

WASHINGTON REPORT

September 2011

Lee Van Wychen

WSSA Herbicide-Resistant Weed Tour for the EPA

On August 15-17, 2011 the WSSA hosted a field tour of herbicide-resistant weed infestations in Missouri, Illinois, and Arkansas for officials representing the U.S. EPA and the USDA Office of Pest Management Policy. We heard from an array of experts dealing with the ever-expanding herbicide-resistance weed problem that included crop consultants, agronomists, farmers, and university extension personnel. This tour would not have been possible without the outstanding leadership and organization by Dr. Kevin Bradley, University of Missouri, Dr. Bryan Young, Southern Illinois University, and Dr. Jason Norsworthy, University of Arkansas. In addition, Dr. Jill Schroeder, WSSA liaison to EPA helped coordinate the EPA contingent. The tour was sponsored by the United Soybean Board, the Illinois Soybean Association, the North Central Weed Science Society of America, and the WSSA.

The tour started in central Missouri where Kevin Bradley showed us two field sites. The first field had a population of giant ragweed that was resistant to glyphosate and the second field had a population of waterhemp that survived three applications of glyphosate AND three applications of PPO-inhibiting herbicides. The tour continued through southwestern Illinois where Bryan Young discussed the presence and spread of glyphosate-resistant marestail, waterhemp and Palmer amaranth. We observed many fields where glyphosate-resistant waterhemp had become a problem in the last year or two, and were only going to get worse, potentially leading to multiple herbicide resistance in waterhemp. Travel through northeast Arkansas was directed by Jason Norsworthy and Ken Smith, who inundated us with repeated fields of cotton and soybean infested with glyphosate-resistant Palmer amaranth. Many fields were being hand weeded and some were terminated with tillage because of complete crop failure due to herbicide resistance weeds.

The tour provided a first-hand look at the scope, impact, and unique challenges that growers faced when trying to manage herbicide resistant weeds. We saw which best management practices were being used and why. We also saw how the complexity and economics of crop production sometimes prevented or limited other best management practices from being implemented. I think everyone on this tour gained a greater understanding of the realities of battling glyphosate-resistant weeds. It will take a herculean effort from all stakeholders to implement technologies and practices that will thwart the continued escalation of this problem.

Dr. Schroeder did a great job compiling the [full report](#), which can be found at www.wssa.net

PICTURE CAPTION: *WSSA herbicide resistance tour participants on August 17 (front row L to R): Mike Barrett, WSSA President; Stewart Weaver, Arkansas farmer; Jill Schroeder, WSSA Subject Matter Expert to EPA; Kevin Bradley, University of Missouri; (middle row L to R): Carissa Cyran, EPA Pesticide Re-Evaluation Division; Melanie Biscoe, EPA Pesticide Re-Evaluation Division; Maggie Rudick, EPA Registration Division; Lee Van Wychen, WSSA Director of Science Policy; (back row L to R): Ken Smith, University of Arkansas; Jason Norsworthy, University of Arkansas; Dan Kenny, EPA Registration Division; Derek Berwald, EPA Biological and Economic Analysis Division; Bill Chism, EPA Biological and Economic Analysis Division; Julie Langsdale Van Alstine, EPA Health Effects Division; Harold Coble, USDA Office of Pest Management Policy; Bryan Young, Southern Illinois University; Brian Kiernan, EPA Environmental Fate and Effects Division; Grant Rowland, EPA Registration Division; Mike Mendelsohn, EPA Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division.*

Senate FY 2012 USDA Research Funding Outlook Better than House

The Senate Appropriations Committee passed its version of the FY 2012 Agriculture Appropriations bill on September 7. Unlike the House Ag Approps committee, most agencies and programs in the Senate version of the ag bill saw realistic numbers given their past performance and accomplishments in light of the federal budget crunch. It was very disappointing to see Rep. Kingston and his staffers throw out double digit reductions in ag research programs this spring. After five decades of double digit returns on ag research investment by the feds, you'd think they would "get it". Kudos to Sen. Kohl and his staff for their foresight and commitment to agriculture and food research.

<u>USDA Program Description</u>	<u>FY 2011</u>	<u>FY 2012 House</u>	<u>FY 2012 Senate</u>
	Dollars in Thousands		
Agricultural Research Service	\$1,133,230	\$987,581	\$1,094,647
Economic Research Service	\$81,814	\$69,454	\$77,723
National Ag Statistics Service	\$156,447	\$148,340	\$152,616
National Institute of Food Agriculture	\$698,740	\$591,748	\$709,825
- Hatch Act	\$236,334	\$208,000	\$236,334
- Cooperative Forestry Research	\$32,934	\$30,000	\$32,934
- Improved Pest Management & Biological Control	\$16,153	\$14,000	\$15,830
- Ag and Food Research Init. (AFRI)	\$264,470	\$229,500	\$265,987
- Extension Activities	\$479,132	\$407,993	\$478,179
- Smith Lever	\$293,911	\$259,200	\$295,800
- Integrated Activities	\$36,926	\$8,000	\$8,000
- Section 406	\$29,000	\$8,000	\$17,964
- Regional IPM Centers	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$2,994
- FQPA Risk Mitigation (RAMP)	\$0	\$0	\$0
- Crops affected by FQPA (CAR)	\$0	\$0	\$0
- Methyl Bromide Transitions	\$2,000	\$0	\$1,996
- Organic Transitions	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$3,992
Animal and Plant Health Inspec. Serv.	\$863,270	\$783,838	\$820,110

NPDES Permits- We need your help!

We need your help to make sure H.R. 872 passes the Senate. H.R. 872 ensures that pesticide applications over or near water are regulated through the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and fixes some misguided court decisions that will result in a duplicative and costly National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. On March 31, the House passed H.R. 872 by a vote of 292-130. On June 21, Senate Ag Committee passed H.R. 872 without any amendments. Nineteen of the 21 Senators on the Committee supported the bill. Currently, Sen. Cardin from Maryland has placed a hold on the bill. By placing a hold on the bill, Cardin blocks the measure from coming to the Senate floor for passage under unanimous consent. Under Senate practice, it would take 60 votes to break the hold. This is where you come in! Please ask your Senators to support H.R. 872. Please click here: [Take action on NPDES legislation](#). It only takes a minute!

Senate includes \$4 Million for the Corps' Aquatic Plant Control Research Program

Amid all the turmoil to reduce the federal budget deficit, the Assistant Secretary of Army for Civil Works, Jo-Ellen Darcy, made the poorly informed decision to eliminate funding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Aquatic Plant Control Research Program (APCRP) in the FY 2012 budget. This is the nation's only federally authorized program for research and development of science-based management strategies for invasive aquatic weeds. We have asked the Army Corps of Engineers and Congress to restore funding

to \$4 million for FY 2012. While our efforts to get \$4 million in funding restored by the House fell on deaf ears, the Senate Appropriations Committee included that amount in their mark-up of the FY 2012 Energy and Water appropriations bill on Sept. 7, 2011.

There is no question that the work conducted by APCRP's 18 research scientists has been effective, efficient, and invaluable in our nation's fight against foreign aquatic invaders. We applaud the Senate Appropriations Committee on Energy and Water for restoring \$4 million for APCRP. It would be a grave mistake by the Corps' to eliminate the expertise and institutional knowledge encompassed by APCRP. There is still a lot of FY 2012 fiscal drama to play out, but we will need everyone's support to help convince Congress and the Army Corp's of Engineers to include \$4 million for APCRP in FY 2012.



SAVE THE DATE – the next National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) will be held February 26 to March 3, 2012 in Washington DC. A week of activities, briefings, workshops and events focused on strategizing solutions to address invasive species prevention, detection, monitoring, control and management issues at local, state, tribal, regional, national and international scales.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- National Invasive Species Council public meeting
- Grassroots action to prevent and control invasive species – Panel discussions and Webinar
 - Success stories and challenges
 - Cooperative Weed and Invasive Species Management Areas and Tribal efforts
- Capitol Hill Briefings on aquatic invasive species, including quagga and zebra mussels and Asian Carp
- Workshop on invasive species prevention and management in urban areas
- Invasive Species Award Ceremony and Reception
- Kids Invasive Species Awareness Day at the US Botanic Garden
- Invasive Plant Issues and Solutions
- Prevention through outreach and awareness – Experts panel on lessons learned
- Invasive Species Solutions – poster session
- Update by federal agencies on important invasive species issues and initiatives
- State and Local events highlighting invasive species efforts throughout the country!

Check www.nisaw.org for more details and further developments.

Lee Van Wychen, Ph.D.
Science Policy Director
National and Regional Weed Science Societies
5720 Glenmullen Place
Alexandria, VA 22303
Lee.VanWychen@wssa.net
cell: 202-746-4686
www.wssa.net