

VICE PRESIDENT

Brett Miller, Syngenta Crop Protection



Brett Miller is Regional Head of Crop Protection Field Development for Syngenta Crop Protection and resides in Ellston, Iowa. In his current role, he leads a team of Field Scientists and their support staff responsible for the biological evaluation of new herbicide, insecticide, fungicide and seed care active ingredients and formulations in the NCWSS geography. During his career with Syngenta his other positions have included Herbicide Global Technical Manager, Herbicide Trait Technical Lead and Technical Development Lead as well as having served as a Field Scientist in Nebraska, Minnesota, and the Dakotas.

Brett was raised in Hazen, North Dakota, where his family operated a dairy, beef, and small grains farm. He attended North Dakota State University where he earned both a bachelor's degree in Crop and Weed Science and a master's degree in Weed Science. He has been with Syngenta and legacy companies since 1998. From 1995 to 1998 he was a Field Market Development Specialist with Valent USA in South Dakota.

Brett has been an active member of the North Central Weed Science Society (NCWSS) since 1995 and has served in many capacities including the Board of Directors as NCWSS Rep to the WSSA and State Director, service on the Resident Education Committee and Local Arrangement Committees, frequent judge of the Student Paper Contests and volunteer for the Summer Weed Contest. Brett is also a member of WSSA.

NCWSS 2024 Candidate Slate

Dr. Greg Elmore, Bayer Crop Science



Dr. Greg Elmore is the U.S. North Central Region Lead in Field Solutions for Bayer Crop Science based in St. Louis, Missouri. In this role, he is responsible for delivering early phase testing of crop protection chemistry solutions and innovation to growers. Dr. Elmore has a bachelor's degree in Plant Science and a master's degree in Agronomy from the University of California, Davis and a Ph.D. in Crop Science (Weed Science focus) from North Carolina State University (NCSU). He has been with Monsanto and now Bayer Crop Science, since graduating from NCSU in 1993. As part of his role, Dr. Elmore has served as the liaison to Weed Science Societies for Bayer Crop Science.

Dr. Elmore has been an active member of the North Central Weed Science Society (NCWSS) for over 26 years. He has delivered numerous presentations, served as a judge for graduate student poster/paper contests and served as a judge for the NCWSS and National Weed Contests. He has served as Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) in 2007 and 2017 and served as a member of the LAC in 2022. He also hosted undergraduate and graduate students attending the 2017 and 2022 NCWSS annual meetings for tours of Bayer's Chesterfield facility. In 2019, he led a survey of NCWSS industry members to determine and overcome barriers for participating and volunteering within the society. From 2018 to 2021 Dr. Elmore served as the NCWSS representative to the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA).

Dr. Elmore has also been an active member of the WSSA for over 21 years. He has contributed to the WSSA Herbicide Resistant Plants and Herbicide Resistance Education committees. He has ensured that Bayer Crop Science maintained support for the Public Service Award sponsored by Bayer Crop Science. Dr. Elmore organized a graduate student learning program titled "Who You ARE is HOW You Lead" presented at the WSSA annual meeting in 2016. Approximately 60 graduate students participated in the workshop to learn their "DiSC" style and how to effectively interact with others. Dr. Elmore is currently serving as the Treasurer of the WSSA. He worked with the WSSA Finance Committee to implement the WSSA Innovative Grants Program which funded the first research projects in 2022.

In addition to involvement in Weed Science Societies, Dr. Elmore is an active member of the U.S. Herbicide Resistance Action Committee (U.S. HRAC).

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Travis Legleiter, University of Kentucky



Travis Legleiter is an Associate Extension Professor of Weed Science in the Plant and Soil Sciences department at the University of Kentucky. His Research and Extension program are based at the University of Kentucky Research and Education Center in Princeton, KY. Travis' program at the University of Kentucky focuses on the management of weeds in corn, soybean, and wheat in Kentucky, with an emphasis on control of herbicide resistant weeds and evaluation of herbicide application technologies.

Travis obtained his PhD from Purdue University in 2017. He was also staffed as an Extension Program Specialist in the Purdue Weed Science Extension program from 2012 to 2017. He obtained his MS in weed science and BS in plant sciences at the University of Missouri. Travis originates from Nevada, Missouri where he grew up on a row crop

and beef cattle farm.

Travis has been an active member of the NCWSS since his first NCWSS annual meeting as an undergraduate at the University of Missouri in 2005. He has served as chair of the Equipment and Application Equipment section, Chair of the Extension Committee, Co-chair of the Resident Education Committee and currently serves as the Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee. Additionally, Travis moderated the New Technology Symposium at the 2016 NCWSS annual meeting.

NCWSS 2024 Candidate Slate

Debalin Sarangi, Ph.D., University of Minnesota



Debalin Sarangi, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor and Extension Weed Scientist
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, MN

Debalin Sarangi is an Assistant Professor and Extension Weed Scientist at the University of Minnesota (UMN). He earned his Ph.D. at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2016, and M.S. and B.S. degrees in Agronomy in India. Prior to joining UMN in 2020, Debalin worked as an Assistant Professor at the University of Wyoming, and as a Postdoctoral Research Associate at Texas A&M University. He takes a collaborative research approach to address weed management challenges in agronomic crops, predominantly in corn and soybean. Debalin's Extension program aims to provide leadership in the development of best management practices (BMPs) to

reduce the risks of herbicide resistance evolution in weeds.

Debalin has served as a major advisor for five graduate students and supervised two staff members at the university. He published 21 peer-reviewed journal articles and four book chapters and was the author of five peer-reviewed Extension circulars and 38 online Extension articles. His Extension articles aimed at providing timely research-based information on weed management to farmers, agronomists, and other ag professionals. Since 2021, he has been coaching the UMN Weed Science teams that participated in the NCWSS Summer Weed Contests and a National Weed Contest.

Debalin joined the NCWSS and WSSA in 2013 and attended annual meetings annually since then. He authored/co-authored 62 abstracts that were presented at these conferences. He has served on the Board of Directors for the NCWSS in 2018 and 2022 as the Chair of the Resident Education Committee and Extension Committee, respectively. He is currently serving as the Chair of the Teaching and Extension Committee of the WSSA and an Associate Editor for the *Weed Science* journal.

WSSA REPRESENTATIVE

Sarah Lancaster, Kansas State University



Sarah Lancaster is an Extension Specialist and Assistant Professor at Kansas State University located at Manhattan, KS. She is responsible for Extension programming related to weed management in agronomic crops across the state of Kansas.

Sarah has a bachelor's degree in Plant Science from the University of Missouri, a master's degree in Crop Science from North Carolina State University and a Ph.D. in Agronomy from Texas A&M University. She has been with Kansas State University since 2019. Prior to that, she held teaching, Extension, and research positions at Oklahoma State University, University of Florida, and Missouri State University.

Sarah became a member of the North Central Weed Science Society (NCWSS) in 2000. Since returning to the region, Sarah has served as the Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee and as a student contest volunteer. Sarah is also a member of WSSA and currently serves as chair of the website committee, overseeing the redesign of the WSSA website.

NCWSS 2024 Candidate Slate

Erin Burns, Michigan State University



Erin Burns is a Weed Science Extension Specialist and Assistant Professor in the Department of Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences at Michigan State University. Erin's research and extension program focuses on current and emerging problematic weeds in Michigan cropping systems, specifically forages, potatoes, corn, and industrial hemp. Current research focuses on practices to mitigate the development and spread of herbicide resistant weeds and understanding how climate variability will impact weed biology, ecology, and population dynamics. Erin received her B.S. degree from the College of Saint Benedict (Minnesota) in Biology, M.S. from North

Dakota State University in Plant Sciences (Weed Science focus), and her Ph.D. from Montana State University in Plant Sciences (Weed Science focus). Erin has been at Michigan State since 2017.

Erin has been an active member of the NCWSS since 2017. Erin has served NCWSS in various roles including: Resident Education Committee Member, Local Arrangements Committee Member, Strategic Planning Committee Member, and Paper Judge. Erin has also been a member of WSSA since 2010.

CAST REPRESENTATIVE

Eric Patterson, Michigan State University



Eric Patterson is an Assistant Professor in Weed Science in the Department of Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences at Michigan State University. His appointment is split between student teaching and research. He teaches undergraduate weed science, covering the fundamentals of Chemical, Mechanical and Cultural weed control practices, as well as two graduate level courses: 1) Herbicide physiology and mode of action and 2) the Molecular Aspects of Resistance evolution. His research focuses on more basic aspects of weed science including Weed Genomics, Molecular Biology of Resistance

Mechanisms, Rapid Molecular Weed Diagnostics, and Herbicide mode of action discovery. His lab is especially interested in how genome rearrangements (i.e. transposable elements and copy number variation) form and are utilized as novel sources of genetic variation for weed adaptation to abiotic stresses.

He has published over forty research articles in peer-reviewed journals including society journals, as well as broader articles in basic biology journals. He has also published several book chapters on weed genomics and molecular biology techniques. His research is primarily funded by a mixture of commodity group, industry, and federal funds that support over a dozen researchers and students in his program. His true passion is in mentorship and developing human resources that will eventually become the next generation of weed scientists. He is especially interested in increasing diversity in weed science by working with international students and scientists.

Currently, Eric is an active member of several societies and organizations including the North Central Weed Science Society, Weed Science Society of America, European Weed Research Society, Canadian Weed Science Society, and International Weed Genomics Consortium. He has served as the session chair for the NCWSS Herbicide Physiology & Molecular Biology for the past two years, as a member of the WSSA herbicide resistant plants committee, and he is also one of the founders and executive board members for the International Weed Genomics Consortium. He has given invited and plenary talks at the NCWSS, EWRS, IWGC, and the Canadian Weed Science Society, primarily concerning recent advances in weed genomics. He strives to continue to engage with the various weed science societies around the world and contribute to the global effort to control weeds through developing basic genomics and molecular tools.

NCWSS 2024 Candidate Slate

Thomas (Tom) Peters, North Dakota State University



Thomas (Tom) Peters is an Extension Sugarbeet Agronomist specializing in weed management with a shared appointment between North Dakota State University and the University of Minnesota. Peters provides technical information for sugarbeet cooperatives, agricultural retailers and consultants and producers in North Dakota and Minnesota. Peters is in his tenth year in the university system following a 25-year career at Monsanto Company where his primary focus was development of glyphosate tolerant crops including corn, soybean, and sugarbeet.

Tom has been a NCWSS member since attending his first NCWSS meeting as an intern with Lilly Research Laboratories in Indianapolis, IN in 1982. Peters has served the society in many different capacities including the executive committee from 2003 to 2006.

Peters previously was NCWSS CAST representative, 1999 to 2001 and is a lifetime member of CAST. Ask why he is interested in becoming NCWSS CAST Representative for a second time Peters states, 'I served on CAST when I was young in my career in industry. I was intimidated by the scholarship of the CAST Directors and the breath of accomplishment by committee. I think I can be stronger voice for NCWSS and the weed science community as an experienced academician.'

TREASURER/SECRETARY

Ryan Lins, Syngenta



Ryan Lins is a Global Technical Manager – Weed Control with Syngenta based in MN. His present responsibilities include leading the global technical development of new herbicide active ingredients plus other key strategic projects, from early field testing to product launch and active Ingredient lifecycle management, actively looking for new approaches to enhance or re-position a product's value proposition. Much of this position is planning field trial programs, liaising with regions/countries research teams, providing technical positioning for active ingredients and fostering working relationships with key influencers and stakeholders. Prior to

this role, Ryan was a Field R&D Scientist for 17 years. Dr. Lins received his BS at the U of Wisconsin-River Falls in 2000, his MS from the U of Wisconsin-Madison in 2002 and his PhD from Oregon State University in 2005. He has authored or co-authored 7 peer-reviewed and 3 extension publications. He is active in the NCWSS and WSSA, having presented 25+ papers while serving in several capacities such as paper/poster judge, summer contest volunteer, section chair, and local arrangements, just to name a few. In 2014, Dr. Lins was bestowed the NCWSS Young Scientist Award.

Ryan was raised on a dairy and crop farm in south central Wisconsin. Away from work responsibilities, Ryan enjoys the outdoors, volunteering and travel. Dr. Lins currently resides near Rochester, MN with his wife and three children.

NCWSS 2024 Candidate Slate

Eric Spandl, Winfield United



Eric Spandl is a Senior Manager with Winfield United, a business unit of Land O'Lakes which is a farmer-owned cooperative located in Minneapolis-St. Paul area. This role includes business development for crop protection products focusing on extending product life cycles, developing proprietary products, and financial modeling. In addition, he manages relationships with key partners in the crop protection and equipment industries. Eric also provides overall management of the Spray Application Lab and Controlled Environments Lab at the Winfield United Innovation Center. Plus, he is a primary tour lead for retailers, growers and industry partners that tour the Innovation Center. Other work experience includes technical editing, annual budget management, capital expenditure process, and project

management for construction.

Eric received a B.S. degree from the University of Minnesota in Agronomy and Plant Genetics and a M.S. and Ph.D. from Michigan State University in Crop and Soil Sciences. He completed a post-doc at the University of Minnesota in Weed Science. Eric started in the industry as an agronomist providing technical and product support and training with Cenex Land O'Lakes Agronomy Company, Agrilience, and Winfield Solutions, LLC. He continued as a product and market development manager, technical marketing manager, and senior manager in product development for Winfield United.

Eric has been an active member of the North Central Weed Science Society and partner societies for over 25 years. He has served on various committees including Fellows, Future Site Selection, Distinguished Achievement Award, Strategic Planning, Electronic Communications, Placement, Local Arrangements Committee (in person at Minneapolis and virtual during Covid), Summer Contest subcommittee of Resident Education, and Finance and Steering Policy committee. He also judged the paper and poster contest numerous times. Further, Eric has authored and contributed to numerous professional and industry publications and has presented or co-authored many abstracts. He is a member of other professional societies such as ASA, ASABE, WSSA, the Minnesota CCA board, and a board member of a credit union.