

**WSSA Liaison to EPA –OPP (Office of Pesticide Programs)
Interim Report to the WSSA Board of Directors–
Quarter 3, 2013**

January 28, 2014

Third Quarter Activities

The third quarter flew by as I started to fly by myself as the WSSA EPA-Liaison without Jill Schroder by my side. I traveled to DC in July and September and participated in meetings at EPA-OPP, related conferences, and visits to USDA-NIFA offices. I also visited DowAgro Sciences facilities in Indianapolis to view Enlist Technology demonstrations to learn more about this system. Once the university semester began, my visits were from Wednesday morning through Friday afternoon. Expenses for the third quarter totaled \$3,236.74.

July 29-August 2

Jill Schroder and Michael Barrett traveled to the Arlington, VA offices of the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs (EPA-OPP) and met with representatives of the Registration Division (RD) and the Biological and Economic Assessment Division (BEAD). During these meetings we discussed subjects on incorporating resistant management into the reregistration process, the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA), minor crop herbicide registrations, and new herbicide tolerant crops in development. We met with Barbara Madden who oversees pesticide uses on minor crops (defined as crops grown on less than 300,000 acres) and Chris Wosniak, Special Assistant to the Director in the Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division (BPPD). We also attended a meeting of the Plant Tech Team of the Environmental fate and effects Division that examines required plant related studies for pesticide registrations. Jill and I also met with representatives of BEAD to discuss herbicide resistance issues and discussed their database for assessing pesticide use.

Before Jill arrived, I attended a seminar by an EPA research scientist from Corvallis, OR on the responses of constructed plant communities to herbicide mixtures. The EPA would like to have better ways to assess the impact of off-target movement of herbicides, and especially herbicide mixtures, on plant communities. While there were some interesting results, it was unclear how the data could be used to design studies that would be useful to the EPA.

On Tuesday, Jill and I attended a field tour organized by DuPont for the EPA-OPP, FDA, and USDA-APHIS. The tour was conducted at the DuPont Remington Farm in Maryland. The day included field demonstrations on subjects such as bio-fortified sorghum, soybean breeding, canola production, and the history of hybrid corn breeding. There was also a presentation by a local farmer on his operation and displays of his and local herbicide applicator's equipment. The day ended with presentations by DuPont on the impact of federal agency decisions on the timeline for developing new pesticides and genetically modified crops for worldwide use.

A highlight of the trip was a meeting with Dr. Steven Bradbury, Director of the Office of Pesticide Programs, and several others from EPA-OPP. Representing weed science at

the meeting were Harold Coble, Jill Schroeder and Michael Barrett. The primary focus of the meeting was herbicide resistance and the respective roles of the Agency and others in combating further development of this problem. Jill and Harold outlined WSSA educational and other activities concerning herbicide resistance and Dr. Bradbury was invited to participate in a planned workshop on herbicide resistance. In addition, we discussed plans for a second herbicide resistance summit build around the outcome of the workshop. Dr. Bradbury asked about ways to promote BMP adoption and how organizations like WSSA can support EPA in its herbicide, and other pesticide, resistance management efforts. He also expressed his appreciation for the liaison commitment by WSSA and emphasized his desire to meet with the liaisons on a regular basis.

September 25-27

Michael Barrett traveled to the Arlington, VA offices of EPA-OPP and met with staff from both Registration Division and the Biological and Economic Assessment Division. Among the topics discuss were what kind of remedial plans can be employed if resistance to a particular herbicide is discovered, the process of coming to decisions on whether to approve requested additional uses on a herbicide label, common resistance terms among the pest disciplines, and aspects of how EPA-OPP works.

A major part of this visit was attendance at the Herbicide Resistance Workshop on September 26. I full description of this event is included in the report from the Herbicide Resistance Education Committee (E-12b). The workshop was an intermediate planning step between the first Herbicide Resistance Summit and an anticipated second summit. Much of the discussion centered on social science aspects of resistant management. Presentations centered both on individuals, and perhaps more importantly, larger groups recognizing the need to counter herbicide resistant through adoption of BMPs. There was a long list of take-aways from the meeting but a few that struck me were: even though this is a complex problem, it is counter productive to stress this when communicating with practitioners; use simplicity in getting the message across; take the message to a local level; strengthen the data and message on the positive economics of resistance management; and, a bottom up approach may be the most effective way to change behavior.