

NEWSS News



NORTHEASTERN WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY

August 2008



Comments from the President



Jerry Baron
NEWSS
President

I hope your summer is going well. As the days are starting to get shorter and the students are returning to school and field work is winding down, we turn our attention to planning for the NEWSS' 63rd annual meeting at the Renaissance Harborplace in Baltimore, January 6-8, 2009. This hotel previously hosted our meeting in January 2007. If you recall, this hotel is located in the inner harbor area of Baltimore. There are many excellent restaurants, bars, shopping malls and other neat things to see and do in close proximity. Vice-President Hilary Sandler and the NEWSS Executive Committee have been working on the program. On the first day of the meeting, our plans are to once again have a half day opening session that includes the key note speaker and Presidents address. We will continue to have an awards luncheon. The luncheon will be followed by two special symposiums/workshops. Everyone will have a choice to attend a statistical workshop or a sprayer technology workshop. The second day of our meeting will consist of the graduate student contest and several break out session followed by additional breakout sessions and special symposiums on the final day. The NEWSS meeting will be occurring at the same time as the Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show. Because of this large show which draws many ornamental horticulture growers, rooms in the hotel may be tight. Be sure to secure your room early. You can call the hotels central reservation number at 1800 Hotels-1 and ask for the NEWSS 63rd Annual Block at the Renaissance Harborplace Hotel. Alternatively, you can register on-line at: <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/bwish?group-Code=newnewa&app=resvlink&fromDate=1/6/09&toDate=1/9/09> A final word about the Annual

Meeting, please plan on submitting your paper title by September 19, 2008.

The 26th Annual NEWSS Collegiate Weed Contest was held on July 30, 2008 at the Elbert N. & Ann V. Carvel Research & Education Center, University of Delaware, Georgetown. This year's contest was hosted by Mark Isaacs and Mark VanGessel. If you recall, the Delaware group volunteered at last January's Annual Meeting. With lots of help from lots of people, they put on an excellent and challenging contest. The Society owes the University of Delaware group a huge THANK YOU for their effort. To summarize, there were 22 graduate students and 15 undergraduate students on 11 teams. Participants came from Penn State, NC State, Virginia Tech, Cornell, and Guelph. Congratulations go to all participants of the contest. Specific recognition goes for the first place graduate team Penn State and first place undergraduate team, Guelph 1. The individual undergraduate awards went to Cory Chelko (Penn State) and Scott Snowe (Guelph) who were tied for second place and Blair Scott of Guelph who was top scoring undergraduate. The individual high score for the graduate students were Ryan Pekarek (NCSU), Matt Goddard (Virginia Tech) and Matt Ryan (Penn State) who placed third, second and first, respectively. Again, a hardy congratulation to all participants and thanks to all volunteers. Finally, NEWSS is having dialogue with the North Central Weed Science Society to do a joint contest next year in Indianapolis. If you have any thoughts on doing a joint contest, please provide feedback to me (jbaron@aesop.rutgers.edu) as soon as possible.

Through the efforts of Melissa Bravo and Bill Curran, NEWSS is sponsoring a Noxious and Invasive Management Short Course, September 15 to 18 at the Gretna Glen Camp & Retreat Center in Lebanon, PA. This course is targeted to public and private land managers; policy makers; township and municipality supervisors; and contractors that want to gain a better understanding of noxious and

Highlights:

- INFORMATION ABOUT NEWSS MEETING IN BALTIMORE
- DEADLINES AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS FOR TITLES AND ABSTRACTS
- AWARD NOMINATION DETAILS
- 2008 WEED SCIENCE CONTEST OVERVIEW
- REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS
- SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP LIST

Inside this issue:

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT	1
CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS	2
2009 PROGRAM FOR ANNUAL MEETING	4
TITLE AND ABSTRACT SUBMISSION INFO.	4, 13
2008 WEED CONTEST OVERVIEW	6
WASH. D.C.—SCIENCE POLICY REPORT	10
WSSA REPORT	15

NEWSS News

invasive vegetation management in aquatic and non-cropland situations such as ponds, lakes and riparian areas as well as forests, parks, preserves, conservancies, C.R.E.P (conservation reserve) lands, and rural and urban interfaces such as highway right-of-ways (R.O.W). Registration is limited to 50 participants and at press time, there was a waiting list. Contact Melissa Bravo (mbravo@state.pa.us)

to add you name to the waiting list or discuss opportunities for future short courses.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the efforts of my associates on the Executive Committee as well as volunteers that make the NEWSS a vibrant scientific society. I believe NEWSS continues to meet the needs of its diverse membership because so many give back to the organization in time and effort. We are always looking for others to help. Next year there will be several openings on the Executive Committee as well as service on other committees. Please let any member of the Executive Committee know if you would be interested in being more active and contributing to the future success of NEWSS.

Call for NEWSS Awards Nominations

Your awards committee, consisting of Renee Keese as Chair, Bill Curran, Tim Dutt, Robin Bellinder and Scott Glen, would like to solicit nominations for awards to be presented at our 2009 conference. Awards nomination information and guidelines are on the website (<http://www.newss.org/publications.php>) and are briefly summarized below for your convenience.



Renee Keese
NEWSS
Past-President

AWARDS CRITERIA:

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER AWARD

This is one of the highest honors the Society presents. The purpose of the award is to recognize those members, at any point in their tenure, who have made significant contributions to the NEWSS. Criteria for eligibility include the recipient must being a member of the NEWSS and has made significant contributions to the NEWSS and to Weed Science in the Northeast.

- Recipient must be a member of the NEWSS.
- The nomination must be by letter with 2 supporting letters required.
- The nomination letter should explain in general and specific terms the outstanding contributions of the nominee.
- The contributions must be in regards to the NEWSS and

weed science in the Northeast.

- Awards Committee members are not eligible
- A maximum of three awards can be presented per year.

AWARD OF MERIT

The Award of Merit recognizes career contributions to the NEWSS and weed management in the Northeast. Qualifications include at least five years of participation at the annual meeting and service to the NEWSS. The Award of Merit is normally awarded at or near an individual's retirement.

- At least five years attendance at the Annual Meeting
- A combination of two or more listed below:
 - Presented or was the author/co-author of at least two papers at the Annual Meeting, or
 - Served the society for at least two years on the Executive Committee, or
 - Served the Society for at least two years as a Section Chair

If there are doubts as to whether a member qualifies, the Awards Committee will decide.

OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARD

This award recognizes outstanding contributions to outreach education or resident instruction in Weed Science and weed management. Accomplishments which may be considered (but are not limited to) excellence in Cooperative Extension education, resident instruction, or other educational programs; or the development of novel and effective educational resources in Weed Science.

Criteria include:

- Significant impact of an educational program(s) on weed management practices in the Northeast; and /or
- Innovative and effective educational programs or materials which have improved or enhanced weed management systems in the Northeast (or show the potential to do so); and/or
- Excellence in teaching, as evidenced by innovative teaching methods or significant impact on their audiences (understanding of Weed Science and weed management).
- Candidates for the award must be active members of the NEWSS. Public and private sector members are eligible.

OUTSTANDING RESEARCHER AWARD

This award was established to recognize NEWSS members for their outstanding research contributions in the public or private sector, that have had (or have the potential to have) a significant impact on weed management practices in the Northeast. Criteria for the award include:

- Significant impact (or potential for such) of a research program or project on weed management practices in the Northeast and/or
- Innovative and effective approaches to weed management research and/or
- Development of novel instrumentation or devices used in weed management or weed science research in the Northeast will be considered.
- Candidates for the award must be active members of the NEWSS and can come from the public or private sector.

ROBERT D. SWEET OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD

In its second year, this award was established to recognize outstanding student members of NEWSS at the M.S. and Ph.D. levels for their work and contributions to the field of weed science in research, teaching, extension, and to the society. Criteria include:

- Nominees must be currently enrolled as a student or have received their degrees no more than 12 months prior to the annual meeting.
- Nomination must be made by letter with two supporting letters submitted.
- The nominating letter should explain in general and specific terms the outstanding contributions of the nominee.
- The nominator should also include the following information in the nomination letter:
 - Academic and work history
 - List of research publications including those in peer-reviewed journals, bulletins, society proceedings and popular articles
 - Teaching experience in classroom and laboratory including teaching assistant (include specific responsibilities) and guest invited lectures.
 - Extension activities including field days, presentations at meetings, in-service training, civic personnel, schools, and general public.

This award is limited to a maximum of one M.S. and one Ph.D. level award per year, and both level awards are not required to be given

****SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD****

New Award

This newest award was designed to recognize someone who has gone above and beyond, who works in the area of weed science under the direction of university, federal, industry or private sector scientists. The nominee must demonstrate significant contributions to NEWSS or in the field of weed science. Specific criteria are simple and include:

- Employed in the field of weed science
- A combination of two of the following:
 - Presented or was the author/co-author of a paper at the Annual Meeting, pr
 - Served the Society for at least two years as a Section Chair, or
 - Organized or had significant input into the Collegiate Weed Contest, or
 - Assisted a NEWSS member with other society duties, or
 - Published a paper in other Weed Science journals, or
 - Demonstrated other significant weed science activity (public schools or other areas).
- A nomination letter and one supporting letter are required

This award can be presented to service personnel who are not members of NEWSS but support members of NEWSS.

Please consider nominating a worthy colleague for one of our NEWSS Awards.

Criteria and nomination forms for all awards are posted on-line at:

<http://www.newss.org/publications.php>.

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS:

September 17, 2008

Forward all documents to:

renee.keese@basf.com or

Renee J. Keese, NEWSS Awards Chair

BASF Corp.

26 Davis Drive

DEADLINES:

Title Submission:
September 19, 2008

Award Nominations:
September 17, 2008

Abstract/Key Word Submission:
October 17, 2008

2009 Annual Meeting Program

We have a great program planned for the 2009 Annual Meeting, which will be held at the Renaissance Harborplace, Baltimore, MD. The meeting dates are January 5-8, 2009. Committee meetings and the graduate student mixer are planned for Monday afternoon and early evening, respectively. Tuesday starts with the poster session followed by the General Session, a keynote address, and the first session of graduate student paper. The Awards Luncheon will be held at noon. After lunch, we will be offering two special concurrent workshops. One will feature Dr. Chris Reberg-Horton (NCSSU) and Dr. Leslie Fuquay (Syngenta), who will discuss and review the use of statistics in weed science trials (highlighting some common errors and how to deal with them). The second workshop will feature Dr. Bob Wolf (Kansas State University) who will discuss various aspects of spray technology. Tuesday afternoon will end with another round of graduate student papers.

The Symposium will be held on Wednesday morning with the theme of Biofuels and Weed Management. Our invited speakers include Dr. Tom Richard, Director of the Penn State Institute of Energy and the Environment, Dr. Anna Palminsano, Associate Director of the Department of Energy, Office of Science, Biological and Environmental Research, Washington, DC, Dr. Jacob Barney, Post-Doctoral Researcher, University of California-Davis,



Hilary Sandler
Vice President

and Mr. Andrew Heggenstaller, Research Assistant with the Cropping System Research group from Iowa State University. Depending on the number of graduate student paper submissions, we will continue our presentation of graduate student work until we break for lunch.

Wednesday afternoon will offer our usual suite of concurrent sessions. The Business meeting for the Society is currently planned for the late afternoon. Immediately following, we will have a joint social mixer with members of the Biological Control of Invasive Weeds group. Concurrent sessions will continue Thursday morning. As with last year, we will try to have longer breaks during the concurrent sessions to encourage networking among the membership. Three special symposia will be offered Thursday morning through early afternoon (times approximate): Biocontrol of Invasive Weeds (10 AM-3 PM), an Ornamental Symposium (9 AM-1 PM), and a Turfgrass Symposium (10 AM-1 PM).

On behalf of the Executive Committee, we hope you will plan to join us at the meeting in Baltimore. We encourage membership participation through presentations of oral papers and posters. Please see Greg Armel's article for instructions on submitting titles and abstracts. Please feel free to contact me or any member of the Program Committee with ideas or suggestions for discussion groups or workshops that would be of interest to you. Click on the address below to find a listing of Program Committee members and their contact information: <http://www.newss.org/society.php>.

Submitting Titles and Abstracts

The following information includes steps about submitting titles and abstracts via our website for the upcoming annual meeting. Please follow the included directions, heed the deadlines, and please contact me if there are any questions.



Greg Armel
NEWSS Editor

SIGN-IN. The sign-in section should be available starting August 29, 2008. Go to the home page of the web site (<http://www.newss.org>) and sign in as a member using the password, "NEWSS2008".

SUBMIT TITLE. Simply follow the site's instructions for submission. Select your preference for paper section (Ornamentals, Biology and Ecology, etc.). Enter the title and authors' names in the spaces provided. Be sure to use the pull-down menus at the right to indicate member status and to indicate if an author is the presenter or not. It is critical that we know which papers will be competing in the graduate student contest, so please be sure to indicate this on the title submission form. For the September 7th deadline, fill in the title, authors, and affiliations (type in as it would appear in the final abstract). Try to make sure you have everything as you want it before submitting. Click on the "Submit" button when you have entered all the information. There is no way to view your title prior to submission other than what you see on the screen. If you make an

error, you must submit a new form. If I see multiple forms have been submitted by the same author, I will assume the most recent one is the correct one, unless told otherwise.

SUBMIT ABSTRACT. Sign into the member portion of the web site as above and click on the link to submit an abstract. Scroll down to the part of the window and click anywhere in the area designated to hold the abstract. Cut and paste your abstract in the box provided. There is no need to include the title and authors in the "cut and paste" portion since the correct information has already been entered in the boxes at the top of the page. I would recommend making all changes prior to pasting into the submission form. NOTE: If you have changed authors (added or deleted) or made a title change, please send an email to both Hilary Sandler and me (grarmel@yahoo.com and one to hsandler@umext.umass.edu) to alert us about the change.

ACTION SUMMARY. For the September 19th title deadline, type in title, authors' info, section preference and submit. For the October 17th abstract deadline, enter author information as indicated, cut and paste abstract, select keywords and submit.

BROWSER ISSUES. We believe the submission process works fine with Internet Explorer. If you are using browsers other than Internet Ex-

Sustaining Membership Report

plorer and seem to be having difficulty getting things to work, please let me know.

REQUEST. There are always a couple of items that account for the majority of editing issues and I would ask that you adhere to a few requests prior to submitting your abstracts... 1) If you do not want to pay extra for an extra page do not go over one page of text. In Arial font with 1 inch margins you should aim for ~3,500 characters with spaces. You can count these characters and spacing by highlighting your text and going to your Word toolbar and clicking on "Tools" then "Word Count". 2) Always use approved WSSA common names for crops and weeds throughout the text. Following the first mention of a plant's common name place the WSSA approved scientific name for that weed in parenthesis behind the common name. Do not put scientific names for weeds in the title of your abstract. 3) Always minimize the use of trade names unless it is an abstract describing the initial evaluations of a new product offering or if multiple formulations of nearly identical herbicide products are being evaluated in the described study. 4) Please try to be consistent with your colleagues in the naming of your institute or business. For example, some may refer to a certain university as "Virginia Tech" or "Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University". Last year I tried to standardize everyone based on what the majority of people named the institute or business, so whatever you decide as a group is fine all I ask for is your assistance in maintaining consistency.

Thanks to the following Platinum and Gold level sustaining members for their financial contributions to the 2008 NEWSS



Caren Judge
NEWSS Sustaining
Membership Chair

collegiate weed contest recently held in Georgetown, DE – BASF, Syngenta, Bayer Crop Science/Environmental Science, Dow AgroSciences, DuPont, FMC, and Monsanto. Thanks also to local Delaware sponsors for their involvement – FS Growmark, Helena Chemical Company, and UAP

Chemical Company. **Now is the time to start thinking about your 2009 sustaining membership contribution.** Solicitations will be forthcoming.

Plan Ahead: All sustaining members are eligible and encouraged to participate in the Commercial Display Session at the annual meeting in Baltimore. This session is held in conjunction with the research Poster Session and is an excellent opportunity to inform attendees of your services and products. Details will be forthcoming in the November newsletter.

Lastly, if your company or organization is interested in holding a meeting in conjunction, before, or after the annual meeting in Baltimore, please contact me and the executive committee can connect you with the appropriate hotel personnel to start your planning.

Contact Caren Judge: carrie.judge@basf.com (919-547-2380)

NEWSS Website:

www.newss.org

(click here for title submissions and other society information)

Graduate Student Report

I would like to start off by thanking Mark Isaacs, the rest of the hosts, and the volunteers who made the 2008 colle-



Matt Ryan
NEWSS Graduate
Student Rep.

giate weeds contest a success. I also wanted to thank all of the students who competed and represented their universities with utmost respect and dignity. I can think of no better way for students to learn weed science skills, network with professionals, and have a good time with their peers than the Collegiate Weeds Contest. Between the shade of the oak grove, abundance of watermelon, and golf-toss tournaments between contest events, this year's event was loads of fun with a family picnic feeling.

As summer winds to an end, there are a couple of things that you should remember. The submission deadline for papers and posters at the 2009 Annual Meeting in Baltimore is quickly approaching. If you are a student, please consider participating in the Student Contests, especially the Poster Contest. There is a \$250 cash prize for the first place winner, and yet only four students entered the Student Poster Contest last year. As always, students participating in the Student Presentation Contest will be reimbursed for 50% of their hotel room expense. Keep an eye out for an e-mail from me with more information about the Annual Meeting. In the mean time, I will be in the process of coordinating a speaker for the 2009 Graduate Student Mixer at the annual meeting. If anyone has any ideas for topics or speakers, please let me know. See you in Baltimore.

Research and Education Report

The Agricultural Research Service's (ARS) Customer Workshop on Crop Protection and Quarantine (NP-304) was held at Hyatt Regency, Miami on May 20-23, 2008. This workshop sets research priorities in the areas of weed science, entomology, and nematology for the subsequent 5-yr cycle for USDA-ARS. Weed science representatives from WSSA, regional weed science societies, and other agencies or businesses participated in the workshop. Priority setting sessions were organized as breakout sessions grouped by commodities. In the break session for Tree Fruits, management of perennial weeds, weed biology (models for germination), use of cover crops, weed management in sustainable/organic systems, herbicide application timing, weed management in row middles and newly planted orchards emerged as priorities in weed science. Overall, herbicide resistance management emerged as one of the key issues in weed science. Threshold levels of weeds, weed seed bank dynamics, bio-control strategies, management of invasive weeds, the role of IPM in weed management, strategies to reduce pesticide use were identified as important stakeholder priorities in various commodities. Weed scientists urged ARS to fill the position of National Program Leader of Weed Science by a suitable weed scientist (the position announcement was carried out since then). The ARS is expected to post the action plan generated from this workshop at their website within 3 months. (http://www.ars.usda.gov/research/programs/programs.htm?NP_CODE=304)

At the July EC meeting, the possibility of organizing a symposium/general session to explore medicinal and other beneficial attributes of weeds at a future NEWSS annual meeting was discussed. The Executive committee felt that it would generate interest and urged the R&E committee to pursue it. Comments/ideas from the membership are hereby solicited.



Rakesh Chandran
Research and
Education Coord.

2008 NEWSS Collegiate Weed Science Contest

The 2008 NEWSS Collegiate Weed Science Contest was held at the University of Delaware, Carvel Research and Education Center in Georgetown. All total, 37 graduate and undergraduate students (7 grad teams and 5 undergrad teams) participated from five universities. The universities represented at the contest were North Carolina State, Virginia Tech, Penn State, Cornell, and Guelph. Students participated in four contest segments including weed identification, unknown herbicide identification, sprayer calibration, and farmer problems.

The contest has been described by students as "challenging." The goal of the contest was to include "real-world" scenarios (from agronomic and vegetable crops, and turf) and make the contest fun and educational. Thanks to all of the students, coaches, and volunteers who helped make this event a great success.

The overall results were as follows:

GRADUATE DIVISION:

1st place team: Penn State (Ryan Bates, Nelson Debarros, Ruth Mick, Matt Ryan)

2nd place team: North Carolina State #1 (Peter Dittmar, Ryan Pekarek, Angela Post, Jared Witaker)

3rd place team: Virginia Tech (Matt Cutulle, Matt Goddard, Jen Jester, Tyler Mittlesteadt)

1st place individual: Matt Ryan – Penn State

2nd place individual: Matt Goddard – Virginia Tech

3rd place individual: Ryan Pekarek – North Carolina State

UNDERGRADUATE DIVISION:

1st place team: Guelph #1 (James Ferrier, Kelly O'Connor, Blair Scott)

2nd place team: Penn State (Cory Chelko, Alicia Spangler)

3rd place team: Guelph #2 (Tyler Denham, Amanda Green, Will Sebben, Scott Snowe)

1st place individual: Blair Scott—Guelph

2nd place individual (tie): Cory Chelko—Penn State

2nd place individual (tie): Scott Snowe—Guelph

(Weed contest winners will be highlighted in the next newsletter.)



2008 Weed Science Contest Photos

To see more photos from the 2008 Weed Contest please visit: www.newss.org and click on **2008 Weed Contest** then click on the **2008 Weed Science Contest Gallery**.



NEWSS News

Photos from the Contest

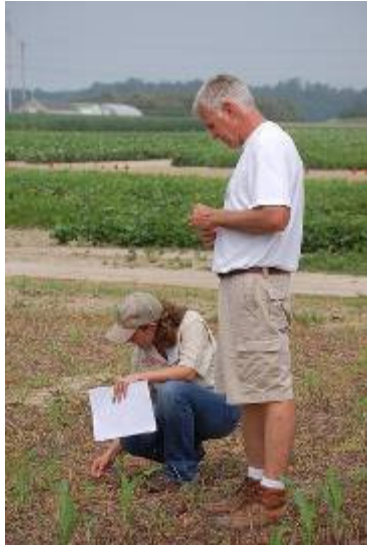


Sprayer Calibration Event and Written Examination



August 2008

Grower Problem Event (Role-play)



NEWSS News

Herbicide Identification Event



Weed ID Event



Washington D.C.: Science Policy Report

2008 Farm Bill Finally Becomes Law

After more than two years of hearings and negotiations, the House and Senate have passed the 2008 Farm Bill. Knowing that the Administration would likely veto the bill, the Farm Bill conference committee members had to make some hard compromises to arrive at a version that would guarantee the two-thirds majority vote needed to override a veto.

The 2008 Farm Bill contains 15 Titles, many of which have provisions with relevance to the WSSA. I'll try and highlight some of these.



Lee Van Wychen
Director of Science
Policy

and Senate have passed the 2008 Farm Bill. Knowing that the Administration would likely veto the bill, the Farm Bill conference committee

members had to make some hard compromises to arrive at a version that would guarantee the two-thirds majority vote needed to override a veto.

In the **Commodity Programs** Title, it is important to remember that before farmers can receive direct payments, counter-cyclical payments, or average crop revenue election payments, they must agree to “**effectively control noxious weeds**” during the crop year for which the payments are made and in exchange for the payments. In other words, all federally listed noxious weeds must be controlled on any land enrolled in the USDA Commodity Programs. That's an important point to emphasize over and over again, especially from our university Extension personnel.

A new provision in the **Conservation** Title involves the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Now producers are allowed to do **routine grazing or prescribed grazing for the control of invasive species** without penalty or loss of their CRP contract. The producers, in coordination with their State technical committee must develop appropriate vegetation management requirements and stocking rates for the land that are suitable for continued routine grazing and must establish the frequency during which routine grazing may be conducted, taking into consideration regional differences such as climate, soil type, and natural resources.

The purpose of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is to provide technical, educational and financial help to eligible farmers and landowners for conservation practices that address soil, water and related natural resource concerns on their farmland in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. Landowners could receive grants under the program of up to \$300,000 over any 6 year period. USDA will select projects based on environmental value, with greater significance given to practices that specifically promote: residue management; nutrient management; air quality management; **invasive species management**; pollinator habitat; animal carcass management technology; or **pest management**.

The **Research Title** has some considerable changes in the organization and structure of USDA's Research Education and Economics mission area that are designed to enhance and streamline multi-agency collaboration. You'll need to get your acronym list out and cross a few off (CSREES, NRI, IFAFS) and add some new ones (NIFA, REEO, AFRI). In addition, we should commend Dr. Gale

Buchanan and his staff for their guidance and leadership in shepherding in \$500 million in **new mandatory research** funds over the next five years in areas such as specialty crops, organic agriculture, and biofuels.

The first new acronym you should add to your list is **NIFA, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture**. All of the authorities under the existing Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (**CSREES**) are transferred to NIFA (i.e. cross CSREES off the list). NIFA will be headed by a Director who is a distinguished scientist and is appointed by the President. The NIFA Director shall report to the Secretary of Agriculture or the designee of the Secretary and will serve a 6-year term, subject to reappointment for an additional 6-year term. NIFA should give USDA's grant-making research agency additional visibility, independence, and scientific credibility similar to that of the NIH or NSF.

NIFA will be responsible for administering the **Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)** grants, which combines the money and authorities from the National Research Initiative (**NRI**) and Initiative for Future Agricultural and Food Systems (**IFAFS**) grants. Thus, you can cross off NRI and IFAFS and add AFRI in their place as the main competitive grants program at USDA. Discretionary funding for AFRI is set at \$700 million per year from 2008-2012 with 60% designated for basic research and 40% to applied. At least 30% of AFRI funds must go to integrated projects that include teaching and extension components as well.

The USDA Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics, currently Dr. Gale Buchanan, will become USDA's chief scientist and retain jurisdiction over the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), the Economic Research Service (ERS) and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). To ensure greater collaboration among these agencies and NIFA, the Under Secretary will have an expanded staff to be housed within a new **Research, Extension and Education Office (REEO)**. The Under Secretary will be charged with preparing an annual "road map" to guide all of the USDA science agencies. The REEO will have six divisions, each led by a qualified division chief reporting to the Under Secretary in the following areas:

- * Renewable Energy, Natural Resources and Environment.
- * Food Safety, Nutrition and Health.
- * Plant Health and Production.
- * Animal Health and Production and Animal Products.
- * Agriculture Systems and Technology.
- * Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities.

As mentioned above, there is \$500 million in **new mandatory research** funds over the next five years in areas such as specialty crops, organic agriculture, and biofuels. The funds in these targeted research areas will be administered by NIFA and distributed through peer-reviewed, competitively awarded grants.

Of the \$500 million in new mandatory funds over the next 5 years, the new **Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI)** will receive \$230 million for developing and disseminating science-based tools to address

needs of specific crops and their regions in five legislatively mandated focus areas:

Research in plant breeding, genetics, and genomics to improve crop characteristics;

Efforts to identify and address threats from pests and diseases, including threats to specialty crop pollinators;

New innovations and technology, including improved mechanization and technologies that delay or inhibit ripening;

Efforts to improve production efficiency, productivity, and profitability over the long term (including specialty crop policy and marketing); and

Methods to prevent, detect, monitor, control, and respond to potential food safety hazards in the production and processing of specialty crops, including fresh produce.

As part of this initiative, approximately **\$27 million in grants will be awarded in Fiscal Year 2008** on a competitive basis for research projects that address the five focus areas above. Priority will be given to projects that are multi-state, multi-institutional, or multidisciplinary; and include explicit mechanisms to communicate results to producers and the public.

Eligible applicants include federal agencies, national laboratories, colleges and universities, research institutions and organizations, private organizations or corporations, state agricultural experiment stations, individuals, or groups consisting of two or more of these entities.

It is anticipated that the **SCRI Request for Applications will be released in July 2008** with a 30-day open period. All applicants are required to provide funds or in-kind support from non-federal sources in an amount that is at least equal to the federal funds requested.

The 2008 Farm Bill will provide \$78 million in mandatory funds over the next five years for the **Organic Research and Extension Initiative (OREI)**, a five-fold increase from the \$15 million allocated in the expiring 2002 legislation. The OREI will facilitate research on the unique challenges of organic production and enhance the ability of organic producers and processors to grow and market organic food, feed, and fiber. The average cost of weed control in organic systems is about \$1000 per acre. In 3 national surveys, organic farmers ranked weed control as their number one priority among 30 different research areas.

The **Biomass Research and Development program** is the main biomass energy research program and is administered jointly with the Department of Energy. The 2008 Farm Bill continues this program and provides \$118 million in mandatory funding over Fiscal Years 2008-2012, which more than doubles current funding. There is an additional \$35 million per year authorized as discretionary funding.

In the Horticulture and Organic Agriculture Title, the 2008 Farm Bill allocates \$377 million for a new **Pest and Disease Program focused on combating invasive pests** and diseases. This program will be a collaborative effort between the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) and state departments of agriculture.

WSSA Members Give Input to USDA-ARS Review of Crop Protection and Quarantine Program

Approximately 20 members of the National and Regional Weed Science Societies traveled to Miami, FL during May 20-23 to participate in the USDA Agricultural Research Service's (ARS) Customer Workshop on Crop Protection and Quarantine (NP 304). While the ARS is an intramural research agency within USDA, they are required to review, identify, and prioritize critical issues from stakeholders and end users to develop and guide future research. The USDA-ARS National Program for Crop Protection and Quarantine (NP 304) is the second largest national program area among the 22 national program areas within ARS with a budget of \$102.8 million in FY2007. The mission of the Crop Protection and Quarantine Program in USDA is "to provide technology to manage pest populations below economic damage thresholds by the integration of environmentally compatible strategies that are based on increased understanding of the biology and ecology of insect, mite, and weed pests.

The weed science community had a broad range of expertise present at the customer review workshop and we would like to recognize them below. We are especially grateful for those not employed by USDA who traveled on their own funds.

Michael Barrett, University of Kentucky
Bill Bruckart, USDA-ARS Fort Detrick, MD
Rakesh Chandran, West Virginia University
Caleb Daley, USDA-ARS Houma, LA
Jeff Derr, Virginia Tech
Don Doggett, Lee County Hyacinth Control, FL
Derrill Fick, North Dakota Weed Control Association
Mike Foley, USDA-ARS, Fargo, ND
David Gealy, USDA-ARS, Stuttgart, AR
Jerry Green, Pioneer Hi Bred, Newark, DE
Brad Hanson, USDA-ARS Parlier, CA
Carroll Johnson, USDA-ARS, Tifton, GA
Bruce Maxwell, Montana State University
Bob Nichols, Cotton Incorporated, Cary, NC
Jill Schroeder, New Mexico State University
Dale Shaner, USDA-ARS, Ft. Collins, CO
Lee Van Wychen, WSSA, Washington, DC
Lori Wiles, USDA-ARS, Ft. Collins, CO

Research priorities that were identified in this workshop will be incorporated along with priorities from other customers and stakeholders, and

Washington D.C.: Science Policy Report (cont.)

through additional input into a 5-year Action Plan for National Program 305 Crop Protection and Quarantine (NP 304). ARS scientists are currently beginning the process of writing the first drafts of this Plan, which will be sent out for review around September. This Action Plan, once finalized, will be available on the ARS homepage at http://www.ars.usda.gov/research/programs/programs.htm?NP_CODE=304. Any input that is outside the scope of NP 304 will be forwarded to the National Program Leaders of the appropriate National Programs for consideration as part of their respective Action Plans. The NP 304 Action Plan will include concerns or issues that are within the mission and/or activities of the Agricultural Research Service, but not those that are addressed by other federal agencies.

Les Mehrhoff Attends CoFARM/BESC Congressional Visits Day in DC.

On April 8-9, Dr. Les Mehrhoff, Director of the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE), located in the Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology at the University of Connecticut traveled to Washington DC for the Coalition on Funding Agricultural Research Missions (CoFARM) and Biological and Ecological Sciences Coalition (BESC) Congressional Visits Day (CVD). Since 2003, CoFARM and BESC have teamed up to organize a CVD in the spring to support funding for USDA and NSF research programs.

During the first day, CVD participants were briefed on aspects of the USDA and NSF research budgets by the following speakers: Whitney Tull, American Society for Microbiology & CoFARM Chair; Robert Sterner, Director of the NSF Division of Environmental Biology; Deborah Sheely, Interim Deputy Administrator, USDA Competitive Programs; and Jean Fruci, Staff Director for House Subcommittee on Energy & Environment. Following the briefings, we held a reception on Capitol Hill honoring the support and contributions of Reps. Brian Bilbray (R-50th CA) and Brian Baird (D-3rd WA). Both Congressmen are members of the House Science Committee and have been very supportive of NSF funding.

On April 9, Les and I began our day with a CoFARM sponsored breakfast in the Secretary's Dining Room at the USDA Whitten Building where Steve Dewey joined us since he was in DC for the week on his WSSA-EPA liaison assignment.

Following breakfast, we headed to Capitol Hill to begin our Congressional Visits. We met with staff members from most of the Connecticut congressional delegation including Senator's Lieberman and Dodd and House Agricultural Appropriations Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro. Overall, the CoFARM/BESC Congressional Visits Day was a big success.

NASS Pesticide Reporting Program Too Expensive for USDA

In May, the USDA announced the planned shutdown of a pesticide reporting program, despite protests from scientists, agricultural chemical companies, commodity organizations, federal and state regulatory agencies, and advocacy groups who wanted the effort

retained.

The USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) maintains that it was simply a matter of budget priorities. NASS officials regret having to cut the program but said that they can no longer dedicate the resources required to run the program, which costs \$8 million of the service's \$160 million annual budget. Since 1990, scientists have relied on the program's data to monitor pesticide uses and trends in order to conduct research, write grants, and adjust their Extension and outreach activities. The NASS pesticide use survey data was the only publicly available and most statistically reliable source for this data.

First Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) Conference a Success

"People-Powered Projects: The National Cooperative Weed Management Area Conference" was held April 15-17, 2008 in Reno, NV. The conference focused on CWMA funding and logistics, working with volunteers, Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR), awareness and outreach, approaches to mapping, and state and national initiatives, and concluded with an all-day field trip to restoration sites in the Reno area.

PowerPoint presentations with audio can now be viewed at http://www.weedcenter.org/CWMAConf/CWMA_conf_home.html (click on "Presentations"). In addition to enjoying 27 talks by speakers from across the U.S., attendees from 37 states provided glimpses of cooperative weed management activities in their own states. Their two-minute presentations are compiled into a slideshow at http://www.weedcenter.org/CWMAConf/CWMA_conf_home.html (click on "Slideshow"), which offers a great snapshot of people-powered projects across the nation.

The conference was organized by the Center for Invasive Plant Management and co-hosted by a broad coalition of organizations: Alaska Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plant Management, California Invasive Plant Council, Invasive Plant Atlas of New England, Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council, Midwest Invasive Plant Network, National Park Service, Nevada Department of Agriculture, and the Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council.

Lee Van Wychen, Ph.D.

Science Policy Director

National and Regional Weed Science Societies

900 2nd St. NE, Suite 205

Washington, DC 20002

Lee.VanWychen@wssa.net

cell: 202-746-4686

www.wssa.net

Instructions for Contributors to the 2009 NEWSS Proceeding

PAPERS RECEIVED AFTER DEADLINE WILL NOT APPEAR IN THE 2009 PROCEEDINGS.



INSTRUCTIONS ARE THE SAME REGARDLESS OF ELECTRONIC OR MAIL SUBMISSIONS.

Greg Armel
NEWSS Editor

GENERAL INFORMATION

Authors may publish abstracts or full-length papers in the Proceedings. Papers should be pertinent to the general area of weed science and should reflect the content of the presentation given at the meeting. At least one author must be a current member of the Northeastern Weed Science Society. Papers submitted after the established deadline will be published in the following year's proceedings. Proceedings will be distributed at the meeting. **Abstracts and papers must be received by Friday October 17, 2008.**

GRADUATE STUDENTS: Please be sure to mark the appropriate label in the pull-down menu on the web site (as to whether you are presenting in the contest or not). When preparing the program, it is critical that we know which papers will be included in the graduate student paper and poster competition and which will not.

PREPARATION OF ABSTRACTS AND PAPERS

Please use Arial font, 12 point. Do not use bold fonts at any place in abstracts or full-length papers.

Format: Title (all CAPS), authors (initials and last name) and authors' affiliations. Graduate student presenters should be identified by an asterisk following their name with a corresponding notation at the bottom of the abstract (see above). Title, author name(s), and author affiliation(s) should be left justified. Do not include the state abbreviation if state name appears in company or university name. The heading ABSTRACT should be centered as in the following example:

WEED RESPONSE TO CULTIVATION. J.P. Smith, H.L. Kim, B.W. Jones, Univ. of Delaware, Newark; and I.M. Weeder, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY.

ABSTRACT

(Body of Abstract)

In the body of full-length papers, center and capitalize all section headings (do not use underline or bold in the headings) including abstract, introduction (justification/rationale), procedures, results and discussion, and literature cited. In full-length papers, insert tables and figures in text, rather than at end of paper.

Titles: Titles should contain no more than 100 characters. Avoid using trade names, herbicide chemistry, or scientific names in titles unless essential for clarification. If the title exceeds one line, use a single space between lines.

Page limitations:

Abstracts: One page of text is permitted with a second page allowed for in

presentation of a table or figure. Use single spacing for the entire text. Those submitting only an abstract are encouraged to include a table if **publication elsewhere is not intended.**

Full-length papers: Five pages are allowed with tables and figures included in the text. Use single spacing for the entire text. A charge of \$25 per page will be levied for papers exceeding the five-page limit. All excess page charges must accompany the manuscripts to the editor. Payment should be in the form of a check made out to the Northeastern Weed Science Society. A receipt will be supplied if requested.

All manuscripts:

Tables: Margins for tables and graphs must be within those specified by typing instructions. Reduced copies of tables and graphs may be used, but must be as clear as originals for acceptable printing.

Herbicide names: If a common name has not yet been approved by WSSA, use the code number. Check the Weed Science Society of America's website <http://www.wssa.net> (click Weed Control, then Herbicide Names) for the current list of approved chemical and common names. Herbicide trade names may be used as long as accompanied by appropriate common name. If use of a trade name is required to properly identify product, at first mention, use the appropriate common name, immediately followed by trade name in parenthesis. Herbicide trade names are acceptable for clarification of pre-packaged mixtures. **ABSTRACTS-** omit chemical names and use only common names. **FULL-LENGTH PAPERS-** at the first mention of an herbicide, except in the title or abstract, give its approved common name or other designation first and follow it with the full chemical name in parentheses or in brackets if there are parentheses within the chemical name. Use only the common name or code name thereafter.

Plant and animal names: In either abstracts or full-length papers, at the first mention of a crop, weed, or other organism in the text (not the title) give the common name, followed by the approved scientific name. The scientific name should be italicized and in parentheses (use additional parentheses if there are parentheses within the scientific name). Give the genus, species, and authority for the binomial. Include the cultivated variety of a crop plant if known and indicate it by enclosing it in single quotes. Example: Corn (*Zea mays* L. 'Dixie 18'). For cultivar names that are registered trade names, insert (R) after the name. For approved common and scientific names of weeds, see the WSSA web site. Click on Weed Photos and Info and then on Common/Latin Names. After the first mention, use only the common names. The term "tolerance" is not used by WSSA. Plants are considered either resistant or susceptible (i.e., triazine-resistant smooth pigweed or glyphosate-resistant soybeans)

Abbreviations: Use abbreviations as shown in the "Herbicide Handbook" or as used in one of the previous year's issues of *Weed Science*. Abbreviations often causing trouble that are acceptable for NEWSS use (although not in agreement with the CBE Style Manual) include two-letter abbreviations for states, Ci for curie, M for molar (do not abbreviate mole), L for liter, ppmw for parts per million by weight, ppmv for parts per million by volume, ae for acid equivalent, and ai for active ingredient. Do not place a period after an abbreviation in the text. Do not start a sentence with an abbreviation. All abbreviations not shown

August 2008



Weed Science should be introduced in parentheses immediately after the first use of the word. Example: cation exchange capacity (CEC). Do not use a hyphen for the preposition “to”; or an “x” for the preposition “by”, except in tables or figures. Write “1 to 3” rather than “1-3” and “100 by 20” rather than “100 x 20”.

Numbers: Use Arabic numbers for all numbers with two or more digits and for all measurements such as time, weight, or degrees except when the number is the first word in a sentence. Spell out numbers when they are the first word in a sentence or when they are less than 10 and not measurements, except when in a series in which one figure has two or more digits. Report only significant numbers.

Measurements and units: It is acceptable to report measurements in English or metric units. It is best to report units in the system in which the study was actually conducted. In laboratory studies, express concentration of acids and bases in normality (N) and of herbicide and salt solutions in molarity (M) rather than ppm. Use ml rather than cc for all measurements of volume.

Footnotes: Number footnotes consecutively throughout the manuscript except for tables that are handled separately. Do not put acknowledgments in footnotes.

Trade names: Use trade names of such items as equipment only when necessary to describe the materials or methods adequately. Capitalize trade names. Footnote names with the address of the supplier only if the supplier is not commonly known.

Full-Length Papers Only:

Acknowledgments: All acknowledgments should be in a separate section immediately following the Results and Discussion.

Literature cited: List citations alphabetically and use the authors and date of publication (in parentheses) in the text. Each citation should include names of all authors, year of publication, complete title, publication, volume number, and inclusive pages, in that sequence. When two or more authors are listed, initials should follow the last name for the first author, but the initials should precede the last name of other authors (see detailed instructions in the CBE Style Manual). Do not leave a space between the period after each initial and the next letter. Books, bulletins, and other similar publications should show as the last entry the number of pages in the publication. Theses, letters, or other communications or publications not normally available in libraries should appear as text footnotes and not in the Literature Cited section.

INDEXING – KEY WORDS

Authors are asked to identify a few key words for each of their abstracts or papers. This can be done at the NEWSS website <http://www.newss.org>. Log in using the password “NEWSS2008”, and then access the **Title and Abstract** option. The key words are used to make an index to the Proceedings. Please be thoughtful when choosing keywords and only list those that are necessary. Capitalize all key words and state noun first, followed by modifier as shown in the following examples: Maple, red or Corn, sweet. Do not show the authority for binomials. Key words will be indexed into the following two groups.

-Author Name(s): last name, followed by initials.

-Main Subject Index (includes herbicides, weeds, crops, non-crops and

subjects). List both common and scientific name(s) for weeds, crops, and non-crop plants.

When listing chemical(s), use WSSA-approved common names, or code number only if no approved name is available. Use trade names for pre-packaged mixtures only. Check WSSA's website <http://www.wssa.net> (click Weed Control, then Herbicide Names) for the current list of approved chemical and common names.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Go to the NEWSS web site at <http://www.newss.org>

and enter the password “NEWSS2008” at the appropriate prompt. Follow the instructions on the web site for both title and abstract submission.

Carefully Review titles, abstracts and papers prior to submission. Once you submit on the web site, you cannot make a correction to that submission. You will need to submit a new form in order to correct mistakes. If you have submitted multiple copies, please alert the editor (grarmel@yahoo.com). I will assume the most recent submission is the correct one unless told otherwise.

Please follow instructions and observe the announced deadline:

September 19 for titles and October 17 for abstracts.

DEADLINES:

Title Submission:
September 19, 2008

Award Nominations:
September 17, 2008

Abstract/Key Word Submission:
October 17, 2008

WSSA Report

Annual Meeting

The 2009 WSSA annual meeting will be held jointly with the Southern Weed Science Society (SWSS) in Orlando, FL at the Hilton in the Walt Disney World Resort from February 9-12.



Toni DiTommaso
NEWS
Representative to
WSSA

Please plan to attend what promises to be a great conference! Also, be sure to bring along the entire family as the conference schedule has been especially designed to promote family events in the late afternoons.

Member registration fees for the 2009 annual meeting are: Early-bird: \$295; Mid-range: \$400; and on-site: \$450. Student registration fees are \$75 and spouses \$80, regardless of the timing of registration.

Please check the WSSA website (<http://www.wssa.net/>) for more information on the annual meeting and for exact deadline dates to qualify for the different pre-registration specials.

Accommodation costs at the Hilton in the Walt Disney World Resort are: single: \$199 + applicable taxes; double: \$219 + applicable taxes; triple: \$239 + applicable taxes.

Titles of Abstracts for the 2009 WSSA Annual Meeting can now be submitted on-line and until **October 15, 2008** at <http://www.wssa.net/>.

The International Biocontrol Group (IBG) will also meet in conjunction with the WSSA/SWSS 2009 annual meeting.

The 2008 WSSA Annual Meeting Abstracts can now be accessed on-line under "Meetings" at <http://www.wssa.net/>. The 2007 Abstracts should be available soon.

The 2010 Annual Meeting will be held February 7-11 in Denver, CO in conjunction with The Society for Range Management.

The 5th International Weed Science Congress held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada from June 23-27, 2008 was a great suc-

cess. More than 500 abstracts were presented and nearly 550 participants from 48 countries attended the meeting.

Other WSSA News

The USDA-ARS has finally posted the job description for the National Program Leader (NPL) for Weed Science. The job posting is open until October 20, 2008 and will be based in Beltsville, MD. Those interested in this employment opportunity can visit: <http://www.usajobs.gov/> and enter "73922246" in the "Search Jobs" box where it says 'What: (Job title, keywords)'. Dr. Ernest Delfosse was the previous NPL for Weed Science, but he was recently appointed Chair of the Department of Entomology at Michigan State University.

Dr. William Vencill from the University of Georgia was selected as the new Editor of Weed Science. Dr. Vencill will assume the position in February 2009 when the current editor, Dr. Robert Blackshaw (Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada- Lethbridge, Alberta) steps down.

The new Editor of the Herbicide Handbook is Dr. Francois Tardif from the University of Guelph. He will take over from Dr. Scott Seneman (Texas A&M University) who was editor of the most recent edition (9th – 2007) of this very valuable WSSA publication.

Dr. Steve Dewey, Utah State University who was appointed as the WSSA/EPA Invasive Terrestrial Weeds Subject Matter Expert will be completing his 18-month term in December 2008. In this position, Dr. Dewey provided advice and expertise to this federal agency in matters related to invasive terrestrial plant management. Please check the WSSA website in the coming weeks for an announcement on this position opening.

The WSSA Board Members spent one day (July 19) of their Summer Meeting in a facilitated tactical planning workshop focused on determining which new projects should be developed and sponsored by the WSSA and what criteria will be used to assess the various project ideas.



2009 WSSA Annual Meeting will be held in Orlando, FL on February 9-12.

Visit www.wssa.net for more details.



Image provided by the Orlando/Orange County CVB



The 2008 Farm Bill: Opportunities and Challenges for Specialty Crops and the IR-4 Project

Over the past several years there has been significant debate and discussion of the government legislation, called the 2008 Farm Bill, which shapes America's farm and food policy. The first Farm Bill was enacted by Congress after the Great Depression.



Jerry Baron
IR-4 Executive
Director

Since that time the Farm Bill has been renewed every five to seven years. This spring, a new five year version of the Farm Bill (officially named Food, Energy and Conservation Act of 2008) was passed by Congress. The Bill was not supported by President Bush and was vetoed. However, there was enough support in Congress to override the President's veto and the Farm Bill is now law.

The deliberations on the 2008 Farm Bill officially began with a series of listening sessions arranged by the Secretary of Agriculture. There was at least one listening session held in every state in order to allow stakeholders to express to USDA officials what they believe are the most critical priorities. During many of these sessions, specialty crop growers spoke up and expressed the need for a government investment in specialty crops.

Prior to the listening session, specialty crop commodity organizations joined together to establish the Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance (SCFBA). This group consisted of more than 120 organizations representing growers of fruits, vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts, nursery plants and other products. Many of the provisions desired by the SCFBA were included in a stand alone legislation titled "Equitable Agriculture Today (EAT) for a Healthy American Act". This 2006 Bill included Titles on Conservation, Trade, Invasive Pest and Diseases, Nutrition, Agriculture Research, Commodity-Related provisions as well as Specialty Crop Block Grants. When the provisions of the EAT Healthy Act were bundled with the Farm Bill, members of the SCFBA spoke on behalf of specialty crop provisions.

As with all good politics, the 2008 Farm Bill is a legislation of compromise; a process of give and take for all. Some groups were calling for radical reforms eliminating direct subsidy payments to farmers; but in the end subsidy payments were reformed, not eliminated. The American Farmland Trust noted on their website (www.farmland.org) "The new farm bill provides funding to improve our environment, protect farm and ranch land, make local foods more widely available and dramatically increase food assistance for families struggling with rising food costs. Equally as important, it makes real gains in subsidy reform with the new Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program that fundamentally changes how government support operates." They further note "While the final compromise bill does not include all of the reforms we would like to see, it is a significant improvement in U.S. farm and food policy. We will build off these new programs, better policies and increased funding now and in the future".

The SPCFBA, whose combined voices were heard, did see many, but not all, of their priorities included in the new law. For the first time, horticulture crops received a part of the \$300 billion dollar investment to support an industry that accounts for nearly 50% of the farm gate value of crops. There are several programs and provisions which benefit specialty crop producers. These include:

- USDA-Foreign Agriculture Service's Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC) and Market Access Programs (MAP) which enhances trade assistance by providing resources to help remove trade barriers and enhance market promotion tools that will help grow international markets.
- Specialty Crop Block Grants program to State Departments of Agriculture have been enhanced by \$466 million over ten years. This program focuses on local, regional and statewide programs to enhance producers' ability to compete in the marketplace and provide consumers with safe, abundant food.
- Expanding the USDA Fruit & Vegetable Snack Program to all schools in all 50 states. This program provides fresh fruit and vegetable snacks to elementary schools and helps develop lifelong healthy eating habits for children through consumption of fruits and vegetables.
- Establishing a specialty crop research initiative consisting of \$230 million of new mandatory funding to support the development and dissemination of science-based solutions and tools to address the needs of specialty crop growers.
- Investing in prevention, early discovery and mitigation programs for invasive pests and diseases.
- Creation of a permanent disaster program for certain specialty crops.
- Creation of a clean plant network for elimination of plant diseases and bacteria during propagation
- Research on the causes of Colony Collapse Disorder which is devastating to honeybees that are important for the pollination of many specialty crops
- Modification of Country of Origin labeling including significantly reduced penalties for mistakes in labeling, new recordkeeping provisions and a provision to allow a state, region or local descriptor to be



deemed acceptable.

There were also significant changes to the Research Title of the 2008 Farm Bill. These provisions may fundamentally change the domestic research infrastructure. The modifications include:

- Establishment of the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA). The purpose of this new Institute is to increase the standing and visibility of USDA's extramural science programs. Essentially, USDA-Cooperative Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) will be transformed into the new institute. This change is critically important for the IR-4 Project because a significant amount of IR-4's resources are managed through CSREES. The Farm Bill specified that the NIFA Director will be a distinguished scientist, who must be nominated by the President and confirmed by the US Senate for a once-renewable six-year term.
- The National Research Initiative will be renamed Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). Funding can be up to \$700 million annually. Of the amount appropriated, 60% will go to basic research and 40% to applied research programs.
- The Under Secretary for Research, Education and Extension will be called USDA's Chief Scientist and will be responsible for Agriculture Research Service, Economic Research Service, and National Agriculture Statistics Service. The Chief Scientist, whose main task is to coordinate activities between NIFA and other research services, will have an expanded staff in the newly created Research, Extension and Education office. There will be six divisions in this new office, one of them being Plant Health and Production.
- The Chief Scientist will be charged with preparing an annual Road Map to guide all USDA research.

How will the Food, Energy and Conservation Act of 2008 affect IR-4? First and foremost, Specialty Crops will have greater importance under the new law. This implies good things for the IR-4 Project and its critical role in providing safe and effective pest management tools for specialty crop growers. Will the 45-year history of multi-disciplinary research and

the delivering of needed crop protection products for specialty crop growers translate into increased and necessary funding for the traditional mission of IR-4? This remains to be seen.

We do know that there are several areas under the new Farm Bill that will likely consider grant proposals from the IR-4 Project. For example, the Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC) program has already funded recent international IR-4 activities aimed at helping to harmonize pesticide tolerances for newer reduced risk products. Lack of international Maximum Residue Limits (MRL) tolerances significantly limits US growers' ability to use the newer products, especially when growers do not know where their produce is likely to be sold. To assist in a MRL globalization effort, the USDA-Foreign Agriculture Service recently awarded IR-4 a three year, \$600,000 TASC grant to conduct a global pilot residue study.

Another area under the new Farm Bill where IR-4 may become increasingly active is with comparative product testing and efficacy data development. Using a 2005 IR-4 pilot project model, IR-4 already has the infrastructure to manage a research program where multiple products (conventional reduced risk and biopesticide) are tested side by side to identify the best solution for a pest management void. Several factors contribute to IR-4's unique capacity to identify the most critical pest management voids. Its relationships with industry to move numerous new (prior to first registration) products into testing, the field infrastructure to conduct efficacy testing and IR-4's capacity to expedite residue studies and registration for promising products make it exceptionally qualified to manage this research. Additionally, this comparative product performance testing may be useful in rapidly screening potential solutions for newly discovered invasive pests. It is anticipated that the IR-4 Project will submit a proposal for this initiative under the Specialty Crop Research Initiative.

The transformation of CSREES into the NIFA (referred to earlier in this article) may have some impact on IR-4. The role of the new Office of Research, Extension and Education is still unclear; therefore, IR-4 is watching this consolidation and its potential impact on the program. One change of great interest to IR-4 is the possible change in indirect costs by the granting agency, NIFA.

There will be many questions as this new Farm Bill is implemented; and we hope our questions will be answered favorably. Be assured that IR-4 and its stakeholders are keeping a close watch on the implementation of the 2008 Farm Bill and its impacts.



NEWSS Vice-President Nominations

The Executive Committee is requesting nominations from the membership for the NEWSS office of Vice-President. The Vice-President serves as chairperson of the program committee and automatically succeeds to the offices of President-Elect, President and Past-President. Nominees for Vice-President will have been members of NEWSS for at least three years. Send nominations to the nominating committee chairman by October 3, 2008:

Bill Curran – Chair
NEWSS Nomination Committee
Penn State University
Crop and Soil Sciences
116 ASI Bldg
University Park, PA 16802
Phone: 814-863-1014
Fax: 814-863-7043
E-mail: wcurran@psu.edu



Remember to submit your titles and abstracts
for the 2009 Annual Meeting in Baltimore

Deadlines:

September 19—Titles

October 17—Abstracts

Submit them via the NEWSS Website @

www.newss.org

On the Move...Where are they now?

In an effort to keep people aware of the whereabouts of various people who have either moved from the northeast or have taken new positions, we are trying to include an updates section in our newsletters. Below are updates on a few people.

Effective September 1, 2008, **Dr. Marija Arsenovic** will be assuming the role of Manager of Weed Science actives for IR-4. With this promotion she will be responsible to coordinate the IR-4 Project's research and registration work for herbicide products for specialty crops. Marija replaces **Dr. Fred Salzman** who left IR-4 earlier this year. Special thanks go to IR-4 Associate Director, **Dr. Dan Kunkel** who managed the IR-4 Project Weed Science Program in the interim while Dr. Arsenovic completed a special project with an aquatic herbicide.

Adam Hixson has joined BASF as an Agricultural Biologist located in RTP. Adams primary responsibilities are related to BAS 800H and soybeans. Adam brings a diverse academic background with a B.S. in Entomology from Texas A&M, M.S. from the University of Florida in Landscape Nematology, and graduated from North Carolina State University with a PhD in Crop Science in May. His research at North Carolina State University focused several aspects of soil / herbicide interactions including a special two year co-operative program with BASF to characterize soil-related properties of BAS 800H. Adam's efforts are already helping us optimize the performance of BAS 800H.

Dr. Renee Keese has joined BASF and relocated from Indiana to North Carolina. She is currently a Biology Project Leader for Turf and Ornamentals and is located in Research Triangle Park. New contact information:

Renee J. Keese
BASF Corp.
26 Davis Drive
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
renee.keese@basf.com
(O) 919-547-2791

Please forward to me (Dwight Lingenfelter, DXL18@psu.edu) any information about yourself or others who have recently moved or changed positions, so it can be included in the next newsletter.

August 2008

WSSA Undergraduate Research Award—2009

The Weed Science Society of America has developed an Undergraduate Student Research Grant designed to encourage and involve exceptional undergraduates in agricultural research. Interested faculty members are encouraged to identify potential award candidates and discuss the possibility of sponsoring a research project. Awards may be used as a stipend, for research budget expenses (travel, supplies, etc.), to defer fees, to defray living expenses for summer research, or any combination of these items.

- AWARD:** Up to \$1000 for support of undergraduate research to be conducted over a minimum of one quarter/semester during 2009. This award may be used to defray the cost of research supplies or as a stipend. Support of a faculty sponsor is required. Awards will be made to the student, to be administered by the faculty sponsor's department.
- APPLICANT:** The applicant is an undergraduate student with a strong interest in Weed Science. Students majoring in all related disciplines may apply.
- TO APPLY:** Applicants should prepare a 2-3 page research proposal including name, address, phone number, E-mail address, title, objective, experimental approach, discussion, budget and references. The discussion section of the proposal should describe the expected results and their possible significance to Weed Science. The student should provide a cover letter in which general academic and career goals are discussed. A copy of the student's academic transcripts must also be provided.
- FACULTY SPONSOR:** 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. In addition, the sponsor should provide a letter of reference including a statement of his/her willingness to supervise the proposed research and to provide needed space, equipment and supplies above those requested in the proposal. The sponsor is encouraged to assist the student in presenting his/her results at a regional Weed Science Meeting.
- HOW TO APPLY:** The completed proposal, academic transcripts, cover letter and faculty letter of support should be forwarded to: Dr. John Jachetta, Dow AgroSciences, 9330 Zionsville Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268-1054; Phone: (317) 337-4686, Fax (317) 337-4649, E-mail: jjjachetta@dow.com. Proposals should be received no later than November 14, 2008. Funding decisions will be made by January 26, 2009 and presented at the 2009 WSSA National Meeting General Session.

Other Announcements

USDA-ARS National Program Leader (Weed Science) Interdisciplinary Announced

Please go to: <http://www.usajobs.gov> and enter "73922246" in the "Search Jobs" box.

Nominators Needed: Weed Science Society of America Awards Nomination Deadline is September 10.

The Weed Science Society of America has many members who deserve recognition for outstanding achievements, contributions and service in weed science, but recognition can only come after nomination. The success of the WSSA Awards Program depends on the efforts of nominators. Now is the time to begin preparing nominations as the **September 10, 2008** deadline will be here soon. Please take the time to nominate so the society can recognize deserving members and students for their accomplishments in teaching, research, extension, industry and service to the WSSA.

Information and instructions for nominations for the awards to be presented at the 2009 meeting in Orlando, Florida are available on the WSSA website (<http://wssa.net/WSSA/SocietyInfo/Nominations.htm>). Nominations are also open for Fellows for 2009 and the Honorary Member for 2010. For additional information about the awards, contact Lori Wiles, Chair, Awards Parent Committee (lori.wiles@ars.usda.gov) or the chair of award subcommittee listed on the website.

NEWSS News

Important Addresses of NEWSS Executive Committee

President: Jerry J. Baron

IR-4 Project Headquarters
500 College Rd East, Suite 201W
Princeton, NJ 08540
Phone: 732-932-9575ex4605 / Fax: 609-514-2612
E-mail: jbaron@aesop.rutgers.edu

President-Elect: David E. Yarborough

The University of Maine
5722 Deering Hall, Room 414
Orono, ME 04469-5722
Phone: 207-581-2923
Email: davidy@maine.edu

Vice President: Hilary Sandler

University of Massachusetts
Cranberry Research Station
P.O. Box 56, East Wareham, MA 02538
Phone: 508-295-2212 ex21/ Fax: 508-295-6387
E-mail: hsandler@umext.umass.edu

Past President: Renee J. Keese

BASF Corp.
26 Davis Drive
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
Phone: 919-547-2791
renee.keese@basf.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Chris Becker

BARR Scientific LLC 6374
PO Box 34, Romulus, NY 14541
Phone: 607-342-3610 / Fax: 315-548-9259
Email: becker89@ftg.net

Editor: Greg R. Armel

Univ. of Tennessee-Knoxville
Dept. of Plant Sciences
2431 Joe Johnson Dr., Knoxville, TN 37996
Phone: 865-974-7324 / FAX: 865-974-1947
Email: garmel@utk.edu

Public Relations Rep.: Dwight D. Lingenfelter

Penn State, Dept. of Crop & Soil Sciences
116 ASI Building, University Park, PA 16802
Phone: 814-865-2242 / Fax: 814-863-7043
Email: DXL18@psu.edu

Legislative Committee Chair: Daniel L. Kunkel

IR-4 Project Headquarters
500 College Rd East, Suite 201W
Princeton, NJ 08540
Phone: 732-932-9575ex4616 / Fax: 609-514-2612
Email: Kunkel@aesop.rutgers.edu

Research & Ed Coord.: Rakesh Chandran

West Virginia University
1076 Ag Sci Bldg
PO Box 6108
Morgantown, WV, 26506
Phone: 304 293-6131 ex4225
E-mail: RSChandran@mail.wvu.edu

Sustaining Membership Chair: Caren A. Judge

BASF Corporation
26 Davis Drive
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
Phone: 919-547-2380
Email: carrie.judge@basf.com

CAST Representative: Robert D. Sweet

Cornell University, Department of Horticulture
167 Plant Sciences Bldg., Ithaca, NY 14853
Phone: 607-255-5428 / Fax: 607-255-0599
E-mail: sdt1@cornell.edu

WSSA Representative: Antonio DiTommaso

Cornell University, Dept. of Crop & Soil Sciences
903 Bradfield Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853
Phone: 607-254-4702 / Fax: 607-255-3207
Email: ad97@cornell.edu

Graduate Student Representative: Matt Ryan

Penn State, Dept. of Crop & Soil Sciences
116 ASI Building, University Park, PA 16802
Phone: 814-865-6679 / Fax: 814-863-7043
E-mail: mrr203@psu.edu



NORTHEASTERN WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY

NORTHEASTERN WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY

The Northeastern Weed Science Society serves the Northeastern United States by bringing together those who are concerned with the knowledge of weeds and their control; cooperates with other scientific societies to promote research, education, and outreach activities; and publishes scientific and practical information of value concerning Weed Science and related fields.

NEWSS Website:

www.newss.org

**Thanks to our Sustaining Members
for their support!**



Baltimore, MD will be the site for the 2009 NEWSS Annual Meeting. We hope to see you there!



NORTHEASTERN WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY 2008 Sustaining Members

Platinum



Gold



Bayer CropScience



Bayer Environmental Science



Dow AgroSciences



MONSANTO
imagine™



Silver

AMVAC



BAAR Scientific LLC

ohp

Partners
with
potatoes

The
IR-4
Project

Gowan
The Go To Company

pbi/gordon
corporation
An Employee-Owned Company

QUALI-PRO

Bronze

ACDS Research
Crop Management Strategies
LABServices, Inc.
Marbicon

Nichino America, Inc.
Valent
WEEDS INC.