

WSSA Officers Meet with EPA Management during NIWAW

Lee Van Wychen scheduled a meeting on February 25, 2009 with Debbie Edwards, Director of the Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), and her staff. WSSA members in attendance included:

- David Shaw, WSSA President, Mississippi State University
- John Jachetta, WSSA President Elect, Dow AgroSciences LLC
- Jeff Derr, WSSA Past President, Virginia Tech.
- Lee VanWychen, WSSA Director of Science Policy
- Jill Schroeder, WSSA Subject Matter Expert, New Mexico State University
- Kurt Getsinger, APMS Subject Matter Expert, Army Corps of Engineers
- Janis McFarland, WSSA Public Awareness Committee, Syngenta Crop Protection

The discussion was very positive. EPA staff members updated the WSSA representatives on several topics that are of current concern within our discipline. In turn, WSSA representatives offered the technical expertise of our membership to the EPA staff as they address these issues. The topics and information requested from WSSA included:

1. The Sixth Circuit Panel decision concerning the Clean Water Act (CWA) that invalidated the rule implemented by the EPA exempting pesticide spraying in or near water from CWA permit requirements was discussed at length. WSSA understands that EPA will need to develop a new rule if this court decision stands. The agency staff reviewed the facts of the case and explained that the agency was undergoing internal discussion to determine what their next steps will be. The information they presented can be found on the EPA website. They stressed the fact that the agency is committed to working with their state partners. The agency also requested a listing of the states that currently require some form of aquatic use permits. Kurt Getsinger volunteered to provide this information to the agency. In addition, Kurt volunteered to host a field tour and invite key EPA staff and Schroeder to view invasive species issues in riparian zones.
2. The status of the New Spray Drift Pesticide Registration (PR) Notice was discussed. The language in the PR-Notice is still under discussion within the agency. Once the language is finalized, the notice will be released for public comment. WSSA as well as individual members will have an opportunity to provide comment through this process. The group also discussed the need for a symposium to bring all parties up-to-date on new Spray Drift Reduction (DRT) technologies and to provide a forum for discussion of future research needs in the area.
3. The issues around the assessment of herbicides used to control invasive species in rangeland on endangered species were discussed. The WSSA representatives offered to provide examples of cases where herbicide-mediated habitat restoration resulted in preservation of endangered species.
4. The WSSA representatives were interested in understanding agency plans to address management of weeds that are resistant to glyphosate and other herbicide active ingredients. APHIS and EPA awarded a grant to WSSA to review the state of the science in this area. Lee Van Wychen informed them that the authors plan to submit the manuscript in fall 2009 for publication in *Weed Science*. The work will also generate a symposium in 2010. The agency is very interested in the research and extension results from across the country. WSSA will work to provide this information to the agency through Jill Schroeder, WSSA liaison.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Schroeder

WSSA liaison to EPA