

President

Byron Sleugh



Byron Sleugh is currently serving as the Integrated Biology Center of Expertise Leader at Corteva Agriscience leading a team of senior researchers responsible for the field characterization of early-stage Discovery molecules across all disciplines – herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, nematocides, biostimulants, biocontrol. He is also a Corteva Distinguished Laureate, a designation granted to colleagues as a reflection of demonstrated scientific excellence and is recognized as the company's experts in specific disciplines. Byron has led diverse, cross-functional technical teams spread across the globe, overseeing multimillion-dollar R&D projects through all phases of the product lifecycle and enabling success through internal capabilities as well as collaborations with private and public entities. Prior to joining Corteva Agriscience in 2006, he was an Associate Professor of Agriculture at Western Kentucky University (WKU) in Bowling Green, KY. Byron has held multiple roles within Corteva and has significant experience working with university, private, and public cooperators to do research, outreach, technology transfer, educational events, and promoting good stewardship in agriculture.

Byron has been a very active member of WSWS for nearly 20 years as lead author or co-author on over 40 papers, committee chair and member, What's New in Industry presenter, section co-chair and chair, student contest judge, students' night out host, and serving in whatever capacity he is needed in. In 2023, Byron received the WSWS Outstanding Weed Scientist (industry) award. Throughout his career he has also been active in the Weed Science Society of America, California Weed Science Society, and North Central Weed Science Society with presentations, program co-chair and chair responsibilities, workshop team member, etc. In addition to his industry roles in the last 20 years, Byron is deeply committed to academic and professional service and has served as Program Chair for the International Grassland Congress, current Vice President and Board Member of the American Forage and Grassland Council (AFGC), AFGC Annual Conference Chair, and President of the National Society for Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences. He has chaired multiple committees in various professional societies, served as advisor or committee member for multiple graduate students, and currently mentors students and young professionals. Byron holds a Ph.D. and MSc. in Crop Production & Physiology from Iowa State University; a BS degree in Agronomy and Environmental Science from Delaware Valley University.

Clarke Alder



Born in Manti, Utah, Clarke Alder drove his first tractor around age seven while no one was looking. At age 11, his grandparents sold the small dairy that his father was a part of and his family moved north to the Cache Valley. Clarke attended middle school, high school, and college in Logan. He earned a Master of Science in Weed Science under Dr. Corey Ransom, a Bachelor of Science in Ornamental Horticulture and a minor in Business all from Utah State University. Prior to moving to Idaho, Clarke worked in the

landscaping industry for nearly a decade and has also worked various trades including cabinetry, electrical, framing, and tile.

Clarke hired on at Amalgamated Sugar just before harvest in September of 2012 as a Crop Consultant in the Weiser, Payette, and Fruitland areas where he still holds the unofficial record for running a skeleton harvest crew until December 19th that first campaign. Clarke transitioned to the Sugarbeet Research (SBR) team in late 2015 as a Research Agronomist after overlapping a short time in both roles. Clarke served as the Company's sole Weed Scientist for the next decade where he focused on weed control in Roundup Ready sugarbeet, particularly looking for alternatives to glyphosate to help manage growing resistant weed populations. Additional work included collaborations with University of Idaho, Oregon State University, University of Nebraska, and University of Wyoming looking at new (and old) chemistries for weed control in sugarbeet, including metamitron, a chemistry which he successfully applied for FIFRA Section 18 for Idaho and Oregon growers during the 2025 crop year.

Upon its discovery in Idaho and Oregon, Palmer amaranth and waterhemp became primary focuses of Clarke's research with Amalgamated Sugar. In collaboration with University of Idaho, Oregon State, and Colorado State Universities, the group have been able to keep a nearly real-time record of Palmer amaranth and waterhemp progress across the Idaho and Oregon regions while working to determine current resistance levels and educate growers and agencies in the region about how to identify and stay ahead of these weeds. The collected distribution data also feeds into the Pacific Northwest Herbicide Resistance Initiative database. Amalgamated Sugar also owns the only research station in Idaho and Oregon containing Palmer amaranth for small plot trials.

In addition to weeds work, Clarke also managed much of Amalgamated Sugar's general trialing in the western part of the state and has served as the Editor-in-Chief for *The Sugarbeet Magazine* and Amalgamated Sugar's Grower Guidebook since 2015.

In July 2025, Clarke transitioned to KWS Seeds where he now serves as a sales manager for sugar beet seed and researcher working primarily with traits related to sugar beets, the most notable being Truvera, a genetically modified sugar beet resistant to glyphosate, glufosinate, and dicamba, scheduled to be introduced into the market in the very near future. In his current role, he continues to assist growers with their new and changing weed control journey in sugar beets and will continue to help moving efforts forward in the PNW on Palmer amaranth education, tracking, and control.

Although a focus on publishing is not typical in the private sector, Clarke has authored or coauthored over 178 publications in various formats over the past 15 years, including 41 issues of magazines and grower guidebooks, several bulletins, factsheets, a handful of peer reviewed journal articles, and of course, seemingly endless progress reports. A member of WSWS since 2010, Clarke won second place in the student poster contest for his poster on Russian knapweed control with aminopyralid and goat grazing, he has been hooked ever since. Clarke has since served on WSWS board of directors as the Member at Large – Private Sector. And although currently not holding a major board position, he continues to serve on the Herbicide Resistant Weeds Committee.

Clarke, his wife, and six kids currently reside in Middleton, ID and love traveling and almost anything you can do in the outdoors.

**Research
Section Chair
Elect**

Shannon Clark



Shannon Clark is the Solutions Development and Technical Services Manager for Upper Plains in Range and Pasture and VM for Envu. Shannon received her PhD in Weed Science from Colorado State University in 2019. She continued there as a postdoctoral researcher before starting with the Environmental Science group at Bayer Crop Science which then became Envu. Shannon continues to collaborate with Colorado State University Weed Science as a faculty affiliate. She has served WSWS as the Weeds of Range, Forestry, and Natural Areas Section chair and Poster Committee chair, and is the current secretary for the Rita Beard Endowment Committee and a member of the Invasive Plants Committee.

Pete Berry



Dr. Pete Berry is an Assistant Professor of Weed Science in the Department of Crop and Soil Science at Oregon State University. He has been a member of the Western Society of Weed Science since 2015. Previous roles within the society have been a graduate student poster and paper judge and session moderator. His research integrates Geographic Information Systems (GIS), remote sensing, image analysis, and spatial modeling to map, image, and quantify weed populations across Oregon cropping systems. Dr. Berry's work focuses on developing precision tools and spatial data approaches that enhance site-specific weed management and support sustainable production in the region's high-value specialty crops—including grasses and clovers grown for seed, as well as mint grown for oil.

He is an active member of the Pacific Northwest Herbicide Resistance Initiative (PNWHRI), which coordinates multistate efforts to map herbicide-resistant weed populations, and the Resilient Dryland Farming Alliance (RDFA), a regional program focused on improving the sustainability and resilience of dryland cropping systems. Through these initiatives, Dr. Berry's research aims to improve detection, characterization, and management of weed infestations to maintain the productivity and competitiveness of Oregon's specialty crop industries.

**Education
and
Regulatory
Chair Elect**

Jeanne Falk Jones



Jeanne Falk Jones is the Northwest Area Agronomy Specialist for Kansas State University Research and Extension in Colby, KS. She has been with K-State Research and Extension since 2005, as a multi-county agronomy specialist and was recently promoted to the role of area agronomist. She is the product of two century farm families and grew up as the 5th generation on the Falk family farm in northeast Kansas near Atchison. Jeanne is a graduate of Kansas State University with a B.S. degree in Agronomy and M.S. degree in Agronomy (weed physiology).

Her programming focus is on wheat, corn, sorghum and dry bean production, weed control and herbicide resistant weeds, wheat diseases and other crop production challenges in northwest Kansas. She currently leads Extension agronomy programming efforts in northwest Kansas. These regional efforts include the Cover Your Acres Winter Conference (with over 350 attendees per year), the K-State Crop Pest Management School (with nearly 150 attendees per year), and the CropTalk webinar series (over 300 registrants from 5 states in 2025). She works with 13 multi-county Extension agents for their professional development and programming efforts. She is a regular contributor to the K-State Agronomy eUpdate weekly newsletter, maintains the K-State Sunflower District Agronomy facebook page and focuses on getting timely information into farmers hands.

Jeanne is the current recipient of the K-State Extension and Engagement Team award for their Rapid Response to Wheat Streak Mosaic Programming and previously was awarded the Outstanding Local Unit Extension Professional Award from K-State. She is also a two-time national winner of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) Search for Excellence Award in Crop Production programming and has been a national winner and national finalist for four categories of communication awards from NACAA.

Jeanne is actively involved in her family's farm near Atchison. She and her husband Adam, ranch in Cheyenne County and own Crooked Creek Angus.

Victor Ribeiro



Victor Ribeiro earned his BSc in Agronomy and MSc in Crop Production from the Federal University of Jequitinhonha and Mucuri Valleys, Brazil. During his master's program, he was a visiting student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, which led to a two-year research program. Driven by a passion for weed science, Victor pursued advanced studies and earned a PhD in Crop Science from Oregon State University. He is currently an Assistant Professor and Extension Weed Specialist in the Department of Crop and Soil Science at Oregon State University. His research interests include herbicide resistance, weed biology and ecology, herbicide fate and non-target impacts, and integrated weed management. Through his applied research and educational outreach, Victor is dedicated to developing practical, science-based solutions to weed management challenges in Oregon's field crops, working closely with the agricultural community. Victor has received multiple recognitions for his research and professional contributions, including the Outstanding Paper Award from the Weed Science Society of America (2024), Top-Viewed Article recognition in Pest Management Science (2025), and several presentation and scholarship awards from the Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS). He currently serves as an Associate Editor for *Advances in Weed Science*, Ex Officio Board Member of the Oregon Society of Weed Science, and a committee member of the WSWS Herbicide-Resistant Plants Committee.

Secretary

Liberty Galvin



Dr. Liberty B. Galvin is an Assistant Professor of Extension Weed Science and Precision Weed management at Oklahoma State University with an 85% extension and 15% research appointment. Liberty completed her graduate studies at UC Davis in late 2022 under the mentorship of Brad Hanson and Kassim Al-Khatib, focused on how weed biology and ecology can be used for optimizing timing of weed control applications. She has spent her academic career working closely with agricultural producers to solve complex problems related to integrated weed management and takes pride in bringing that experience back to her home state and region.

Her current work includes assessing cultural, mechanical, chemical and weed control strategies to manage herbicide resistant weedy grasses in winter wheat and wheat-cattle systems. This includes variety selection for crop-weed competition studies, tillage influences on weed seedbank dynamics over time, herbicide efficacy field trials, and UAV applications in agriculture. Dr. Galvin is a member of the Wheat Improvement Team at Oklahoma State and teaches a myriad of continuing education courses to pesticide applicator license holders across Oklahoma. Her career goal is to establish Oklahoma State Weed Science as a reliable source of integrated weed management information for row crop and pasture managers across state, tribal, regional, and national landscapes through collaboration and partnership.

Joe Ikley



Joe is an Associate Professor and Extension Weed Specialist for North Dakota State University. He has state-wide Extension responsibility for all crops except potato and sugarbeet. Management of herbicide resistant and other problematic weeds are a primary focus of his Extension programming. He is a co-founder of the War Against Weeds Podcast. His research program focuses on managing difficult to control and herbicide resistant weeds in corn, soybean, and dry edible beans. Joe has been active in WSWS since 2019, previously serving as chair of Agronomic Crops section. He served as host for the 2021 NCWSS summer weed contest, and received the NDSU Excellence in Extension Early Career Award in 2023. He enjoys long walks on the beach, and killing weeds.

Treasurer

Scott Cook



Hi there, I'm Scott Cook. I am currently serving as an Associate Scientist at Hubbard Agricultural Science, a position I have held for the past 15 years. During my tenure at Hubbard Agricultural Science, I have successfully initiated over 1,500 test plots. My work has given me extensive hands-on experience and has contributed significantly to our research and development efforts. I have been an active member of the Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS) for 20 years. Over these years, I have served on the WSWS Finance Committee for the past 4 years and the Local Arrangement Committee for 3 years. My involvement with the Society has been integral to my professional growth and has provided many opportunities to interact with the weed science community. The Western Society of Weed Science has played a major role in my professional life, offering resources, connections, and a sense of community. I would be very humbled to serve as Treasurer of WSWS and would truly appreciate your vote.

Cody Creech

Dr. Cody Creech is an Associate Professor and Fenster Professor of Dryland Agriculture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Located at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center in western Nebraska, Dr. Creech leads a research and extension program focused primarily on wheat production with an emphasis on Weed Science. Dr. Creech was awarded the Crop Science Society of America Early Career Award in 2019 and the North Central Weed Science Society Outstanding Graduate Student Award in 2015. He currently is chair of the WSWS awards committee and serves on the WSWS finance committee.