

Careers in Weed Science

John Hinz: Field Agronomist at Bayer CropScience

Primary duties

I conduct field research to develop new compounds or expand the labels of existing compounds.

How did you begin working in Weed Science?

I grew up on a small farm. I knew I wanted to be an agronomist, but I didn't know what I wanted to specialize in. I worked for 3 summers at the University of Minnesota research farm at Waseca. When I worked there it seemed like weed science was the most exciting area of research.

What do you love about your job?

I like the freedom to set my own schedule. I like working outside in the summer. I get excited seeing some of the new compound that we are working on.

What is exciting about the future of weed science?

I think the most exciting part about the future of weed science is seeing all the wonderful young weed scientists who are coming up through the ranks. I think weed science is in a very good position because of all these great young scientists.

Imparting wisdom

Get involved in clubs at your university. Join the crops or soils, etc. judging teams. Volunteer for leadership positions in the clubs. Attend regional and national societies meetings. Present a paper or poster at these meetings. Interact with the people that you meet at these meetings.

Path to Current Role

Bayer Field Agronomist 24 years

Assistant Professor West Virginia University 2 years



Education

Assoc. 1984 University of Minnesota, Waseca
BS 1987 University of Wisconsin, River Falls
MS 1992 Iowa State University
PhD 1995 Iowa State University

Other interests?

I love to play golf in the summer time.

Involvement in Professional Societies

North Central Weed Science Society. I have served on and chaired several committees. I served as President in 2015. I am currently on the Fellows Committee, the Resident Education Committee and I am the NCWSS CAST representative. I have judged many paper and poster contests. I have been a judge at several weed science contests.

Weed Science Society of America. I serve on the Photo Contest committee. I am currently on the Graduate Student Contest Committee. I have judged several paper and poster contests.

If you are interested to learn more about John's career journey you can email him at john.hinz@bayer.com.