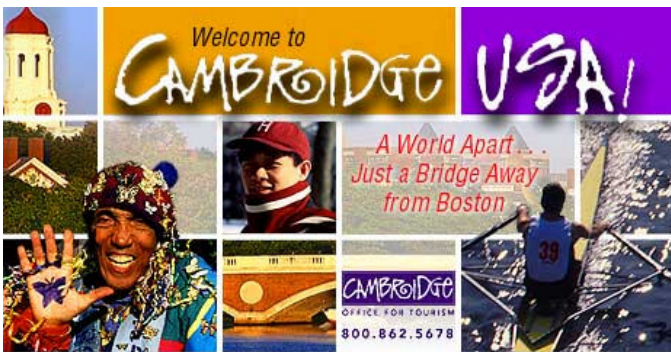


Northeastern Weed Science Society Newsletter August 2000



Cambridge, MA will be the site of the 55th Annual Meeting of the NEWSS (January 2-5, 2001).



The Annual Meeting will be held at the Boston Marriott - Cambridge, which was also the site of the 1999 meeting.

Comments from the President

Plans are well under way for the 55th annual meeting to be held at the Cambridge Marriott, in Cambridge, Massachusetts on January 2-5, 2001. Remember, New Years Day 2001 falls on Monday. Therefore, our meeting will be pushed back one day during the workweek. We will meet Tuesday through Friday rather than Monday through Thursday. As the “call for titles” approaches, you may receive a phone call from one or two section-chairs soliciting titles. The phone call does not mean you are an invited speaker. It means your colleagues want to hear about your research. Dave Mayonado is lining up speakers for this year's symposium on “Invasive Plants”. Plans are to invite the New England group involved with invasive plants to the NEWSS annual meeting.

Recently the NEWSS Executive Committee chose the Loews Hotel in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for the 56th annual meeting. The meeting dates will be January 7-10, 2002 (Monday through Thursday). Jeff Derr has done an excellent job reviewing hotels in Philadelphia and negotiating with the Loews Hotel. The Loews Hotel is across the street from the Philadelphia Convention Center

and in the middle of “Center City”. Carolyn DeMoranville also notified NEWSS that the Northeast Division of the American Society of Horticultural Science will jointly hold its annual meeting with NEWSS in 2001 and 2002.

On July 11 and 12 Jeff Derr and I attended the USDA-ARS workshop to solicit input on critical weed science challenges affecting U.S. agriculture, grazing lands, and natural ecosystems. Officers from WSSA and the other regional weed science societies were among some of the participants. The group unanimously agreed that weed science should have a national program within USDA-ARS, similar to the Plant Diseases national program. Over the next six months USDA-ARS plans to formulate and implement the key weed science challenges for the next 5 years. See Jerry Baron's report for further details.

On behalf of NEWSS I would like to thank Francois Tardif and his colleagues at the University of Guelph in advance for hosting the 2000 NEWSS Collegiate Weed Contest on August 1. To date 68 students have signed up

for the competition. Jeff Derr is currently looking for a host for the 2001 contest.

Please remember Rich Bonanno is soliciting nominations for NEWSS awards (see insert), and Doug Goodale for NEWSS vice president nominations.

I will also be asking some members to serve on an ad hoc committee that will address the future direction of NEWSS. Because of our dwindling membership, many questions have been raised about how our society should proceed in the coming years. Should we continue the joint meetings with NE-ASHS and possibly other regional scientific societies (i.e. plant pathology and entomology)? Should we continue to conduct out-reach programs with the nursery, turf and Ag industries? Can NEWSS serve as a resource of information for regional groups concerned with invasive plants? There are many questions our society needs to ask about its future. If you are interested in this committee or would like to nominate someone to this committee, please call me.

Brian Olson, President

2000 NEWSS Executive Committee

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2000 NEWSS Committees

Awards Committee: Rich Bonanno (Chair), Dave Vitolo, Joe Neal, Tom Vrabel, Brad Majek

Nominating Committee: Doug Goodale (Chair), Rakesh Chandran, Art Gover, Katherine Jennings, Matt Mahoney

Other Committee Chairs :

Resolutions Committee: Rick Schmenk

Past Presidents Committee: Jim Parochetti

Student Paper Contest Committee: Dave Vitolo

Poster Judging Committee: Ben Coffman

Photo Contest Committee: Jim Saik

Collegiate Weed Contest: Francois Tardif

NEWSS Web Site Address

<http://www.ppws.vt.edu/newss/newss.htm>

Many thanks to our "webmaster" Ivan Morozov, a graduate student at Virginia Tech, for creating and maintaining such an outstanding web site for our Society! Be sure to check it frequently for valuable NEWSS information, electronic submission of paper/poster titles, and links to other weed science societies and agricultural web sites.

CALL FOR PAPERS

**55th Annual Meeting of the
Northeastern Weed Science Society
Cambridge, MA January 2-5, 2001**

Title Deadline - September 8, 2000 has been set as the deadline for submitting titles of papers to be presented at the 55th Annual Meeting. Title and author information must be in the hands of the Program Chairperson by the deadline in order to be scheduled in the program. Titles may be submitted via mail or electronically.

Titles should be clear and concise with no more than 100 characters. Avoid using trade names, herbicide chemistry, or scientific names in titles unless essential for clarification. Titles may **NOT** contain unapproved herbicide common names. Trade names only may be used if necessary to identify prepackaged mixes. Check the December 1999 issue of Weed Science (47:764-769) or WSSA website <http://ext.agn.uiuc.edu/wssa/> for the current list of approved chemical and common names. The company code number should be used if a common name has not yet been approved by WSSA.

Please make sure that the title and authors indicated on the Title Submission Form are the same as those you want on the final paper or abstract. Changes in titles or authors require

your editor to play a matchmaking game that may result in confusion, errors, or even omission from the Proceedings.

Abstract and Paper Deadline – November 1, 2000 is the deadline for all papers and abstracts. **Manuscripts received by the Editor after the deadline will not appear in the 2001 Proceedings.** Those submitted after the deadline but before the January meeting will be published in the Supplement Section of the 2002 Proceedings.

Keyword forms and a set of instructions for abstracts and full-length paper submission will be mailed to contributors by the appropriate Section Chairpersons when titles are acknowledged.

If you do not receive acknowledgment within a reasonable time period (early October), please contact your Section Chair.

All contributors are reminded to carefully proofread their abstracts and papers and to follow all instructions for format and terminology. Abstracts are one page in length but may be accompanied by a one-page table or figure. Page charges are levied on full-length papers of more than five (5) pages in length. The page charge is \$25 per page in excess of five (5) pages. Payment for this charge must accompany the paper.

Graduate students who wish to participate in the Graduate Student Presentation Contest **MUST CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX** on the Title Submission Form so the Program Chairperson can schedule the contest papers for judging.

Senior authors who are not currently members of the NEWSS must check the appropriate box on the Title Submission Form to ensure they receive registration information.

A Title Submission Form is enclosed with this newsletter for your convenience. The completed title submission form should be sent to the Chair of the Program Committee: Dave Mayonado, Monsanto Company, 6075 Westbrooke Dr., Salisbury, MD 21801 fax 410/219-3202.

The lower portion should be sent to the appropriate Section Chairperson. Each title should be submitted on a separate form.

Electronic submission forms can be found at the NEWSS website: **<http://www.ppws.vt.edu/newss/newss.htm>**

All abstracts, full-length papers, and symposia talks that are intended for the Supplement Section of the 2001 NEWSS Proceedings are due in the Editor's Office on **October 1, 2000. This deadline will be enforced.**

Instructions for Contributors to the NEWSS Proceedings

PAPERS RECEIVED AFTER DEADLINE WILL NOT APPEAR IN THE 2001 PROCEEDINGS. INSTRUCTIONS ARE THE SAME REGARDLESS OF ELECTRONIC OR MAIL SUBMISSIONS.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Authors may publish an abstract or a full-length paper in the Proceedings. Papers should be pertinent to the general area of weed science and should reflect the content of the oral presentation given at the meeting. At least one author must be a current member of the Northeastern Weed Science Society. Papers submitted after the established deadline will be published in the following year's proceedings. Proceedings will be distributed at meeting registration. **Abstracts and papers must be received by November 1, 2000.**

PREPARATION OF ABSTRACTS AND PAPERS

Arial or New Times Roman are the two preferred fonts. Use 12-point font size. Do not use bold fonts at any place in abstracts or full-length papers.

Format: Title, author(s) and author(s) affiliation(s). Use all caps for title. Title, author(s) name (lower case) below title, and author(s) affiliation should be left justified. The heading ABSTRACT should be centered as in the following example:

WEED RESPONSE TO CULTIVATION. J.P. Smith, Assoc. Prof., H.L. Kim, Res. Assist., and B.W. Jones, Res. Assoc., Dept. of Weed Science, Crabgrass Univ., Seedbed, VA 20777; C.P. Driver, Sen. Sci. Wekille, Inc., Rootstock, VA, 20776.

ABSTRACT

(Body of Abstract)

In body of full-length papers, center and capitalize all section headings (do not underline or bold headings) including abstract, introduction (justification/rationale), procedures, results and discussion, and literature cited. In full-length papers, insert tables and figures in text, rather than at end of paper.

Titles: Titles should contain no more than 100 characters. Avoid using trade names, herbicide chemistry, or scientific names in titles unless essential for clarification. If title exceeds one line, single space between lines.

Page limitations:

Abstracts: A one-page textual abstract is permitted with a second page allowed for presentation of a table or figure. Those submitting only an abstract are encouraged to include a table **if publication elsewhere is not intended.**

Full-length papers: Five pages are allowed with tables and figures included in the text. A charge of \$25 per page will be levied for papers exceeding the five-page limit. All excess page charges must accompany the manuscripts to the editor. Payment should be in the form of a check made out to the Northeastern Weed Science Society. A receipt will be supplied if requested.

All manuscripts:

Tables: Margins for tables and graphs must be within those specified by typing instructions. Reduced copies of tables and graphs may be used, but must be as clear as originals for acceptable printing.

Herbicide names: Omit chemical names from all abstracts and use only common names. If a common name has not yet been approved by WSSA, use the code number. In the body of full-length papers, however, the chemical name will be listed as usual. Namely, at the first mention of a herbicide, except in the title or abstract, give its approved common name or other designation first and follow it with the full chemical name in parentheses or in brackets if there are parentheses within the chemical name. Use only the common name or code name thereafter. Check the December 1999 issue of Weed Science (47: 764-769) or WSSA website <http://ext.agn.uiuc.edu/wssa/> for the current list of approved chemical and common names. Herbicide trade names may be used as long as accompanied by appropriate common name. If use of a trade name is required to properly identify product, at first mention use the appropriate common name, immediately followed by trade name in parenthesis. Trade names are acceptable for clarification of pre-packaged mixtures.

Plant and animal names: In either abstracts or full-length papers, at the first mention of a crop, weed, or other organism give the common name and follow it with the approved scientific name underlined or italicized and in parentheses (or in brackets if there are parentheses within the scientific name). Give genus, species, and authority for the binomial. Underline the genus and species names. Include the cultivated variety of a crop plant if known and indicate it by enclosing it in single quotes. Example: Corn (Zea mays L. 'Dixie 18'). For cultivar names that are registered trade names insert (R) after the name. For approved common and scientific names of weeds see the

Composite List of Weeds, Revised 1989, available from WSSA, 810 East 10th Street, Lawrence, KS 66044-8897. After the first mention, use only the common names.

Abbreviations: Use abbreviations as shown in the "Herbicide Handbook" or as used in one of the previous year's issues of *Weed Science*. Abbreviations that are acceptable for NEWSS use (although not in agreement with the *CBE Style Manual*) include two-letter abbreviations for states, Ci for curie, M for molar (do not abbreviate mole), L for liter, ppmw for parts per million by weight, ppmv for parts per million by volume, ae for acid equivalent, and ai for active ingredient. Do not place a period after an abbreviation in the text. Do not start a sentence with an abbreviation. All abbreviations not shown in *Weed Science* should be introduced in parentheses immediately after the first use of the word. Example: cation exchange capacity (CEC). Do not use a hyphen for the preposition to or an x for the preposition by except in tables or figures. Write 100 by 20 rather than 100 x 20 and 1 to 3 rather than 1-3.

Numbers: Use Arabic numbers for all numbers with two or more digits and for all measurements such as time, weight, or degrees except when the number is the first word in a sentence. Spell out numbers when they are the first word in a sentence or when they are less than 10 and not measurements, except when in a series in which one figure has two or more digits. Report only significant numbers.

Measurements and units: It is acceptable to report measurements in English or metric units. In laboratory studies, express concentration of acids and bases in normality (N) and of herbicide and salt solutions in molarity (M) rather than ppm. Use ml rather than cc for all measurements of volume.

Footnotes: Number footnotes consecutively throughout the manuscript except for tables that are handled separately. Do not put acknowledgments in footnotes.

Trade names: Use trade names of such items as equipment only when necessary to describe the materials or methods adequately. Capitalize trade names. Footnote names with the address of the supplier only if the supplier is not commonly known.

Full-Length Papers Only:

Acknowledgments: Give all acknowledgments in a separate section immediately following the Results and Discussion.

Literature cited: Number citations alphabetically and use the number of the reference (in parentheses) in the text. Each citation should include names of all authors, year of

publication, complete title, publication, volume number, and inclusive pages, in that sequence. When two or more authors are listed, initials should follow the last name for the first author, but the initials should precede the last name of other authors (see detailed instructions in the *CBE Style Manual*). Do not leave a space between the period after each initial and the next letter. Books, bulletins, and other similar publications should show as the last entry the number of pages in the publication. Theses, letters, or other communications or publications not normally available in libraries should appear as text footnotes and not in the Literature Cited section.

INDEXING

Authors are required to prepare a key word list for each of their papers. This list is used to make an index to the Proceedings. Capitalize all keywords and state noun first, followed by modifier as shown in the following examples: Maple, red or Corn, sweet. Do not show the authority for binomials. Use the form provided to list keywords by the following categories.

- Author name(s). Last name, followed by initials.
- Crop(s), list both common and scientific name(s).
- Weeds(s), list both common and scientific names(s).
- Area(s) of non-crop use.
- Chemical(s), WSSA-approved common names, or code number only if no approved name is available. Use trade names for pre-packaged mixtures only. Check the December 1999 issue of *Weed Science* (47:764-769) or WSSA website <http://ext.agn.uiuc.edu/wssa/> for the current list of approved chemical and common names.
- Subject, special equipment and techniques, biochemical, physiological, or microbiological observations.

TYPING INSTRUCTIONS

Paper - Smooth surface, mimeograph type paper.

Page size - 8 ½ by 11".

Margins - Top and both sides - 1", bottom - 3/4". Indent paragraphs in abstracts and full-length papers.

Corrections - Do not erase, paste on corrections.

Typewriter/Printer - Use **12 pitch print**. **Laser print or clear typed copies are recommended. Manuscripts printed on dot matrix printers may be rejected by the editor if print quality is poor.**

Spacing - Single space text, tables, and table and figure headings. Double space between section headings and single space between paragraphs.

Do not use staples or paper clips on the original.

Do not number pages.

Capitalize proper nouns, Table, Figure, etc.

Footnotes - In Tables and Figures annotate with lower case letters. Number footnotes consecutively in text.

Review abstracts and papers prior to submission.

Please follow instructions and observe the announced deadline.

MAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Mail an original (**Fax will not be accepted**) and one copy of the abstract or full-length paper, the keyword form, and excess page charges to the NEWSS Editor.

Mark VanGessel
Research and Education Center
University of Delaware, Road 6, Box 48
Georgetown, DE 19947
mjv@udel.edu

All copies should be mailed flat. Use cardboard on top and bottom when mailing to prevent damage.

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Complete the keyword list for each paper at the NEWSS website: <http://www.ppws.vt.edu/newss/newss.htm>.

Text and graphs/figures should be sent via email attachments to mjv@udel.edu. Text files need to be MS Word or WordPerfect compatible and graphics must be PowerPoint compatible. Upon receipt, files will be printed and if re-formatting is required, authors will be notified for corrections or for a hard copy.

Program Chairs for the 2001 NEWSS Meeting

Listed below are the section chairs for the 55th Annual Meeting of NEWSS to be held January 2-5, 2001 at the Boston Marriott Cambridge.

Program Chair

David Mayonado
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6075 Westbrooke Dr., Salisbury, MD 21801
Phone: 410-726-4222 / Fax: 410-219-3202
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Biologically-Based Weed Control

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USDA-ARS-FDWSRU
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Industrial, Forestry, and Conservation

Chair: Robert Wagner
University of Maine
5755 Nutting Hall, Orono, ME 04469
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Ornamentals

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Email: mac30@cornell.edu

Poster Section

Chair: Annamarie Pennucci
NE Turf & Ornamental Research
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Phone: 603-895-8480 / Fax: 603-672-6332

Turfgrass and Plant Growth Regulators

Chair: Stephen Hart
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Email: hart@aesop.rutgers.edu

Vegetables and Fruit

Chair: Thomas Bewick
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P.O. Box 569, East Wareham, MA 02538
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Email: cranweed@fnr.umass.edu

Last Call for Award Nominations

This announcement serves as the last call for nominations for the following Society awards:

- Distinguished Member Award
- Award of Merit
- Outstanding Educator
- Outstanding Researcher

Nominations are due **September 17, 2000**. Please refer to the nomination form enclosed in this newsletter for the awards criteria. Completed forms should be sent to Rich Bonanno, Awards Committee Chairman.

Call for Vice President Nominations

Brian Olson is requesting suggestions from the membership for nominations to the office of NEWSS Vice President. The Vice President serves as chairperson of the program committee and automatically succeeds to the office of President Elect. By general rule, the person elected Vice President at the 2001 meeting should be selected from members who are employed in the public sector (i.e. academic institution or government agency). Nominations should be sent to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee:

Douglas Goodale
SUNY-Cobleskill, College of Agric. & Tech.
100 Hodder Hall, Cobleskill, NY 12043
Phone: 518-234-5321 / Fax: 518-234-5439
Email: goodalem@cobleskill.edu

Procedures for the NEWSS Archives

The Past President of the society will compile information from the previous year for the NEWSS archives. If you have articles, pictures, or other information for the NEWSS archives, send them to Rich Bonanno, 255 Merrimack Street, Methuen, MA 01844-6433. The archives are being maintained at Cornell University by Robin Bellinder.

Commercial Displays

All Sustaining Members of NEWSS are eligible and encouraged to participate in the Commercial Display Session that will be held on Wednesday, January 3, 2001 at the annual meeting in Cambridge. This session is held in conjunction with the Poster Display Session. Displays can remain in the room until Friday. This is an excellent opportunity to inform the membership of new services, products and labels.

Table space can be reserved by contacting the Sustaining Membership Chairman, Carroll Moseley (see p. 2 for contact information).

Placement Service

The NEWSS provides a placement service for members at the annual meeting each year. This service is open to any institution or commercial firm seeking employees as well as individuals desiring positions. "Position Available" and "Position Desired" forms are available upon request from the Sustaining Membership Chairman, Carroll Moseley (see p. 2 for contact information). These forms will also be included in the November newsletter.

The forms will be available for inspection at the placement service desk during the annual meeting in Cambridge. After that date, the forms will be forwarded to the WSSA placement service chairperson.

NEWSS Photo Contest

Plan now to enter the NEWSS photo contest. Entries can be submitted as slides, prints or digital images. Contest details will be provided in the November newsletter.

People in the News

Dr. Nathan L. Hartwig retired at the end of June 2000 after 31 years of service to The Pennsylvania State University. Nate grew up on a dairy farm in southern Wisconsin and got his B.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Wisconsin. He received his M.S. degree from the University of Arizona. After earning his B.S. degree, Nate spent three years as a helicopter pilot for the U.S. Army. He met his wife Elfriede in Germany and they were married in 1963.

At Penn State, Nate taught weed science courses taken by over 1400 students in the last 31 years. He advised 14 M.S. students and four Ph.D students. Nate was responsible for weed control research for corn and forage crops. His research was applied and field oriented with the purpose of developing effective and environmentally sound weed control programs for Pennsylvania's farmers. Major focuses of his research have included relationships between soil pH and herbicide efficacy, establishment of economic thresholds for weeds in corn, and control of yellow nutsedge. Nate's most innovative research projects have investigated use of crownvetch as a perennial living mulch in corn, small grains and forages. As a result of this research, Nate received the "Innovator of the Year Award" from NEWSS in 1986.

Nate has no particular plans for retirement other than relaxing and spending more time with his family.

Thomas Vrabel has returned to the Northeast as the director of the new Slater Center for Environmental Biotechnology located at the University of Rhode Island. The Center will provide financing and development grants for Rhode Island scientists or businesses involved in plant or animal biotech projects. Tom's most recent position was with Eco Soil Systems, Inc. in San Diego. He was formerly employed in the Northeast with Rhone-Poulenc. Tom has long been an active member of NEWSS, and served as our President in 1996-97.

A Memorial

A great teacher, friend and scientist, **F. Dan Hess** passed away on Friday, August 4, 2000. He was 53 years old. The funeral will be held Thursday, August 10 at 1:00 p.m. at Saint Mathias Catholic Church in Redwood City, California. One of Dan's last wishes was to start an endowment to fund a graduate student in weed science. He was thrilled when the paperwork was completed last week. The F. Dan Hess Endowment for Applied Agriculture has been established by the University of California at Davis (Dan received his M.S. and Ph.D. from UC-Davis.) Contributions can be made to:

UC-Davis Foundation
F. Dan Hess Endowment for Applied Agriculture
1 Shields Avenue
University of California-Davis
Davis, CA 95616

Our lives are richer because of Dan's gifts and energy devoted to teaching and research in weed science and agriculture. He will be deeply missed. His wife Deborah can be reached at 905 Far Creek Way, Redwood City, CA 94062.

Submitted by Janis McFarland

Articles for NEWSS NEWS

Please submit articles or notices for the NEWSS newsletter to Todd Mervosh, Public Relations Representative. I prefer that information is sent to my email address: tmervosh@caes.state.ct.us. Otherwise, send a hard copy, plus the file stored on diskette to:

Todd Mervosh, Conn. Agr. Exp. Stn., 153 Cook Hill Road, P.O. Box 248, Windsor, CT 06095.

The deadline for inclusion in the November newsletter is **October 20, 2000**.

NEWSS Collegiate Weed Contest

The NEWSS Collegiate Weed Contest was held on August 1, 2000 in Ontario at the University of Guelph. Francois Tardif served as coordinator of the contest. The winners are listed below. *A full report and photos will be included in the November newsletter.*

Graduate Student Teams:

- 1st Place: Virginia Tech "A"
- 2nd Place: North Carolina State Univ. "B"
- 3rd Place: Cornell Univ. "A"

Individual Graduate Students:

- 1st Place: Shawn Askew, N.C. State
- 2nd Place: Corey Whaley, Virginia Tech
- 3rd Place: Steve King, Virginia Tech

Undergraduate Student Teams:

- 1st Place: Ohio State Univ. "A"
- 2nd Place: Univ. of Nova Scotia "A"
- 3rd Place: Ohio State Univ. "B"

Individual Undergraduate Students:

- 1st Place: Luke Case, Ohio State
- 2nd Place: Kerry Cluney, Nova Scotia
- 3rd Place: Traci Brenly, Ohio State

WSSA Report

I recently attended the Summer Board of Directors Meeting for the WSSA. The 2001 annual meeting is rapidly approaching and will take place February 11-14 at the Sheraton Four Season Hotel and Convention Center in Greensboro, North Carolina. The call for papers was announced in the July WSSA Newsletter. Abstracts are to be submitted electronically and copies postmarked by September 11, 2000. To submit abstracts or for more information about the meeting, go to the Weed Science Society of America home page (www.wssa.net). Also, the membership directory is now posted on the WSSA Website. Members can access it via a username and password.

I had an opportunity to stay at the hotel during the summer Board meeting and believe that the meeting rooms and facilities should work well for the WSSA annual meeting. Greensboro offers a number of attractions including the American Classic Motorcycle Museum, Blandwood Mansion and Carriage House, Castle McCulloch, Greensboro Children's Museum, Greensboro Cultural Center and Festival Park, Mendenhall Plantation, Natural Science Center of Greensboro, Old Mill of Guilford, and the Richard Petty Museum. A spouse and guest program that includes some of these sites is being planned.

The 2001 program is coming together and should be interesting and educational. As in recent years, the program will begin on Sunday afternoon and end on Wednesday evening following the banquet. Six symposia are being planned for the program and include:

- 1.) Gene flow: implications for weed management
- 2.) WSSA outreach to support local sustainable weed

management

- 3.) Dormancy in seeds and vegetative propagules
- 4.) Weed science extension and outreach for the future
- 5.) Invasive plant species: visions of the future
- 6.) Role of biotechnology in weed control for minor crops.

Also, the 2001 meeting will attempt to utilize LCD projectors rather than slide projectors for presentations on a test basis. To test the waters, at least one session (Extension and Teaching section) will likely be selected for this trial use. This is something that the NEWSS and other regional societies have considered or implemented.

Bill Curran, WSSA Representative for NEWSS

Legislative Committee Report

FOOD QUALITY PROTECTION ACT OF 1996 (FQPA)- UPDATE:

Rob Hedberg, WSSA Director of Science Policy has been selected to serve on the Committee to Advise on Reassessment and Transition (CARAT). The intent of CARAT is to build on the groundwork laid by the Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee (TRAC).

At least half of the membership consists of people with strong agricultural ties. There is also representation from environmental and farm worker groups. The committee is charged with working on two tasks. The first is to advise on implementation of the FQPA and the other is to advise on "Transition" or the campaign to integrate new pest control technology into agriculture.

The first CARAT meeting was held in Arlington, Virginia on June 23rd. The opening comments by CARAT members were much less contentious than those of the TRAC members when those meeting started about two years ago. Environmentalists focused on the transition process and the need to move away from risky products to safer alternatives. The agricultural community emphasized the poor economic state of farmers and the need to use sound science in removing older products while allowing adequate time to evaluate newer alternatives in their complex production systems.

EPA has scheduled a technical briefing on the "Proposed Guidance on Cumulative Risk Assessment of Pesticide Chemicals that have a Common Mechanism of Toxicity". The briefing will be held Thursday, July 20, at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Conference Center, 4301 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA. EPA staff who participated in development of the guidance will explain the policy described in the document and will answer questions about the guidance. The draft guidance document is available at:

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/trac/science>.

Comments on the cumulative risk assessment

guidance should be submitted in writing to the OPP docket, as described in the June 30 Federal Register notice announcing the availability of the guidance for public comment.

EPA has reached an interim risk management decision for the organophosphate (OP) herbicide bensulide. Bensulide and two insecticides are the first OP's to have individual risks fully evaluated through the pilot public participation process. These interim decisions have been posted at: www.epa.gov/REDS/. With the mitigation measures outlined, bensulide fits into its own "risk cup," which means that its individual, aggregate risks are within acceptable levels. EPA concluded for bensulide, that it does not pose dietary risk concerns through food or drinking water. EPA is requiring mitigation measures to reduce both these potential worker and residential risks and ecological risks. Bensulide is eligible for reregistration, pending a full reassessment of the cumulative risk from all OP pesticides.

On June 28, EPA published a notice of availability in the Federal Register for human health and ecological risk assessments for the herbicide triallate. Triallate is undergoing reregistration and tolerance reassessment. The assessments are being released to the public as part of the joint initiative of EPA and USDA to strengthen stakeholder involvement and help ensure that decisions made under FQPA are transparent and based on the best available information. The risk assessments and related documents are available at:

www.epa.gov/pesticides/reregistration/triallate/).

The docket number, which should be included on any comments, is OPP-34226.

The Clinton administration has announced food and agricultural biotechnology initiatives to strengthen science-based regulation and consumer access to information. In a May 12, 2000 press release it was noted that "Agricultural biotechnology holds enormous promise for improving the productivity and environmental sustainability of food and fiber production. In order to secure a bright future, the Clinton Administration is taking steps to further our long-standing goal of sound science regulation and improved access to information. These steps are intended to build consumer confidence, ensure that regulations keep pace with the latest scientific and market developments and provide that voluntary product claims, such as labels, relating to biotechnology are truthful and not misleading." Some of the new initiatives include:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will take steps to ensure that it is informed at least 120 days before new agricultural biotechnology crops or products

are introduced into the food supply and will propose that submitted information and the agency's conclusion be made available to the public.

USDA, FDA and EPA will support an expanded program of competitively awarded, peer-reviewed research focusing on current & future safety issues.

FDA will develop guidelines for voluntary efforts to label food products under their authority as containing or not containing bioengineered ingredients in a truthful and straightforward manner, consistent with the requirements of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

USDA will work with farmers and industry to facilitate the creation of reliable testing procedures and quality assurance programs for differentiating non-bioengineered commodities to better meet market needs.

USDA, FDA, EPA, and the State Department will enhance domestic and foreign public education and outreach activities to improve understanding of the nature and strength of our regulatory process.

USDA will provide farmers with reliable information on markets to inform their planting decisions and with best farming practices for new crop varieties.

Seven academies of science from around the world, including five from developing nations, issued a white paper spelling out the promise of agricultural biotechnology to alleviate hunger and poverty in the Third World. The paper urges governments to base their decisions regarding biotechnology on sound science, and strongly encourages private corporations and research institutions to share their technology with scientists and farmers in developing countries who desperately need it.

"It is essential that we improve food production and distribution in order to feed and free from hunger a growing world population, while reducing environmental impacts and providing productive employment in low-income areas". Key to moving forward is responsible research, development, and implementation of genetic modification (GM) technology for widespread agricultural use.

The white paper was prepared by a working group of members from the Royal Society of London, the national academies of science of Brazil, China, India, Mexico, and the United States, and the Third World Academy of Sciences. Because agricultural biotechnology has come under fire in recent months, the working group endeavored to produce a brief report that clearly lays out the potential for GM technology to assist developing countries, as well as the obstacles that stand in the way of its widespread use.

The white paper, Transgenic Plants and World Agriculture, is posted on the National Academy Press Web site at <http://books.nap.edu/html/transgenic>.

ARS WEED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM:

Representatives from NEWSS, WSSA, other regional weed science societies, and other stakeholders were invited to participate in workshop on July 11-13, 2000 in Washington to examine USDA-ARS Weed Management Program. From all indications the results are very positive. First, the question of whether or not ARS weed science research should be consolidated into a cohesive national program became a central question of the meeting that was answered with a unanimous affirmative vote from the participants. It will have to be approved by the ARS administration, but they now have an extremely clear indication of stakeholders' opinions.

Other outcomes of the workshop were priority groupings for researchable topics. Although ARS scientists and outside stakeholders differed in the relative rankings they agreed on which 6 items were at the top of the list. These are:

(40 votes) Increase herbicide-related research (IR-4, FQPA response, application technology, herbicide resistant crops, natural herbicides, etc).

(33 votes) Weed Biology, Ecology, Physiology and Weed/crop interactions.

(26 votes) Research in integrated weed management in all habitats and all ecosystems.

(26 votes) Biological control research, emphasizing long term post release evaluation of biocontrol agents.

(23 votes) Invasiveness of plant species.

Develop emerging weed science technologies including precision ag, long term high risk research etc.

These rankings provide a marked shift in control priorities to refocus more efforts on herbicide-related work and less on biological control while also retaining a high focus on weed biology and ecology. An action plan based on the workshop outcomes will be prepared over the next 3 months and will then be sent to all workshop participants and invitees. After their review it will also be posted for general public comment.

STATE ISSUES:

NY The New York Senate and Assembly passed in late June a sweeping measure requiring a variety of notification rules for pesticide applications. Many feel that this would be the most comprehensive notification law in the nation. The law addresses the riskiest kinds of applications including tree application.

DE EPA has announced its intent to approve revisions to the State's Plan which establishes new requirements for certification and recertification of pesticide applicators, requires training for registration of non-certified employees, adopts EPA's requirements for direct supervision, adds new commercial subcategories,

and establishes payment of fees for commercial applicators, issuance of business licenses, and dealer permits.

EPA has published Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) rules for pollutants including pesticide runoff in waterbodies. This action gives EPA the authority to regulate Non-Point (farm and forest) sources. EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner in a press release announcing the regulations said, "Today the Clinton-Gore Administration is taking action geared to finish the job of cleaning up America's rivers, lakes and streams. Americans want and deserve clean beaches and safe waters in which to swim and fish.

When the rule takes effect, water pollution problems will be addressed comprehensively on a state-by-state, river-by-river basis. EPA, the states and local communities will work together to develop cleanup plans tailored specifically to the protection of local water bodies. EPA's rule change requires calculation of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) of soil and other particles carried in water that wash across fields and forestry lands, that may eventually find their way to streams and rivers. States and local communities will have maximum flexibility to determine how best to meet cleanup goals by setting their own TMDLs.

EPA agreed to a number of changes in the program in response to comments received after its initial proposal, including those from members of Congress. These changes include dropping provisions that could have required new permits for forestry, livestock, and aquaculture operations, significantly enhancing state flexibility, giving states 4 years instead of 2 years to update inventories of polluted waters, and allowing states to establish their own schedules for when polluted waters will achieve health standards, not to exceed 15 years. However, House Agriculture Committee Chairman Larry Combest (R-Texas) and Ranking Minority Member Charlie Stenholm (D-Texas) sharply criticized EPA's plans to finalize rule changes on producers' management of irrigation and rainfall water runoff from their fields. "Farmers still have no way of knowing from EPA if they must get federal permission for irrigation of their crops, or whether a heavy rain washing over their fields will turn landowners into lawbreakers. EPA's rule change is a public policy debacle with the potential for a national cost in billions of dollars and lost credibility."

The Plant Protection Act was passed on May 25 by both the House and Senate as part of the Conference Report on the Crop Insurance Act HR 2559. This bill has been a WSSA priority for numerous years. According to Rob Hedberg, the bill is not perfect and much more needs to be done to gain funding and

motivate APHIS to address weed problems in both crop and natural areas. The text of the bill can be accessed at www.access.gpo.gov/sudocs/aces/. (Congressional record Volume 146 and page h3783.)

Rob Hedberg attended the EPA FIFRA Science Advisory Panel (SAP) meetings to discuss atrazine. The major issue was EPA's proposal to reclassify atrazine as a likely human carcinogen instead of a possible human carcinogen. Rob made comments on our concerns and submitted the resolutions of the WSSA in 1995 and the SWSS in January 2000 for the record. There were lots of toxicology and endocrinology involved in the discussion, and EPA presented a detailed case to support their proposal for a more severe reclassification. Although several items are still on the table for the SAP which they would like to see researched further, it appears that the SAP will reject the Agency's proposal. This could be extremely good news. It will take some of the doubt away about the most important herbicide in North America and will help nullify some of the attacks leveled against herbicides in general.

USDA-ARS scientists have found a new bioherbicide from sicklepod plants that shows promise as a methyl bromide alternative for controlling weeds in tomatoes. ARS scientists recently reported that the fungus controls kudzu, common purslane, horse purslane, ground spurge and spotted spurge. All are serious weed pests in commercially grown tomatoes.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Policy Advisory Committee on Farm and Forest Lands Protection sets listening forums to solicit policy feedback and anecdotal information from a community perspective in working with federal tools designed to maintain land as farmland and forest land. The input received from these forums will be synthesized into a report that USDA will issue on this subject later this year. A forum will be held early August in New Jersey - contact Rosann Durrah at (202) 720-4072, fax (202) 690-0639, e-mail: rosann.durrah@usda.gov for more information.

Cape Tulips (*Homeria* spp.) was added to the USDA APHIS List of Terrestrial Noxious Weeds that, effective June 26, may be moved into or through the U.S. or interstate only under a written permit and under conditions that would not involve risk of dissemination of the weed. APHIS took this action to prevent the artificial spread of this noxious weed into non-infested areas of the U.S. For details, see the May 25 *Federal Register*.

Jerry Baron, Legislative Committee Chair

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