



WSWS Newsletter

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April 2010

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Report from the President by Joe DiTomaso

The beautiful warm weather and spectacular sunsets of Hawaii were a perfect backdrop to the 63rd annual meeting of the Western Society of Weed Science. Registration was down from past years (250), apparently due of the inability of federal, state and local agencies to attend the meeting. However, those in attendance spent most of their time attending the conference and not by the pool or beach. I think it was the threat of the GPS units in their nametags that kept them at the meetings. As in accordance with Jesse Richardson's wishes, it was a very casual meeting with no ties or suits anywhere to be found. It was also nice to see so many spouses or partners at the retirement reception. Hawaii is always a good time to mix work with some vacation.

As is always a great relief to the Program Chair, the meetings went off smoothly with no major issues. I sincerely thank the committee and project chairs, as well as the moderators, Phil Banks and his group, and the Board of Directors for their efficiency and attention to detail. Every time I checked the room before the start of a session, the chair had everything under control. There is no prettier site for a Program Chair and many thanks to all those involved.

I would also like to thank James Leary for leading a very interesting tour to the slopes of Mauna Kea to see the large gorse infestations. In addition, James Leary and Phil Stahlman organized two outstanding symposia on invasive arid perennial grasses and *Kochia* resistance, respectively. Interestingly, while we were at the meeting there were two large grassland fires in the Waikoloa area, both within sites infested with these invasive arid perennial grasses. Most importantly, I would like to thank our Presidential Awardee and local arrangements chair, Phil Motooka, who came out of retirement to spearhead all our preparations at the Marriott Waikoloa Hotel.

In total, there were 197 presentations, including 70 posters, 96 volunteer papers, 27 invited symposia presentations, and four general session talks. This is a higher number of presentations than the past few years. However, the number of graduate or undergraduate students participating in the annual student paper contest was down from past years, presumably due to the economy. There were 28 total student presentations, 11 as posters and 17 as oral presentations. Many thanks to Andy Hulting for coordinating the student paper contest, as well as the many judges for their commitment.

For those in attendance, I am sure all would agree that our general session was very interesting. Dr. Celia Smith from Hawaii discussed the interaction between fish populations and invasive algae problems on the islands. Dr. Dennis Gonsalves gave a historic overview of the papaya industry and how he was able to get the first transgenic fruit crop accepted for commercial use. His work saved the industry on the islands. Lee Van Wyche updated us on the events in Washington DC and our president, Jesse Richardson, presented an exceptional address on the things important to our success beyond the office or field. I thank all these folks for getting us off to a great start.

As they always do, Phil Banks and his group did an exceptional job of handling every situation seamlessly. At least I didn't notice there were any issues. The society is very lucky to have such a competent Business Manager, and all past Board members can attest to that sentiment.

Finally, there was one item that was voted on at the Business Meeting. The society increased the number of voting members on the Board of Directors from seven to nine by giving the CAST representative and the elected graduate student representative full voting privileges.

I look forward to serving as your president this year and hope you will be able to attend the 2011 annual WSWS meeting in Spokane, March 7-10. If there is anything I can do as your president, don't hesitate to contact me.

Contact us

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Harry Cline 2010 Honorary Membership Award by J. Richardson

Harry's 45-year journalism career covers both daily newspapers and agricultural magazines. He was Western Farm Press' first editor and has more than 35 years of experience covering all aspects of high value, irrigated Western agriculture.



He is a former member of the California Chapter of the American Society of Agronomy executive council and recipient of the 1993 California Agricultural Production Consultants Association's Outstanding Contribution to California Agriculture. Born in Jacksonville, Florida and raised in Texas where he attended the University of Texas. He worked for newspapers in Texas and Arizona before moving to California in 1975 to begin his career as a Western agricultural journalist.

Harry lives in Fresno with his wife Georgann; has 2 children and five grandchildren.

He has covered a wide array of subjects as an ag journalist. His commentaries in recent years have focused on some of the major issues facing agriculture, including California's growing water crisis and other environmental issues.

Perhaps his most impassioned opinions have focused on the issue of biotechnology. He has been an unabashed defender of this remarkable technology and the benefits it offers for not only production agriculture, but its impact on the challenges of feeding the world. Harry often cites the words of the late Nobel laureate Norman Borlaug, father of the Green Revolution, who said that agricultural biotechnology offers far greater advances in feeding mankind than his work.

Today's extreme environmental activist groups often are the target of Harry's commentaries. His editorials have incurred their wrath on many occasions.

Harry says American agriculture's story is a remarkable one; one he will cherish and relay at every opportunity in his career as an agricultural journalist.

WSWS Fellow Award

Richard "Rick" Arnold obtained B.S. and M.S. degrees from New Mexico State University and served as the Assistant Technical Director of the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry from 1976 to 1979. After a short stint as a private consultant, he joined New Mexico State University at the Agricultural Science Center at Farmington where he holds a 100% research appointment. He has progressed up the academic ranks from Instructor to Professor. When Rick assumed his position at the Agricultural Science Center, he had limited resources and no existing research program. He successfully developed a weed-pest management program of value and relevance within his geographic area of responsibility as well as gaining recognition from university and industry scientists outside of New Mexico. This is no small accomplishment considering the relative isolation of his field research station. Current responsibilities include weed control in cropland and non-cropland, insect control in agronomic and horticultural crops, and re-vegetation of disturbed lands using coal bed methane produced water to help establish native and introduced grasses in the oil and gas producing basin of northwest New Mexico. He is the principle investigator for weed and insect control in northwest New Mexico and has conducted an extensive number of trials evaluating the efficacy and selectivity of herbicides for major crops grown in the Four-Corners Region of New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, and Arizona.



Rick has been a faithful and active member of the WSWS since 1986. He has served the Society in numerous capacities including member of the Student Contest, Finance, and Weed Management Short Course Committees; Chair of the Sustaining Membership Committee, Chair of the Horticultural Crops and Agronomic Crops Section's, and Chair of the Education and Regulatory Section; and as Member-at-Large on the Board of Directors. He is also a member of the Weed Science Society of America and is active in the New Mexico Academy of Science, having served as Vice-President and President of that organization. He's also served his profession as an Associate Editor of the Crop Plant Section of the Plant Management Network, affiliated with the Crop Science Society of America. In 2006, he was named the WSWS Outstanding Weed Scientist from the Public Sector.

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WSWS Fellow Award

Dr. Tracey M. Sterling, Department Head and Professor for the Land Resources and Environmental Sciences Department at Montana State University Bozeman, Montana.



Tracy was originally a hard pavement girl from St. Paul, Minnesota, who during her undergraduate career at the University of Minnesota, fell in love with agriculture. She received a BS in Agronomy and Horticulture from the University of Minnesota in 1983, her MS in Horticulture from Michigan State University in 1985 and her PhD in Agronomy/Botany in 1988 from the University of Wisconsin.

Her professional career began in 1989 at the New Mexico State University (NMSU) as an assistant professor in the Entomology, Plant Pathology and Weed Science Department. In 1995, Dr. Sterling was promoted to associate professor at NMSU and in 2001, she was promoted to full professor. In 2009 Dr. Sterling accepted the position of department head and full professor at MSU.

During her academic career, Dr. Sterling has been the author or co-author of 39 refereed scientific journal articles, four book chapters and 128 proceeding abstracts. She has also been very active in the national weed science organization, the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) and has held a number of committee positions in that organization, as well being a reviewer for *Weed Science* and *Weed Technology*. She has served as a co-editor several sections on the *WSSA Herbicide Handbook*.

The fellow award has two basic components: Demonstrated proficiency in weed science and service to the WSWS organization. Dr. Sterling's contributions to the WSW include, but certainly are not limited to, serving on at least eight different committees within WSWS and being chair person of five of those committees; many of the committee assignments within the WSWS were multiple year assignments and she often served on more than one committee at any given time. She has contributed to the society in a multitude of other ways also. Dr. Tracy Sterling is an outstanding weed scientist and a valuable and committed contributor to the Western Society of Weed Science; she is well deserving of the 2010 Fellow of the WSWS award.

Call for Symposium Titles for 2011 Meeting

Deadline for submissions extended to May 1, 2010

Send submission to Vanelle Peterson (vpeterson@dow.com)

The Board of Directors is discussing a process by which WSWS members can get suggestions to the Program chair (President-elect) during the meeting cycle.

A draft of the Operating Guide written by Dan Ball and an ad hoc committee (Joe DiTomaso, Phil Stahlman and Vanelle Peterson) covers symposia protocol (see page 11).

In order to begin this process in 2010 f [WSWS Newsletter](#)

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or the 2011 meeting the board decided to ask that titles be submitted to the Program - chair, Vanelle Peterson, by April 15, 2010 (not a hard day to forget if you have not yet done your taxes!). **The deadline has been extended to May 7** for those receiving the newsletter after April 15.

A tentative list of speakers and a budget will be required for submission to Vanelle by June 1 in order for the board to discuss the symposia ideas at their summer meeting in July .

It is the desire of the WSWS Board of Directors to have an open and transparent process by which decisions are made on which symposia will be included in the meeting agenda. We welcome your comments and especially welcome proposed titles for symposia for the 2011 meeting in Spokane!.

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WSWS 2010 Presidential Award



Philip Motooka

Student Liaison Report by Tanya Skurski

The completion of another successful annual meeting also marks the changing of the guard for the WSWS student leadership. We sincerely thank **Ryan Edwards** from Colorado State University for his two years of excellent service as a Student Liaison. We wish him the best of luck as he completes his Master's degree in Weed Science and in all future pursuits.

Congratulations to **Mike Ostlie** from Colorado State University who was elected the new Student Liaison Chair-Elect. I look forward to collaborating with Mike over the next year on projects to support and enhance the WSWS student membership.

Twenty-eight WSWS student members attended the annual meeting in Hawaii contributing 13 posters and 18 oral presentations.

Congratulations to the following poster and paper contest winners:

- **Holden Hergert** from the University of Wyoming was awarded 1st place in the Undergraduate Student poster contest for his research "Spray Additive Effect on Winter Annual Grass Response to Imazamox" (Weeds of Agronomic Crops).
- **Roberto Luciano** from North Dakota State University was awarded 1st place in the Graduate Student poster contest for his research "Downy Brome Response to Soil Applied Herbicides" (Weeds of Agronomic Crops).
- **Stephanie Christensen** from Utah State University was awarded 2nd place in the Graduate Student poster contest for her research "Establishing Weed Prevention Areas and Evaluating Their Impact" (Teaching and Technology Transfer).
- **Cassandra Setter** from North Dakota State University was awarded 3rd place in the Graduate Student poster contest for her research "Grass Weed Control in Native Species Used for Biofuel Production" (Weeds of Agronomic Crops).

In the Weeds of Range & Natural Areas/Basic Sciences sections:

- **Jared Bell** from Washington State University was awarded 1st place in the paper contest for his research "Characterization of Rubber Production in Eastern Washington Prickly Lettuce Biotypes".
- **Jeremiah Mann** from University of California, Davis was awarded 2nd place in the paper contest for his research "Soil Moisture Stress Tolerance of a Leading Perennial Biofuel Grass is Similar to the Invasive Plant Giant Reed".

In the Weeds of Agronomic Crops/Weeds of Horticultural Crops sections:

- **Michael Ostlie** from Colorado State University was awarded 1st place in the paper contest for his research "Vernalization Effects on Imazamox Translocation and ALS Activity in Feral Rye".
- **Jonathan Mikkelson** from North Dakota State University was awarded 2nd place in the paper contest for his research "Crop Susceptibility to Aminopyralid Soil Residue".

The WSWS initiated the Outstanding Student Scholarship Award program this year which was well-received by the WSWS membership. The purpose of the scholarship is to encourage new weed science research and promote greater student participation at the annual meeting.

Recipients are awarded \$1,000 to assist with travel to the annual meeting.

Congratulation to this year's recipients:

- Jeremiah Mann, a PhD student at the University of California, Davis working with Dr. Joe DiTomaso. His research investigates the invasion potential of the biofuel crops *Miscanthus x giganteus* and *Panicum virgatum* (switchgrass).
- Mary Joy Abit, a Master's student at Kansas State University working with Dr. Kassim Al-Khatib. Her research focuses on treatment and management of acetyl-Coenzyme A carboxylase resistant grain sorghum.
- Wilson V. Avila-Garcia, a PhD student at Oregon State University examining Glufosinate-resistance in weed species with Dr. Carol Mallory-Smith.

Student Scholarship Award Winners



Mary Joi Abit



Wilson Avila-Garcia



Jeremiah Mann

WSWS AWARDS

Outstanding Early Career Weed Scientist



Ian Burke

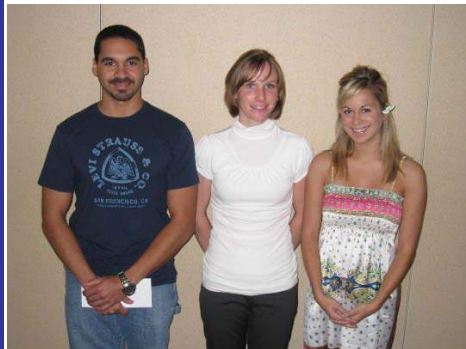
Be on the lookout for the 2010 Scholarship application announcement in the summer newsletter.

The students' voice in WSWs has been strengthened through the Board's passage of an amendment at the Hawaii meeting promoting the Student Chairperson to a voting member of the Board.

As the student liaisons, we are here to foster communication among the students as well as voice concerns and issues to the WSWs membership and Board of Directors. Feel free to contact us regarding activities that may be of interest to the students, as well as any issues you would like communicated to the membership and/or Board: Tanya (tskurski@gmail.com) or Mike (mostlie@rams.colostate.edu).

A **travel reimbursement** of \$45 per student/per night for up to three nights is available to students who attended the annual meeting. Students should have their advisers send an e-mail to Phil Banks with their names, the names of their students, and an address where the refund can be sent.

Student Contest Winners



Graduate Poster Award Winners
Roberto Luciano
Stephanie Christensen
Cassandra Setter



Graduate Paper Contest Winner
Jared Bell Jeremiah Mann

Student Paper Contest



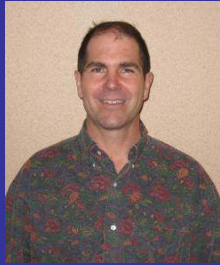
Holden Hergert,

Undergraduate Poster Contest



Michael Ostlie, Jonathan Mikkelson

**Outstanding Weed
Scientist Public Sector**



Drew Lyon

**Outstanding
Professional Staff**



Cheryl Fiore

Calendar of Events

Canadian Weed Science
Society's Annual Conference
November 15-18, 2010 at
the Hotel Delta Regina,
Saskatchewan
For more information
contact Rick Holm at
rick.holm@usask.ca (306)
966-5009 or Clark Brenzil
Clark.Brenzil@gov.sk.ca
(306) 787-4673.

In Memoriam Dr. John "Jack" May—1930-2010

John "Jack" May, 79, passed away peacefully on Friday, February 26, 2010. He was born and raised on a cattle ranch near Steamboat Springs, CO. He was the youngest of five siblings born to Fred and Anna May. His surviving sisters, Frances Dorr-Wheeler and Helen Stonebrink, and other relatives reside at Fruta, CO.



Starting in a one-room school called Fly Gulch, Jack continued his education in Steamboat Springs where he was elected class president five times. He graduated (as student body president) in 1949 from Steamboat High School. He went on to earn an AS from Mesa College, where he was V.P. of the Student Body and met his future wife, Alma Jean Tourney. Jack and Alma were married at Col Poly, San Dimas, CA in 1952 and returned to Steamboat Springs to ranch on the Elk River for eight years. While ranching, Jack was very active in the Colorado Cattleman's Association. Jack enjoyed trout fishing (he was an expert fly fisherman), and hunting mule deer and elk.

Jack returned to college, Colorado State University, in 1960. He earned his PhD in Plant Physiology and was an assistant professor at CSU until he graduated in 1968.

After completing his PhD, Jack and family moved to St. Louis, MO, where he worked for eight years in R&D covering the mid-western states with Shell Development Company. He did technical support for Shell in several states before moving to Shell's Biological Research Center in Modesto, CA as the coordinator for new herbicide development. He traveled extensively in the southeastern states and to England and South America. Jack played a major role in the development of many products, including Bladex, Planavin, Endavin/Matavin, and Cinch as well as several insecticides.

In 1986, Shell sold their agricultural business to DuPont, so Jack and Alma moved to Maryland where he was the herbicide development manager. They returned to CA where he managed a research facility in Fresno. After retiring from DuPont in 1990 he worked as a consultant for Western Farm Service for 14 years, retiring again in 2004. Jack was a member of both WWS and WSSA.

He will be remembered by his peers as "Cowboy" because he wore western clothes, boots, and hat throughout his professional career. He leaves his loving wife, Alma T. May; two sons Sandford W. "Sam" May, Astoria, OR and John M. May, St Louis, MO; two daughters Mary E. May, Los Osos, CA and Jennifer L. Bosso, Santa Barbara, CA. He also leaves his six grandchildren, five great-grand children, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Notes from the Business Office by Phil Banks

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The meeting at the Marriott at Waikoloa Beach on the Big Island of Hawaii was a success even *though* attendance was down compared to past years. Over 250 members attended and we had one of the largest Spouse registrations ever (almost 50). If you did not attend the meeting and have not done so already, you should renew your WWS membership for 2010. You can do this by login to your contact page at the website (www.wsweedscience.org) and scrolling to the bottom of the page. You can also renew by just sending me a check for \$ 25.00 along with your name and current contact information. Your membership will allow you access to pdf versions of past Proceedings. Also, past copies of the Research Progress Reports will soon be posted. You will also receive the Newsletter and updates on upcoming meetings, job postings and other current events. Let me know if you have any questions on this or need additional information.

Our next annual meeting will be at the Doubletree Hotel in Spokane, WA March 7-10, 2011. Plan on being there.

If you need to contact the office, please give us a call at 575-527-1888 or e-mail at wsws@marathonag.com.



Registration is OPEN:

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Weeds Across Borders 2010 conference June 1-4, 2010
 National Conservation Training Center
 Shepherdstown, West Virginia, USA

The theme of this year's conference is **"Plant Invasions: Policies, Politics, and Practices."** Program session topics include: Cooperation & Partnerships, Applied Research Reports, New Issues, Border Management & Recreational Pathways, Economic & Ecological Impacts: Trends & Predictions, Awareness & Education, and Early Detection & Rapid Response.

For more details, and to **register** online, visit www.weedcenter.org/wab2010.

Registration Costs & Deadlines

Late (after April 1): \$150
 Student: \$50 Single Day: \$75

Weeds Across Borders is a biennial international conference covering the interests of professionals and organizations involved in weed management and regulation. It is composed of an affiliation of organizations from various jurisdictions across North America with a common interest in sharing information and promoting weed management throughout North America. Because weeds do not respect human imposed laws or boundaries, we must develop partnerships, share information, and coordinate programs and projects that cross these boundaries.

The goal of the conference is to provide a forum for educating, sharing, and disseminating knowledge about weed management, regulatory issues, and concerns about weed dispersal across and between all jurisdictional boundaries in Mexico, Canada, and the United States.

WAB Conference Contact: Emily Rindos, Center for Invasive Plant Management, Montana State University-Bozeman, (406) 994-7862

2010 Annual Meeting Highlights

Sunset from the hotel beach



WSWS Business Manager Phil Banks giving hula dance lessons.



THREATS TO SHRUBLAND ECOSYSTEM INTEGRITY

16th Wildland Shrub Symposium

18-20 MAY 2010
UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY
LOGAN, UTAH | USA

Linking Research & Management



Online Registration is open

<http://wss2010.usu.edu>

- Papers on Climate Change, Wildlife, Energy Extraction, Invasive Species, Restoration, Wildfire, Recreation, Livestock Grazing, Social and Economic Aspects, and Shrub Biology
- Program will include Plenary and Concurrent Sessions, a Poster Session, and Field tours

The Wildland Shrub Symposium Series are developed by The Shrub Research Consortium (SRC), which was formed in 1983 and now has 27 institutional members. Contributed oral and poster presentations on all aspects of shrublands are encouraged. Symposium proceedings will be published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station; all presenters are strongly encouraged to prepare a manuscript for the proceedings. Manuscripts will be due in December 2010

Contact Organizers

Tom Monaco (tom.manaco@aras.usda.gov) and Eugene Schupp (Eugene.schupp@usu.edu)

Ranching under a volcano submitted by Philip Motooka

The following information was provided by Lani Cran Petrie who runs the 30,000 acre Kapapala Ranch with her husband. The ranch borders the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Vog (volcano + fog) has been a nuisance since Kilauea Volcano erupted in 1983 depending on which way the wind blows. It was noted then that exotic plants defoliated while native plants thrived when the vog was severe. But that eruption was on the far flank of Kilauea. In March 2008, Kilauea erupted at the summit right in the Halema'ūmau Fire Pit in Kilauea Crater which is much closer to Kapapala Ranch. Vog and volcanic ash which is gritty has been a problem since.

The windshields of ranch trucks were etched when wipers were turned on to clear the glass of ash. Galvanized fences facing the prevailing wind and in open pastures have rusted at a rapid rate (sulfur dioxide and sulfuric acid). Galvanized wire clips have lost over 50% of its mass to rust.

Severe vog affects behavior of horses, cattle and goats. They become skittish and aggressive. A swarm of flies was seen fleeing into a copse of trees in front of the advance of a cloud of vog. An unfortunate paniolo (cowboy) searching the bush for strays had one fly entered his ear, requiring a visit to the ER. Ranch hands find themselves winded while doing hard chores.

There are physiological impacts on the animals. High fluoride levels in the vog causes fluorosis in animals. Mottling of teeth, excessive wear and loss of teeth was observed in rather young animals. Animals lost muscle tissue and birth weights fell.

Exotic plants, including garden plants defoliated under severe vog conditions. The weedy trees guava (*Psidium guajava*), strawberry guava (*P. cattleianum*) and Brazil peppertree (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) defoliated and some guava and strawberry guava branches and trunk eventually broke. However, catsclaw (*Caesalpinia* sp.) seems to thrive.

Washington Update April 2010

By Lee Van Wychen Ph.D., Director of Science Policy

The National and Regional Weed Science Societies, 900 2nd St. NE, Suite 205, Washington, DC 20002

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Doubling Campaign for USDA Agricultural and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)

The National and Regional Weed Science Societies have joined in an effort with other agricultural research organizations to double the USDA Agricultural and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) competitive grants program over the next 5 years. Funding was \$193 million in FY 2008 and \$201 million in FY 2009. Our agriculture research coalition was pushing Congress for \$250 million in FY 2010 (exclusive of any Section 406 Program funding), with a goal of \$500 million in total funding by FY 2015. The FY 2010 ag appropriations bill was passed last fall with \$262 million for AFRI.

The FY 2011 budget, released on February 1, targets AFRI for \$429 million. Great! However, \$45.15 million of that increase comes from the Section 406 Integrated Programs being “zeroed out”. The National and Regional Weed Science Societies strongly oppose this budget maneuver. The Section 406 programs include \$4.1 million in funding for the Regional Pest Management Centers, \$5 million for the Organic Transitions Program, \$1.4 million for the Crops at Risk from FQPA Implementation and \$4.4 million for the FQPA at Risk Mitigation Program for Major Food Crop Systems.

USDA Releases RFA's for AFRI Competitive Grants

On March 22, USDA released the request for applications (RFA's) for AFRI and represents a major departure from previous USDA competitive funding. For 2010, \$262 million is available through AFRI, \$61 million more than last year. No less than 30 percent of this will fund integrated projects that have research, education, and extension components.

There are six AFRI RFAs: one Foundational Program RFA and five RFAs targeted at addressing five “challenge” areas. The RFAs support a variety of project sizes and types. The five RFAs in the challenge areas include funding for **large, multi-disciplinary, multi-million dollar** projects called Coordinated Agricultural Projects (CAPs) that are broad in scope. There will be a seventh RFA supporting pre- and post-doctoral fellowships that has not yet been released.

For a **comprehensive chart** of the program areas, program area contacts, and deadlines for **letters of intent** and the final **application deadline**, please go to: http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/afri/afri_program_deadline_dates.html#foundprog

The **Foundational Program RFA** makes \$64 million available to fund research-only projects in program areas that existed in the previous iteration of AFRI and that correspond to congressionally-designated priorities written into the farm bill. These programs previously received the bulk of the program funding, so many of the earlier programs that evolved over the past several decades have **now been ended** as separate priorities, given the decrease in dollars available. This includes the \$4.6 million biology of weedy invasive species program. The members of the National and Regional Weed Science Societies have voiced their extreme dissatisfaction with this since this was the **ONLY** program that has supported weed science work. Many of the other agricultural science disciplines had multiple program areas supported in the old NRI and under the new AFRI structure, at least maintain their discipline's identity.

The **Climate Change RFA** makes \$55 million available to fund integrated, research, education, and extension projects that seek to reduce agricultural use of energy, nitrogen, and water, and that increase carbon sequestration. The RFA includes funding for a Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Agriculture. Specific priorities include developing or improving models and technologies for climate mitigation or adaptation to forecast and control weed, pest, disease, and invasive species outbreaks brought about by climate variability and long-term climate change.

The **Bioenergy RFA** makes \$40 million available to fund Regional Bioenergy CAPs and research grants to help meet the goal of 36 billion gallons/year of biofuels by 2022. The Regional Bioenergy CAPs will support the development of regional systems of bioenergy production that reduce dependence on foreign oil; have net positive social, environmental, and rural economic impacts; and are integrated with current agricultural systems. For biofuel feedstock production systems, they are looking for RFA's that will identify management practices that minimize water usage, and nutrient, pesticide, and herbicide inputs.

The **Global Food Security RFA** makes \$19 million available to fund integrated, research, education, and extension projects that improve food availability and food accessibility, focusing on research that addresses production challenges and that supports the development of sustainable food systems. The FAO estimates that **more than 40 percent** of current crop production among the ten leading food crops is lost to pests and diseases annually. And a majority of that is **due to weeds!** However, this entire program area leaves much to be desired and completely falls short of supporting any practical research that will ensure global food security by economically managing weeds.

The **Food Safety RFA** makes \$20 million available to fund integrated, research, education, and extension projects that seek to improve food safety through the development and implementation of detection technologies, traceability systems, and other strategies, and through increasing the number of food safety scientists. The RFA focuses on particular pathogens and viruses, and includes research on multiple scales of production and processing.

The **Childhood Obesity RFA** makes \$25 million available to fund integrated, research, education, and extension projects that contribute to reducing the prevalence of obesity among children and teens. The RFA seeks to fund proposals that generate new knowledge, develop effective behavioral and environmental interventions, bring to scale effective interventions and assess their impacts, and increase the number of researchers, educators, and practitioners trained to address the problem of obesity.

The webcast by Dr. Beachy regarding the AFRI RFA's can be viewed at <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/newsroom/webcast.html>

Herbicide Resistance Management Policy -WSSA members Bill Vencill, Carol Mallory-Smith, Bill Johnson, Nilda Burgos, Ted Webster, Bob Nichols, John Soteris, and Mike Owen have been working on a “state of the science” review paper on the development of herbicide-resistant weeds and weed shifts that are linked to the introduction of GE herbicide-tolerant corn, soybeans, wheat, rice, cotton, alfalfa and switchgrass. The goal is

publish the review paper via “open access” in *Weed Science* by **Sept. 2010**.

The WSSA continues to work with EPA and industry stakeholders involved in a sound herbicide resistance management program. There is general agreement with the usefulness of mode of action labeling and the critical need for the WSSA education materials including an economic message. Dr. David Shaw, WSSA Past-President, has given presentations to EPA, CropLife America, and the National Association of Conservation Districts where he discussed results after 3 years from the 6-state benchmark study that has shown that net returns on fields managed according to recommended best practices are equal to or greater than the returns on those where glyphosate is used alone. WSSA recommendations include focused educational efforts that target all appropriate groups including media, growers, dealers/distributors, and consultants. We need to convey a consistent, accurate message about managing herbicide resistance and it must be urgent.

Clean Water Act (CWA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits (NPDES)

The WSSA wants to ensure that FIFRA remains the preeminent federal law for pesticide regulation that protects both people and the environment. The extensive research and science-based risk assessments required by FIFRA should not be jeopardized by political agendas. In January 2009, the 6th Circuit Court ruled that EPA’s rule exempting pesticides from CWA permits was not a reasonable interpretation of the CWA since the terms “chemical waste” and “biological materials” unambiguously include aquatic pesticides. The National and Regional Weed Science Societies along with many other stakeholders (including USDA Secretary Vilsack, and House and Senate Ag Committees) asked EPA to petition for a full 6th Circuit court rehearing because it was EPA’s rule that was vacated by the court. When that did not happen, industry petitioned the full 6th Circuit Court to rehear the case, while in the meantime, EPA only asked for 2 year stay in the 6th Circuit decision in order have time to implement National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for pesticides applied “in, over, or near water”. The industry (Crop Life, National Cotton Council, etc...) appeal to the full 6th Circuit Court was denied last summer. Industry then petitioned the Supreme Court to hear the case, but as expected, the Supreme Court decided not to hear the appeal at this time.

EPA has until **April 9, 2011** to implement NPDES permits for all pesticides applied in, over, or near water. EPA plans to release NPDES general permit draft language for public comment by **May 2010**. This will be a very short comment period, likely **no more than 45 days**. Comments will be incorporated into final permit language that will be released to the states in December 2010. States will be required to do their own permitting (except for AK, ID, MA, NM, OK and VT which don’t have EPA authority to do so). State general permits must be approved by EPA prior to **April 9, 2011**

My biggest concern is that exposure to nuisance claims, litigation and onerous fines would prevent/inhibit weed managers from carrying out an appropriate weed management program. In discussions with EPA last week, pesticide applicators could be fined up to \$32,000 day for violating the terms of the NPDES permit. Depending on how EPA drafts language pertaining to “adverse incidents”, weed managers could be in for real surprises come April 2011. I’ll need all your help in reviewing the NPDES permit language once it’s published in the Federal Register in May. Stay tuned.

Spray Drift Labeling. EPA has proposed new language for FIFRA labels which poses many problems. Vague language such as “could cause” or “may cause” adverse effects does not belong on a pesticide label because it is NOT in accordance with the FIFRA risk-based standard of ‘no unreasonable adverse effects’ and it forces state regulators into the role of risk assessor to determine what ‘may or could’ cause an effect, which they are not trained to do and is EPA’s role. EPA’s guidance on how to enforce the proposed drift label language sets an unachievable zero drift standard and sets the stage for frivolous lawsuits and enforcement actions. For example, a headache that is untreated or verified by a medical professional, may be the basis for an enforcement action or lawsuit, particularly when a farmer’s neighbor has a predetermined reason or history of conflict with the farmer. On March 3rd, I submitted comments on behalf of the WSSA, the American Phytopathological Society and the Entomology Society of America Plant-Insect Section in response to the Federal Register notice regarding EPA’s proposed new regulations for pesticide drift labeling and drift labeling interpretation. Together these three societies represent a healthy fraction of all agricultural research and extension efforts on pest management.

Atrazine Re-Evaluation in 2010

Atrazine was re-registered in 2006 after a 3 year review of over 6,000 studies on atrazine. EPA concluded that “no harm that would result to the general U.S. population, infants, children or other...consumers” from atrazine use. However, the new EPA administration wants to review atrazine again, based on questionable data from a study generated by a researcher with a track record of letting his “activism” generate his data. The results from this study have not been able to be reproduced by other scientists. Its unfortunate that this researcher will not share his raw data with EPA, but feels compelled to publish his studies “via press releases” coordinated by agenda-driven environmental groups. We strongly urge EPA to base their conclusions about the future use of atrazine on research that can stand up to scientific rigor and thoroughness.

Senator Reid Introduces Invasive Species Emergency Response Fund Act

In March, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid introduced S. 3063, the Invasive Species Emergency Response Fund Act. The bill is co-sponsored by Sens. Begich (AK), Bennet (CO), Bennett (UT), Feinstein (CA), Merkley (OR), Murkowski (AK), and Wyden (OR). The companion bill in the House, HR 4782 was introduced by Rep. Don Young (AK) and co-sponsored by Shelley Berkley (NV). The purpose of the bill is to encourage partnerships among Federal and State agencies, Indian tribes, academic institutions, and public and private stakeholders to: (1) prevent against the introduction and spread of harmful invasive species; (2) protect, enhance, restore, and manage a variety of habitats for native plants, fish, and wildlife; and (3) establish early detection and rapid response capabilities to combat incipient harmful invasive species. The bill authorizes \$80 million per year for 2011-2015 through federal loans, of which at least 25% of the loan must be repaid in 10yrs. However, “In-Kind Repayment” will be accepted for maintenance, remediation, prevention, alteration, repair, improvement, or restoration activities.

House Passes Bill to Expand Research on Harmful Algal Blooms

In March, the House of Representatives passed legislation that would expand research on harmful algal blooms and hypoxia in U.S. marine and fresh waters. The Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2009 (HR

3650), sponsored by Representative Brian Baird (D-WA), passed by voice vote after falling two votes shy of passage under the 2/3's majority needed under suspension of House rules. If enacted, the bill would double authorizations for harmful algal blooms and hypoxia research programs at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Environmental

Protection Agency (EPA), up to \$41 million a year. The legislation would also require NOAA to oversee the development of regional research and action plans for addressing these poor water quality events. The Senate is currently considering similar legislation (S. 952), which was approved by the Senate Commerce Committee last year.

SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE OPERATING GUIDE

A Symposium Committee will be created as needed to organize and conduct special symposia proposed for inclusion in a WSWS annual meeting. The committee can be comprised of WSWS members and non-members interested in organizing a given symposium. The committee chair shall be a WSWS member. Other committee members shall consist of enough individuals to fulfill the functions of publicity, local arrangements, program and budget development. One member of the symposium committee will be a past-chair of a prior symposium committee. The WSWS Past-President will serve as an ex-officio member of the committee. The Program Committee Chair (President-Elect) will serve as the Board of Directors contact for the Symposium Committee. Committee members will serve until completion of a specific symposium.

The Symposium Committee shall:

- (1) Develop a symposium topic and budget which should include a recommended registration fee structure, preliminary agenda, proposed expenses for travel reimbursement and meeting facilities. (A \$2000 budget cap with justification is suggested).
- (2) Present a preliminary agenda and symposium budget to the current WSWS Program Committee Chair for presentation at the summer board of directors meeting the summer before the proposed symposium.
- (3) The committee shall coordinate with the Publicity, Local Arrangements, and Program Committees to insure that adequate facilities, publicity, and scheduling are available for symposia.
- (4) Forward records, including the Operating Guide, to the new Symposium Committee Chair within six weeks after annual meeting.

TIME SCHEDULE

January-March: Develop new symposium topic ideas a year in advance of the Annual Meeting and present to the Program Committee Chair for discussion at the March Board of Directors meeting. The Board of Directors will rank and approve symposia topic(s) for the forthcoming WSWS annual conference.

March-June: Develop a proposed symposium program schedule for the forthcoming WSWS annual conference, contact potential speakers, and develop a proposed budget.

July: Present to the Program Committee Chair in advance of the summer Board of Directors meeting the proposed symposium program schedule and budget. This program schedule and budget will be presented for approval to the Board of Directors.

August-December: Finalize program for current year symposium. Make necessary arrangements with program speakers. Coordinate with Program Chair on final program scheduling. Work with Publicity Committee to advertise and promote current year symposium. Work with Program Chair on special facilities, and food/beverage needs.

December: The Symposium Committee Chair is responsible for submitting all titles for their symposium to the WSWS website within the same deadline required for all general meeting presenters. Deliver to the Program Chair a final symposium schedule for the current year to include in the Annual Meeting program.

February: Obtain all presentation abstracts from each symposium presenter and submit to the WSWS website as required for all general meeting presenters.



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