors, and may present an invited symposium paper. The abstract submission site will be open October 21, 2019.

DEADLINE

Abstract Titles and Author Information must be submitted electronically by **January 6, 2020** to be considered. Those not submitted by this deadline will not be accepted. This deadline applies to symposium papers, as well as to volunteer papers and posters. Abstract texts must be submitted by **February 17, 2020**. The program will be posted on the WSSA website (<http://www.wssa.net>) and members will be informed when it is available by email from Eric Gustafson.

MEETING SCHEDULES

Volunteer papers will be presented within a **15-minute schedule**. Concurrent sessions dictate that the time schedule be strictly followed. To allow for introduction, transition of speakers, and questions, you should plan to present your paper in 12 or 13 minutes. Papers should report the results of completed research or other substantive information. Information should not have been presented at a previous WSSA national meeting. Ideally, research reported at the WSSA Meeting should be publishable in *Invasive Plant Science and Management*, *Weed Science*, *Weed Technology*, or a similar scientific journal.

SYMPOSIUM PAPERS

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

COMPUTER AND PROJECTION EQUIPMENT

The WSSA has adopted LCD projection for PowerPoint presentations as the standard and will be used exclusively

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

FORMAT

All presentations **MUST** be in PowerPoint (any version) for MS Windows (PC compatible). PowerPoint 2010 will be the software used. MacIntosh/Apple formats will **NOT** be supported. Your presentation must be saved as a PowerPoint show file. **The section chairs have requested that ALL presentations be prepared and uploaded on the abstract submission site so that preloading prior to the meeting can be accomplished** (see Submission of Presentations). Please limit the size of presentations to less than 50 MB. If your presentation contains video clips or animation you must contact the section chair for approval one week **PRIOR** to sending your presentation to ensure compatibility with the equipment. Limit fonts used in the presentation to basic fonts, as not all machines may have the same choice of fonts. Examples of standard fonts are Times, Arial, Courier, Tahoma, or similar equivalents. Section chairs and computer operators are not responsible for changes in fonts, bullets, and other formatting at the time of presentation. Use up-to-date virus protection software to avoid infecting the computers provided by the section chairs.

SUBMISSION OF PRESENTATIONS

Presentations must be uploaded on the submission site prior to the meeting. Section chairs must receive the presentation at least one week in advance of the meeting (**no later than February 17, 2020**). Please coordinate with your section chair if you want to preview your presentation at the meeting to ensure that the formats/fonts are all as you intended them to be. Due to the limited time and equipment, last minute editing is highly discouraged. Submission of files at the time of the presentation or at any other time during the session will **NOT** be allowed.

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CALL FOR PAPERS CONTINUED from pg 4

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

SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACT

Volunteer papers, posters, and symposium papers all require abstracts to be submitted electronically. To submit abstract titles/authors and abstract texts electronically, go to the NEW Weed Science Society of America submission website (<http://weedscimeetingabstracts.com>).

- After **October 21, 2019**, you will be able to access the Title/Abstract Submission Page from the WSSA website. Additional instructions will be provided on the Title/Abstract Submission Page.

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

STUDENT CONTEST INFORMATION

A. ELIGIBILITY

1. Any student who is a WSSA/WSWS member and has registered to attend the current annual meeting is eligible to compete in the poster or oral presentation contest. WSSA will not be hosting a 15-minute oral presentation contest in 2020 but will offer a new activity (see below). WSWS will still offer their students the opportunity to participate in a 15-minute oral presentation contest. WSWS students may present in the WSWS oral contest or the Three Minute Thesis Research Communication Competition contest but not both.
2. A new event is being offered to both WSSA and WSWS students at the 2020 meeting. This will be a Three-Minute Thesis Research Communication Competition (3MT™) developed by the University of Queensland, Australia (<https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/>). It provides students with the opportunity to profile their research and enhance communication skills. A separate document will be available describing this activity in more detail including how students will be judged and the rules for the competition.
3. Students are eligible for participation in the Student Poster Contest and Three-Minute Thesis Competition multiple times during a M.S. program and a Ph.D. program; however, a **student cannot** participate in both the oral presentation contest and poster presentation contest during the same annual meeting.
4. A student can only win 1st place in the poster or oral presentation contest once per degree program. Once a student places 1st in a given contest (i.e. oral, three-minute thesis, or poster presentation contest), they are no longer eligible to compete in said contest during the course of their current degree program. A student may

win 1st place in the poster presentation contest and 1st place in the oral presentation contest while in a M.S. or Ph.D. program; however, a student may not enter both contests at the same annual meeting. A student may win 1st place in the poster or oral presentation contest in the M.S. degree program and then compete and win 1st place for an oral or poster presentation while in a Ph.D. degree program.

B. RULES AND PROCEDURES

1. Notice of the contests will be included with the Call for Papers.
2. A contestant may enter the poster or oral presentation contest multiple years per degree program. Persons who have graduated from a degree program (M.S. or Ph.D.) and are actively pursuing an additional degree may only enter the contest for that degree program during the first annual meeting following graduation.
3. Contestants will indicate in the title submission that they wish to enter either the poster or oral presentation contest. Title and contest declaration must be turned in by the deadline that title submissions are due. If a contestant does not turn in a title and contest declaration by the time that title submissions are due, they will be ineligible for the contest unless the Student Program Chairperson declares the student eligible based on student's situation. **ABSTRACTS FOR CONTEST PRESENTATIONS** must be submitted electronically by **February 17, 2020**. This allows time for the committee to prepare copies or e-mail abstracts to the appropriate judges prior to the contest.
4. Evaluation forms and rules will be posted to the WSSA and WSWS websites.

PREPARATION OF ABSTRACT

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

1. **Contents** – The abstract should include a brief overview of essential aspects of experimental procedures and should highlight significant results and their interpretation. Write the abstract so it consists entirely of information. Do not include statements such as “The results of the experiments will be presented” or “The significance of these results will be discussed.”
2. **Formatting** – Typing and format instructions will be provided on the Title/Abstract Submission Page of the WSSA website. In the abstract, authors will be identified by occupational affiliation and location, not by mailing address. Therefore, please type the title, and choose the author from the dropdown menu.

Capitalize the first letter of all major words in the title and end the title with a period. Include both the common and scientific names of weeds and uncommon crop plants in the title (authorship of plants is not necessary), but only the common names of her-

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CALL FOR PAPERS CONTINUED from pg 5

bicides and well-known crop plants. **You do not need to type the title in bold-face**; the system will do that automatically. The site will provide a method for indicating the presenter, be sure to **specify the presenting author**. Do not include departments, divisions or zip codes. Do not abbreviate the word “University” to “Univ.”

Example 1. Role of Adjuvants on Sulfonylurea Herbicide Efficacy. D. Sanyal^{*1}, P. C. Bhowmik², ¹Monsanto Company, St. Louis, MO, ²University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA.

Example 2. Evaluation of an In-Row Rotating Cultivar in Vegetable Crops. S. A. Fennimore^{*1}, R. F. Smith², J. Rachuy², ¹University of California, Davis, CA, ²University of California, Monterey County, CA.

Example 3. Teaching Weed Science in an Off-Campus Setting. R. E. Whitesides^{*}, C. V. Ransom; Utah State University, Logan, UT.

- 3. E-mail Address** – For better communication among researchers, place the e-mail address of the senior author following the last sentence of abstract.
- 4. Herbicide nomenclature** – A list of common and chemical names of herbicides approved by the WSSA is available at <http://wssa.net/Weeds/Tools/Herbicides>. When the common name refers to the parent acid, salt or ester forms used in the experiments should be identified at the first mention of the common name (e.g., methyl ester of diclofop). At the first mention of an herbicide application rate, list whether the weight is acid equivalent (ae) or active ingredient (ai) (e.g., kg ai ha⁻¹). If no common name is available, use its designation (trade name or code) followed by the full chemical name. If the chemistry is confidential, identify the source (company) in parentheses after designation.
- 5. Adjuvant nomenclature** – Where possible, use the WSSA *Herbicide Handbook*, 10th edition (2014), p. 479–481; *Weed Science* (1985) 33 (Suppl. 1): 22–23; or the WSSA *Monograph* (1982) *Adjuvants for Herbicides*. Otherwise, use the most complete available chemical description of the adjuvant.
- 6. Weed nomenclature** – Identify weeds by common names. At first mention of a weed, whether in the title or text, follow the common name with the scientific name (underlined and in parentheses). Do not repeat the scientific name in the text if given in the title. A list of WSSA approved common and Latin names of common weed species can be found at <http://wssa.net/wssa/weed/composite-list-of-weeds/>. If there is no WSSA-designated common name, use common scientific names from another source such as *Hortus Third Dictionary*.
- 7. Crop nomenclature** – Scientific names for crop plants are optional. They are not needed for well known crops, but should be included for less common crops and whenever needed for clarity. Place scientific names, underlined and in parentheses, following first

mention of the common name, whether in the title or text.

- 8. Soil nomenclature** – Include the soil series with textural classification and the subgroup name using the terminology of the U.S. Dept. Agric. Natr. Res. Conserv. Serv. publication, *Soil Taxonomy*, U.S. Gov. Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 1988. For soils outside the U.S.A., use the local official terminology.
- 9. Measurements** – Report all measurements in International System of units (SI). Abbreviate units of measure if preceded by a number. See *Weed Science* (2003) 51:1029–1033 for additional suggestions and WSSA *Herbicide Handbook*, 10th edition (2014), p. 488–491 for metric conversions.
- 10. Abbreviations** – Use abbreviations as shown at <http://wssajournals.org/userimages/ContentEditor/135879>.
- 11. Numbers** – Use Arabic numerals for all numbers with two or more digits and for all measurements such as time, weight-length, area, quantity, or degree except when the number is the first word in the sentence. Spell out numbers when they are the first word in a sentence or when they are less than 10 and not measurements.
- 12. Tables, figures, or literature citations** – There will be a system in place on the abstract submission site to add these.

POSTERS

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

POSTER SESSION

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

1. Authors are expected to be at their poster during the period reserved for viewing the poster to answer questions and to discuss their research with interested parties.
2. Participants in Section 15, the Poster Session, will meet at a location designated in the program before the Poster Session begins to elect a chair-elect of the section for 2019 (Section Chair in 2019) and discuss recommendations for improvement of the Poster Session.

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CALL FOR PAPERS CONTINUED from pg 6

3. **Poster Boards.** One board 48 x 48 inches will be provided for each poster. There will be no exceptions to the rule of one space per paper. Posters should be no larger than this size.
4. Content of Paper. Text, graphs, and tables must be easily read from a distance of 6 feet. Titles and headings should be larger and readable from a greater distance.
5. Because of cost and logistics, it will not be possible to provide electrical connections, video equipment, or other special equipment for posters.
6. Groups of authors may present more than one poster, but at least one author must be present at each poster during the time designated exclusively for viewing the poster.

Committee Members:

WSSA Chair: William Curran (contact: williamscurran@gmail.com)

WSWS Chair: Corey Ransom (contact: corey.ransom@usu.edu)

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

Section	WSSA Section Chair	WSWS Section Chair
1. Agronomic Crops	Lins, Ryan	Misha Manuchehri
2. Horticultural Crops	Matthew Cutulle	Jesse Richardson
3. Turf and Ornamentals	Jatinder Aulakh	None
4. Pasture, Range, Forest, Rts of Ways & Nat. Areas	Glen Obear	Harry Quicke
5. Wildlands & Aquatic Invasives	Mark Renz	None
6. Regulatory Aspects	Moore, Cherilyn	None
7. Teaching & Extension/Teaching & Tech. Transfers	Rana, Sandeep	Thomas Getts
8. Formulation, Adjuvant, & Application Technology	Mayank Malik	None
9. Weed Biology and Ecology	Mohsen Mesgaran	Caio Brunharo
10. Biocontrol of Weeds	Rodrigo Diaz	None
11. Physiology	Tseng, Paul Te-Ming	None
12. Soil and Environmental Aspects	Daljit Singh	None
13. Integrated Weed Management	Vijay Singh	None
14. Sustaining Member Exhibits	Dahl, Greg	
15. Poster Sessions	Tom Mueller	
16. Student Contest	Dodds, Darrin	

WASHINGTON REPORT

by Lee Van Wychen, Director of Science Policy

2019 SCIENCE POLICY FELLOWS: JOHN SCHRAMSKI AND HALEIGH SUMMERS



The Science Policy Fellow (SPF) is a new position supported by WSSA that is designed to assist me as Executive Director of Science Policy while providing the SPF with a short-term, robust experience in dealing with a broad array of weed science policy issues. The SPFs receive a stipend to help them cover their time and travel to Washington, DC and the WSSA annual meeting. This year's SPFs are John Schramski and Haleigh Summers.

John is a second year master's student at Michigan State University working with Dr. Christy Sprague. He worked as a crop consultant after receiving a bachelor's degree in Crop and Soil Science from Michigan State in 2013. While working with growers, he became interested in weed science and managing herbicide-resistant weeds. His current research is focused on integrating fall-seeded cereal cover crops with herbicide programs to manage glyphosate-resistant horseweed in no-till soybean and understanding the different growth habits of fall and spring emerged horseweed. John is interested in how policy can shape the development of new weed

management strategies to help growers.

Haleigh is a second-year master's student at Penn State with Dr. Heather Karsten. Her thesis projects include analyzing long-term data on reducing herbicides in a no-till dairy cropping system, looking at cultural and mechanical management options for glyphosate-resistant pigweed species, and studying early and late-season control of glyphosate-resistant horseweed (marestail). She received her bachelor's in Agronomy and Seed Science at Iowa State University. She is passionate about helping farmers become more environmentally friendly while still being profitable and believes policy will play a key role in this in the future.

AMERICA GROWS ACT WOULD BOOST FEDERAL AG RESEARCH FUNDING

The National and Regional Weed Science Societies [have supported](#) legislation introduced by Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) that would authorize a 5% inflation-adjusted annual increase for the next 5 years for agricultural research at USDA-ARS, NIFA, ERS, and NASS. The America Grows Act (S. 2458) is modeled after the 21st Century Cures Act passed in 2016, which spurred additional funding for NIH. The America Grows Act would provide critical investments in research to address production, nutrition, food security, and other major challenges across the U.S. food and agricultural sector.

CONGRESS AND WHITE HOUSE AGREE ON 2-YR BUDGET DEAL; FUND GOVERNMENT THROUGH NOVEMBER 21

In August, Congressional and White House leadership reached a budget deal that will lift budget caps that were set to take effect this fall and raise the debt ceiling until July 2021. It provides nearly equal increases for defense and domestic programs, raising federal spending by a total of \$320 billion. Without a budget deal, defense spending would have been cut by \$71 billion and nondefense spending – which includes most research funding programs – would have been cut by \$55 billion in FY 2020 alone.

Despite not knowing what the FY 2020 budget allocation, the House passed 10 of 12 of their FY 2020 spending bills this summer while the Senate decided to wait. Based on the budget agreement numbers and committee allocations, the House will have to trim about \$895 million from its \$24.3 billion agricultural appropriations bill it passed in June.

The Senate has been busy since returning from the August recess and has passed 10 out of 12 bills out of committee, but has not yet passed any bills through the full Senate. With FY 2020 spending beginning on Oct. 1, Congress sent a temporary government-wide funding bill to the President on Sep. 26. The bill extends funding at FY 2019 levels through Nov. 21 and will buy lawmakers additional time to work out spending differences between the House and Senate appropriations bills.

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**WEED SCIENCE SOCIETIES
COMMENT ON GLYPHOSATE
PROPOSED INTERIM
REGISTRATION REVIEW
DECISION**

The National and Regional Weed Science Societies submitted comments on EPA's proposal to mitigate potential risks with glyphosate use while noting its importance in the management of invasive and noxious weeds in agricultural and non-agricultural settings. Scientific literature has clearly shown that the benefits of glyphosate outweigh any potential ecological risks. Improvements to labels that are consistent across all glyphosate products will help to further mitigate these risks. Final comments:

http://wssa.net/wp-content/uploads/Weed-Science-Societies-Comments-on-Glyphosate-PID_final.pdf

**WSSA POSITION STATEMENT
ON GLYPHOSATE**

In 2015, glyphosate was classified as a "probable carcinogen" by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). IARC has applied the same classification to red meat, hot beverages, and emissions from high-temperature frying, as well as to more than 70 other chemicals. This designation has caused widespread public concern about the safety of glyphosate while being the recent focus of multiple lawsuits. WSSA has developed this document to inform the membership and general public of its position on this topic.

<http://wssa.net/wp-content/uploads/WSSA-glyphosate-position-8-9-19-FINAL.docx>

**EPA SEEKS COMMENT ON
PROCESS FOR EVALUATING
PESTICIDE SYNERGY FOR
ECOLOGICAL RISK ASSESSMENTS**

EPA has developed an interim process to review synergy data for mixtures of pesticide active ingredients and potentially incorporate that information into their ecological risk estimates. EPA generally evaluates pesticide ecological risks based on toxicity information from studies conducted with single active ingredients. This is based on best available evidence on pesticide interactions and the expectation that those interactions are rare. More recently, patent claims of synergy against target pests have raised questions and concerns about the adequacy of estimating risk of each individual active ingredient alone, especially for products mixed prior to application or products containing multiple active ingredients.

EPA is looking to determine whether synergy data supporting patents is useful for their ecological risk assessments and whether they should modify their interim process. The interim process and background documents are available at:

<https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2017-0433>

Comments are due October 24, 2019.

**IR-4 WILL MOVE FROM
RUTGERS TO NC STATE**

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

the agreement to Rutgers legal counsel for concurrence.

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

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

The IR-4 Project provides safe and effective pest management solutions to specialty crop growers. It is funded through federal funds administered by USDA-NIFA, Agriculture Research Service and Foreign Agriculture Service with significant direct and in-kind funds from the land-grant university system, specialty crop commodity associations and the crop protection industry. Field research farms, analytical laboratories and coordination offices are located in over 20 states to facilitate national registrations of needed chemical and bio-based pesticides. Since 1963, IR-4's national headquarters has been hosted by Rutgers. Rutgers will continue to participate in IR-4 with activities at two of its research farms in New Jersey.

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BLM HEADQUARTERS IS MOVING WEST

In a letter to U.S. senators on July 16, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) formally announced it will move about 325 staff in Washington, D.C. to 11 western states to join the rest of BLM's almost 10,000 employees. The reorganization, first considered under former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, is aimed at putting more agency officials closer to the lands they manage out West, though critics have questioned moving tenured policy officials far from the nation's capital. Only BLM's Deputy Director of Policy and Programs along with 60 other BLM staff will remain in D.C. at the Department of Interior headquarters.

Grand Junction, CO will be the new headquarters for the BLM Director, Deputy Director and their 25 attendant staff. In addition, 58 positions will move to the Denver Federal Center in Lakewood, CO, where BLM's state office and national operations center will take on a larger role. There are already thousands of federal employees stationed at the Denver Federal Center — a massive 670-acre site that includes 90 buildings that house employees with 26 federal agencies, including BLM, the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Geological Survey. It is the largest concentration of federal buildings and agencies outside Washington.

While Colorado is slated to get 85 positions, another 236 positions are proposed to be divided up among the following western state BLM jurisdictions: AK – 4, AZ – 39, CA – 20, ID – 18, MT – 3, NV – 49, NM – 39, OR – 5, UT – 44, and WY – 15.



2015 WOTUS RULE REPEALED

On September 12, EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works R.D. James announced the repeal of the Obama administration's Clean Water Rule, better known as the Waters of the United States rule, or WOTUS. The 2015 rule has never fully taken effect because there have been multiple court challenges. The repeal formally restores the previous regulatory regime nationwide until the Trump administration releases its own rule to deal with the issue of conflicting Supreme Court rulings on WOTUS.

In December 2018, EPA and the Army Corp proposed a new definition that would clearly define where federal jurisdiction begins and ends in accordance with the Clean Water Act and Supreme Court precedent. After a public comment period this spring, the proposed new WOTUS definitions are expected to be finalized this winter.

PUBLIC LANDS AND WATER MANAGEMENT BILL BECOMES LAW

This spring, the "John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019" became law (P.L. 116-9). It's the first major public lands and water management bill passed since 2009 and contains over 100 pieces of legislation that are laid out in nine titles. In Title VII, "Wildlife Habitat and Conservation," the new law amends the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act to protect federal "water, oceans, coasts, and wildlife from invasive species." The new law defines a number of terms, including "invasive species" and directs the head of each federal Agency (specifically Army Corp of Engineers, Agriculture and Interior) to plan and carry out activities on land directly managed by the Agency to protect water and wildlife by controlling and managing invasive species: (1) to inhibit or reduce the populations of invasive species; and (2) to effectuate restoration or reclamation efforts.

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

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

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(6) the use of appropriate methods to remove invasive species from a vehicle or vessel capable of conveyance; or (7) the use of other effective mechanical or manual control methods.

- use not more than 15 percent for investigations, development activities, and outreach and public awareness efforts to address invasive species control and management needs.
- not more than 10 percent may be used for administrative costs incurred to carry out those programs, including costs relating to oversight and management of the programs, recordkeeping, and implementation of a strategic plan.

WEED SCIENTISTS NEEDED AT USDA-NIFA

Intensive hiring efforts are currently underway at USDA-NIFA to recruit highly qualified candidates for vacant positions that need to be filled at their new location in Kansas City. Please go their careers page for a condensed list of current and upcoming job announcements at:

<https://nifa.usda.gov/career-opportunities>

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THINK NEWSLETTER

**Deadline for January issue
December 1, 2019**

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
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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