



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our 65th annual meeting was held jointly with the Canadian Weed Science Society in Vancouver, British Columbia. The General Session on Monday was set to host Dr. Jennifer Grenz, an Indigenous Scholar (Niaka'pamux, mixed ancestry) in the Department of Forest Resources Management at the University of British Columbia. When Dr. Grenz had to cancel due to illness, Dave Clements of Trinity Western University, Langley, BC, did a fantastic job as a pinch hitter and gave us a fantastic sense of Dr. Grenz's work. If you want to learn more about Dr. Grenz's perspectives on humans' relationships with plants, check out her newly published book, "Medicine Wheel for the Planet: A Journey Toward Personal and Ecological Healing," a book based on her doctoral work. Both societies honored their members who demonstrated excellence in Weed Science; hats off to all the awardees! (See the list of recipients in this newsletter.) On Tuesday, about 20 hearty souls braved inclement weather and ran and walked through the puddles on the Puff Run 5K. Honoring another CWSS tradition, Tuesday night featured "Dine arounds" and were quite popular. More than 410 presentations were given, with approximately 175 as posters and 235 as oral presentations.

The WSSA Board met both before (in-person) and after (virtually) the meeting to conduct society business on behalf of the membership. We approved the formation of a new committee, Targeted and Autonomous Weed Management Technologies, and await input to revise the MOPs accordingly. The WSSA Finance Committee, led by Lauren Lazaro, conducted another round of proposal evaluations for the Innovative Grants Program. WSSA is supporting three projects for a total of \$99,954. The primary intent is to provide seed money for truly innovative weed science work that could then be leveraged for additional grant funds. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Bill Chism successfully submitted a proposal to an RFP and will serve as a WSSA Regulatory Consultant. The funds will support his efforts as Chair of the Endangered Species Act committee, development of materials to support agricultural research funding, and his guidance on several WSSA committees including Science Policy and Herbicide Resistance Education.

A shout-out to the 2025–2026 WSSA Board of Directors. We know that there

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**CALL FOR
2026 SYMPOSIA**
(see inside, page 3)

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is a lot of work to do and we are already hitting the ground to address issues important to Weed Science and you, the WSSA member. We had several changes to the Board this year as a few of our members rotated off. Thanks to Jim Kells for his many years of service as NIFA Liaison, Carroll Moseley, who rotated off as our Past President, Isabel Schlegel Werle as Graduate Student Member, and Darren Robinson as our CWSS representative. Thanks for your leadership and service. We welcome Navdeep Godara as our new Graduate Student Member, Charles Geddes as our new CWSS Representative and Todd Baughman as our new NIFA Fellow. Jim Kells will be helping Todd with his new NIFA Fellow responsibilities. We also welcome aboard Dawn Refsell as our incoming Vice-President. Stay posted for more information from Ian Burke, our Program Chair for the 2026 meeting, scheduled for February 9–12 in Raleigh, North Carolina.

As always, the annual meeting was geared towards highlighting our students and our meeting in Vancouver was no different. On Monday, there was a Student Lunch and Business Meeting that featured a presentation on “Stand Out in the Crowd: Job Search and Interview Strategies.” Students could compete in either the Single Slide Talk (SST) contest, offered by WSSA, or the 15-minute oral contest offered by CWSS. A special workshop on “Exploring Bioinformatics in Weed Science” was held on Tuesday afternoon. With more than 90 students stepping up, there were 48 poster, 24 SST, and 19 15-minute talk contestants. Congrats to the winners of the oral, poster and photography contests!

We offered four symposia during the annual meeting: “Contribution of Genomics to Nontarget Site Resistance Knowledge and Management,” organized by Roland Beffa and Caio Brunharo; “Not your Old Professor’s Journals: Rapid Change in Academic Publishing,” organized by Sarah Ward and Chris Willenborg; “Endangered Species Act: Description of the EPA’s Herbicide Strategy, Communication Resources, and Scientific Information Useful to Regulators,” organized by Bill Chism and a team of colleagues; and “Experiences and Insights from Recently Funded Weed Scientists in NIFA’s Competitive Grant Programs,” organized by Jim Kells and Vijay Nandula. Thanks to the organizers and all the attendees who made the symposia a success.

I want to acknowledge our fantastic colleagues and collaborators from CWSS who were key in the planning of the Vancouver meeting and made the tours and other events a great success: Robert Nurse, Dave Clements, Alida Janmaat, Victoria Brookes, and Breanne Tidemann. Thanks for the consistent and professional efforts of Eric Gustafson and Kelley Apodaca. Hats off to Lovreet Shergill, Vanessa Jones, Leonardo Gonzalez, Darrin Dodds, Marty Schraer, Breanne Tidemann, Isabel Werle, Virginia Oeggerli, and William Kramer for organizing the oral and poster contests for the students and other student events. Thanks to the many volunteers who stepped up to be Section Chairs, Moderators, and Judges and pitched in wherever needed. We could not do it without you!!

Our goal for the upcoming year is to be productive and engaged on multiple fronts, including advocating for Weed Science on the Federal level as well as improving communication between the Board and our WSSA committees. Upcoming events include the DC Fly-on May 5–8 where Dawn, Ian and I will be joined by the Regional Presidents and Lee Van Wychen; more on that next time! Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your WSSA President this year. If you have suggestions to help the society improve and serve you better, please let me know!

Kindest Regards,
Hilary Sandler
WSSA President

WSSA FUTURE MEETING SITES AND DATES

February 9–12, 2026
WSSA Annual Meeting
Raleigh, North Carolina
Ian Burke, Program Chair
www.wssa.net

**WSSA HOME PAGE
ACCESSED AT:
www.wssa.net**

THINK NEWSLETTER

Deadline for July issue
June 1, 2025

SEND NEWSLETTER

MATERIAL TO:
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WSSA NEWSLETTER

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CALL FOR SYMPOSIA

2026 Annual Meeting of WSSA

The 66th Annual Meeting of the Weed Science Society of America
Raleigh Marriott Crabtree Valley • Raleigh, North Carolina
February 9–12, 2026

WSSA members are invited to submit proposals for symposia at our annual meeting. **The proposal deadline is June 13, 2025.** The board will evaluate the proposed symposia based on the justification, the target audience, publication plans, and the completeness of the proposal agenda and budget. Symposia organizers are strongly urged to consider publication of the symposium papers in one of the WSSA's journals and publication will be one of the factors considered in selecting symposia for the meeting. We also encourage symposia organizers to consider building in a discussion period to further increase audience participation.

Please see the guidelines below for symposia funding from the WSSA. Requests for travel support can be made for non-members only.

Symposium proposals should be emailed directly to the WSSA President Elect and Program Chair Ian Burke (icburke@wsu.edu) and copied to the Vice President Dawn Refsell (dawn.refsell@corteva.com) by **June 13, 2025**. *You will receive an email confirmation that your proposal has been received.* If you have any questions, feel free to email Ian.

SYMPOSIUM PROPOSAL FORM

Title:

Organizers:

Contact Person:

Phone:

Email:

Justification and Objectives (approximately 300 words):

Target Audience:

Publication or Outreach Plans associated with symposium presentations:

Associated Section(s):

Length of Proposed Program:

Proposed Titles and Speakers:

Budget Requested: **(Please specify the expenditure of the funds as opposed to submitting an overall amount. The more detailed the budget, the better the WSSA Board of Directors can evaluate the proposal.)**

GUIDELINES FOR DISPOSITION OF WSSA FUNDS FOR SYMPOSIA EXPENSES

Funds are available to support symposia approved by the WSSA Board of Directors for the upcoming meeting. These funds can be used by the symposium organizers, working in conjunction with the Program Chair, for expenses incurred in securing speakers. The intent of these funds is to support travel of non-member speakers.

The following guidelines are intended to help the symposia organizers and the Program Committee in allocating available funds. For a half-day symposium, the maximum allowable budget will be \$5,000 of which up to \$1,000 can be used for symposium publication costs. For full-day symposia, the maximum allowable budget will be \$6,000 of which up to \$2,000 can be used for symposium publication costs. The funds will be allocated as necessary to partially cover speaker travel expenses.

Members of the WSSA who agree to present symposia papers will not be offered travel funds except in extreme emergencies to be determined by the Program Chair. An example of such a circumstance would be a WSSA member who is a renowned expert in the field of the symposia topic, but who has no source of funds to attend the annual meeting.

No honoraria will be offered to any speaker. No more than three nights lodging will be offered to non-member symposium speakers. All symposium speakers who are not members of the WSSA will be offered free registration at the annual meeting and a free ticket to society events (other than tours) during that week. Funds for reimbursement of some, or all, travel expenses (travel, meals, and lodging) will be made available to non-member symposium speakers based on need, availability of funds, and the value of the speakers to the program.

If less than the maximum allowable funds (\$5,000 for the half-day; \$6,000 for the full-day) are used for speaker travel expenses, the difference cannot be used for other purposes. Chairs should contact their intended speakers and determine their financial needs for participation. This information should be incorporated into the detailed budget for the proposed symposium.

Symposium proposals must be submitted to the WSSA

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CALL FOR SYMPOSIA CONTINUED from pg 3

President Elect and Program Chair Ian Burke (icburke@wsu.edu) and copied to the WSSA Vice President Dawn Refsell (dawn.refsell@corteva.com) by **June 13, 2025**. The WSSA Board will evaluate the submitted proposals and decide which symposia will be funded. The WSSA Program Chair will inform the organizers of the symposia selected for funding. Symposium organizers that receive funding can then proceed with offers of funding to non-member speakers. In no event should symposium organizers make commitments for more funding from WSSA than what was approved by the board. Symposium organizers are free to seek additional or alternate funding sources if symposia budget limits are insufficient to cover travel expenses for non-member speakers. Symposium organizers should **strongly consider** publication of symposia papers in *Weed Science*, *Weed Technology*, or *Invasive Plant Science Management*.

Ian Burke, 2026 WSSA Program Chair

Room rates at the Marriott Raleigh Crabtree Valley Hotel for the 2026 meeting will be \$225 per night plus tax. There are a limited number of student rooms available for \$169 per night plus tax. The hotel will provide a rooming link and phone number to secure these rates. Cut off date for reservations will be January 15, 2026.



WSSA 2025 Student Contest Awards

WSSA Single Slide Talk (SST) M.S. Contest

Winners

1st Place: Charles Smith III, University of Georgia
2nd Place: Jenna Beville, Virginia Tech
3rd Place: Hannah Johnson, Michigan State University

WSSA SST Ph.D. Contest

Finalists

- Luisa Baccin, Oregon State University
- Pamela Carvalho Moore, University of Arkansas
- Sarah Chu, Texas A&M University
- Hannah Lindell, University of Georgia
- Sithin Mathew, University of Minnesota
- Navjot Singh, University of Minnesota

Winners

1st Place: Luisa Baccin, Oregon State University
2nd Place: Hannah Lindell, University of Georgia
3rd Place: Sarah Chu, Texas A&M University

M.S. Poster Contest Winners – Sections 1 & 2

Section 1

1st Place: Luke Schmitz, Texas A & M University
2nd Place: Devanshi Het Desai, Montana State University
3rd Place: Ankit Yadav, University of Nebraska

Section 2

1st Place: Tunde Akanbi, Auburn University
2nd Place: Kyle Elizalde, Michigan State University
3rd Place: Gavin Sparks, Louisiana State University

Ph.D. Poster Contest Winners – Sections 1, 2, & 3

Section 1

1st Place: Conner Purvis, Michigan State University
2nd Place: Cristiana Bernardi Rankrape, Southern Illinois University
3rd Place: Andre Araujo, Colorado State University

Section 2

1st Place: Ryan Hamberg, Texas A & M University
2nd Place: Cory Ketchum, University of Arkansas
3rd Place: Tristen Avent, University of Arkansas

Section 3

1st Place: Megan Schill, Texas A&M University
2nd Place: Jacob Felsman, Michigan State University
3rd Place: Kapil Chobhe, Texas A&M University

2025 WSSA AWARDS



Dr. Ramon Leon
WSSA Fellow



Dr. Anita Dille
WSSA Fellow



Dr. Christopher Preston
Honorary WSSA Member



Dr. Janis McFarland
Public Service



Dr. Eric Patterson
Outstanding Early Career
Weed Science



Navdeep Godara
Ph.D. candidate
Outstanding Graduate Student



Bruce Barker
Excellence in Journalism



Dr. Mithila Jugulum
Outstanding Teacher



Dr. David Simpson
Outstanding Industry



Dr. Peter Dotray
Outstanding Extension



Jason Norsworthy
US-HRAC Herbicide Resistance
Management



Dr. Marty Williams
Outstanding Research



Dr. Stephen Enloe
Invasive Plant Science & Management



Timothy Grey
Weed Science



Jason Bond
Weed Technology

----- Outstanding Associate Editors -----

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Anna Sophie Westbrook
Invasive Plant Science & Management



Harry Streck
Weed Science



Michael Marshall
Weed Technology

----- Outstanding Reviewers -----

OUTSTANDING PAPER AWARDS

Outstanding Paper: Invasive Plant Science and Management

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/invasive-plant-science-and-management/article/long-term-interactive-impacts-of-the-invasive-shrub-Ionicera-maackii-and-whitetailed-deer-odocoileus-virginianus-on-a-deciduous-forest-understory/68C9B82C32EDA17E457159D3BF73B8D2>

(hyperlink not available; copy and paste to your browser to view paper)

Authors: Marco Donoso, Hanna Leonard, and David Gorchoy

Outstanding Paper: Weed Science

Atmospheric deposition of dicamba herbicide can cause injury to sensitive soybean

Authors: Eric Oseland, Mandy Bish, Robert Lerch, and Kevin Bradley

Outstanding Paper: Weed Technology

Growth and fecundity of Palmer amaranth escaping glufosinate in cotton with and without grass competition

Authors: Eric Jones, Colden Bradshaw, Diego Contreras, Charles Cahoon, Katherin Jennings, Ramon Leon, and Wesley Everman

2025 John Jachetta Undergraduate Research Award

The Weed Science Society of America has developed the John Jachetta Undergraduate Student Research Grant Program designed to encourage and involve exceptional undergraduates in agricultural research. Awards may be used as a stipend, for research budget expenses (travel, supplies, etc.), to defer fees, to defray living expenses for summer research, or any combination of these items.

The 2025 recipients are:

Abigail Hurtgam

John M. Arnold

Ross Bodine

Megumi Metcalfe

Fay Siringoringo

For more information on the
2025 Weed Science Society of America awards:

<https://wssa.net/wp-content/uploads/WSSA-CWSS-AWARDS-BOOKLET-Updated-2.20.25.pdf>



WASHINGTON REPORT

by Lee Van Wychen, Director of Science Policy

TAKE MYSTERY OUT OF ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT REQUIREMENTS

Spraying herbicides in 2025?

*Here's what you need to know about
ESA requirements.*

By: Tom J. Bechman

tom.bechman@farmprogress.com

Midwest Crops Editor, Farm Progress

Originally published online on

January 28, 2025

[https://www.farmprogress.com/
crop-protection/take-mystery-out-of-
endangered-species-act-requirements](https://www.farmprogress.com/crop-protection/take-mystery-out-of-endangered-species-act-requirements)

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Farm Progress

Tom Bechman does an excellent job covering some of the new requirements associated with applying certain herbicides related to the Endangered Species Act and I encourage you to read his article. In short:

1. Read label first.
2. Mitigate pesticide runoff.
3. Mitigate spray drift.
4. Check Bulletins Live! Two.
5. Identify PULAs.
6. Understand compliance.

Full details at <https://www.farmprogress.com/crop-protection/take-mystery-out-of-endangered-species-act-requirements>

WRDA 2024 SIGNED INTO LAW ON JAN. 4, 2025

The bipartisan Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) was signed into law on January 4, 2025, a month after the leaders of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee announced a final agreement. Congress has passed WRDA legislation on a biennial basis since 2014. WRDA 2024 maintains the regular consideration of this infrastructure legislation, and it provides Congress the opportunity for input

into the projects undertaken by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE).

Section 104 of the River and Harbor Act of 1958 (33 U.S.C. 610) directs the Secretary of the Army to enter into partnerships with applicable States and other Federal agencies to carry out actions to prevent the introduction of, control, or eradicate, to the maximum extent practicable, invasive species that adversely impact water quantity, water quality, or ecosystems in the Platte River Basin, the Upper Colorado River Basin, the Upper Snake River Basin, the Lake Erie Basin, the Ohio River Basin, and the Upper Missouri River Basin. The Secretary of the Army shall give priority to projects that are intended to control or eradicate Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*), or saltcedar (of the genus *Tamarix*).

WRDA 2024 directs the Secretary of the Army to include the Connecticut River Basin to its list of priority areas to carry out actions to prevent the introduction of, control, and eradication of hydrilla.

CAST AND SoAR COMBINE

The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) and the Supporters of Agricultural Research (SoAR) Foundation have merged. Both organizations have focused on advancing agricultural science and innovation.

CAST, which produces reports and conducts webinars on agricultural science and innovation topics, will acquire SoAR's resources and mission. This includes taking possession of several reports published by SoAR. Since its founding by the late Dr. William Danforth, the SoAR Foundation has driven impactful campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of agricultural research funding, securing significant funding boosts for USDA's

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI).

CAST was established in 1972 as a result of a 1970 meeting sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council. CAST is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization with a membership composed of scientific and professional societies, universities, companies, nonprofits, libraries, and individuals. CAST's Board is composed of representatives of the scientific societies, commercial companies, nonprofit or trade organizations, universities, and a Board of Directors. All six of the national and regional weed science societies are members of CAST. Our CAST Representatives include:

WSSA – Jill Schroeder
APMS – Gray Turnage
NCWSS – Tom Peters
NEWSS – Randy Prostak
SWSS – Todd Baughman
WSWS – Greg Dahl

CAST's primary work is the publication of task force reports, commentaries, special publications, and issue papers written by volunteer experts—economists, legal experts and scientists from many disciplines. These documents cover issues related to:

- Food sciences
- Agricultural technology
- Animal sciences
- Plant and soil sciences

BROOKE ROLLINS CONFIRMED AS USDA SECRETARY



On February 13, Brooke Rollins was confirmed as the 33rd Secretary of Agriculture by 78–22 vote in the Senate. She is the second female to hold that position. Brooke is originally from Glen Rose,

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Texas. Most recently, Rollins served as the Founder, President, and Chief Executive Officer of the America First Policy Institute (AFPI). During President Trump's first administration, she was the Director of the Domestic Policy Council and Assistant to the President for Strategic Initiatives in the White House. She also previously served as Director of the Office of American Innovation.

Rollins graduated with honors from Texas A&M University with a degree in agricultural development and was the first female to be elected student body president. After earning her Juris Doctor with honors at the University of Texas School of Law, she served as Governor Rick Perry's policy director before running the Texas Public Policy Foundation (TPPF) for 15 years. At TPPF, Rollins elevated a small policy organization to a national force and redefined the possibilities for a state-based think tank — setting the model and aspiration for AFPI. Rollins and her husband, Mark, call Fort Worth, Texas home, and spend a large majority of their free time taxiing their four very active children to baseball games, cattle shows, piano lessons, and Aggie football games.

SCOTT HUTCHINS NOMINATED TO LEAD USDA REE MISSION AREA



Scott Hutchins has been nominated to serve as the Deputy Undersecretary for the USDA Research, Education and Economics (REE) mission area, which includes the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Economic Research Service (ERS), National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and Office of the Chief Scientist. He previously served in this role from January 2019 to January 2021.

Hutchins, an entomologist, has been

an adjunct professor of entomology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln since 1997. He served as a research and development leader at Dow Agrosciences (later Corteva Agriscience) from 1987 to 2018. A date for his nomination hearing in front of the Senate Agriculture Committee has not been set yet.

LEE ZELDIN CONFIRMED AS EPA ADMINISTRATOR



On January 29, 2025, [Lee Zeldin](#) was sworn in as the 17th Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Administrator Zeldin will work closely with the dedicated career officials at the agency to fulfill the agency's mission to protect human health and the environment.

Zeldin is currently in his 22nd year in the United States military, having deployed to Iraq in 2006 with the Army's Elite 82nd Airborne Division and continues to serve as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve. He served in the New York State Senate from 2011–2014 and later represented New York's First Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives from 2015–2023.

During his eight years in Congress, Zeldin worked across party lines to preserve the Long Island Sound and Plum Island. He supported key legislation that became historic, bipartisan success stories like the Great American Outdoors Act and Save our Seas Act to clean up plastics from our oceans. He also led the fight for Sea Grant, combated per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water, voted for the Lautenberg Chemical Safety Act, and supported clean energy projects on Long Island.

At just 23, Lee became the youngest attorney in New York State at the time. Born and raised in Suffolk County,

New York, Lee and his wife Diana are proud parents to their twin daughters, Mikayla and Arianna.

DOUG BURGUM CONFIRMED AS SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR



On January 30, the Senate [confirmed Doug Burgum](#) as the 55th Secretary of the Interior Department with a 79–18 vote.

Raised in Arthur, North Dakota, Burgum worked as a chimney sweep to help pay his way through North Dakota State University before earning an MBA from Stanford University. In 1983, Doug literally “bet the farm” to provide seed capital for a software startup called Great Plains.

Doug led Great Plains through a successful IPO and grew the company to over 2,000 employees before its acquisition by Microsoft. Burgum remained with Microsoft for six years as the Senior Vice President of Business Solutions.

In 2016, Burgum was elected to serve as North Dakota's 33rd Governor. In 2020, he was re-elected in a landslide. Under his leadership, North Dakota passed the largest tax cut in state history and dramatically reduced red tape. Forbes named him “America's Best Entrepreneurial Governor.” During his tenure, North Dakota experienced the highest growth in real GDP and had the lowest unemployment rate in the country.

Burgum has three adult children. He is married to Kathryn Burgum, a nationally recognized advocate for addiction recovery.

JACOB BARNEY APPOINTED TO INVASIVE SPECIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[Virginia Tech ecologist appointed to prestigious national Invasive Species Advisory Committee.](#)

Jacob Barney, professor of invasive
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plant ecology in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech, has been appointed by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of the Secretary to serve a two-year term on the Invasive Species Advisory Committee.

JOINT STATEMENT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN EPA AND FWS TO PROTECT ESA SPECIES

On January 14, 2025, the EPA and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) signed a Joint Statement of Cooperation to enhance endangered species protections while supporting sustainable agriculture. This agreement streamlines consultations under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), helping ensure compliance while giving farmers more flexibility to use pest management tools like pesticides.

Key actions include improving efficiency in pesticide-related consultations, advancing species conservation under ESA section 7(a)(1), and implementing multi-chemical approaches like the Herbicide Strategy to minimize impacts on endangered species. Improving consultation efficiency increases flexibility for the agricultural community and keeps pest management tools in farmers' hands, while protecting endangered species.

The Joint Statement of Cooperation was co-signed by Ed Messina, EPA's Director of the Office of Pesticide Programs, and Jake Li, Assistant Director of Ecological Services for USFWS.

[Read the EPA's section 7\(a\)\(1\)/7\(a\)\(2\) Plan \(pdf\)](#) (596.23 KB)

[Read the Joint Statement of Cooperation \(pdf\)](#) (407.53 KB)

CONGRESS PUNTS FARM BILL INTO 2025

- The 2023 Farm Bill extension expired on Sep. 30, 2024. That was the

second 1-year extension of the Farm Bill. Federal agricultural policy has not been updated since 2018.

- On Dec. 21, 2024, the U.S. Senate passed a continuing resolution by a vote of 85 to 11, extending FY 2024 funding levels for three months, authorizing a one-year farm bill extension to Sep. 30, 2025, and securing farm and disaster aid.
- The 119th session of Congress began on Jan. 3, 2025 with a Republican House, Senate and Administration.

THE NEW HOUSE AND SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE 119TH CONGRESS

Rep. GT Thompson, PA, Chair

Rep. Frank Lucas, OK
Rep. Austin Scott, GA
Rep. Rick Crawford, AR
Rep. Michael Bost, IL
Rep. Scott DesJarlais, TN
Rep. Doug LaMalfa, CA

Rep. David Rouzer, NC
Rep. Trent Kelly, MS
Rep. Don Bacon, NE
Rep. Dusty Johnson, SD
Rep. Jim Baird, IN
Rep. Tracey Mann, KS
Rep. Randy Feenstra, IA
Rep. Mary Miller, IL
Rep. Barry Moore, AL
Rep. Kat Cammack, FL
Rep. Brad Finstad MN
Rep. Monica De La Cruz, TX
Rep. Ronny Jackson, TX
Rep. John Rose, TN
Rep. Zach Nunn, IA
Rep. Derrick Van Orden, WI
Rep. Dan Newhouse, WA
Rep. Tony Wied, WI
Rep. Rob Bresnahan, PA
Rep. Mark Harris, NC
Rep. Mark Messmer, IN
Rep. David Taylor, OH
Rep. Angie Craig, MN,
Ranking Member
Rep. David Scott, GA

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USFWS LISTS PETITIONS TO ADD 7 NEW SPECIES AND REMOVE 1 SPECIES FROM ESA LIST

On January 19, 2025, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced 90-day findings on seven petitions to add species to, and one petition to remove a species from the Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Based on USFWS's review, they petition to list the Amargosa toad (*Anaxyrus nelsoni*), Carson Valley monkeyflower (*Erythranthe carsonensis*), large marble butterfly (*Euchloe ausonides*) (including the large marble butterfly type subspecies (*Euchloe ausonides ausonides*), Mohave ground squirrel (*Xerotherophilus mohavensis*), Morrison bumble bee (*Bombus morrisoni*), Oasis Valley population of Amargosa speckled dace (*Rhinichthys nevadensis nevadensis*), Tennessee bottlebrush crayfish (*Barbicambarus simmonsii*), and one petition to delist the golden-cheeked warbler (*Setophaga chrysoparia*).

If you have new scientific or commercial data or other information concerning the status of, or threats to these species, please contact the USFWS.

Common Name	Location	Docket #
Amargosa toad	Southern Nevada	FWS-R8-ES-2024-0176
Carson Valley monkeyflower	Reno, NV	FWS-R8-ES-2024-0100
Large marble butterfly	Sacramento, CA	FWS-R8-ES-2024-0097
Mohave ground squirrel	Carlsbad, NM	FWS-R8-ES-2024-0098
Morrison bumble bee	New Mexico	FWS-R2-ES-2024-0099
Oasis Valley speckled dace	Southern Nevada	FWS-R8-ES-2024-0177
Tennessee bottlebrush crayfish	Alabama	FWS-R4-ES-2024-0101
Golden-cheeked warbler	Austin, TX (delist)	FWS-R2-ES-2024-0179

Rep. Jim Costa, CA
Rep. Jim McGovern, MA
Rep. Alma Adams, NC
Rep. Jahana Hayes, CT
Rep. Shontel Brown, OH
Rep. Sharice Davids, KS
Rep. Andrea Salinas, OR
Rep. Don Davis, NC
Rep. Jill Tokuda, HI
Rep. Nikki Budzinski, IL
Rep. Eric Sorensen, IL
Rep. Gabe Vasquez, NM
Rep. Jonathan Jackson, IL
Rep. Shri Thanedar, MI
Rep. Adam Gray, CA
Rep. Kristen Rivet, MI
Rep. Shomari Figures, AL
Rep. Eugene Vindman, VA
Rep. Josh Riley, NY
Rep. John Mannion, NY
Rep. April Delaney, MD
Rep. Salud Carbajal, CA
Rep. Chellie Pingree, ME

Sen. John Boozman, AR, Chair

Sen. Mitch McConnell, KY
Sen. John Hoeven, ND
Sen. Joni Ernst, IA
Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith, MS
Sen. Roger Marshall, KS
Sen. Tommy Tuberville, AL
Sen. Jim Justice, WV
Sen. Charles Grassley, IA
Sen. John Thune, SD
Sen. Deb Fischer, NE
Sen. Jerry Moran, KS

Sen. Amy Klobuchar, MN,**Ranking Member**

Sen. Michael Bennet, CO
Sen. Tina Smith, MN
Sen. Richard Durbin, IL
Sen. Cory Booker, NJ
Sen. Ben Ray Lujan, NM
Sen. Raphael Warnock, GA
Sen. Peter Welch, VT
Sen. John Fetterman, PA
Sen. Adam Schiff, CA
Sen. Elissa Slotkin, MI

EPA UPDATES PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING MAPS TO PROTECT ENDANGERED SPECIES

On December 19, 2024, the EPA took another step to reduce potential impacts to farmers from implementing endangered species protections while continuing to protect endangered species by publishing a process (<https://www.epa.gov/endangered-species/process-epa-uses-develop-core-maps-pesticide-use-limitation-areas>) that it will use to develop maps for protecting species designated as threatened or endangered (listed) by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and their designated critical habitats. These maps allow EPA to protect listed species from the use of pesticides through **geographically specific** mitigations. The process identifies areas where listed species are likely to be located and areas where they are not, which ensures that additional measures to protect listed species are only required in these areas.

A huge amount of credit for this improvement goes to **Dr. Stanley Culpepper** and **Dr. Taylor Randell-Singleton** at the University of Georgia for their work on refining habitat maps for two endangered salamander species in their state. When the Enlist Duo label was published in 2022 for ESA mitigations, almost one million acres in 11 Georgia counties were restricted due to two endangered salamanders' habitat. They worked through a process that defined actual salamander habitat. After refining the maps and identifying actual salamander habitat, they found that only 0.37% of the area (i.e. 3,700 acres out of 1,000,000) should be restricted due to salamander habitat.

As EPA assesses pesticide impacts on listed species, the agency may find that some mitigations are only needed to protect listed species. In those cases, EPA will only apply those mitigations where appropriate and necessary in

geographically specific areas (referred to as Pesticide Use Limitation Areas or PULAs). PULAs are areas where pesticide exposures are likely to impact the continued existence of a listed species, which may include a reduction in survival or recovery of the species.

When developing a PULA for a specific species, EPA starts by developing a "core map." A core map identifies areas that are important to a species, which could be a refined range map. In cases where range maps are broad and include areas where a species is no longer thought to live, then core maps would only include areas within the species range where the species likely currently lives. The process released on December 19 is intended to identify such areas and exclude areas from EPA's core map where the species is not likely to live. After developing a core map for a species, EPA develops a PULA that accounts for pesticide movement from a use site (e.g., spray drift and run-off) by adding adjacent areas to the core map. Developing a core map or PULA does not alter FWS' range map.

EPA's goal is to develop core maps for all FWS listed species that may require protections with respect to pesticide exposures. The agency is focusing first on creating core maps for listed species identified in its **Vulnerable Species Action Plan (VSAP)**, released in September 2024. This provides a framework for EPA to adopt early, meaningful protections to address potential impacts for listed species that the Agency identifies as particularly "vulnerable" to pesticides. EPA has developed core maps for several VSAP species, which can be found on the agency's website, and will be developing core maps for the remaining VSAP and other listed species and making them publicly available as they are completed. EPA has also prioritized a subset of listed species for core map development.

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Additional information can be found in the core map development process document. Visit EPA's website to learn more about how [EPA's pesticide program](#) is protecting endangered species.

11 STATE ATTORNEY GENERALS PETITION EPA ON RULE REGARDING MISBRANDED PESTICIDES

The EPA is seeking public comment on a petition received from the Attorneys General of the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Carolina, and South Dakota requesting that EPA initiate rulemaking to amend the existing regulations under FIFRA.

The Attorneys General believe that EPA should modify its requirements such that any state labeling requirements which are inconsistent with EPA's findings and conclusions from its human health risk assessments would constitute misbranding.

As an example, in 2017, California decided to require a Prop 65 label on glyphosate sold in their state, despite EPA repeatedly finding that glyphosate is unlikely to be a human carcinogen and that there are no risks of concern to human health when glyphosate is used in accordance with its label.

Comments must be received by March 24, 2025. Details at: <https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OPP-2024-0562-0001>

FEDERAL COURT JUDGE VACATES APHIS RULE ON GENETICALLY ENGINEERED ORGANISMS

On December 2, the federal district court for the northern district of California threw out streamlined regulations of bioengineered crops, creating uncertainty in ag biotech laboratories across the country. In 2020, USDA APHIS finalized a rule that simplified reviews of genetically engineered plants such as herbicide tolerant soybeans and Bt-cotton.

The rule also exempted from regulation crops made by editing the species own genes, on condition the gene-editing produces a trait that conventional crossbreeding could have created. In a lawsuit filed in 2023 by the National Family Farm Coalition, Friends of the Earth, Pesticide Action Network, Center for Environmental Health, Center for Biological Diversity, and Center for Food Safety, they argued that USDA had not followed procedures required when agencies create new regulations.

The court agreed with plaintiffs that it was arbitrary and capricious for APHIS not to incorporate its noxious weed authority in its final rule, and to exempt from regulatory review GE plants with changes that could have been achieved through conventional breeding techniques without adequate substantiation for these positions in the final rule record. The court vacated the rule as of December 2, 2024 and ordered the parties to meet on outstanding issues in the case. USDA may revert to its prior rules until the case is fully resolved, which could take years.

BONANNO HONORED WITH THE IR-4 PROJECT SOAR AWARD



The [SOAR Award](#) honors external partners of the USDA IR-4 Project who exemplify the areas of Service, Outreach, Altruism and Research (SOAR), while supporting specialty crop growers and the mission of The IR-4 Project.

Rich Bonanno, is currently the Executive Director of the Association of Southern Region Extension Directors (ASRED). He has also served in the roles of former Associate Dean of NC State CALS, Director of NC State Cooperative Extension, and Vice Provost for Outreach and Engagement at NC State. Dr. Bonanno has been a long time member of the weed science societies and served as chair of WSSA's

Science Policy Committee for many years.

Dr. Bonanno's legendary career and dedication to the land-grant mission has benefited countless growers and research units, including IR-4. As a specialty crop grower himself, Bonanno has a deep understanding of fellow growers' needs. Bonanno also has a long history of collaboration with IR-4; he was a charter member of IR-4's Commodity Liaison Committee (CLC) beginning in 1992, and chaired this committee from 2014–2016 (until he began his influential time at NC State). More recently, Bonanno played a pivotal role in advocating for and supporting IR-4's move from Rutgers University to NC State. As Dr. Bonanno transitions from NC State to an influential new role with ASRED, the IR Project celebrates his commitment to the growers and researchers of our region and thank him for being an exceptional ally to IR-4.

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THINK NEWSLETTER

Deadline for July issue
June 1, 2025

Graduate Student Representative Report

The 2025 joint annual meeting of WSSA and CWSS in Vancouver, Canada, provided an outstanding platform for graduate students to present their research and engage with fellow students and professionals in weed science. The student contests saw an impressive turnout, with outstanding entries in both the poster and single-slide presentation categories that demonstrated exceptional scientific rigor and strong communication skills. A key highlight of the student-related activities during the annual meeting was the graduate student luncheon event, “Stand Out in the Crowd: Job Search and Interview Strategies.” The event brought together 75 graduate students and featured panelists who shared valuable guidance on navigating the job market and succeeding in interviews—offering practical advice and encouragement to those preparing for the next stage in their careers.

The WSSA Graduate Student Organization (GSO) conducted its annual officer elections online, with newly elected board members announced during the student luncheon. Congratulations to Gustavo Camargo Silva (Vice President), Ryan Hamberg (Secretary), and Ankit Yadav

(Social Media Chair) on being elected to the 2025–2026 WSSA GSO Board. The newly elected board is already working towards planning upcoming student events and initiatives—stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks. We encourage all graduate students to participate in future events, including the regional weed contests and travel enrichment experience opportunities. These are excellent opportunities to gain experience, build your network, and showcase your talents. Let’s continue building on the success of this year’s meeting and work together to make next year’s even more impactful!

WSSA GSO has a monthly edition of the [newsletter](#) featuring graduate students and alumni. WSSA GSO newsletter focuses on sharing research, experiences, and contributions of our peers to the field of weed science. If you would like to nominate a graduate student or WSSA GSO alumni to be spotlighted in our upcoming newsletter, please send your suggestion to ryan.hamberg@ag.tamu.edu. Please find WSSA GSO on [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [X](#), and connect with us on these platforms for more updates throughout the year.



Student Luncheon Panel Discussion



2025–2026 WSSA GSO Board (from left to right): Navdeep Godara, President; Gustavo Camargo Silva, Vice President; Ryan Hamberg, Secretary; and Ankit Yadav, Social Media Chair

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
July 14–17, 2025	Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS) Annual Meeting	Providence, Rhode Island	www.apms.org
October 19–24, 2025	International Weed Science Society (IWSS) Weed Science Congress	Nanjing, China	www.iwss.info
November 2–7, 2025	Canadian Weed Science Society (CWSS) Annual Meeting	Gatineau, Quebec	www.weedscience.ca
December 15–18, 2025	North Central Weed Science Society (NCWSS) Annual Meeting	Grand Rapids, Michigan	www.ncwss.org
January 5–9, 2026	Northeastern Weed Science Society (NEWSS) Annual Meeting	Hershey, Pennsylvania	www.newss.org
January 26–29, 2026	Southern Weed Science Society (SWSS) Annual Meeting	Nashville, Tennessee	www.sww.ws
February 9–12, 2026	Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) Annual Meeting	Raleigh, North Carolina	www.wssa.net
March 2–5, 2026	Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS) Annual Meeting	Tucson, Arizona	www.wsweedscience.org

Additional Weed Science Meetings and Events can be found at <http://wssa.net/meeting/calendar-of-meetings/>

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