



WSWS Officer and Committee Report 2016 Spokane, WA (for Coeur d'Alene, ID)

Office or Committee Name: Legislative
Officer or Chairperson Name: James Leary
Date of Preparation (include year): March 10, 2017

Committee Activities during the Year:

The chair attended the WSSA Science Policy working group meetings and participated in online surveys and discussion among members of the group. A report of the issues is provided below (see addendum 1)

We recommend a base list of contacts prepared by the www.weedcenter.org in October 2012 consisting of state and provincial weed coordinators of the western region (see addendum 2).

An unsolicited request to this group was sent out to identify critical issues and legislative decisions impacting (positive/negative) weed management programs within their respective state and local areas. This was a late request with responses pending.

Recommendations for Board Action: none

Budget Needs: none

Suggestions for the Future: none

Current Committee Members:

James Leary, learyj@hawaii.edu
Fred Raish, fraish@alligare.com
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Name of Person Preparing This Report: James Leary

Addendum 1

Report of the WSSA Science Policy working group issues addressed: August 2016-February 2017

This document is prepared from correspondences with our Science Policy Director Lee Van Wychen and other uncited source materials.

The second half of 2016 offered many issues to be addressed within the WSSA Science Policy working group (SPWG), with regard to herbicide registrations in new cropping systems, genetic engineering in agriculture, invasive species, herbicide resistance and science on public health.

In October, discussions focused on the problem of off-label applications of dicamba to new resistant seed technologies and the substantial reports of drift injury. The SPWG agreed that WSSA should actively support greater education and awareness activities for applying auxin herbicides. This would include highlights to pertinent websites such as the [Herbicide Stewardship](#) web site out of University of Tennessee, [driftwatch.org](#) and [pesticidestewardship.org](#). However, the SPWG did not support a recommendation to classify dicamba products as RUPs in that this is not within the purview of the WSSA to take such a position on this type of regulatory action. Moreover, WSSA would not recommend a 2-year time-limited registration for dicamba formulations on dicamba-tolerant crops. It was deemed irrelevant in that the EPA can pull registration at any time if warranted. Finally, the SPWG did not recommend a coordinated biotech approval process between APHIS and EPA. Premised by the issue of pre-emptive approval for dicamba-resistant seed technologies without complementing approval of a dicamba formulation, which was implicated in reports of off-label applications mentioned above. Finally, in November 2016, low-volatility auxin herbicide formulations were registered for use with resistant seed technologies. These registrations are 2 yr time-limited in 34 states, allows no tank mixing, and currently has only one approved nozzle. It is to be determined what of non-target affects might be expected with increased deployment. As a pre-emption, the WSSA has been working on three different ideas: (i) Fact Sheet on spray drift vs temperature inversions, (ii) Press Release on Auxin application BMP's and (iii) Press Release on Auxin stewardship resources on the web (as mentioned above).

We were informed on the Farm Bill Task Force Team with regard to invasive species issues that included: (i) adding weed treatment area designations under Healthy Forest Restoration Act, (ii) promoting Areawide IPM language and funding for USDA NIFA, (iii) prevention of NRCS program participants from planting "invasive plant species" on "reserve" lands, (iv) develop pilot projects for landscape-scale testing of grazing as a tool for rangeland invasive species control, (v) addition of "invasive species" to the Foundation of Food and Agricultural Research's list of national priorities.

The SPWG was notified of the Pesticide Policy Coalition's (PPC) Action Plan for FIFRA/Endangered Species Act (ESA) integration in the first President Trump's first 100 days. The objective of the action plan is to improve the timeliness of FIFRA registration decisions and allow the Services to shift their limited resources to actions where the Services' expertise can truly add value to Agency decision-making, which can be accomplished by directing EPA to use

the FIFRA/ESA Counterpart Regulations and the analyses described in the 2004 EPA Overview Document. The step-wise recommendations for First 100 Days: (i) Support Implementation of the Existing Counterpart Regulations to make consultations more focused on protecting species, more timely and less wasteful of limited agency resources, (ii) Support Greater Involvement by EPA and FIFRA Applicants in the Review Process, (iii) Support the Use of Relevant, Reasonable Exposure Scenarios and (iv) Encourage Creative Approaches to Conservation of Species and Habitats.

A Forum of Scientific Society Leaders on GE Crops was held on Dec. 7, with reference to the [GE Crops Report](#) published in May 2016 where *the study committee found no substantiated evidence of a difference in risks to human health between currently commercialized genetically engineered (GE) crops and conventionally bred crops, nor did it find conclusive cause-and-effect evidence of environmental problems from the GE crops.* However, it also highlighted that sustainable use of this technology will require (government) institutional support particularly with *providing resource-poor farmers with access to profitable local and global markets.*

Trump to sign order reviewing EPA water rule to reduce economic impact from regulations created under the Clean Water Act with authority to "Waters of the United States", which applies to 60% of the bodies of water in the US. Furthermore, H.R.953 - Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2017 was introduced in the 1st session of the 115th Congress To amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify Congressional intent regarding the regulation of the use of pesticides in or near navigable waters, and for other purposes. It was subsequently passed by the House Committee on Agriculture.

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) launched the Campaign for Accuracy in Public Health Research (CAPHR) on Wednesday, an initiative to promote credible, unbiased and transparent science as the basis of public policy decisions. In particular, CAPHR will seek reform of the International Agency for Research on Cancer's (IARC) Monographs Program.

In response to SPWG comments on paraquat mitigation measures submitted last May, EPA says it will allow a research exemption for 1) the closed system requirement for paraquat; and 2) the 'certified applicators only' requirement. In other words, weed scientists can still use a backpack sprayer for paraquat research and as long as there is at least one certified applicator overseeing the research, grad students and other research personnel do not need to be certified applicators.

Addendum 2

Unsolicited contact list state and provincial weed coordinators prepared by the www.weedcenter.org

Email list of state and provincial weed coordinators updated October 2012:
brianne.blackburn@alaska.gov, chris.neeser@gov.ab.ca, bmcgrew@azda.gov,
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STATE AND PROVINCIAL WEED COORDINATORS AND CONTACTS (October 2012)
 Referenced from the www.weedcenter.org

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<p>NEW MEXICO Jim Wanstall State Noxious Weed Coordinator New Mexico Department of Agriculture PO Box 464 Tome, NM 87060 Phone: (505) 269-7761 Email: jwanstall@thuntek.net</p>	<p>NORTH DAKOTA Rachel Seifert-Spilde Noxious Weed Specialist North Dakota Department of Agriculture 600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 602 Bismarck, ND 58505 Phone: (701) 328-2983 Email: rseifert@nd.gov</p>	<p>OKLAHOMA Case Medlin Extension Weed Specialist Oklahoma State University Stillwater, OK 74078 Phone: (405) 744-9588 Email: mcase@okstate.edu</p>	<p>OREGON Tim Butler Program Manager Oregon Department of Agriculture 635 Capitol St., N.E. Salem, OR 97301 Phone: (503) 986-4621 Email: tbutler@oda.state.or.us</p>
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