



2022-2023 WSSA Standing Committee Report

January 16, 2023

Committee Name and Code: W15 – Formulation, Adjuvant, and Application Technology committee

Committee Chair: Bryan Young

Committee Members (includes sub-committee members):

Ryan Rector, Richard Zollinger, Pete Eure, Angela Kazmierczak, Ryan Edwards, Connor Ferguson, William Patzoldt, Matt Faletti

Board of Directors Liaison: Brett Miller

Committee members rotating off: Angela Kazmierczak, Ryan Edwards, Bryan Young

Recommended members to replace those rotating off:

Angela Kazmierczak and Ryan Edwards have requested to serve a second term on the committee.

Mark Bernards (ml-bernards@wiu.edu) was nominated to replace Bryan Young (NC region)

Matt Faletti was nominated and approved to serve as the next chair for this committee.

Summary of past year's activities including:

- Committee goals
 - Our primary goal in 2022 was to find a committee 'home' for individuals who are involved with alternative and autonomous weed control methods. This includes remote and proximal sensing, selective on-the-go control of weeds using mechanical or chemical tools, ground robots, UAVs, etc. Greg Dahl took up this charge for the WSSA BOD and held a discussion in August 2022,

with the end result being the formation of an Ad hoc committee (Alternative and Autonomous Weed Control Methods) chaired by Nathan Boyd. Mission accomplished. Good work W-15!

- Committee accomplishments (impact of activities on membership, publications, policy, education, other, etc.)
 - See above in Goals
- WSSA funds requested if any?
 - None
- Current state of the committee's projects or activities?
 - The W-15 committee held a virtual meeting on 1/13/23. All active board members attended, as well as Greg Dahl and Nathan Boyd.
 - Discussion from the committee meeting:
 - Greg Dahl discussed the desire to develop a symposium for basic adjuvant knowledge for next year in San Antonio, similar to an adjuvants 101 course to encourage the younger generation of our membership to become more active in this space for research and education. Greg has noted a dwindling number of university scientists active in this area and new innovation is necessary. The CPDA has developed an educational series of presentations and may be a collaborator to engage the WSSA membership in adjuvants. Bryan emphasized the importance of providing some resources (i.e. presentations) that our membership could use as a reference and for the purpose of educating others. Perhaps this would be similar to the WSSA modules on herbicide-resistant weed management from a decade ago.
 - Nathan Boyd provided an update on the new Ad hoc committee for Alternative and Autonomous Weed Control Methods. This committee is still in the process of developing the roster of members and is currently heavily weighted in academics and specialty crops, so they are looking for representation in agronomic crops. The committee will be meeting in person at the 2023 WSSA conference.

- William Patzoldt shared that the EPA was forming an Emerging Technologies committee to define what is considered a ‘targeted’ application of an herbicide and wants to establish an ASABE standard for these selective applications. William indicated it would be important for some practical weed scientists to be involved with this activity if possible.
- Matt Faletti shared that a working group was formed with CropLife America to characterize UAV/drone application of ag chemicals, with the hope of providing some standardization to this application segment. Currently, the various UAV platforms, spray boom configurations, and spray quality produced from UAV in commercial applications is extremely broad and concerns have been expressed in terms of spray drift and the effectiveness of the dose transfer process for optimizing pesticide activity.
- Any new information posted on the WSSA website?
 - None

Summary of plans for next year (changes in goals, key initiatives, plan of action, etc.):

- The committee plans to support Greg Dahl and any effort to develop a symposium on the basics of adjuvants at the 2024 WSSA conference in San Antonio.
- The committee will continue to interact and support the new Ad hoc committee for Alternative and Autonomous Weed Control Methods. We realize there is overlap with W-15, as well as other committees such as specialty crops. The committee will work with Nathan Boyd to avoid any unnecessary overlap in activity, yet build on the strength of synergy between the committees. One suggestion was that the W-15 committee chair participates in the Alternative and Autonomous Weed Control Methods committee meetings and/or activity.

Recommendations for Board or Membership action:

None at this time.