#### **Show Me the Weeds:**

#### What might weed management look like in 2023 and beyond?



#### Some Thoughts on Weed Management in 2023 and Beyond

ORE COMPLEX herbicide labels, registrations, requirements, etc.

#### Get used to these kinds of labels in the future...

For land with **Hydrologic Soil Groups**\* A & B: The land manager/applicator must effectively implement measures in the following tables to equal a **minimum of 4 credits**.

For land with Hydrologic Soil Groups\* C & D: The land manager/applicator must effectively implement the measures in the following tables to equal a minimum of 6 credits.

Mitigation Measures	Credits		
Reduce number of applications - Reduced number of         3 applications			0
applications of Enlist products per at any time during crop development	2 applications	2	
minimum 12-day retreatment interval.		1 application	4
Residue Tillage Management: no	4		
Vegetative Filter Strips	30 ft off-field vegetative buffer on down slope	HSG A or B	2
		HSG C or D	0
	100 ft off-field vegetative buffer on down slope	HSG A or B	4
		HSG C or D	1
Field border: border with dense v	2		
Cover Crop	2		
Vegetative Barrier: Permanent st field with a minimum width of 3 ft.	2		
Contour Buffer Strips or Terrace	2		
Grassed Waterway	2		
Water and Sediment Basin	1		
Contour Farming or Contour Str	1		

\*Hydrologic Soil Group (HSG) definitions: A = Sand, loamy sand, or sandy loam; B = Sandy clay loam; C = Silt loam or loam; D = Clay loam, silty clay loam, sandy clay, silty clay or clay.

Applicators/Land Managers must meet minimum criteria described for each mitigation measure as outlined on Enlist.com/mitigationmeasures to receive credits.



POLITICS

#### EPA Proposes Five Changes to Atrazine Labels, Introduces "Picklist" Mitigation



EPA Atrazine 070122

#### **EPA's Role in Herbicide Registration**

- 1. Must meet the standards of Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)
  - "<u>Reasonable</u> certainty of no harm"
  - "No <u>unreasonable</u> adverse effects"
- 2. Must also meet the standards of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). ESA requires EPA and other federal agencies to ensure that action they take <u>will not:</u>
  - "Jeopardize the continued existence of any listed species", or
  - "Destroy or adversely modify any critical habitat for those species."



### What are we protecting?

- 1674 species in the U.S. currently (the list is growing)
- Missouri has 52 species (7 aquatic invertebrates; 3 birds; 20 fish; 2 insects; 4 mammals; 7 reptiles and amphibians; 9 plants)
- an updated decision will be released on the monarch butterfly in 2024









#### Why should you care about ESA?

- Has definitive language that does not allow for interpretation (i.e., who can say with certainty that there are "no effects"?).
- Only considers risk to threated or endangered species. It does not consider the potential benefits of any pesticide use.
- Requires action if a SINGLE individual within a species may be affected.
- Has not had a major revision since 1973.
- As of January 2022, all new pesticide active ingredients will be assessed for their potential effects on threatened and endangered species. Why?/What's different?



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**NTEGRATED APPROACHES** that don't just rely on herbicides alone will become more and more important.



#### **Autonomous Weeding/Use of Robots**



Bosch's Giant Robot Can Punch Weeds to

Death

At IROS last month, researchers from a Bosch startup called Deepfield Robotics presented a paper on "Vision-Based High-Speed Manipulation for Robotic Ultra-Precise Weed Control," which has like four distinct excitingsounding phrases in it. We wanted to write about it immediately, but Deepfield asked us to hold off a bit until their fracy new website went live, which it now has. This means that we can show you video of their enormous agricultural robot that can autonomously detect and physically obliterate individual weeds in a tenth of a second.

Given the scale of farming today, treating weeds chemically is really the only practical way for humans to keep them under control, because you can use tractors or airplanes to cover large areas in a short amount of time. But all of those necessarily deadly (to weeds) chemicals then get on the plants we don't want



to kill (because we want to eat them), as well as getting washed into the soil. The most organic and eco-friendly way of dealing with weeds is the oldfashioned way: physically removing them. "Physical removal" can mean



#### FarmWise launches autonomous weeding robot

JANUARY 7, 2019 BY SAM FRANCIS





Deere is paying over \$300 million for a start-up that makes 'see-and-spray' robots

Blue River's robots affix to tractors and can precisely identify and spray herbicides, pesticides or fertilizers to plants in need.
The start-up had raised about \$31 million in venture funding.

Lora Kolodny | @lorakolodny

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Published 8:08 PM ET Wed, 6 Sept 2017 | Updated 10:22 PM ET Wed, 6 Sept 2017



Sam Allen, CEO of John Deere at CONEXPO in Las Vegas on March 7. 2017.

Deere is bringing more robots to the farm.

The maker of John Deere agricultural equipment said on Wednesday that it's acquiring robotics start-up Blue River Technology for \$305 million. The deal is expected to close in September.

#### **Precision Sprayers**





# What if we could do something about waterhemp escapes once there are no longer any herbicide options?

#### What we think we've learned so far...

- This is not a weed management tool. This is a weed rescue tool.
- Can be effective on some of our most problematic resistant weeds. Can also be variable on those same weeds but we're learning...

APPER.

EED APPER

- Size, plant moisture, boom height all matter.
- Can substantially reduce weed seed viability.

#### Influence of Electrocution on Weed Seed Viability



Will On-combine Seed Destruction Devices Become "Standard" in the United States ?

CASEI

#### Basic Hammer Mill/Cage Mill Concept





1. The earlier the frost(s), the better. "Green" weeds with high moisture content have proven difficult.



2. Some degree of header loss of weed seed is likely to occur (~31% of available waterhemp seed in a field).



3. The majority of weed seed that enters the combine appears to make it into the seed terminator. Approximately 94% of waterhemp seed that comes out of the Seed Terminator are damaged (= non-viable).



Figure 3. Average header and threshing loss of weed seeds when harvesting soybean. Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of locations that contained a given weed species.

**Figure 4.** Average grain tank contamination of weed seed when harvesting soybean. Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of locations that contained a given weed species.

## 4. There is also a significant fraction of weed seed that is directed into the grain tank.

5. Combine Performance

On average across all the locations, fuel consumption was 3 gal/hour greater, engine load was 5.6% higher, but there was no difference in productivity when the Seed Terminator<sup>™</sup> was on.



6. Significant reductions in the waterhemp seed bank were observed in 3 out of 5 locations.

7. Current costs of these implements are approximately \$70-75k. We found operating costs to be ~\$5/acre more than operating a conventional combine.



### Some Thoughts on Weed Management in 2023 and Beyond

**ORE COMPLEX** herbicide labels, registrations, requirements, etc.

NTEGRATED APPROACHES that don't just rely on herbicides alone will become more and more important.

Z ERO TOLERANCE for resistant weeds. Because these "new" resistant weeds aren't like what mom used to make.

#### Where are we now?



Westwood et al. 2017



# It's not just about more pigweeds with more resistance. It's the type of resistance mechanism(s) that are being found that is truly concerning.













#### "Old" Type of Resistance Mechanisms in Pigweeds: Target Site Resistance

- Target enzyme is modified in some way, usually so that the herbicide can't bind
- Common with Group 2 (ALS), 5 (triazine), 14 (PPO), 9 (glyphosate)
- Can confer resistance to other herbicides within the same group but <u>never</u> to herbicides in other groups
- Common in 1990's and early 2000's



What has always been our recommendation for the control of these "old types" of resistant weeds?





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#### "New" Types of Resistance Mechanisms in Pigweeds: Metabolic Resistance



 metabolic resistance occurs when one of these enzymes become mutated or "overproduced"

#### "New" Types of Resistance Mechanisms in Pigweeds: Metabolic Resistance

- Plant is able to break down the herbicide at an increased rate
- Group 2 (ALS), 5 (triazine), 14 (PPO),
   9 (glyphosate), 27 (HPPD), 15 (VLCFA),
   4 (auxins)

AHEAD

- Can confer resistance to other herbicides within the same group <u>and</u> <u>possibly</u> to herbicides in other groups
- Common 2010 today

What is our recommendation for the control of these "new types" of resistant weeds?



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