



# Newsletter



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the fall begins, it is worth taking a moment to cast good wishes toward our friends and colleagues on the East Coast as hurricane Florence has adversely impacted them. A tremendous effort will be forthcoming to recover from this devastating storm. We hope for a rapid recovery for all that have been affected.

Our meeting plans for the 59th Annual WSSA meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana are coming together. The meeting will be held February 11–14, 2019 at the Sheraton New Orleans. Larry Steckel, our program chair, is working on a great program that will run the gamut of extension, research, and education activities in weed science. Dr. Steckel is working closely with Eric Webster, who is serving as our local arrangements chair and Eric Gustafson, our Executive Secretary, to finalize activities and events. These folks have plentiful events and tours available to enjoy the city and we look forward to what New Orleans has to offer. Symposia are going to be plentiful once again this year and the topics include:

- Herbicide resistant weeds in turf, ornamentals, and nursery crops
- Weed seed in grain samples and trade
- Integrated weed management to address weed resistance
- Weather and environment: Understanding basics to address off-target movement
- Agricultural regulations as affected by urbanization of a country
- Herbicide banning: An international forum
- Teaching workshop

Our discipline has most definitely been connected to newsworthy items in the last several months. Dicamba issues are still on the forefront in the Midwest in Midsouth regions of the United States. As I draft this, we still have not heard about the status of the dicamba registration for 2019. There has been a great deal of discussion and assessment this year with another substantial number of complaints associated with off-target movement. Our scientists have been connected with decision makers at every juncture and our Executive Director of Science Policy, Lee Van Wychen, has kept us attached to key individuals to discuss the

CONTINUED on pg 2 >>>

**CALL FOR PAPERS  
2019 GUIDELINES**  
(details inside on pages 4-7)

### IN THIS ISSUE

WSSA Contacts . . . . .	2	Call for Papers . . . . .	4	Important Contacts . . . . .	12
WSSA Publications News . . . . .	3	Washington Report . . . . .	8	Calendar of Events . . . . .	13
Undergrad Research Award . . . . .	3	APM Research Methods . . . . .	11		

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED from pg 1

issues. Glyphosate has also been in the news based on the court decision in California awarding damages in the amount of \$289 million related to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. I have personally had several questions regarding the toxicity of glyphosate since the court decision as I suspect many of you have had. I suspect that in the coming months, there will be more reports to review and resolve. Perhaps there is not a more important time in our society's history where strong science and connection to decision makers have come together. I am confident that we can continue to address these issues to the best of our abilities and progress our discipline in the most positive ways.

Our NIFA Fellow Search Committee did a great job this summer in identifying strong candidates for the WSSA NIFA Fellow position that will be vacated by Donn Shilling. We are forever grateful for all of Donn's hard work to get our discipline connected and aligned with NIFA. Dr. Jim Kells from Michigan State University has been selected as the next WSSA NIFA Fellow. Dr. Kells will be transitioning into the new position over the course of the next several months. Jim brings a great deal of administrative experience as a department chair at Michigan State since 2005. He has also had a strong history of service to our society. Dr. Kells was named Fellow in WSSA in 2006 and served as President in 2013. Jim has a substantial and broad-based record as a faculty member that demonstrates all aspects of the land grant mission and includes professional service, research, extension and teaching throughout his academic career. Dr. Kells will serve as a Weed Science resource for USDA's National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and act as a liaison between WSSA members and USDA-NIFA employees. We look forward to working with Dr. Kells as he transitions into the position. Please thank Dr. Shilling for his excellent service over the last three years as our first NIFA Fellow and congratulate Dr. Kells on his new role with WSSA. Thanks to our committee for serving along with me that included Steve Fennimore, Lee Van Wychen, Donn Shilling, Janis McFarland, Larry Steckel and Mike Fitzner. They put in a tremendous amount of work to make this happen.

I look forward to seeing all of you in New Orleans in February. It has been an active year so far and 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 issues or suggestions related to WSSA.

Scott Senseman  
President, WSSA

## WSSA Contacts

### Interactive Management Incorporated (IMI)

**Eric Gustafson, Executive Secretary**

**12011 Tejon St, Suite 700**

**Westminster, CO 80234**

**(720) 977-7940**

**info@wssa.net**

### Cambridge University Press

**Andrea Giannini, Publishing Editor**

**(212) 337-5080**

**agiannini@cambridge.org**

### 2019 Annual Meeting

**Larry Steckel, President-Elect**

**lsteckel@utk.edu**

## WSSA FUTURE MEETING SITES AND DATES

**Feb. 11-14, 2019**

**59th Annual Meeting**

**Sheraton New Orleans Hotel**

**New Orleans, Louisiana**

**Larry Steckel, Chair**

**Email: lsteckel@utk.edu**

**www.wssa.net**

**WSSA HOME PAGE**

**ACCESSED AT:**

**www.wssa.net**

## THINK NEWSLETTER

**Deadline for January issue**

**December 1, 2018**

## SEND NEWSLETTER

**MATERIAL TO:**

**Carl Libbey**

**225 S. 10th Street**

**Mount Vernon, WA 98274**

**newsletter@wssa.net**

**Phone: (360) 708-5543**

## WSSA NEWSLETTER

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**Carl Libbey**

**225 S. 10th St.**

**Mount Vernon, WA 98274**

**newsletter@wssa.net**

# WSSA PUBLICATIONS NEWS

## WSSA Journals Requiring ORCID Numbers

To further align WSSA journals with current publishing practice, we are phasing in required ORCID numbers for corresponding authors. Currently, ORCIDs are encouraged — but not required — for co-authors. An ORCID is a unique 16-digit identifier that is attached to and distinguishes an individual researcher throughout his or her career. ORCIDs are randomly assigned from the ORCID registry and do not encode any personal information; they provide an effective way to permanently link individual researchers with their published work. As the international research community expands, an increasing number of authors have the same or very similar names, and authors may also change their names during their careers. Searching a large database such as Web of Science by ORCID identifier instead of author name greatly reduces the number of false hits, especially if a name is not that unique. If you don't yet have an ORCID, getting one is free and painless: go to [orcid.com](http://orcid.com).

## Online Weed Science Journal Falsely Lists WSSA Members on Editorial Board

A previously unknown online journal, the “Journal of Research in Weed Science” (<http://www.jrweedsci.com>) launched in August, claiming on its website that a number of well-known WSSA members were members of its editorial board. These WSSA members had never heard of or been contacted by this journal, had not agreed to serve as editors, and had not given permission for their names and photos to be posted to the journal website. The journal website did not provide the location or identity of the publisher, but a little sleuthing by intrepid WSSA members revealed the “Journal of Research in Weed Science” was operating out of Iran.

Once busted, the journal publishers rapidly removed the entire editorial board and reviewer lists from their website. The practice of including names on journal “editorial boards” without the knowledge or permission of the individuals concerned is becoming more common in predatory publishing, so be vigilant.

Sarah Ward  
Director of Publications  
Weed Science Society of America

# WSSA John Jachetta Undergraduate Research Award

The WSSA “John Jachetta Undergraduate Research Award” is now entering its 27th year of operation and proved to be an effective method of recruiting new students into the discipline of Weed Science. As the fall semester rolls along, this would be a perfect time for Weed Science Educators to invite them to consider conducting an undergraduate research project through this award. Please be proactive with this opportunity; you are the only link a student has with this research grant and this program can only work through your active outreach and participation.

This grant provides up to \$2000 for support of undergraduate research to be conducted over a minimum of one quarter/semester during 2019 and may be used to defray the cost of research supplies or as a stipend. Any faculty member who is actively engaged in Weed Science research is qualified to be a sponsor. The faculty sponsor should review the research proposal with special attention to the budget. The distribution of funds should be approved by both the student and sponsor. Proposals should be received no later than December 20, 2018. Funding decisions will be made by January 31, 2019 and presented at the 2019 WSSA National Meeting Awards Ceremony. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Mithila Jugulam by email ([mithila@ksu.edu](mailto:mithila@ksu.edu)) or by phone at (785) 532-2755.

**THINK NEWSLETTER**

**Deadline for January issue  
December 1, 2018**

**Send Newsletter material to:**

**Carl Libbey  
225 S. 10th Street  
Mount Vernon, WA 98274  
[newsletter@wssa.net](mailto:newsletter@wssa.net)**

# CALL FOR PAPERS

## 2019 WSSA MEETING

### Annual Meeting of the Weed Science Society of America New Orleans, Louisiana • February 11–14, 2019

#### INVITATION

You are invited to submit titles and abstracts for papers and posters to be presented at the WSSA Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, February 11–14, 2019, 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 September 5, 2018.

#### DEADLINE

Abstract Titles and Author Information must be submitted electronically by **November 1, 2018**, to be considered. Those not submitted by this deadline will not be accepted. This deadline applies to symposium papers, as well as to volunteer papers and posters. Abstract texts must be submitted by **January 28, 2019**. 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 presentations 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 25 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 1, 2019**). 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.

CONTINUED on pg 5 >>

## 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 Weed Science Society of America website (<http://www.wssa.net>).

- After **September 5, 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 member and has registered to attend the current WSSA annual meeting is eligible to compete in the poster or oral presentation contest.
2. Students are eligible for participation in the Student Poster Contest and Oral Presentation Contest 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.
3. 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 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 dur-

ing the first annual meeting following graduation.

3. Contestants will indicate in the title submission that they wish to enter either the poster or oral presentation contest. Title and contest declaration must be turned in by the deadline that title submissions are due. If a contestant does not turn in a title and contest declaration by the time that title submissions are due, they will be ineligible for the contest unless the Student Program Chairperson declares the student eligible based on student's situation. **ABSTRACTS FOR CONTEST PRESENTATIONS** must be submitted electronically by **January 8, 2019**. 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 website.

### 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, author(s), the affiliation (institution, agency or company), and location (city and state or country, but not the zip code). When authors are from different locations or affiliations, group authors by their affiliations/locations.

**Capitalize the first letter of all major words in the title and end the title with a period. Include both the common and scientific names of weeds and uncommon crop plants in the title** (authorship of plants is not necessary), but only the common names of herbicides and well-known crop plants. **You do not need to type the title in bold-face;** the system will do that automatically. **First names followed by initial** (period after initial) **should be typed before last names of all authors.** 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<sup>\*1</sup>, P. C. Bhowmik<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Monsanto Company, St. Louis, MO, <sup>2</sup>University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA.*

*Example 2. **Evaluation of an In-Row Rotating Cultivar in Vegetable Crops.** S. A. Fennimore<sup>\*1</sup>, R. F. Smith<sup>2</sup>, J. Rachuy<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>University of Cali-*

CONTINUED on pg 6 ►►

## CALL FOR PAPERS CONTINUED from pg 5

fornia, Davis, CA, <sup>2</sup>University 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<sup>-1</sup>). 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.

## SUBJECT INDEX

A subject index consisting of weed/crop names, herbicides, and other key words will be included in addition to the author index. Providing key words to be used in indexing will be the responsibility of the authors. Words in the title are not automatically indexed. Only key words provided by the authors will be used. The abstract submission site utilizes a new key word system. There are drop down boxes for each type of subject with a listing of choices. It is recommended that you utilize these pre-selected choices, but there is an area for authors to type in user defined key words that are not found in any of the selections.

1. A **maximum** of five key words per abstract will be indexed. Most abstracts should only require two or three words.
2. Prioritize key words based on the importance of a given subject, especially for abstracts containing more than five weeds and herbicides. Use a priority ranking of (a) weeds and/or crops, (b) herbicides, other chemicals (including adjuvants) and other types of weed control (e.g., cultural, biological), (c) additional topic words or phrases.
3. Use scientific name of weeds, without authority. Genus plus species is considered one key word.
4. Genera names may be used when more than one species in that genus is mentioned in the abstract.
5. Use common names of crops (for less common crops, use scientific names without authority).
6. Use common names of herbicides and other chemicals (including adjuvants) or code numbers for experimental compounds.
7. Chemical class names, e.g., sulfonylureas, should be used when more than one herbicide in that class is mentioned in the abstract.

## 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

CONTINUED on pg 7 ►►

## CALL FOR PAPERS CONTINUED from pg 6

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 2020 (Section Chair in 2020) and discuss recommendations for improvement of the Poster Session.
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 board 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:

**Chair:** Larry Steckel (contact: [lsteckel@utk.edu](mailto:lsteckel@utk.edu))

**Vice Chair:** William Curran (contact: [wsc2@psu.edu](mailto:wsc2@psu.edu))

**Ex-off:** Eric Gustafson (contact: [info@wssa.net](mailto:info@wssa.net))

Section	Section Chair 2019	Section Co-Chair 2019
1. Agronomic Crops	Rana, Neha	Lins, Ryan
2. Horticultural Crops	Jennings, Katie	Matthew Cutulle
3. Turf and Ornamentals	Prasanta Bhowmik	Jatinder Aulakh
4. Pasture, Range, Forest, & Rights of ways	Omielan, Joe	Glen Obear
5. Wildlands & Aquatic Invasives	Mudge, Chris	Mark Renz
6. Regulatory Aspects	Monty Dixon	Moore, Cheryl
7. Teaching and Extension	Jatinder Aulakh	Rana, Sandeep
8. Formulation, Adjuvant, & Application Technology	Ferguson, Connor	Mayank Malik
9. Weed Biology and Ecology	Singh, Vijay	Mohsen Mesgaran
10. Biocontrol of Weeds	Rayamajhi, Min	Rodrigo Diaz
11. Physiology	Rouse, Christopher	Tseng, Paul Te-Ming
12. Soil and Environmental Aspects	Tseng, Paul Te-Ming	Daljit Singh
13. Integrated Weed Management	Strek, Harry	Vijay Singh
14. Sustaining Member Exhibits	Gyling, Steve	Dahl, Greg
15. Poster Sessions	Devkota, Pratap	Marie-Josée Simard
16. Student Contest	Schraer, Marty	Dodds, Darrin

# WASHINGTON REPORT

by Lee Van Wychen, Director of Science Policy

## MORE COMPROMISE NEEDED ON FARM BILL

The Farm Bill is moving, but there is still much to do. The Farm Bill Conference Committee, composed of 47 House members and 9 Senators, held their first meeting on September 5. During that session, all 56 members made 3-minute opening statements that highlighted their top Farm Bill priorities (and concerns). There was general agreement that a bill needs to be passed on time, by September 30, to provide certainty for farmers. However, there are only a handful of legislative working days left in September and there are still significant differences that need to be resolved over the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), conservation funding, and support for farmers.

From a weed science perspective, there are parts of the House bill and parts of the Senate bill that we would like to see make it into the final conference agreement. For the House bill, this includes a legislative fix for the duplicative National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program permits, a Congressional repeal of the 2015 Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule, legislative guidance to streamline the FIFRA-Endangered Species Act consultation process, and reauthorization of the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA). A provision in the Senate bill we would like to see passed that is not in the House bill is the reauthorization for the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR).

## HUTCHINS NOMINATED AS USDA CHIEF SCIENTIST

Dr. Scott Hutchins, the Global Head



of Integrated Field Sciences for Corteva was nominated by the White House on July 16 for the role of USDA Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics, which is also referred to as USDA's Chief Scientist. If confirmed by the Senate, he will oversee the operations of ARS, NIFA, ERS and NASS. Hutchins has a Ph.D. in entomology from Iowa State University, where he studied the effect of insect-induced injury on alfalfa. Hutchins has bachelor's degree in entomology from Auburn University and a master's degree from Mississippi State University. Presently, he works on pest management chemicals at Corteva and is an adjunct professor at the University of Nebraska. He is a past President of the Entomological Society of America.

## ANGLE NOMINATED AS USDA NIFA DIRECTOR



The White House nominated Dr. J. Scott Angle to be Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) at USDA on August 31. Dr. Angle is currently President and CEO of the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC). He worked for 24 years as a professor of soil science and administrator for the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station and Maryland Cooperative Extension at the University of Maryland. He also served as Dean and Director of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at the University of Georgia for 10 years. He is a Fellow at

the American Society of Agronomy and the Soil Science Society of America. Dr. Angle earned his Ph.D. in soil microbiology from the University of Missouri.

## USDA NIFA, ERS MOVING FROM DC

On August 9, USDA announced that the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and Economic Research Service (ERS) will be moving from Washington, D.C. While the new location for the agencies has yet to be determined, the timeframe for the move is expected to occur within the next year where families with children could start the fall 2019 school year at the new location. USDA said it was undertaking the relocations for three main reasons:

1. To improve USDA's ability to attract and retain highly qualified staff with training and interests in agriculture, many of whom come from land-grant universities. USDA has experienced significant turnover in these positions, and it has been difficult to recruit employees to the Washington, D.C. area, particularly given the high cost of living and long commutes.
2. To place these important USDA resources closer to many of stakeholders, most of whom live and work far from the Washington, D.C. area.
3. To benefit the American taxpayers. There will be significant savings on employment costs and rent, which will allow more employees to be retained in the long run, even in the face of tightening budgets.

USDA needs a lot of space: About 90,000 square feet for 360 NIFA em-

CONTINUED on pg 9 >>>



ployees and 70,000 square feet for 260 ERS workers. USDA's criteria for the new spots includes proximity to an airport, commuting options for employees, technology infrastructure, capital and operating costs, community/quality of life and workforce considerations.

USDA's announcement of intent to move the agencies has garnered many concerns from the ag research community, including the WSSA. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said in a press release that he would extend by 30 days, to October 15, the deadline for universities and localities to submit an expression of interest (EOI) to house the headquarters of NIFA and ERS. "There has been considerable interest in housing the headquarters of NIFA and ERS, expressed by universities and localities from around the country," stated Perdue. "Some stakeholders have relayed concerns about staff summer vacation schedules interfering with the preparation of proposals, and some have asked for more time to have their plans approved by boards of regents, city councils, or other governing bodies," he added. "An extra 30 days will give everyone time to get organized and will not interfere with our timeline."

The Senate Committee on Agriculture wrote to Secretary Perdue on September 7 raising several questions and requesting more information on the move. The letter, signed by Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts (R-KS) and Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), noted that stakeholders have expressed concern that relocating the agencies outside of Washington, D.C. will lead many employees to leave USDA and cause "a sharp loss of knowledgeable staff."

## **NIFA INVITES INPUT ON EMERGING NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

The USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is soliciting stakeholder input on the emerging needs and opportunities in food and agricultural sciences through the "NIFA Listens: Investing in Science to Transform Lives" initiative. The listening sessions are opportunities to provide feedback on these questions:

- In your field, what is the most-needed breakthrough in science/technology that would advance your agricultural enterprise?
- When considering all of agriculture, what is the greatest challenge that should be addressed through NIFA's research, education, and extension?
- What is your top priority in food and agricultural research, extension, or education that NIFA should address?

Four regional in-person listening sessions will be held:

- Oct. 11, Hartford, Connecticut (RSVP by Oct. 4)
- Oct. 18, New Orleans, Louisiana (RSVP by Oct. 11)
- Oct. 25, Minneapolis, Minnesota (RSVP by Oct. 18)
- Nov. 1, Albuquerque, New Mexico (RSVP by Oct. 25)

The [NIFA Listens website](#) is an information hub that will be used for the sessions. Each session is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. and end no later than 5 p.m. Live webcasts will be available for each session, transcribed, and made available for playback. Session attendees must register via [NIFA Listens](#). In addition, written comments may be provided electronically through the stakeholder input form on the website or emailed to [NIFAlistens@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:NIFAlistens@nifa.usda.gov) until November 30. Feedback is welcome through any of our submission methods and will be gathered throughout the initiative.

## **NATIONAL ACADEMIES RELEASE REPORT ON THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE RESEARCH**

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine has released a new report, "[Science Breakthroughs 2030: A Strategy for Food and Agricultural Research](#)," which identifies the innovation needed in the next decade to make the U.S. food and agricultural system more efficient, resilient, and sustainable. Using input from the broad scientific community, the report identifies five scientific breakthrough areas that could have the greatest positive impact on food and agriculture:

1. Transdisciplinary Research and Systems Approach
2. Sensing Technologies
3. Data Science and Agri-Food Informatics
4. Genomics and Precision Breeding
5. Microbiome

The report also recommends investing in physical and cyber infrastructures, engaging non-agricultural professionals, and recruiting talented individuals into food and agriculture research.

## **EXCELLENT CAST ISSUE PAPER: "GENOME EDITING IN AGRICULTURE"**

On July 9, CAST released its newest publication, [Genome Editing in Agriculture: Methods, Applications, and Governance](#). Science Policy Committee Chair and WSSA-NIFA Fellow Donn Shilling and I attended one of the Washington, D.C. roll out sessions where Dr. Adam Bogdanove from Cornell, lead author and Task Force Chair, gave a great overview on the current status of gene editing, including policy implications. The issue paper describes how genome editing is performed, the types of "edits" that can be made, how the process relates to traditional breed-

CONTINUED on pg 10 >>>

ing and conventional genetic engineering, and the potential limitations of the approach.

### HUBBARD CONFIRMED TO LEAD USDA NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT



On August 28, the Senate confirmed James Hubbard as USDA Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, which oversees

the U.S. Forest Service. Hubbard served as deputy chief of USDA Forest Service's State and Private Forestry for 10 years, managing all of the Forest Service's cooperative forestry programs and its fire and aviation division, which accounts for half of the agency's total budget. Prior to serving as a Forest Service deputy chief, Hubbard was the director for the Office of Wildland Fire Coordination at the Interior Department, where he oversaw the implementation of the National Fire Plan he helped develop as a state forester. He also worked for the Colorado Forest Service for a couple decades and served as president of National Association of State Foresters (NASF) in 1990. In 2011, Jim was the recipient of the NASF Lifetime Achievement Award.

### WHITE HOUSE NOMINATES NPS DIRECTOR



The White House has nominated David Vela to be the Director of the National Park Service (NPS) at the Department of Interior (DOI) on August

31. Mr. Vela has worked at NPS for 28 years and currently serves as the Superintendent of Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway. He has

held various park postings within NPS, including at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park, and the George Washington Memorial Parkway. He has also served as Director of the NPS' Southeast Region and Associate Director for Workforce, Relevancy, and Inclusion in the NPS headquarters in Washington, DC. Mr. Vela has a B.S. in recreation and parks from the Texas A&M University.

### INTERIOR ROLLS OUT REORGANIZATION PLAN

On August 29, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced the Department of the Interior's (DOI) plan to reorganize its bureaus into 12 "unified regions." The proposed management re-design establishes new regional divisions based on the boundaries of states and watersheds (see map below).

The proposal has been under development for several months. "Our new Unified Regions will allow important decisions to be made nearer to where our stakeholders and intergovernmental partners live and work, and will make joint problem-solving and improved coordination between our Bureaus and other Federal, State, and

local agencies easier," stated Secretary Zinke.

The 12 unified regions will replace the 49 individual Interior Bureau regional boundaries. Secretary Zinke said that the reorganization will "reduce bureaucratic redundancy, will improve communication between our experts in the field and leaders in Washington, D.C., and will allow us to share our knowledge and resources more effectively."

Each new region will be managed under a "Regional Leadership Team," an idea outlined by Susan Combs, acting Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget for DOI, at a roundtable discussion organized by House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT). Combs described Alaska as a model for operations under the reorganization plan. "We started with a pilot in Alaska, because it's one state that has all the bureaus, it already has a legislative framework that requires federal and state agencies to work together," said Combs. "So, they are working away on inter-bureau collaboration."

The plan applies to all Interior agencies, except the Bureau of Indian Af-

CONTINUED on pg 11 >>>



## WASHINGTON REPORT CONTINUED from pg 10

fairs, the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians, and the Bureau of Indian Education. Whether these agencies are eventually aligned with the new regional boundaries will be determined after tribal consultation.

### APHIS PPQ CHANGING PLANT INSPECTION FREQUENCY

On September 30, 2018, APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) officials will adjust its inspection procedures and start selecting samples from incoming shipments of live plants based on pest risk. Since 2016, PPQ has been collecting pest interception data on incoming shipments to determine the pest risks associated with country of origin and the type of propagative materials, such as rooted plants, plant cuttings or tissue cultures. Using this data, PPQ will adjust sampling rates at its Plant Inspection Stations to better protect the U.S.

against the introduction and spread of damaging plant pests and diseases.

Importers may notice changes in the number of samples selected for inspection at Plant Inspection Stations. For example, PPQ officers may pull fewer samples when inspecting commodities from countries that consistently have few or no pest problems. When inspecting commodities from countries that have more frequent pest problems, officers may pull more samples. When PPQ does not have sufficient risk data about a plant commodity, PPQ officers will sample at the highest rate until they collect enough data to make a statistically sound decision about its risk level.

### NEW COVER CROPS AND WATER QUALITY FACT SHEETS AVAILABLE

In a review of 98 publications, staff from USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE) pro-

gram and the University of Missouri identified how cover cropping influences soil and nutrient losses from agricultural fields, water infiltration, and soil organic matter. Cover Crops and Water Quality resources include five fact sheets, three infographics and a PowerPoint presentation template that can be downloaded and used for outreach and educational purposes.

Lee Van Wychen, Ph.D.  
Executive Director of Science Policy  
National and Regional Weed Science Societies  
5720 Glenmullin Pl  
Alexandria, VA 22303  
[Lee.VanWychen@wssa.net](mailto:Lee.VanWychen@wssa.net)  
Phone: 202-746-4686

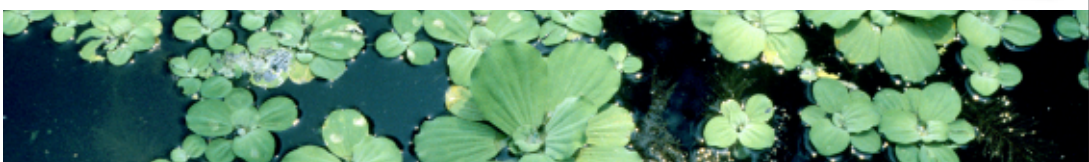
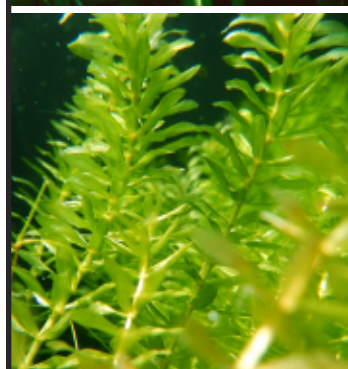


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## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

### **PRESIDENT**

Scott Senseman  
University of Tennessee  
Institute of Agriculture  
Department of Plant Sciences  
ssensema@utk.edu

### **PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Larry Steckel  
University of Tennessee  
lsteckel@utk.edu

### **VICE-PRESIDENT**

Bill Curran  
Pennsylvania State University  
wcurran@psu.edu

### **PAST-PRESIDENT**

Janis McFarland  
Syngenta Crop Protection  
janis.mcfarland@syngenta.com

### **CONSTITUTION/MOPS**

Mark Bernards  
Western Illinois University  
ML-Bernards@wiu.edu

### **SECRETARY**

Darrin Dodds  
Mississippi State University  
Dmd76@pss.msstate.edu

### **TREASURER**

Phil Banks  
Marathon Ag  
marathonag@zianet.com

### **MEMBERS AT LARGE**

Dawn Refsell  
Valent  
Dawn.Refsell@valent.com

Bryan Young  
Purdue University  
BryanYoung@Purdue.edu

### **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

Eric Gustafson  
12011 Tejon St Suite 700  
Westminster, CO 80234  
Telephone: (720) 977-7940  
info@wssa.net

### **DIRECTOR OF PUBLICATIONS**

Sarah Ward  
Colorado State University  
sarah.ward@colostate.edu

### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Carl Libbey  
225 S. 10th St  
Mount Vernon, WA 98274  
newsletter@wssa.net

### **DIRECTOR OF SCIENCE POLICY and AIBS REP**

Lee Van Wychen  
5720 Glenmullen Place  
Alexandria, VA 22303  
Lee.VanWychen@wssa.net

### **CAST REP**

Dallas Peterson  
Kansas State University  
dpeterson@ksu.edu

### **GRAD STUDENT REP**

Jess Bunchek  
Pennsylvania State University  
jrbunchek@gmail.com

### **NIFA FELLOW**

Jim Kells  
Michigan State University  
Department of Plant, Soil and  
Microbial Sciences  
kells@msu.edu

### **EPA LIAISON**

Greg Kruger  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
402 West State Farm Road  
North Platte, NE 69101  
greg.kruger@unl.edu

### **REGIONAL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES:**

#### **AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT SOCIETY (APMS) REP**

Rob Richardson  
North Carolina State University  
rob\_richardson@ncsu.edu

#### **NEWSS REP**

Rakesh Chandran  
West Virginia University  
rakesh.chandran@mail.wvu.edu

#### **NCWSS REP**

Greg Elmore  
Monsanto  
greg.a.elmore@monsanto.com

#### **SWSS REP**

John Byrd  
Mississippi State University  
jbyrd@pss.msstate.edu

#### **WSWS REP**

Marty Schraer  
Syngenta Crop Protection  
marty.schraer@syngenta.com

#### **CWSS-SCM**

Francois Tardif  
University of Guelph  
ftardif@uoguelph.ca

#### **IWSS REP**

Nilda Roma-Burgos  
University of Arkansas  
nburgos@uark.edu

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## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
November 19–22, 2018	Canadian Weed Science Society Annual Meeting (CWSS)	Marriott on the Falls Niagara Falls, Ontario	<a href="http://www.weedscience.ca">www.weedscience.ca</a>
December 3–6, 2018	North Central Weed Science Society Annual Meeting (NCWSS)	Hyatt Regency Hotel Milwaukee, Wisconsin	<a href="http://www.ncwss.org">www.ncwss.org</a>
January 7–10, 2019	Northeastern Weed Science Annual Meeting (NEWSS)	Delta Hotels Baltimore, Maryland	<a href="http://www.newss.org">www.newss.org</a>
February 3–7, 2019	Southern Weed Science Society Annual Meeting (SWSS)	Renaissance Oklahoma City Convention Center Hotel Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	<a href="http://www.swss.ws">www.swss.ws</a>
February 11-14, 2019	Weed Science Society of America Annual Meeting (WSSA)	Sheraton New Orleans Hotel New Orleans, Louisiana	<a href="http://www.wssa.net">www.wssa.net</a>
March 11–14, 2019	Western Society of Weed Science Annual Meeting (WSWS)	Hyatt Regency Downtown Denver Denver, Colorado	<a href="http://www.wsweedscience.org">www.wsweedscience.org</a>
July 13–17, 2019	Aquatic Plant Management Society Annual Meeting (APMS)	Hilton Double Tree Mission Valley San Diego, California	<a href="http://www.apms.org">www.apms.org</a>

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