



2026 NCWSS Weeds Contest

Gothenburg, NE

Graduate Farmer Problem (NC)



2026 NCWSS Weed Contest – Farmer Problem Descriptions

PROBLEM ID:	NCWSS Grad 1, Beets by Laudis 13
CROP:	Sugar Beet
TIMING:	June 15th
SHORT SUMMARY:	Laudis boom contamination in warrant application
FARMER:	Sarah Striegel
JUDGE:	Nick Steppig

Description:

Student is a sales agronomist from Western Sugar and field is in the NE panhandle.

Grower complains of injury to beets. Noticed a week ago and suspects it is drift (mesotrione) from the neighbor's field (particle drift/volatility). Grower insists that they triple rinsed their tank before spraying his beets for the third time this year. Previous applications of 2 pts Nortron PRE, Dual Magnum + Roundup + 6 oz Nortron at 2-leaf, Warrant + Roundup + 6 oz Nortron at 6-leaf have been made. Prior to treating sugar beets, grower had applied Laudis and Warrant in other fields of theirs that are continuous corn. Field is on three year rotation to sugar beets (corn, dry bean, then sugar beet). In Dry bean (red kidney), grower applied Outlook fb Assure II + Dual Magnum, and in corn they had done Harness fb Roundup + DiFlexx. Grower might suggest tembotrione carryover to student as a possible option. Grower will ask student if Western Sugar will still process beets. Student must be able to pick out clear V-pattern from failing to clean out boom, recommend full clean-outs when switching crops, and that beets in affected area will likely not be accepted for processing, but remainder of field should be good to go.





2026 NCWSS Weed Contest – Farmer Problem Descriptions

PROBLEM ID:	NCWSS Grad 2, 7 Nation Corn (White Stripes) 18
CROP:	Corn
TIMING:	May 10th
SHORT SUMMARY:	Warrant Ultra applied pre in corn
FARMER:	Cody Evans
JUDGE:	Brent Mansfield

Description:

Student is a Bayer Crop Protection sales rep and field is in NW Kansas.

Grower applied acetochlor + Balance Flexx PRE in their corn. The acetochlor formulation used was actually Warrant Ultra. Student must be able to identify the PPO injury on the corn, acknowledge that Warrant Ultra is not labeled in corn, and that there is a 10-month plant back to corn following an application of fomesafen. Previous crop was XF soybean and program was Prefix fb Liberty + Roundup + Warrant, and grower might try to convince student it was carryover from previous year, but emphasize that the symptomology in that block is seen field-wide, but heavier in overlap areas. Likely the crop will survive with substantial yield loss, limited re-crop options given PRE application.



GRAD #2





2026 NCWSS Weed Contest – Farmer Problem Descriptions

PROBLEM ID:	NCWSS Grad 3, Rainout Cotton 4
CROP:	Cotton
TIMING:	June 20th
SHORT SUMMARY:	Rainfall event following application reduces clethodim and dicamba efficacy
FARMER:	Randy Lloyd
JUDGE:	Matt Goddard

Description:

Student is a sales agronomist in SC KS.

Grower complains of reduced efficacy following their POST pass in their cotton in part of their field. They think the clethodim rate the coop told them to use was insufficient for their volunteer corn size and think they have dicamba-resistant Palmer; also concerned about antagonism between the two for their mix and think that played a role as well. The part of the field with reduced efficacy was sprayed with the same load as the rest of the field, but grower took a lengthy lunch break and remainder of the field did not make rainfast.



GRAD #3





2026 NCWSS Weed Contest – Farmer Problem Descriptions

PROBLEM ID:	NCWSS Grad 4, Status Beans 1
CROP:	Soybean
TIMING:	July 10
SHORT SUMMARY:	Status applied to dicamba tolerant soybean
FARMER:	Spencer Samuelson
JUDGE:	Adam Striegel

Description: You are a technical agronomist for Dekalb/Asgrow. Grower planted AG27XF6 dicamba and glufosinate tolerant soybean. To manage his weeds, the grower applied dicamba, glyphosate, and warrant POST here about 10 days ago. Grower complains that his neighbor must have drifted something across his whole field since these are dicamba-tolerant soybean or else you sold him the wrong seed. Student must pin down what dicamba product the grower utilized, when asked the grower may mention that it is a 'safened dicamba' with a pretty low use rate. When asked the product name, grower may fumble around and suggest something with that diflufenzapyr safener, which should key in on Status being applied over the top of soybean.



GRAD #4





BASF
We create chemistry

Dicamba	Group	4
Diflufenzopir	Group	1

Status®

Herbicide

For use in field corn grown for grain, seed, or silage and popcorn
A broad-spectrum corn herbicide, in a safened formulation, specifically designed for use alone or with glyphosate combinations

Active Ingredients:

sodium salt of diflufenzopir: 2-[[[(3,5-difluorophenylamino)carbonyl]-hydrazono]ethyl]-3-pyridinecarboxylic acid, sodium salt* 17.1%
sodium salt of dicamba: 3,6-dichloro-2-methoxybenzoic acid, sodium salt** 44.0%
..... 38.9%

Other Ingredients: 100.0%

Total: 100.0%

* This product contains 16% 2-[[[(3,5-difluorophenylamino)carbonyl]-hydrazono]ethyl]-3-pyridinecarboxylic acid (diflufenzopir).

** This product contains 40% 3,6-dichloro-2-methoxybenzoic acid.

EPA Est. No.

EPA Reg. No. 7969-242

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN
CAUTION/PRECAUCION

Si usted no entiende la etiqueta, busque a alguien para que se la explique a usted en detalle. (If you do not understand the label, find someone to explain it to you in detail.)

2026 NCWSS Weed Contest – Farmer Problem Descriptions

PROBLEM ID:	NCWSS Grad Final, Oops! All Soybeans
CROP:	Soybean
TIMING:	July 6th
SHORT SUMMARY:	Poor volunteer corn control due to see and spray not switching to soybean from corn
FARMER:	Mark Reiman
JUDGE:	Devin Hammer

LOCATION: Central Nebraska

STUDENT: Students will play the role as the chemical retailer that sold the farmer the chemistry.

FARMER: Farmer can play around with this as much as they'd like. Grower complains about a lack of volunteer corn control in their soybean crop. Farmer notes seeing a couple small patches of volunteer corn is dying off but the vast majority is not showing any response. Farmer had just finished spraying corn POSTs properly cleaned out and loaded up for soybean. Farmer had just recently purchased a BRAND NEW See and Spray John Deere Sprayer from his local dealer and has loved saving money spot spraying weeds. With their dual tank sprayer setup the blanket application includes 24 fl oz Liberty Ultra, 48 fl oz Warrant, and 30 fl oz of Roundup PowerMax 3. In that spot spray tank farmer includes 5 fl oz of Section Three with a healthy glug of crop oil. Farmer neglects to swap the settings in his sprayer from the corn setting to the soybean setting so the sprayer was not recognizing the volunteer corn as a weed, so it was only having the "spot" spray applied to the soybean crop.

Recommendation: would be the farmer can still go back in with a 2nd application of Section Three to control the volunteer corn.



GRAD FINAL









2026 NCWSS Weeds Contest

Gothenburg, NE

Undergraduate Farmer Problem



2026 NCWSS Weed Contest – Farmer Problem Descriptions

PROBLEM ID:	NCWSS Undergrad 1, My Liberty Stinks! 14
CROP:	Soybean
TIMING:	
SHORT SUMMARY:	
FARMER:	Steven Johnson
JUDGE:	Lily Zeihmer

Description: Student is an extension specialist in Southeast Nebraska called to investigate a potential resistance issue in Palmera amaranth in soybean. Grower planted a dicamba and glufosinate tolerant soybean and applied a two POST pass program of Stryaxx (22oz) + Warrant (64 oz) followed by Roundup Powermax (30 oz) and Liberty Ultra (24 oz) 14 days following the first post pass, according to Bayer and University of Nebraska recommendations. Grower complains that there are several escapes and now the soybean are at R3 and doesn't know what to do. Glufosinate was applied in cool cloudy conditions without AMS and the boom height was at canopy level due to the limitations of the grower's 3 pt mounted sprayer. Recommendation this year would be to possibly wait to see if more die, cultivate, or clean out survivors. Next year recommendation would be to use AMS and try to utilize better coverage from higher boom height, especially with poor conditions following application.



UG#1





UG#1



2026 NCWSS Weed Contest – Farmer Problem Descriptions

PROBLEM ID:	NCWSS Undergrad 2, White 'Corn' 17
CROP:	Milo
TIMING:	Pre application at planting – Late April
SHORT SUMMARY:	Balance applied pre into the wrong crop.
FARMER:	Clint Beierman
JUDGE:	Monica Pennewitt

Description:

LOCATION: Central Nebraska

STUDENT: Students will play the role as the local Bayer Crop Science chemistry sales representative who is responding to a local farmer who has an issue with their application of a Bayer product.

FARMER: Farmer is a large producer with several thousands of acres that runs 3 planters every season. Farmer was not the planter operator in this field, one of his hired men was the operator. The farmer was making pre-herbicide applications, quickly following the planting of corn in his fields to provide adequate weed control at planting. He applied 6 oz of Balance Flexx, 3 qt of Degree Xtra, and 30 oz of Roundup PowerMAX3.

Once the corn crop started emerging, the farmer noticed brightly bleached corn across the entire field. He then called his retailer who called the Bayer Rep to the field to determine why this mix of products hurt his beans.

Recommendations This Year: Plant back into the field with corn and apply post applications as planned.

Recommendations Next Year: Farmer needs to have a discussion with his hired men about how to best communicate and label fields so that another expensive mistake is not made again.



UG#2



I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S NOT CORN!™



2026 NCWSS Weed Contest – Farmer Problem Descriptions

PROBLEM ID:	NCWSS Undergrad 3, Sleepy Vorceed 15
CROP:	Corn
TIMING:	June 1st
SHORT SUMMARY:	Grower applied Poast and killed all of their corn :(
FARMER:	Chris Anderson
JUDGE:	Trenton Houston

Description: It has been 14 days since grower treated their corn field with their EPOST application. Grower is concerned that they were sold the wrong seed. Their POST pass included a good rate of Sterling Blue + Quilt Xcel and they are also worried there could have been an interaction that leaned their corn over and wind caused greensnap. Student needs to identify Vorceed trait only confers resistance to FOPS and that Assure II is the only labeled option for the trait, and that sethoxydim would kill the corn.

LOCATION: Your choice

STUDENT: Student plays the role of a Pioneer Technical Agronomist being brought to the field to verify that the correct seed was sold to this farmer, as unacceptable crop injury has occurred. As his agronomist, you are fairly certain that he received the correct seed, but mistakes do occur during delivery.

FARMER: Farmer self-applied POST herbicide program. Day of spraying, they added POAST PLUS herbicide (sethoxydim) for control of bristly foxtail and fall panicum (labeled use rate). Try to hold back saying what the grass killer was as long as possible.

Recommendations This Year: Replant immediately.

Recommendations Next Year: Be more cognizant of what products are labeled for what traits, can always talk directly to you to help build a herbicide program.

Special bonus points if anyone knows what Poast Plus is out-the gate, and the Vorceed Enlist is not PoastProtected.



UG#3





UG#3



2026 NCWSS Weed Contest – Farmer Problem Descriptions

PROBLEM ID:	NCWSS Undergrad 4, Frosted Tips Corn 3
CROP:	Popcorn
TIMING:	June 25th
SHORT SUMMARY:	Grower had nitrogen
FARMER:	Lee Koubek
JUDGE:	Shawn McDonald

Description: Grower planted 13corn on April 28th

LOCATION: Central Nebraska

STUDENT: Student is the Syngenta Chem Rep

FARMER: Farmer complains that all this corn is starting to look like the “Back Street Boys” with the tips of all the popcorn is starting to get necrotic tips. The farmer has sprayed the same POST program the last couple of years and always been happy with the control. Farmer applied a labeled rate of Halex. Farmer thinks that the product he got is contaminated with some other herbicide like paraquat or roundup. Farmer notes they didn’t get all the fertility they wanted before planting, so they sprayed their POST with 28-0-0 and the carrier.

Recommendations This Year: Corn will look ugly and should expect some poorer yields but don’t think it will be enough of an issue at this point to require a replant.

Recommendations Next Year: Just don’t use fertilizer as a carrier when applying POST!!!!



UG#4





UG#4



2026 NCWSS Weed Contest – Farmer Problem Descriptions

PROBLEM ID:	NCWSS Undergrad Final, Seek n Destroy Meso 19
CROP:	Soybean
TIMING:	May 3rd
SHORT SUMMARY:	Meso carryover from see and spray application in 2025
FARMER:	Spencer Samuelson
JUDGE:	Cody Evans

Description: You are a Dekalb/Asgrow technical agronomist called out to look at issues with AG26XF3 soybeans that are allegedly very pH hardy! Grower complains of yellow spots in field. Soybean were planted April 20th and had a burndown/PRE of stryax and warrant. Grower says field is a 7.5 pH silt loam. Grower had the coop spray their corn last year with their See n Spray to save some money on chemical. Coop used diflexx, meso-TRY-one, and harness xtra, with diflexx and meso-try-one in the see n spray tank.



UG FINAL





