

## WSSA WASHINGTON REPORT

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Lee Van Wychen

### **Take mystery out of Endangered Species Act requirements:**

#### **Spraying herbicides in 2025? Here's what you need to know about ESA requirements.**

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Everyone has a choice when it comes to new requirements associated with applying certain herbicides related to the Endangered Species Act. One option is ignoring the situation and hoping it goes away, or that you are never checked for compliance. Kaitlin Flick Dinsmore believes the far better option is learning how to comply, making any necessary adjustments and recording everything you do. Then you can sleep well every night. If someone asks for your pesticide records, everything is in order.

"ESA requirements are not going away because it is the law," explains Flick Dinsmore, a consultant based in Missouri and technical conservation agronomist for the Missouri Soybean Association. "They are here to stay. As EPA reregisters current pesticide products and registers new pesticide products, they will have requirements related to satisfying ESA guidelines added to labels.

"The Herbicide Strategy was released in 2024, and an Insecticide Strategy will be finalized in the spring of 2025. A Fungicide Strategy will come later." Follow this link to find [EPA's Herbicide Strategy](#).

The first herbicide to go through EPA's new Herbicide Strategy process was Liberty Ultra, approved in the fall of '24. It contains glufosinate, the same active ingredient in Liberty, but in a more concentrated form.

"If you apply Liberty Ultra, you must comply with ESA requirements listed on the label," Flick Dinsmore says. Here is how she suggests working through the process:

**1. Read label first.** "The label is the law," Flick Dinsmore says. "Start there and read carefully so you know how to comply with ESA requirements."

**2. Mitigate pesticide runoff.** EPA developed a point system to quantify how growers can satisfy this requirement. Points are assigned or earned based on practices or landscape characteristics that impact runoff potential that could affect habitats of protected species. [Access the mitigation menu here](#).

EPA has stipulated 9 as the maximum points needed for any one herbicide. Liberty Ultra requires 3 points, Flick Dinsmore says. "They are not additive either," she notes. "If you apply a

three-way tank mixture, and labels for two herbicides require 3 points and for the other one, 5, you need 5 points, not 11.”

Here are some common practices and their associated points:

- required record-keeping, 1 point
- reduced tillage, 2 points
- no-till, 3 points
- cover crops, 1 to 3 points — Count 1 point if you grow a cover crop and terminate it before planting with tillage. Count 2 points if you either sow a cover crop that winterkills, like oats, or plant a cover crop in the spring. Count 3 points if you plant a fall cover crop that grows in the spring before termination without tillage.

If slope of the ground is under 3%, a farmer automatically earns 2 points.

“Many growers should be able to meet this requirement easily, especially for a herbicide that only requires 3 points,” Flick Dinsmore says. She notes that a [mitigation calculator on the EPA website](#) can help.

For farmers with fields with more than 3% slope and who don’t use reduced tillage or cover crops, meeting the requirements may be more challenging.

“We can help them get there, but in some cases, it may require considering other practices, like filter strips or grass waterways,” she adds.

**3. Mitigate spray drift.** The label will indicate how much buffer you must leave on the downwind side between the treated field and the next field. EPA indicates the maximum is 230 feet for ground applications and 320 feet for aerial applications, whether by plane, helicopter or drone.

For Liberty Ultra, it is 50 feet for aerial applications and 10 feet for ground rigs, Flick Dinsmore says.

However, if certain requirements are met, you can reduce the buffer by a certain percent, according to tables in EPA’s official Herbicide Strategy. For example, percentage reductions are available for using nozzles that form coarse or very coarse droplets, and for using spray drift-reducing adjuvants.

**4. Check Bulletins Live! Two.** In addition to reading and following the herbicide label, you must check [EPA’s Bulletins Live! Two website](#) within six months before applying a herbicide. This is where EPA posts essential information related to complying with ESA provisions.

**5. Identify PULAs.** EPA defines a pesticide use limitation area, or PULA, as “a geographic area where pesticide use is restricted to protect endangered species and their habitats.” PULAs are product-, species- and time-specific for each location.

These restrictions are in addition to what you do through runoff and spray drift mitigation, Flick Dinsmore notes. To determine if there is a PULA for the pesticide you will apply, check the [EPA’s Bulletin’s Live! Two map](#).

**6. Understand compliance.** Who will enforce requirements? EPA indicates it will be left to states. So far, most state regulatory agencies are waiting for more direction from EPA, and most have not announced exact procedures.

Here is how Flick Dinsmore believes it will likely unfold. “If the state agency receives a complaint, it will investigate,” she says. That’s where this goes back to “sleeping well at night.”

“If you have followed all procedures on the herbicide label, checked Bulletins Live! Two as required, and documented what you did, you will be in good shape,” she says. “Good record-keeping will be key.

“That is what the folks at Missouri Soybeans hope will happen. And that is why I am on board to provide guidance so that every grower has the opportunity to comply.”

#### **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 CASR Representatives include:

WSSA- Jill Schroeder  
APMS- Gray Turnage  
NCWSS- Tom Peters

NEWSS- Randy Prostack  
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 33<sup>rd</sup> 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, 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 Agrosiences (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 55<sup>th</sup> 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 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)

### **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 (*Xerospermophilus 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

### **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 December 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 119<sup>th</sup> 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 119<sup>th</sup> 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)

### **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

### **Rep. Angie Craig, MN, Ranking Member**

Rep. David Scott, GA  
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. Amy Klobuchar, MN- Ranking Mem.**

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.

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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### **Meetings of the National and Regional Weed Science Societies**

Jul. 14 - 17, 2025 Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS), Providence, RI [www.apms.org](http://www.apms.org)  
Dec 15-18, 2025 North Central Weed Science Society (NCWSS), Grand Rapids, MI [www.ncwss.org](http://www.ncwss.org)  
Jan. 5 - 9, 2026 Northeastern Weed Science Society (NEWSS), Hershey, PA [www.newss.org](http://www.newss.org)  
Jan. 26 - 29, 2026 Southern Weed Science Society (SWSS), Nashville, TN [www.swss.ws](http://www.swss.ws)  
Feb. 9 - 12, 2026 Weed Science Society of America (WSSA), Raleigh, NC [www.wssa.net](http://www.wssa.net)  
Mar 2 - 5, 2025 Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS), Tucson, AZ [www.wsweedscience.org](http://www.wsweedscience.org)