



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from beautiful Cape Cod! I hope that your summer is going well. Your Society has been very active on the legislative front since we last met in Vancouver. Instead of waiting until the Annual Meeting to update you on these issues, we will be hosting a virtual Town Hall on Friday, July 25, 2025, 11–Noon Eastern. The first half of the program will feature concise updates from Lee Van Wyche (Executive Director of Science Policy), Mark Van Gessel (EPA Liaison), Todd Baughman and Jim Kells (NIFA Liaison), Bill Chism (Regulatory Consultant), Ian Burke (2026 Program Chair) and myself. The second half will be dedicated to hearing from YOU! Bring your questions, concerns, and success stories. It is important that we hear from you so that we can continue to effectively serve and represent your interests all year long. Be on the lookout for the invitation to register; it is free and a benefit offered to all current WSSA members.

Good luck to all the students that will be participating in the upcoming Regional Student Weed Contests. Thank you to all the sponsors and volunteers who make these events so successful. The weed contests are a great way to showcase your skills and knowledge of weed science. Have a great time during the competition and enjoy getting to see your colleagues at these fantastic events.

A group of us went to Washington, DC to participate in an agricultural Fly-In event on May 5–7, 2025. Lee Van Wyche (EDSP), Eric Palmer, SWSS President, Carl Coburn, WSSS President, Thierry Besancon, NEWSS President, Ian Burke (WSSA President-Elect) and Dawn Refsell (WSSA Vice-President) and I had a productive time communicating WSSA policy priorities. To better deliver a focused message to the staff members we planned to meet with, we developed a 1-page “leave-behind” document that highlighted WSSA’s Policy Priorities. Please feel free to download a copy and use the document in your own discussions and meetings. It can be found on the WSSA website under Society/Science Policy/Policy Priorities ([WSSA Flyer final](#)). We discussed the critical nature of consistent (or increased) agricultural funding with legislators, their staff, agency representatives and representatives of other organizations interested in agricultural research. Although Mark Bernards, President, NCWSS, could not join us in

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**WSSA**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**February 9–12, 2026 • Raleigh, NC**

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person, he facilitated a meeting with Senator Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota. Thanks to Dawn's Iowa connections, we also met with Senator Joni Ernst. All members of your WSSA team worked hard to organize additional visits with members of Congress who represent our respective states. On the first morning, we also met with the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (NCFAR). During the remainder of the event, we also met with the American Soybean Association and CropLife America.

We have been meeting with the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants (NAICC). We are planning a tour for September 22–23, 2025 that will include representatives from EPA, the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The purpose is to continue our discussion about ways for growers to protect Endangered Species through mitigation opportunities with their farming practices. Lee, Bill Chism, Mark VanGessel, Todd Baughman and I are planning to participate in this year's event. We will visit farms and various operations in Virginia and North Carolina. Thanks to Lee and the others for their help planning this tour.

Ian Burke, our 2026 Program Chair, is working with his team to provide a fantastic program for the 2026 WSSA Annual Meeting at the Marriott Crabtree Valley, Raleigh, North Carolina, February 9–12, 2026. There are plans for several symposia, student events, social gatherings, tours, and other events. I hope to see you all there!

Recognizing that many members struggled with the Confex title and abstract submission system for the Vancouver meeting, we are engaging a new company for this purpose for the Raleigh meeting. Coordinating our efforts with our regional and affiliate Program Chairs, we decided to hire the Canadian company, Fourwaves. The Canadian Weed Science Society has used them for many years and have been pleased with their service. We are setting up trainings with the regional program chairs to learn the system. Fourwaves has been incredibly responsive to our requests regarding adding new features to the system and we are cautiously hopeful that this will be a better interface for all concerned. We will be getting right into it with Brett Miller from NCWSS, as their meeting is the first in the upcoming cycle.

Our current logo has served us well for over 30 years, but the Board felt it might be time for a refresh. To explore this idea, we partnered with a professional design company to create a new logo for WSSA. Working with subsets of the WSSA Board, Committee members and Past-Presidents, we collected input for a wide array of potential designs. Based on that feedback, we narrowed the field and recently asked you to rank designs from the two finalists. Your comments have been reviewed and some will be used to further inform the final product. I acknowledge the varying opinions regarding the logo; WSSA continues to approve projects through consensus. Based on your ratings, the clear winner is shown below. Thanks to all who participated in this process.



Thank you to all the WSSA members who volunteer their time to do service for the Society; we literally could not do it without you!

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](http://www.wssa.net)

WSSA HOME PAGE  
ACCESSED AT:  
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THINK NEWSLETTER  
Deadline for October issue  
September 1, 2025

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## WSSA NEWSLETTER

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# WASHINGTON REPORT

by Lee Van Wychen, Director of Science Policy

## MEET THE 2025–2026 SCIENCE POLICY FELLOWS



**Aleah Butler-Jones** is a fourth year Ph.D. candidate at Cornell University studying under the supervision of Dr. Lynn Sosnoskie. Aleah's dissertation research focuses on investigating the impact of electrical weed control (EWC) on weed and soil biological communities in addition to EWC's integration into specialty crop production systems. She received her B.S. in Agricultural Sciences at Cornell University. During this time, she worked as an undergraduate research assistant to Dr. Toni DiTommaso, Dr. Thomas Björkman, and the Cornell Small Farms Program. She was first exposed to weed science through competing at the 2017 Northeastern Weed Science Society (NEWSS) Weed Contest as part of Cornell's team. Aleah earned her M.S. in Horticultural Biology from Cornell University. Her thesis focused on the confirmation of glyphosate-resistant Palmer amaranth populations in NY and their responses to alternative chemistries and elevated temperatures. Through her work, Aleah strives to develop and assess novel integrated weed management tactics and their impact on the agroecosystem. She is thrilled to be a Science Policy Fellow and looks forward to developing a greater understanding of science policy and its relation to agricultural research. Most of all, Aleah is grateful to the WSSA for the opportunity to contribute to the society's endeavor to provide science-based information to policymakers and the broader public and advocate research, education, and outreach.

**Matthew "Cole" Woodard** is a second-year PhD student at Texas Tech



University under the advisement of Dr. Peter Dotray. Cole's dissertation research focuses on the utilization of topramezone and L-glufosinate in the Axant™ Flex Cotton System. He received his B.S. in Crop Science and Agriculture Business from the University of Arkansas. While working on his undergraduate degree, Cole was introduced to weed science through an internship with Corteva Agriscience under the direction of Dr. Drew Ellis. Upon completing his B.S. degree, Cole joined Dr. Jason Norsworthy's program to pursue a M.S. degree. In May of 2024, Cole successfully defended his thesis titled "Evaluation of a Diflufenican:Metribuzin:Flufenacet Premixture for Soybean Tolerance and Weed Control." Through his work, Cole aims to develop weed management strategies to assist producers who adopt the new Axant Flex Cotton System. He is looking forward to learning about and contributing to issues that concern policy and agriculture. Cole would like to thank the WSSA and the Science Policy Committee for providing students with the opportunity to serve as Science Policy Fellows.

## HOUSE AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE RESTORES MOST CUTS TO AG RESEARCH

On June 5, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture held a markup to consider the President's Budget Request (PBR) for the fiscal year (FY) 2026 agriculture spending bill. Most notably, the bill rejected most of the Administration's proposed deep cuts to agricultural research.

The biggest area of concern in the

PBR was for USDA NIFA. The FY2025 estimated funding for NIFA is \$1.686 billion, while the PBR was \$1.044 billion, a 38% cut. The House Ag Appropriators marked up their bill at \$1.654 billion, which is a 1.9% cut, but certainly better than a 38% cut.

Within the NIFA "Research and Education" account, the FY26 PBR had eliminated \$265 million in funding for the **Hatch Act**, which funds our agricultural experiment stations. However, thankfully, House Ag Appropriators restored the \$265 million in full.

The **Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)** was proposed to be cut by \$50 million in the PBR for FY 2026, but the House Ag Appropriators kept the funding at FY2025 levels at \$445 million. The same can be said for the **IR-4 Program** being held level at \$15 million for FY2026. The sentiment on the Hill this year is that flat funding is considered a victory.

Within the NIFA "Extension" account, the FY2026 PBR would have cut **Smith Lever b & c** extension funding from \$325 million to \$175 million, a 46% cut. However, the House Ag Appropriators rejected that cut and kept funding at FY2025 levels at \$325 million.

Within the NIFA "Integrated" account, the FY2026 PBR eliminated every program in the account. The NIFA Integrated account supports projects that bring together research, education and extension activities to address critical issues in agriculture. However, once again, the House Ag Appropriators restored funding at FY 2025 levels. This includes the **Crop Protection and Pest Management (CPPM)** program at \$21 million and the Organic Transitions Program at \$7.5 million. The **Methyl Bromide Transitions** program was reduced from \$2 million to \$1 million.

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Finally, the House Ag Appropriators provided \$1.79 billion for the **Agricultural Research Service (ARS)**, which is \$2.5 million above the FY25 enacted program level, and includes increases for high-priority initiatives, addresses emerging pests and diseases, but eliminates funding for climate hubs. The FY26 PBR proposed a cut of \$88 million for USDA-ARS.

The full House Appropriations Committee approved the bill on June 30 by a vote of 35 to 27. The FY2026 Ag Appropriations bill now heads to the House floor for further consideration. In the meantime, the Senate Ag Appropriations Subcommittee is expected to markup their version of the bill on July 10.

### **A POST-MAHA REPORT LETTER TO USDA, EPA AND HHS REGARDING SCIENCE AND TRANSPARENCY**

On June 16, the six National and Regional Weed Societies joined over 250 other agricultural organizations in a letter to the heads of USDA, EPA and HHS after the release of the draft Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) report. Our concerns were that many of the studies referenced to support erroneous claims significantly misrepresented their findings or in some cases are entirely nonexistent. In other instances, the report relies on a few select pieces of poor evidence and opinion articles to justify false claims, ignoring vast volumes of scientific evidence to the contrary. Since its inception, the MAHA Commission has operated without meaningful input from food and agricultural stakeholders. [The letter can be read here.](#)

### **HAMBY APPOINTED AS DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

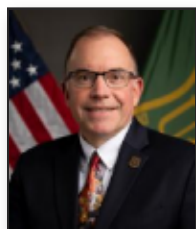
Dr. Jaye L. Hamby was appointed to serve as the Director of USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) on March 20, 2025. Prior to joining USDA NIFA, Dr. Hamby led and



directed proprietary research efforts. Over the course of his career, he has directed hundreds of research efforts specializing in concept testing, product marketing, value driver analysis, and following market trends and strategies to support agricultural producers.

Dr. Hamby grew up on his family's cow-calf operation in west Tennessee and developed a deep connection to agriculture through 4-H and FFA, eventually serving as a national FFA officer. He graduated from the University of Tennessee's College of Agriculture with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Education and earned master's and doctoral degrees in Agricultural Education with a specialization in Agricultural Economics from Oklahoma State University.

### **TOM SCHULTZ NOMINATED TO RUN U.S. FOREST SERVICE**



On February 27, 2025, Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins named Tom Schultz as the next leader of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The agency is tasked with overseeing 193 million acres of national forests and public lands, including 36.6 million acres of wilderness. Schultz will be the 21st Chief of the USFS and the first ever to not have worked in any part of the agency prior to becoming chief.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/inside-fs/leadership/meet-tom-schultz-21st-chief-forest-service>

Schultz previously served as vice president of resources and government affairs at Idaho Forest Group, where he led timber procurement operations and managed relationships with government officials at all levels. A former U.S. Air Force officer, Schultz

also served as director of the Idaho Department of Lands, overseeing the management of several million surface acres of endowment lands and minerals. He held leadership roles in Montana's Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, managing the Trust Lands and Water Resources Divisions.

Schultz holds a bachelor's degree in government from the University of Virginia, a master's degree in political science from the University of Wyoming, and a master's degree in forestry from the University of Montana.

### **RICKI SCHROEDER APPOINTED CHIEF OF STAFF FOR USDA RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS**



Ricki Schroeder now serves as Chief of Staff for USDA's Research, Education, and Economics (REE) mission area. Ricki previously served as

Professional Staff covering ag research and pesticide policy, among other areas, on the House Ag Committee since 2017 until heading over to USDA this spring. Ricki is a 2017 graduate of Oklahoma State University where he studied agricultural sciences and natural resources.

### **USDA GRANTEES MUST NOW REPORT GAIN OF FUNCTION RESEARCH**

In response to the May 5, 2025 [Executive Order \(E.O.\) 14292](#) on Improving the Safety and Security of Biological Research, USDA-NIFA has posted on its website information for universities and other [grant recipients to report Gain of Function Research](#) in a timely and effective manner. USDA is asking grant recipients to self-identify any USDA-funded projects, inclusive of source(s) or type(s) of funding, including in-kind support, that is believed to meet or has the potential to

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meet the dangerous gain-of-function definition. [Read more about how, what and when to report this information.](#)

### CONGRESS MUST REAFFIRM EPA AUTHORITY OVER PESTICIDE LABELING LAWS

The six National and Regional Weed Science Societies, along with 350 plus other agricultural and pesticide stakeholders, [sent a letter to House and Senate leaders](#) expressing our growing concerns that some states have begun to regulate pesticides in a manner contradicting decades of scientific guidance from EPA.

The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) establishes EPA as the authority for making decisions on how pesticides should be labeled and used. While states are permitted to regulate the sale and use of pesticides under FIFRA (sections 24(a) and 24(c)), they are preempted from creating additional labeling requirements or requiring different labels and packaging (FIFRA 24(b)).

A lot of this goes back to California and the decision in 2017 to require warning labels for glyphosate. California listed glyphosate as a known carcinogen despite the EPA (and the rest of major regulatory bodies in the world) conclusions that it was not. To that end, we strongly urge Congress to enact the [Agricultural Labeling Uniformity Act](#) (note: this was introduced in the last session of Congress as HR 4288. It has not been re-introduced yet in this Congress).

### THEMATIC ASSESSMENT OF INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES AND THEIR CONTROL

The IPBES Thematic Assessment of Invasive Alien Species and their Control was accepted and its summary for policymakers was approved in 2023. The Thematic Assessment of Invasive Alien Species and their Control is the result of four years of work by 86 experts from 49 countries, and synthe-

sizes information from over 13,000 references into a comprehensive scientific assessment and concise summary document for policy makers. The complete assessment, comprised of six chapters, and its summary for policy-makers are at:

<https://www.ipbes.net/ias>

### WEBSITE THAT LISTS NOXIOUS WEEDS IN EACH US STATE AND CANADIAN PROVINCE NOW AVAILABLE

Mohsen B. Mesgaran and his team at UC-Davis have launched a website that provides lists of noxious weeds for each U.S. state, as well as provinces and states in Canada and Australia:

<https://regulatedplants.unu.edu/>

They are planning to expand the database to include other countries and add ecological information, management guidelines, and photos for each weed species in future releases. For the U.S. list, they have also conducted a quantitative analysis of noxious weed sales on Amazon and eBay, which will be out soon. Based on their analysis, over one-third of these noxious weeds are available for sale on Amazon and eBay!

### VANGESSEL 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.

Dr. Mark VanGessel, Professor and Extension Specialist – Weed Science and Crop Management at the University of Delaware, is a legendary weed scientist and invaluable IR-4 collaborator who has earned national and international prominence for his excellence in research, and his ability to

translate his findings into impactful education and management tactics. The IR-4 community has greatly benefited from VanGessel's commitment to service, outreach, altruism and research.

VanGessel was presented with the 2024 IR-4 SOAR Award by Roger Batts (IR-4 Principal Biologist – Weed Scientist) at the Northeastern Weed Science Society meeting in January 2025 (pictured below left).

### SERVICE

VanGessel has served specialty crop growers and IR-4 in a multitude of ways—in the field and beyond. He has organized countless twilight tours, field days, and group events to educate growers, researchers, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) employees. As Delaware's liaison with EPA, Mark has continually been involved in IR-4's annual EPA/USDA specialty crop tours. He has also been a mentor to many students and emerging weed scientists.

### OUTREACH

VanGessel has developed two websites designed to foster cooperation, communication and education: UD Weed Science and GROW-Integrated Weed Management. He has served as an editor, reviewer and panel member for numerous peer-reviewed journals. His list of Extension publications is extensive. He is also an editor and contributor to the Mid-Atlantic Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations.

### ALTRUISM

VanGessel is described as kind, patient, smart, and always willing to help a colleague or a grower in need. His expertise is vital to the young professionals he mentors, as few weed scientists today are solely focused on specialty crops. He is known for being generous with his guidance—always going above and beyond. Colleagues also note that VanGessel has spent sig-

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## WASHINGTON REPORT CONTINUED from pg 5

nificant time and resources addressing the pest management questions of Delmarva Peninsula specialty crop growers, whether or not he's been funded to explore those questions.

### RESEARCH

VanGessel has conducted nearly 50 IR-4 trials, with 14 of those leading to registrations and about 15 more in the pipeline toward registration (and he has additional trials ongoing). Often,

VanGessel has enhanced trials with additional treatments and/or crops, always willing to go the extra mile to meet growers' needs. Notably, he has contributed data from trials he conducted independently of IR-4 to help obtain more pest control tools for specialty crop growers.

Specifically, VanGessel was the first to identify glyphosate-resistant horseweed in Delaware, and he developed

innovative strategies to manage it. He also tackled other difficult weeds like Palmer amaranth, Texas panicum, tall waterhemp, and common ragweed.

IR-4 celebrates VanGessel's leadership in the weed science field and his vital role in the specialty crop community. His work clearly exemplifies the spirit of the SOAR Award through his service, outreach, altruism and research.

## WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY PRESIDENTS ADVOCATE FOR PRIORITIES IN WASHINGTON, DC

During the week of May 5, the National and Regional Weed Science Society Presidents traveled to Washington, DC for Congressional and stakeholder visits. We began the week by attending the National Coalition for Food and Agriculture Research (NCFAR) Annual Meeting and fly-in. There were about 40 NCFAR members in attendance representing a broad array of agricultural research stakeholders. We had a good discussion about the many issues facing the USDA Research, Education, and Economics (REE) mission area. Concerns were raised about splitting up the Farm Bill and how that would impact the smaller titles in the Farm Bill such as the Research Title (7). Could a "skinny" Farm Bill get enough votes to pass Congress without the Commodity Title or Nutrition Title?

We also had a good dialogue with the USDA REE Chief of Staff Ricki Schroeder, followed by Congressional Visits in the afternoon and then an evening reception in the House Ag Committee Hearing room and balcony. Rep. Frank Lucas (R-OK) joined us at the reception and provided remarks on how to move forward in this political environment. Rep. Lucas is currently Chair of the House Science Committee and is the longest serving member of the House Ag Committee where he served as Chair from 2011 to 2015 and oversaw the passage of the 2014 Farm Bill.

Over the next two days, the Weed Science Society Presidents visited their local Senators and Representatives to discuss funding priorities such as the Crop Protection and Pest Management (CPPM) program, the IR-4 Program and capacity programs such as Hatch and Smith-Lever.

This year, we also delivered a [WSSA Policy Priorities one-pager](#) to offices that the President's developed in preparation for the fly-in. A special thanks to Dawn Refsell, Ian Burke and Hilary Sandler for their time and effort in developing this. The Policy Priorities one-pager focuses on four main areas: 1) Extension and Research funding;



Above, Left to Right: Ian Burke, WSSA President-Elect; Dawn Refsell, WSSA Vice President; Hilary Sandler, WSSA President; Thierry Besancon, NEWSS President; Lee Van Wyche, Executive Director of Science Policy; Eric Palmer, SWSS President; and Carl Coburn, WSSS President

2) Enhancing Integrated Weed Management; 3) Ensuring Crop Productivity & American Resources for Generations; and 4) Workforce Competency. In addition, select Congressional offices received a free Weed Bingo! Game (available at the [WSSA Bookstore](#)). Between the NCFAR Congressional Visits where the Presidents divided up and attended visits with other ag research stakeholders and the more focused weed science visits to our local Congressional offices during the next couple of days, we visited approximately 30 offices.

The Weed Science Society Presidents also met with the American Soybean Association, the American Farm Bureau Federation, and CropLife America for in-depth discussions on their policy priorities and how our organizations can work together for the common good of ensuring a safe, secure, and reliable food and fiber supply.

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Above, Left to Right: Ian Burke, Thierry Besancon, Hilary Sandler, Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA), Senate Agriculture Committee, Dawn Refsell, Carl Coburn, and Eric Palmer



Above, Left to Right: Hilary Sandler, Rep. Frank Lucas (R-OK), Chair of the House Science Committee, Eric Palmer, Thierry Besancon, Carl Coburn, and Lee Van Wychen



Above, Left to Right: Ian Burke, Dawn Refsell, Hilary Sandler, Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Sen. Agriculture Committee Ranking Member, Lee Van Wychen, Thierry Besancon, and Rebecca Haynie, Director of Science Policy, CropLife America



Above, Left to Right: Eric Palmer, Lee Van Wychen, Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC), Chair of the all powerful House Rules Committee, and Thierry Besancon

This meeting with Rep. Foxx would not have happened without Eric's local connection to the Congresswoman! In addition, we came to realize that she and her husband Tom established and ran a successful nursery and landscaping business in the High Country for more than three decades, which is now operated by their daughter. Rep. Foxx let us know that she was very familiar with glyphosate and how to use it!

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**The WSSA Publications Board (P1) needs two new members. The Publications Board is responsible for general policy and oversight of WSSA publication activities, including but not limited to WSSA journals and books. Potential new Board members who have served as reviewers or associate editors for WSSA journals would be especially welcome. If you are interested in joining the Publications Board, contact: Chris Willenborg ([chris.willenborg@usask.ca](mailto:chris.willenborg@usask.ca)) or Sarah Ward ([sarahward1066@pm.me](mailto:sarahward1066@pm.me)).**

**THINK NEWSLETTER**  
Deadline for October issue  
September 1, 2025

# Endangered Species Act: Summer 2025 Update

**Bill Chism, WSSA Regulatory Consultant**

Now that the herbicide and insecticide strategies are finalized, we are starting to see Endangered Species Act (ESA) mitigations on conventional pesticide labels. Currently, these label mitigations do not apply to non-agricultural areas such as aquatic, forest, rangeland/pasture, or rights-of-way. In 2025, the EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) registered the first herbicide (glufosinate-p) that specified spray drift and runoff/erosion mitigations to reduce impacts on threatened and endangered species and their critical habitats. OPP has recently registered an insecticide (isocycloseran) and fungicide (florylpicoxamid) that also have endangered species mitigations.

The recently released herbicide label for trifludimoxazin contains ESA mitigations and also requires six points for runoff/erosion (the points required go from zero to nine), as well as new spray drift buffers (110 feet for aerial applications and 15 feet for ground applications). This means we have seen ESA mitigations on fungicides, herbicides, and insecticides and at least one herbicide that also requires six runoff/erosion mitigation points. OPP's registration division is set to register 30 new active ingredients this year and we should expect to see ESA mitigations on a number of those pesticides.

Just for clarification, herbicide tank mixtures will not require any additional runoff/erosion mitigation points beyond the highest number of mitigation points required for a single herbicide in the tank mixture. For example, a tank mix of two herbicides where one herbicide requires nine mitigation points and the other herbicide requires six miti-

gation points, will only require nine mitigation points total, not an additive 15 points.

In addition to being the chair of the WSSA Endangered Species Act Committee, I have also been involved with some of our members, Mark VanGessel (UDE) and Kurt Vollmer (UMD), on ESA presentations for Delaware and Maryland growers and regulators, and a NE IPM ESA webinar. Mark VanGessel and I gave a presentation to the Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington, DC on ESA from the grower's perspective, and I gave two ESA webinars through the Council of Producers and Distributors of Agrotechnology (CPDA) where Greg Dahl presented adjuvant information.

In 2022, Stanley Culpepper (UGA) helped create a subcommittee of our ESA Committee, with 15 weed scientists, to think of ways to make labels easier to read and understand. The subcommittee created a structured label format with recommendations for the EPA. Some example recommendations include: a table of contents on all labels, uniform structure for all labels, key information in tables not hidden in a paragraph of text, describe all the crops and don't use crop groups, etc. Every registrant that we have spoken with has been supportive and the EPA is supportive because it could speed up the review process and help the introduction of electronic labels. Adama worked with the EPA, Stanley Culpepper, and myself to develop the first example label using our structured format **Brevis SC**™ fruit thinner, active ingredient metamitron. Take a look; we think you will find it much easier to find key information.

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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	<a href="http://www.apms.org">www.apms.org</a>
October 19–24, 2025	International Weed Science Society (IWSS) Weed Science Congress	Nanjing, China	<a href="http://www.iwss.info">www.iwss.info</a>
November 2–7, 2025	Canadian Weed Science Society (CWSS) Annual Meeting	Gatineau, Quebec	<a href="http://www.weedscience.ca">www.weedscience.ca</a>
December 15–18, 2025	North Central Weed Science Society (NCWSS) Annual Meeting	Grand Rapids, Michigan	<a href="http://www.ncwss.org">www.ncwss.org</a>
January 5–9, 2026	Northeastern Weed Science Society (NEWSS) Annual Meeting	Hershey, Pennsylvania	<a href="http://www.newss.org">www.newss.org</a>
January 26–29, 2026	Southern Weed Science Society (SWSS) Annual Meeting	Nashville, Tennessee	<a href="http://www.sww.ws">www.sww.ws</a>
February 9–12, 2026	Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) Annual Meeting	Raleigh, North Carolina	<a href="http://www.wssa.net">www.wssa.net</a>
March 2–5, 2026	Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS) Annual Meeting	Tucson, Arizona	<a href="http://www.wsweedscience.org">www.wsweedscience.org</a>

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

### SEND NEWSLETTER MATERIAL TO:

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