Executive Director of Science Policy Report
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WSWS Annual Meeting – Maui 2020

Papers and Comments Submitted on Weed Science Policy Issues During the Past Year: http://wssa.net/society/science-policy/

- National and Regional Weed Science Societies Comments on Proposed Interim Review Decision for Glyphosate
- WSSA Comments on APHIS Proposed Rule on Regarding the Movement of Certain Genetically Engineered Organisms
- National and Regional Weed Science Societies Comments on EPA's Interim Process for Evaluating Potential Synergistic Effects of Pesticides During the Registration Process
- WSSA Concerns about USDA-NIFA Relocation
- National and Regional Weed Science Societies Comments on EPA's Proposed Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ) Requirements
- WSSA Comments on Registration Review of Paraquat
- National and Regional Weed Science Societies Support for America Grows Act (S. 2458)
- Newsletter Reports/Washington Updates submitted to each of the following societies: WSSA- 4; APMS- 2; NCWSS- 3; NEWSS- 3; SWSS- 3; and WSWS- 3

2019-2020 Weed Science Meeting/Events Attended and Presentation(s) Given

Feb. 11 - 14, 2019: Weed Science Society of America (WSSA), New Orleans, LA
Mar. 11 - 14, 2019: Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS), Denver, CO
Jul. 11 - 14, 2019: Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS), San Diego, CA
Aug. 5 - 6, 2019: Weed Science Society of America Summer Board, Blackhawk, CO
Sep. 16 - 18, 2019: National Roadside Veg. Mang't Assoc. (NRVMA), Louisville, KY
Dec. 10 - 13, 2019: North Central Weed Science Society (NCWSS), Columbus, OH
Jan. 6 - 9, 2020: Northeastern Weed Science Society (NEWSS), Philadelphia, PA
Jan. 26 - 30, 2020: Southern Weed Science Society (SWSS), Biloxi, MS

Dicamba: EPA requested the most recent dicamba research from our members. WSSA-EPA Liaison Greg Kruger and I worked with the Agency to host a meeting on Jan. 16, 2020 for 11 weed scientists to present their work. A summary of the comments is as follows:

- Dicamba will likely be re-registered for over-the-top use in cotton and soybeans
- Possible volatility band-aids include restrictions on temperature and spray solution pH
- Resistance is documented and growing
- Poor grass control due to antagonism with glyphosate/clethodim a serious, growing issue.
- Choline formulation of dicamba looks very good for reduced volatility
- Next step- coordinate a meeting between the leaders of dicamba registrants and EPA to generate dialogue to improve future dicamba use

EPA Herbicide Resistance Management Guidance: PRN 2017-2. Are most of the resistance management "elements" being addressed?

- Listing the herbicide mechanism-of-action (MOA), according to the WSSA MOA classification scheme.
- Recommendations to scout the treatment area both before and after application

- How to identify suspected resistance
- How to report lack of performance and proactively take action before escaped weeds become widespread
- A list of herbicide resistance BMP's using WSSA and HRAC guidance
- Information to help make growers and applicators aware of herbicide resistant weeds found in their local area

The registrants are responsible for reporting new cases of suspected and confirmed resistance to EPA. Have any new cases been reported?

USDA-NIFA Move: NIFA still significantly understaffed, especially program staff who work on funding grants. Months behind on grant money distribution. Hiring as quickly as possible. Jim Kells, WSSA-NIFA Fellow, will be going to KC a couple times later this spring. He's working on a presentation of weed science funding history for last ten years. Funding Letter of Intent (LOI) for weed genomics conference this year that was submitted by Tranel, Gaines, Patterson et al. was not selected for funding because NIFA is overwhelmed right now. However, unlike regular grants, conference LOI's can be submitted at any time, as long as its 135 days prior to the event. Thus, there is still a good chance that they will receive NIFA money for a weed genomics conference when they resubmit an LOI. The new National Science Liaison (NSL) that covers weed science issues is Mathieu Ngouajio.

USDA-ARS: Expect an announcement very soon on hiring a new National Program Leader (NPL) overseeing weed science research. Steven Mirsky has been serving as acting NPL in Beltsville, MD. Please see me if you are interested. Weed science was very well represented in April 2019 during the USDA-ARS Crop Protection and Quarantine (NP 304) five year review.

WSSA Rep for TAG-BCAW: Dr. Te-ming Paul Tseng, Mississippi State University, has been representing WSSA on the APHIS Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for the Biocontrol of Weeds (BCAW). They reviewed four petitions in 2019. 1) A Proposal for the field release of *Lophodiplosis indentata*, a potential biological control agent for *Melaleuca quinquenervia*. 2) proposed host specificity plant list for testing potential biological control agents of earleaf acacia. 3) A petition for open-field release of the mite *aceria angustifoliae* for biological control of Russian olive in North America. 4) A petition for the introduction and open-field release of the gall-forming weevil *Ceutorhynchus cardariae* for the biological control of hoary cress species (*Lepidium draba, Lepidium chalepense* and *Lepidium appelianum*) in North America. The annual TAG meeting is April 14-16, 2020 at the Holiday Inn, Baltimore, MD.

2020 International Year of Plant Health- USDA APHIS will host a conference in Washington, DC on Aug. 18-20, 2020 to focus attention on plant health issues. I'm on the academia steering committee and am pushing them to include invasive species and phytosanitary trade issues related to herbicide-resistant weed seed.

Syncing USDA Plants Database with WSSA Composite Lists of Weeds: the USDA Plants Database is now considered the official source of weed nomenclature and taxonomy. However, there are still a few issues that need to be resolved. The USDA Plants Database gets 50,000 hits a day off the internet and is undergoing a major overhaul of its infrastructure and search capabilities. It's run by the USDA-NRCS out of Greenville, NC. Carroll Moseley and I are

working with the NRCS Plants Database team to get them to adopt the 3,000 plus "official" weed names on WSSA's Composite List as the primary common name for that weed species. In most cases, they are the same, but notable differences exist. For example the USDA Plants Database primary common name for Palmer amaranth is 'carelessweed'. For waterhemp, its 'roughfruit amaranth'. Carroll Moseley & I will meet with USDA Plants Database team leader Gerry Moore in Greensboro, NC on March 11 for an update.

Weed Science Policy Fellow (WSPF)- 2019 was the first year for the WSPF and was excellent. John Schramski, Michigan State, and Haleigh Summers, Penn State have completed their fellowships and gave their final report to the WSSA Board. Janis McFarland, Jill Schroeder and I have reviewed the 2020 applicants for WSPF and have selected Camp Hand from Georgia and Vasiliy Lakoba from Virginia Tech.

WEED BINGO: A stunning success and excellent public outreach and educational tool for weed science. This was 3 yrs in the making and I want to specifically thank John Byrd for his contributions of photos and trivia for many of the SWSS designated weeds. Each of the 42 weed cards included in the game includes the weed's common and scientific name of a weed, photo, and description/trivia. (My kids love it ☺). You can buy it for $14.95 + $5 S&H at: https://wssa.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com_mcform&view=ngforms&id=24090#/

"Executive Visits Day" for Weed Science Society Presidents in DC: This was a success in 2019 and I plan to do it again in 2020. Tentative dates are May 18-20, 2020 during NISAW.

2020 National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW): https://www.nisaw.org/nisaw-2020/ We have gone through a major overhaul and rethinking of strategy and purpose over the past year. Belle Berger, Exec. Director for NAISMA has agreed to take over coordination role. There was an "Advocacy and Education week" Feb. 24-28, 2020. I advocated for restoring the NISC budget to $1.2M. However, ISAC will not be reinstated under this administration. The traditional NISAW (Local events and Awareness) will be **May 16 – 23, 2020** and will focus on "in the field" events at the state and local levels. We are looking to raise $25K in sponsorships for staff time and resources to advertise and coordinate. **Given the importance of invasive weeds to the WSWS, I'd recommend that WSWS become a NISAW "Leader" sponsor $2,500.**

National Survey of Common and Troublesome Weeds: The 2019 survey results for weeds in broadleaf crops, fruits & vegetables are posted at http://wssa.net/wssa/weed/surveys/. The 2020 weed survey will survey weeds in grass crops, pastures, and turf and be sent out to Weed Science members around Memorial Day.

Hemp – Do we need a position paper on weed control in hemp? No herbicides approved for use, but EPA is working with IR-4 and many weed scientists to generate tolerance data for: bromoxynil, clethodim, clomazone, flumioxizin, pyroxasulfone, s-metolachlor, sulfentrazone

Monarchs and Milkweed: Excellent monarch numbers were reported last year (the highest in 25 years at some sites). Still waiting to hear what the overwintering acreage of monarchs is in the Oyamel Fir Forests in 2020. Estimates suggest 2nd highest acreage since 2008. The U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Service (FWS) is working to assess the effectiveness of monarch conservation efforts. December 2020- anticipated timeframe for when FWS will make a decision on whether the monarch butterfly should be listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Membership Brochure: I'm working with the National and Regional and Weed Science Societies in developing and updating membership marketing material. I am putting together a Weed Science Membership Brochure update committee that is currently comprised of Stott Howard (NCWSS), Caren Schmidt (NEWSS), Camp Hand (SWSS), Carroll Moseley (WSSA) and myself. **I am asking WSWS to appoint a representative to this adhoc committee as well**.