



Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, everyone; hopefully, your summer is progressing nicely with your productivity at a maximum. The research that you conduct and the results from those efforts that are communicated effectively with clientele across the world is essential for the future of agriculture and the environment. Similar to each of you, our WSSA board and liaison members have been extremely busy

over the past few months. I would like to take the opportunity to share a few details from these events with you.

April through June Webinars: Since April, the WSSA has hosted webinar events on 11 days. Ten of those days included showcasing USDA-ARS weed science research — from the nearly retired to the newly hired. Attendance during each of these presentations was extremely impressive, ranging from 150 to 175 viewers. A special thanks to Steve Young, National Program Leader – Weeds and Invasive Pests USDA-ARS, for organizing and moderating and Eric Gustafson, the WSSA executive secretary, for orchestrating each event. If you missed these presentations, they have been recorded and are available on the [WSSA website here](#).

Also, on June 15, we were extremely fortunate to host a webinar where nearly 45 U.S. EPA scientists joined us for a discussion regarding the pesticide registration process. During this discussion, the EPA was able to update our members regarding the latest regulatory challenges facing diuron, fluometuron, and DCPA. With nearly 150 viewers in attendance, I believe the event was a great success, which will hopefully foster greater opportunities for more open scientific discussions with the U.S. EPA. Our EPA liaison, Mark VanGessel, and Eric Gustafson were keys to organizing and administering this event. Unfortunately, this event was not approved by the EPA for recording.

Future Webinars: Two additional webinars are currently being planned for late summer and fall. The board approved both of these as symposiums for our 2022 annual meeting in Canada, but we had to adapt with challenges due to COVID. Currently, we have scheduled “The current regulatory and legal environment for weed control products” by Peter Eure and Carroll Moseley to occur on October 11 and October 18 at 2 pm ET each day. Dates for the second webinar “North American Kochia Action Committee: Priorities for coordinating research, communication, and outreach” are currently being coordinated with Todd Gaines.

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BIOHERBICIDES 2022
BARI, ITALY • SEPT. 25-29
(see page 6 for more information)

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More details regarding both of these events will be forthcoming, keep an eye on your inbox for more information.

Congressional Visits: Lee Van Wychen, our Executive Director of Science Policy, organized and represented the WSSA extremely well this summer with numerous virtual congressional visits. Having an opportunity to meet with congressional staffers to better understand the work they are doing on behalf of agriculture while also having an opportunity to share key topics relative to our mission was powerful. Personally, I was able to attend 13 of these events and was impressed with Lee's leadership with these discussions. I am sure he will provide more details in his report.

2023 Annual Meeting: The WSSA board is extremely excited to bring you an IN-PERSON annual meeting from January 30 through February 2, 2023. The event will be a WSSA/NEWSS Joint Meeting in Arlington, Virginia. Carroll Moseley, WSSA Program Chair and President Elect, and Wes Everman, NEWSS Program Chair and President Elect, are working closely with the local arrangements chairs Bill Chism and Mathew Sudeep along with Lee Van Wychen to build an excellent program, including some very exciting tours. Additionally, the WSSA board is currently selecting which symposiums will be shared during the meeting from the 10 excellent submissions received.

Innovative Grants Reminder: Proposals are due to the WSSA Finance Committee Chair Greg Elmore by October 1, 2022. Submit your proposal as a PDF document via e-mail to greg.elmore@bayer.com.

Travel Enrichment Experience Scholarship: This year's application pool consisted of 23 students, which is outstanding. Just as important are the nearly 40 hosts that offered up their time to potentially host these students. What an impactful program this has become and I want to share a special thanks to our students, hosts, and Mayank S. Malik along with his committee for making this program so successful. Five amazing students have been selected this year and we look forward to hearing about each of their experiences during our 2023 annual meeting.

WSSA Board Meeting: Our next summer board meeting will occur in-person in Arlington, VA from August 23rd through the 25th. Please reach out to Eric Gustafson or myself with any topics that you feel the board should be addressing. Our current agenda is very busy and includes the following: 1) organizing our annual meeting, 2) implementing our latest strategic plan updates, 3) improving the functionality of our website, 4) discussing the definitions of resistance and tolerance supported by the WSSA, 5) making our latest special committee "Endangered Species Committee" a standing WSSA committee, 6) getting updates from our regional societies, our EPA liaison Mark VanGessel, our NIFA fellow Jim Kells, our CAST representative Jill Schroeder, our Director of Public Relations Chris Willenborg, and our science policy expert Lee Van Wychen, and 7) having the opportunity to visit in-person with the U.S. EPA at their new office.

And, finally, just a thank you to all our WSSA members for your support and guidance, as you are what makes our society so impactful. I look forward to seeing you in Arlington for our 2023 annual meeting. Until then, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, Eric Gustafson, Lee Van Wychen, or any of the WSSA board members if you have questions, suggestions, or concerns regarding WSSA business or activities.

Regards,
Stanley Culpepper
WSSA President

WSSA FUTURE MEETING SITES AND DATES

Jan. 30–Feb. 2, 2023
WSSA-NEWSS Joint Meeting
Arlington, Virginia
www.wssa.net and
www.newss.org

WSSA HOME PAGE
ACCESSED AT:
www.wssa.net

THINK NEWSLETTER
Deadline for October issue
September 1, 2022

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WASHINGTON REPORT

by Lee Van Wychen, Director of Science Policy

2022 SCIENCE POLICY FELLOW: TAYLOR RANDELL



The Weed Science Policy Fellowship program is a unique opportunity for graduate students to assist me in my role as Executive Director of Science Policy for WSSA while gaining experience dealing with a broad array of weed science policy issues. Our first of two Science Policy Fellows for 2022 is Taylor Randell at the University of Georgia.

Taylor is a third year Ph.D. student at the University of Georgia studying under the direction of Dr. Stanley Culpepper. Her dissertation research is focused primarily on weed management in cotton and vegetable production systems, along with quantifying PPO-resistance in Georgia Palmer amaranth. Prior to her Ph.D. work, she received a B.S. in Agriculture from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and an M.S. in Crop and Soil Science from the University of Georgia. Growing up on a family farm in Florida, Taylor understands the difficulties farmers face, especially with growing crops in complex production systems. She is passionate about learning more about science policy in order to help farmers navigate these challenges, while remaining economically and environmentally sustainable. Taylor is grateful for the ability to participate in the WSSA Science Policy Fellowship this year, and for the exposure and opportunities it provides.

FY 2023 AG RESEARCH BUDGET STATUS

On June 23, the House Appropriations Committee approved its FY 2023 agriculture spending bill, H.R. 8239. The legislation includes \$27.2 billion

in discretionary funding for USDA, FDA and related programs. Of this total, \$3.6 billion would be targeted to agricultural research programs. The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) would receive \$1.8 billion (+3 percent), and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) would get \$1.8 billion (+9 percent) in the House's bill. The Senate will begin marking up their fiscal 2023 bills after the July 4th recess.

The six National and Regional Weed Science Societies have joined many other scientific societies and organizations in supporting the USDA AFRI Competitive Grants Program at its authorized level of \$700 million in FY 2023. Read the AFRI Coalition Letter: <https://wssa.net/wp-content/uploads/FY23-AFRI-Coalition-Letter-final.pdf>

Likewise, the six National and Regional Weed Science Societies joined 50 other stakeholder organizations in urging House and Senate Appropriators to provide at least \$1.9 billion for salaries and expenses at USDA-ARS in FY 2023. Included in this joint request is \$112 million for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) and \$15 million for the new Big Data Initiative at ARS. Read the ARS support letter: <https://wssa.net/wp-content/uploads/FY23-ARS-support-letter.pdf>

SENATE CONFIRMS USDA REE UNDER SECRETARY CHAVONDA JACOBS-YOUNG



On June 7, the Senate confirmed Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young to serve as Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics at USDA.

Jacobs-Young was previously the administrator of the Agriculture Research Service, first appointed in February 2014.

Jacobs-Young is a native of Augusta, GA and earned a B.S. in paper science and engineering in 1989 from NC State. She also earned her M.S. in wood and paper science in 1992 and her Ph.D in paper science from NC State. After completion of her Ph.D, she worked as an Assistant Professor of Paper Science and Engineering at the University of Washington from 1995 until 2002 when she joined USDA. She also worked as a senior policy analyst for agriculture in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

TOOMBS APPOINTED ACTING USDA-NIFA DIRECTOR



Dionne Toombs has been appointed to serve as Acting Director of USDA NIFA following the departure of Carrie Castille. With over a decade of USDA service, Dr. Toombs has significantly contributed to USDA's agricultural research, education, and Extension services while serving in various leadership roles. Most recently, she was Director of the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS). She served as the head of the Division of Nutrition at NIFA and as the National Program Leader (NPL) for the Agriculture Food and Research Initiative. Prior to serving as NPL, Dr. Toombs was a Program Specialist for Food Science and Nutrition at the former USDA Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service, now NIFA.

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MONARCH NUMBERS INCREASE

The numbers are in and they are much greater – 2.84 hectares — than predicted. Experts were predicting as few as 0.8 hectares of monarchs overwintering due to the anticipated impact of the drought in much of the Upper Midwest last summer, the extreme temperatures in July and August in that region, and the later than average migration

Read more from Chip Taylor, Monarch Watch Blog: <https://monarchwatch.org/blog/2022/05/24/monarch-numbers-in-mexico-predictions-and-reality/>

IR-4 PROJECT ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE 2022 SOAR AWARD

The SOAR Award honors external partners who exemplify the areas of Service, Outreach, Altruism, and Research (SOAR), while supporting specialty crop growers and the mission of the IR-4 Project. This year’s winners have made significant impacts to their individual research areas and the specialty crop industry as a whole.

**Dr. Stanley Culpepper
Professor and Extension Weed Scientist, University of Georgia**



Dr. Stanley Culpepper with the University of Georgia was selected as a recipient of the SOAR Award for his commitment to the future of agriculture

in the state of Georgia and throughout the country.

- **Service:** Dr. Culpepper goes beyond his research and extension duties to engage in policy actions on the state and national level that have led to the approval of needed pest management tools for specialty crop growers;
- **Outreach:** Dr. Culpepper has shown

consistent dedication to educating the agricultural community about the work of the IR-4 Project;

- **Altruism:** Dr. Culpepper grew up on a farm and has a deep understanding of the challenges specialty crop growers and family farms face. He uses this unique perspective to fuel his passion for the future of agriculture; and
- **Research:** Dr. Culpepper’s countless research trials and data reports, along with his willingness to conduct trials for IR-4, have generated necessary data for numerous label expansions.

**Ann George
Director Emeritus, Hop Growers of America**



Ann George with Hop Growers of America was selected as a recipient of the SOAR Award for her service to the domestic hop industry and her commitment to meeting the needs of specialty crop growers.

- **Service:** George is a founding member of the IR-4 Commodity Liaison Committee (CLC) and is known for her stellar work ethic and overall knowledge of the specialty crop industry;
- **Outreach:** In addition to her work on the CLC, George has also served on the board of the Washington State Commission on Pesticide Regulation since its inception in 1995;
- **Altruism:** George is a respected source of information among her peers and is always willing to lend a hand and answer questions, volunteer her time and serve as a mentor; and
- **Research:** George manages the U.S. Hops Industry Plant Protection Committee and works with growers, commodity groups, brewers, and more to identify funds for needed research.

**Dr. Joseph Neal
Professor of Weed Science and Extension Specialist, NC State University**



Dr. Joseph Neal with NC State University was selected as a recipient of the SOAR Award for his commitment to solving pest management

problems for ornamental and landscape growers.

- **Service:** Dr. Neal has been an active participant in IR-4’s environmental horticulture and biopesticide programs for more than 25 years, working closely with various stakeholders and government entities to advance the needs of specialty crop growers;
- **Outreach:** Dr. Neal consistently educates commodity groups and clientele about the mission of the IR-4 Project;
- **Altruism:** Dr. Neal is committed to the welfare of others, both professionally and personally, through measures such as mentoring extension agents and specialists; and
- **Research:** Dr. Neal has worked on several research projects of regional and national importance that contributed data to most herbicides currently labeled for use on nursery and landscape plantings.

**Dr. Ed Peachey
Associate Professor, Oregon State University**



Dr. Ed Peachey with Oregon State University was selected as a recipient of the SOAR Award for his service to specialty crop growers in the state of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest.

- **Service:** Dr. Peachey actively voices

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the needs of Oregon farmers through his role as the state liaison for IR-4;

- **Outreach:** Dr. Peachey has built a reputation among growers as a reliable and knowledgeable source for identifying pest management problems and investigating solutions;
- **Altruism:** Dr. Peachey is dedicated to solving pest management problems and has taken on any tasks necessary to make a significant number of product registrations a reality; and
- **Research:** Dr. Peachey has an extensive research record, including un-

dertaking approximately 80 weed science and entomology IR-4 studies that have directly contributed to new or expanded labels.

WEED SCIENCE SOCIETIES SUPPORT BLM'S INTENT TO APPROVE EIGHT HERBICIDES

The presidents of the National and Regional Weed Science Societies submitted a joint letter to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) supporting their notice of intent to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for approval and use of aminocyclopyrachlor; clethodim;

fluazifop-p-butyl; flumioxazin; imazamox; indaziflam; oryzalin; and trifluralin on public lands. Read the letter of support: https://wssa.net/wp-content/uploads/Support-for-BLM-NOI-to-Prepare-PEIS-8-Herbicides_May-3-2022.pdf

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Upcoming Funding and Award Opportunities

1. [Agriculture Genome to Phenome Initiative](#) | July 21
2. [USDA-AFRI Sustainable Agriculture Systems](#) | July 28
3. [ASA-CSSA-SSSA Annual Meeting Travel Grants](#) | August 16
4. [USDA 1890 Institution Capacity Building Grants](#) | August 31
5. [USDA Bioproduct Pilot Program](#) | August 31
6. [GCSAA Research Grant Program](#) | September 12
7. [NSF Synthetic Microbial Communities Grants](#) | October 3
8. [USDA-AFRI Education and Workforce Development](#) | October 27
9. [AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowships*](#) | November 1
10. [USDA -AFRI Foundational and Applied Science Program](#) | December 31

***Funding Tip:** It's not uncommon for AAAS S&T Policy Fellows (STPF) to enter the fellowship as policy novices. In fact, the fellowship is a paid, yearlong opportunity for professional development and public service. Fellows gain real-world policy experience, honing their policymaking skills and increasing their knowledge of the science policy interface. Alums carry their unique experiences into post-fellowship careers.

Do you know that you can publish in WSSA journals for free?

That's right, open access articles can be published **without page charges** if your institution has signed a "read and publish" agreement with Cambridge University Press. A read and publish agreement removes author page charges from the shoulders of the author and places them on the institution. Cambridge has signed many such agreements with universities and research institutions across the world. To find out how you can get your manuscript published for free in a WSSA journal, contact your librarian to see if your institution has signed a read and publish agreement with Cambridge or follow this link (<https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/open-access-policies/waivers-discounts>). This is just one more reason to submit your manuscript to a WSSA journal!

Bioherbicides 2022

Relatively little progress has been made with development of microbial bioherbicides. A meeting on microbial bioherbicides will be held in Bari, Italy on September 25–29, 2022 to identify the reasons for this impasse and the solutions for overcoming these barriers. The meeting is being organized by Pam Marrone, Maurizio Vurro and Steve Duke.

Further information can be found at [Bioherbicides 2022 \(wordpress.com\)](#)

The cost of registration, including four nights room with breakfast at the Excelsior Hotel, two coffee break per days, a light lunch each of the three days of the conference, and an excursion to a nearby village with dinner at a very good restaurant is 900 Euro (ca. \$940).

If you pre-register at:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScozLRp1jW__8zQjQA9KXXaSgS4SGAJTTHZOm3BQ772Cw9Q/viewform further information will be sent to you.

Herbicide Handbook Assistant

The Weed Science Society of America is in the process of revising and updating the WSSA Herbicide Handbook. Dr. Travis Gannon is leading the editorial process with the assistance of other committee members from Industry and Academia.

The WSSA Herbicide Handbook committee is seeking a motivated individual to assist with herbicide entry editing and updating. Updates will include technical and grammatical as well as formatting updates. Experience with InDesign is preferred but not required. The timeframe for the position will be from spring 2022 through fall 2022.

Salary: commensurate with experience

Interested individuals should contact Dr. Travis Gannon at the contact information provided below:

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THINK NEWSLETTER
Deadline for October issue
September 1, 2022

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
July 18–21, 2022	Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS) Annual Meeting	Greenville, South Carolina	www.apms.org
November 13–19, 2022	Canadian Weed Science Society (CWSS) and Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA) Joint Annual Meeting	Halifax, Nova Scotia	www.weedscience.ca and www.agronomycanada.com
December 5–8, 2022	North Central Weed Science Society (NCWSS) Annual Meeting	St. Louis, Missouri	www.ncwss.org
January 23–26, 2023	Southern Weed Science Society (SWSS)	Baton Rouge, Louisiana	www.swss.ws
January 30–February 2, 2023	Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) and Northeastern Weed Science Society (NEWSS) Joint Annual Meeting	Arlington, Virginia	www.wssa.net and www.newss.org
February 27–March 2, 2023	Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS) and Western Aquatic Plant Management Society (WAPMS) Joint Annual Meeting	Boise, Idaho	www.wsweedscience.org and www.wapms.org

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

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