



Western Society of Weed Science Newsletter

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SUMMER 2018

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President's Report - by Andrew Kniss

The WSWs Board of Directors held our summer board meeting on July 30 and 31 at the Grand Hyatt in Denver, the site of our upcoming annual meeting. I want to thank Sandra McDonald (local arrangements chair) and Kala

Travis (business manager) for their efforts working with the hotel staff. The location will be excellent, and I'm looking forward to having strong attendance in Denver. The Board discussed two very interesting symposia proposals that should add some excellent, timely topics to the program and potentially draw additional attendees. Our Program Chair Pat Clay will put together a great program. Be sure to watch for the call for papers so that you can be part of it!

The Board has agreed to conduct our elections a little earlier than usual this year – this will allow us to identify the incoming program chair earlier to aid in preparation for the joint meeting with WSSA in 2020. It will be important for WSWs to be involved in those discussions, and the President-Elect/Program Chair will be the person most involved. So please look for the announcement that elections are open coming soon, and VOTE!

At the national level, dicamba continues to be the primary topic of discussion on our Science Policy calls. EPA is faced with a decision very soon, and I have no doubt that their decision will be met with continued disagreement regardless of the outcome. In addition to substantial economic interests, the issue has become quite emotional for many involved. I have faith that the EPA will make the best decision they can, based on the information they have, but I certainly don't envy the position they're in.

For several years, public engagement and social media has been a repeated topic of discussion among the Board and the Public

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WSWS Annual Meeting March 11-14, 2019 Denver, Colorado

President's Report – CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Relations committee (among others). And we're not alone – WSSA and other regional societies are asking similar sets of questions. The Board is interested in ideas from the membership regarding how we can best engage the public – or thoughts on whether this is beyond what our Society should be doing at all. The stated objectives for our society (Article II of our constitution) do not explicitly mention anything regarding public outreach or engagement. If you have ideas on this topic, please contact me or someone on the Public Relations committee to discuss.

Finally, I hope you will all consider nominating a deserving individual for one of our society awards. We are currently seeking nominations for Fellow, Honorary Member, and Outstanding Weed Scientist & Achievement Awards (in addition to our student awards). I know we have many members who deserve recognition, and it would be great to honor as many of them as possible. It is **your** responsibility to see to it that they are nominated.

Rita Beard Foundation Scholarship

The Western Society of Weed Science's Rita Beard Foundation Scholarship supports students and early career invasive species managers with educational opportunities by providing registration and travel to professional meetings including the 2018 North American Invasive Species Management Association, 2019 Western Society of Weed Science, 2019 Western Aquatic Plant Management Society, and 2019 Society of Range Science meetings. Go to: <http://www.wsweedscience.org/rita-beard-endowment-foundation/> for information and details on qualifications and how to apply. Deadline for applications is September 1, 2018. Applicants will be informed by September 15, 2018.

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Student Liaison Report - Clint Beiermann

Greetings Students,

Last week the WSWS Board held its annual summer meeting at the Grand Hyatt in Denver, Colorado. This place is a great venue, and I am sure everyone will enjoy our upcoming annual meeting here. I would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the student survey. Providing feedback about the last meeting is essential to the board, and it is one of the ways that we maintain involvement as student members of the society. I would like to remind everyone that board reports are posted on the WSWS website under the society tab.

The board expressed that student representation should be included on the public relations committee. If serving on the public relations committee interests you, please consider volunteering. Again, this is an opportunity to be further involved in the society and a great way to gain career-relevant experience. If anyone would like to volunteer, please contact Lucas or me.

I encourage everyone to apply for the Elena Sanchez Memorial Outstanding Student Scholarship. This scholarship awards three students, graduate or undergraduate, a \$1,000 award. This money can be put toward research costs, awarded as a stipend, or used to cover travel costs to the WSWS annual meeting. We had several applicants last year, let's do our best to keep this up and show that we as students are taking advantage of this opportunity. Information on the application process can be found under the student resources page of the WSWS website (<http://www.wsweedscience.org/student-site/>). **The scholarship application deadline is October 1st.** This deadline can rapidly approach if you are busy with field research. Please plan to complete the application and encourage other students you know to do so.

As our annual meeting nears, please keep an eye out for emails and Facebook messages about meeting information and upcoming deadlines. Please don't hesitate to contact Lucas or me with any questions or concerns.

Best regards,

Clint Beiermann, Student Chair
clint.beiermann@huskers.unl.edu

Lucas K. Bobadilla, Student Chair (elect)
lucas.kopecky-bobadilla@oregonstate.edu

2019 Annual Meeting – by Pat Clay, Program Chair

The Mile High City is the most famous of several nicknames for Denver, Colorado. However, one name I came across that seems to be quite appropriate is the “Convention City”. After our brief stay in Denver for the summer board meeting, I will say that the Grand Hyatt facilities and its proximity to tons of restaurants and shopping along the 16th Street Mall will make for a great annual meeting location.

Sandra McDonald (Local Arrangements Chair) has already done tons of work in preparation for the annual meeting. As we get closer to the meeting, we will provide detailed resources on getting to the hotel from Denver International Airport (DIA). There are a number of convenient and affordable transportation options (that don’t take all day). Ride share services (Uber/Lyft), shuttle service, and taxis are an option. If driving in, we will also provide parking information in the Winter newsletter. I tried the light rail system from DIA to downtown and was impressed with the speed (only 5 stops between the airport and Union Station) and cost (\$9). From Union Station, it is a good walk to the hotel (0.9 miles) or there is a free “MallRide” bus that takes you to within a block and a half of the hotel.

Speaking of walks, average temperatures for March are warmer than I expected (being a desert dweller for the last 20 years). Average high temps in March are 54^oF with average lows running around 26^oF. Do you like the cold stuff? Great skiing and alpine activities are available within an easy drive of Denver if you choose to extend your stay before or after the meeting.

Denver is an ideal city to meet in. The Grand Hyatt rooms and meeting areas are comfortable and spacious and the WSWS is a great society to be a part of. I think we are setup to have a wonderful annual meeting in 2019. We look forward to seeing you in Denver, March 11-14!

California Aquatic Weed School 2018

The University of California-Davis will host the 2018 Aquatic Weed School on September 5-6, 2018 at the Bowley Plant Science Teaching Center. The Aquatic Weed School is an intensive two-day course focusing on issues associated with developing weed management strategies in a variety of aquatic ecosystems. The course provides a rare opportunity for professionals to efficiently update their understanding of aquatic weeds and interact with experts in this field. The Aquatic Weed School is designed for those involved in consulting, research, and management of aquatic weed systems throughout the western United States. The topics are presented in lecture, laboratory, and demonstration formats. Each attendee will receive a course notebook with lecture summaries and related materials. CEUs for California pesticide certification will be available. Registration is already open, and more information and the agenda are available on the webpage at http://wric.ucdavis.edu/events/aquatic_weed_school_2018.htm

Seating is limited, and available only to registered attendees. Registration is \$485 if you register before August 22, 2018; and \$500 after that date.

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Publications

WSWS ONLINE EDUCATION

<http://passel.unl.edu/pages/index2col.php?category=weedscience#>

WSSA Journals Website Online

www.WSSAJournals.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aquatic Weed School

Sep. 5-6, 2018

Davis, California

http://wric.ucdavis.edu/events/aquatic_weed_school_2018.htm

21st Australasian Weed Conference

Sep. 9-12, 2018

Sydney, Australia

www.21awc.org.au

Alaska Invasive Species Workshop

Nov. 13-15, 2018

Homer, Alaska

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/pests/cnipm/annual-invasive-species-c/>

72st Annual Meeting of the Canadian Weed Science Society

Nov. 19-22, 2018

Niagara Falls, Ontario

www.weedscience.ca

North Central Weed Science Society Annual Meeting

Dec. 3-6, 2018

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

www.ncwss.org

Southern Weed Science Society Annual Meeting

Feb. 3-7, 2019

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

www.swss.ws

Weed Science Society of America Annual Meeting

Feb. 11-14, 2019

New Orleans, Louisiana

www.wssa.net

Western Society of Weed Science Annual Meeting

March 12-15, 2018

Denver, Colorado

www.wsweedscience.org

Call for Papers and Posters – Pat Clay, Program Chair

The 2019 Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS) Annual Meeting will be held March 11-14 in Denver, Colorado at the Grand Hyatt. The location and facilities are top notch and will make for a memorable annual meeting. Early regular registration will be \$250 and student registration will be \$125. Meeting registration will begin October 1, 2018, with information found on the society web page, <http://www.wsweedscience.org/>.

All attendees are invited and encouraged to participate by presenting at least one paper or poster, and multiple submissions are welcome. WSWS will continue to have papers and posters divided into five projects: Agronomic Crops, Horticultural Crops, Weeds of Range and Natural Areas, Basic Biology and Ecology, and Teaching and Technology Transfer.

Oral paper presentations are scheduled every 15 minutes in concurrent sessions. Maintaining a timely schedule in all concurrent sessions is important for those who need to move between sessions. Therefore, presentations of 12 to 13 minutes are recommended to allow time for questions and transition to the next author.

Poster display boards for the 2019 meeting will be rented from the facility, and maximum poster size will be limited to 48 inches by 48 inches. Poster presentation affords the author more personal interaction with the audience and often leads to more in-depth discussions with individuals. Poster authors should plan to be available during poster sessions on Tuesday or Wednesday morning to discuss their research.

Title and abstract submission will open October 1, 2018. Deadline for title submission will be December 1, 2018, but abstracts may be entered and revised any time through late February 2019. Title and abstract submission will again be managed through the WSSA abstract system, <http://wssaabstracts.com/>. Information also will be available on the WSWS web site. Graduate and undergraduate students are strongly encouraged to enter the student paper and/or poster contests. This is accomplished with one pull-down selection on the title submission screen.

Please follow the guidelines when entering paper and poster titles! In particular, please use proper capitalization and use of periods, as outlined on the submission site. Standardizing author and organizational names will help make a smoother program. Lastly, please use approved chemical common names (no Brand or Trade names) in titles and abstracts. Your cooperation on this is appreciated!

Plan to attend the Anaheim meeting to hear about the latest research, recommendations, and findings among a wide range of weed science topics.

Necrology

Nelroy Evan Jackson, PhD. passed away in Corona, California on Sunday July 29, 2018. Nelroy was passionate about controlling invasive weed species and was instrumental in the development of herbicides for vegetation control in the west during his tenure at Monsanto. He was a founding board member of the California Exotic Pest Plant Council and served on the National Invasive Species Advisory Committee. Nelroy was awarded Fellow of the Western Society of Weed Science in 2005. He also received the Presidential Award of Merit and the Outstanding Industry Award from the Weed Science Society of America.

He is survived by his wife; Barbara, sons and daughters in law; Stephen, Evan, Kimberly, and Maria, and grandchildren; Cyan, Mia, and Noelle, as well as numerous other family members. A memorial service in celebration of Nelroy's life was held in Corona on August 3, 2018.

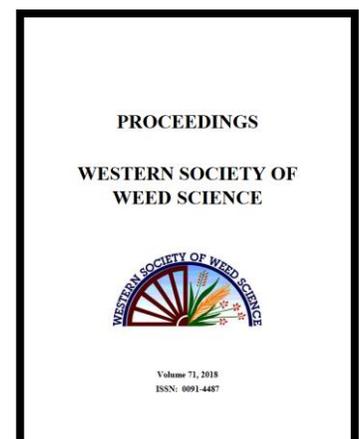
Alaska Invasive Species Workshop

The annual Alaska Invasive Species Workshop will be held in Homer, Alaska November 13-15, 2018. The current call for abstracts is out with a requested submission date of September 21st. For more information about the workshop visit our [workshop website](#).

2018 Proceedings

Proceedings Editor, Carl Libbey, has posted the Proceedings from the 2018 Garden Grove, California 71st annual meeting of the Western Society of Weed Science to the WSWS website. You can view or download the Proceedings by following this link:

http://www.wsweedscience.org/wp-content/uploads/WSWS_2018_Proceedings-Corrected-1.pdf



2019 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Everyone knows of some skilled and outstanding weed scientists in the western region who have contributed a great deal over the years and deserve our recognition and appreciation. One way to recognize such persons is to nominate them for a WSWS award. Please take the time and nominate an individual for one of awards listed below.

CRITERIA USED FOR EVALUATING NOMINATIONS: Awards are based on merit and impact on weed science and weed management practices. Applicants MUST BE a member of WSWS. Professional achievements and their impacts are the principal criteria for receiving these awards. There is no requirement that an award be given in any or every category. Past winners are not eligible again in the same category. An award may be given each year in both the private and public sectors for Outstanding Weed Scientist and Outstanding Weed Scientist – Early Career. Only one award may be given each year for Weed Manager and Professional Staff. Within the guidelines for each category, there is flexibility to fit the nominee.

I. OUTSTANDING WEED SCIENTIST

This award recognizes outstanding achievements in weed science from individuals in both the public and private sectors. Principle criteria for this award includes innovative or unique approaches that result in learning, ability to clearly communicate ideas, motivation of the intended audience, demonstrate excellence and creativity in research accomplishments, applying results to solve problems in weed science, the impact on weed management practices and principals of weed science, and recognition of accomplishments by peers and intended audiences.

II. OUTSTANDING WEED SCIENTIST – EARLY CAREER

This award is to be given to members in the private and public sectors with no more than 10 years of service after completion of their terminal degree. This award recognizes outstanding achievements in weed science early in the individual career with the same criteria as the outstanding weed scientist above.

III. WEED MANAGER

This award recognizes outstanding and sustained contributions in support of weed science activities. This award is intended for those paid by taxpayers and that are working in the public sector, such as employees of state departments of agriculture, weed boards, public land managers, and vegetation management personnel. The nominee must have been involved in the WSWS and weed science for at least five years at the time of nomination.

IV. PROFESSIONAL STAFF

This award recognizes outstanding and sustained contributions in support of weed science activities. Nominees will be restricted to individuals that work under the direction of university, federal, or industry scientists. These individuals may have titles such as researcher, research associate, technician, support scientist, or specialist. The nominee must have been involved in the WSWS and weed science research, extension, or resident education for at least five years at the time of nomination.

NOMINATION DEADLINE: Nominations must be received by **December 1, 2018**.

NOMINATOR'S RESPONSIBILITY: The nominator will submit a nomination document following the "Instructions for Nomination" guideline. The nominator is responsible for obtaining three letters of support and including them with the nomination package. Unsuccessful nominations will remain active for three years; however, an updated nomination packet of holdover candidates is encouraged.

The nomination package, including the supporting letters, should be sent, by email, to the chair of the Awards Committee by **December 1, 2018**:

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WASHINGTON REPORT

August 10, 2018
Lee Van Wychen

WSSA Research Workshop for Managing Dicamba Off-Target Movement: Final Report

The full report, press release and workshop presentations are available at:

<http://wssa.net/wssa/technology-stewardship/dicamba-off-target-movement/>

Executive Summary: The Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) sponsored a research workshop on off-target movement of dicamba on April 16 -17, 2018 in Arlington, Virginia. WSSA invited a broad group of subject experts including weed scientists, state and federal regulators, application technology specialists, and representatives of dicamba registrants to discuss technical issues related to the off-target movement of dicamba observed and reported in 2016 and 2017, and to identify potential research objectives. The research workshop agenda was divided into four topic areas: I) Non-target impacts; II) Volatility; III) Application; and IV) Formulation. Within each topic area, presentations were made to provide an overview and to identify information that was not known and data gaps to be addressed going forward. Following the presentations, discussion was facilitated among participants to identify areas of concern and research questions that were subsequently ranked in order of importance. Following this compilation, suggested action items within each topic area were identified and included the following:

- Compile a comprehensive account of areas planted in dicamba-resistant crop cultivars by county, and quantities of all formulations of dicamba sold at minimum by state.
- Relate reported damage complaints to terrain and weather conditions.
- Improve deficiencies with herbicide labels to address: 1) lack of uniformity in label organization; 2) difficulty in finding and interpreting use instructions; 3) names of dicamba sensitive crops, landscape and native plants, and trees; 4) “neighboring distance” for sensitive crops; 5) descriptions of conditions leading to atmospheric inversions to protect applicators and neighbors.
- Coordinate applicator training such that all trainers present the same detailed message.
- Perform research to better characterize the potential volatility of new herbicide formulations.
- Perform research to better determine: 1) dose vs. damage relationships for key crops; 2) how to protect growers, property owners, and the public from off-target movement; and 3) modes of dicamba movement that are not currently accounted for.

There was sentiment from the group that the widespread non-target movement of dicamba was egregious and resulted in damage to crops, private properties, and native vegetation. Although amelioration of this situation was partly outside of research, attribution of liability should be addressed by appropriate authorities, particularly for horticultural growers who are suffering heavy financial losses. More funding for public research is needed. Concern was expressed that USDA-ARS and USDA-NIFA were not funding the type of research needed to manage off-target pesticide movement.

House and Senate on Track with FY 2019 Appropriations

After a bipartisan budget agreement this spring that set spending limits for FY 2018 and FY 2019 above the sequestration caps Congress self-imposed in 2013, both the House and Senate have passed all 12 of their spending bills out of committee before the August recess. A number of those appropriations bills have also cleared the House and Senate floor, including the funding bill for

Interior and Environment, which marked the first time since FY 2010 that the Senate debated and approved an Interior and Environment spending bill without considering it as a part of a year-end omnibus spending package.

In the House ag appropriations bill, USDA agricultural research programs (ARS, NIFA, ERS and NASS) are funded at \$3.101 billion – \$72 million above FY 2018. USDA-ARS is slated for a \$56 million and \$98 million increase above FY 2018 in the House and Senate, respectively. In addition, House and Senate Appropriators both rejected the White House proposal to close 20 ARS research facilities. AFRI is marked up \$15 million in the House and \$5 million in the Senate, compared to FY 2018. Both the Hatch Act (Experiment Stations) and Smith-Lever 3b & c (Extension) capacity funds received a \$15 million increase in the House version of the ag appropriations bill, which is the first time since FY 2013 those funding lines were increased. Unfortunately, the Senate held those funding lines the same as FY 2018. One other disappointment was that neither the House nor Senate provided an increase for the IR-4 Project funding, which has been stuck at \$11.9 million since at least 2010.

Selected Discretionary Appropriations Accounts

PROGRAM	2016 Final	2017 Final	2018 Final	FY 2019 House	FY 2019 Senate
	----- Millions of Dollars -----				
USDA- NIFA	1326	1363	1407	1447	1423
Hatch Act (Exp. Stations)	244	244	244	259	244
Smith-Lever 3(b) & (c)	300	300	300	315	300
AFRI competitive grants	350	375	400	415	405
IR-4	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9
Crop Protection & Pest	17.2	20	20	20	20
USDA- ARS	1143	1170	1203	1259	1301
USDA- ERS	85	87	87	87	87
USDA- NASS	168	171	192	174	175
USDA- APHIS	894	946	982	998	1000
USDA- NRCS	850	864	874	890	879

Farm Bill Still Moving Forward

The House passed their version of the Farm Bill on June 21 by a vote of 213-211, after voting it down on their first attempt on May 18. On June 27, the full Senate was able to advance its version of a Farm Bill on a strong bipartisan vote of 86-11 on their first attempt. In July, the House appointed 47 members and the Senate appointed 9 members to the Farm Bill Conference Committee. The Chairs and Ranking Members of both the House and Senate Ag Committees have met to lay the groundwork for the Conference Committee. They have expressed optimism that they will have a bill ready for action prior to the expiration of the current Farm Bill on September 30.

There are many good weed science related provisions in House bill regarding regulatory reforms that are not in the Senate bill. This includes a legislative fix for the duplicative National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program permits, a legislative repeal of the 2015 Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule, legislative guidance to streamline the FIFRA-ESA consultation process on endangered species, and reauthorization of the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act

(PRIA). Both the House and the Senate Farm Bill authorize a new \$5 million per year grant program for research equipment. The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) and Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) are reauthorized at existing levels in both the House and Senate bill. The \$20 million per year Organic Agriculture and Extension Initiative (OREI) is increased by \$10 million in the House and \$30 million in the Senate. The Senate bill reauthorizes mandatory funding for the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR), which was created in the 2014 Farm Bill, but the House bill does not. The bottom line is that the conference committee will have to negotiate a bipartisan bill to get 60 votes in the Senate.

Wheeler In; Pruitt Out at EPA



In April, the Senate confirmed Andrew Wheeler as EPA Deputy Administrator on a 53 – 45 vote. Wheeler served as the No. 2 at EPA until he took over as Acting Administrator on July 6 when Scott Pruitt announced his resignation. Wheeler is a native of Ohio and received a BA in English and in Biology from Case Western Reserve University, a JD from Washington University in St. Louis School of Law, and an MBA from George Mason University School of Management. His first job was with EPA between 1991-1995 working on toxic chemical and pollution prevention issues. He is a long time Senate staffer having worked for Sen. George Voinovich (R-OH), Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-OK), and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Wheeler most recently served as Senior VP for Faegre Baker Daniels Consulting, a national advisory and advocacy firm dealing with energy and natural resources practice.

Hutchins Nominated to Lead USDA Research



President Trump has nominated Dr. Scott Hutchins, the Global Head of Integrated Field Sciences for Corteva as the USDA Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics. If confirmed by the Senate, he will serve as USDA's Chief Scientist and will oversee the operations of ARS, NIFA, ERS and NASS. Hutchins has a Ph.D. in entomology from Iowa State University, where he studied the effect of insect-induced injury on alfalfa. Hutchins has bachelor's degree in entomology from Auburn University and a master's degree from Mississippi State University. Presently, he works on pest management chemicals at Corteva and is an adjunct professor at the University of Nebraska. He is a past President of the Entomological Society of America.

USDA NIFA, ERS Moving from DC

On August 9, USDA announced that the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and Economic Research Service (ERS) will be moving from D.C. While the new location for the agencies has yet to be determined, the timeframe for the move is expected to occur within the next year where families with children could start the fall 2019 school year at the new location. USDA said it was undertaking the relocations for three main reasons:

- To improve USDA's ability to attract and retain highly qualified staff with training and interests in agriculture, many of whom come from land-grant universities. USDA has experienced significant turnover in these positions, and it has been difficult to recruit employees to the Washington, DC area, particularly given the high cost of living and long commutes.
- To place these important USDA resources closer to many of stakeholders, most of whom live and work far from the Washington, DC area.
- To benefit the American taxpayers. There will be significant savings on employment costs and rent, which will allow more employees to be retained in the long run, even in the face of tightening budgets.

“The Rise of Resistance” – a Special Issue in Science

Available at: <http://science.sciencemag.org/content/360/6390>. “Today, we find ourselves at the nexus of an alarming acceleration of resistance to antibiotics, insecticides, and herbicides. Through chemical misuse, resistance also brings widespread collateral damage to natural, social, and economic systems. **Evolution will always circumvent head-on attack by new biocides, and we may not be able to invent all the new products that we need.** We must therefore harness evolutionary approaches to find smarter ways to minimize the erosion of chemical susceptibility”.

National Academies Release Report on the Future of Agriculture Research

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine has released a new report, "[Science Breakthroughs 2030: A Strategy for Food and Agricultural Research](#)," which identifies the innovation needed in the next decade to make the U.S. food and agricultural system more efficient, resilient, and sustainable. Using input from the broad scientific community, the report identifies five scientific breakthrough areas that could have the greatest positive impact on food and agriculture:

- Transdisciplinary Research and Systems Approach
- Sensing Technologies
- Data Science and Agri-Food Informatics
- Genomics and Precision Breeding
- Microbiome

The report also recommends investing in physical and cyber infrastructures, engaging non-agricultural professionals, and recruiting talented individuals into food and agriculture research.

New CAST Issue Paper: “Genome Editing in Agriculture”

On July 9, CAST released its newest publication, [Genome Editing in Agriculture: Methods, Applications, and Governance](#). Science Policy Committee Chair and WSSA-NIFA Fellow Donn Shilling and I attended one of the kick off sessions in Washington DC where Dr. Adam Bogdanove from Cornell, lead author and Task Force Chair, gave a great overview on the current status of gene editing, including policy implications. The issue paper describes how genome editing is performed, the types of “edits” that can be made, how the process relates to traditional breeding and conventional genetic engineering, and the potential limitations of the approach.

Wild Spotter: Mapping Invasives in America’s Wild Places

A new nationwide citizen science volunteer capacity-building program called *Wild Spotter* (<https://wildspotter.org>) has been launched that is designed to help locate and map aquatic and terrestrial invasive species in Wilderness Areas, Wild & Scenic Rivers, and other wild places across the 193 million-acre National Forest System. This new program engages and empowers the public, local communities, states, tribes, and many other groups to help the Forest Service confront the threats from harmful exotic plants, animals, and pathogens that invade America’s beautiful and economically important wild places. The *Wild Spotter* program provides the tools these volunteers need to help locate, quantify, map, and report invasive species infestations in a simple and effective manner, while raising public awareness about invasive species and promoting collaborations across the landscape.

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Houndstongue Biological Control: Status Report

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Houndstongue, *Cynoglossum officinale*, is an upright, herbaceous biennial or short-lived perennial that infests forests, rangeland, pastures, roadsides and waste places. It is a toxic plant with hairy leaves making it difficult to control and has been the subject of classical weed biological control research and development for decades.

To date there are no approved classical biological control agents for the management of houndstongue in the United States; however, research is ongoing on two potential classical biological control agents, *Mogulones crucifer* and *Mogulones borraginis*. Caterpillars of the native Police Car Moth (*Gnophaela* species) periodically cause significant houndstongue defoliation and are also being studied.

***Mogulones crucifer*- Houndstongue Root-Feeding Weevil:** Canada released *Mogulones crucifer* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae), a European root-feeding weevil, as a biological control agent for houndstongue in 1997; however, because *M. crucifer* may feed on federally protected and non-targeted plants in environmentally sensitive areas of the United States, the weevils are considered pests in the U.S.A. The weevils are crossing the Canada/ U.S. boarder. Studies to assess non-target feeding in the U.S.A. are underway, but it will remain illegal to collect and redistribute *M. crucifer* in the United States until researchers can determine *M. crucifer* will not cause serious ecological repercussions. A finding of no significant impact is required before a United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) will grant a permit for *M. crucifer*.

***Mogulones borraginis*- Houndstongue Seed-Feeding Weevil:** Adults of the seed-feeding weevil *Mogulones borraginis* feed on the developing stems, buds, and flowers of houndstongue; larvae consume developing seeds. The combination of adult and larval feeding can reduce houndstongue seed production by as much as 50%. Houndstongue is seed limited, so *M. borraginis* may greatly impair the population dynamics of houndstongue. Researchers at the University of Idaho are currently preparing a petition to USDA APHIS to permit *M. borraginis* so this biological control agent may be available to land managers for the management of houndstongue in the next few years.

Native *Gnophaela* species- Police Car Moth: Two indigenous tiger moth species which primarily feed on native bluebell species (*Mertensia*) and stickseed (*Hackelia*) species, *Gnophaela vermiculata*-also known as the Police Car Moth- and *Gnophaela latipennis*, were found feeding on houndstongue plants at several locations in Montana, Idaho, Oregon and California. The caterpillars feed in a group and cut off the flowering stems of houndstongue plants, which consequently produced no seeds. Researchers at the University of Idaho continue to study these moths.

For further information contact Carol Randall, crandall@fs.fed.us.

A Note from the Business Office -Kala Travis

The note from the business office can be found here:

<http://www.wsweedscience.org/wp-content/uploads/4-Finance.pdf>

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