

## WASHINGTON REPORT

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Lee Van Wychen

### **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 Fourth 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.

### **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. Edward 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 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 undertaking 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](https://wssa.net/wp-content/uploads/Support-for-BLM-NOI-to-Prepare-PEIS-8-Herbicides_May-3-2022.pdf)

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

Jul. 18 - 21, 2022 Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS), Greenville, SC [www.apms.org](http://www.apms.org)

Dec. 5 - 8, 2022 North Central Weed Science Society (NCWSS), St. Louis, MO [www.ncwss.org](http://www.ncwss.org)

Jan. 23 - 26, 2023 Southern Weed Science Society (SWSS), Baton Rouge, LA [www.swss.ws](http://www.swss.ws)

Jan. 30 - Feb. 2, 2023 Northeastern Weed Science Society (NEWSS), Arlington, VA [www.newss.org](http://www.newss.org)

Jan. 30 - Feb. 2, 2023 Weed Science Society of America (WSSA), Arlington, VA [www.wssa.net](http://www.wssa.net)

Feb. 27 – Mar 2, 2023 Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS), Boise, ID [www.wsweedscience.org](http://www.wsweedscience.org)