

Jessica Weber

Occupation: General Manager, Western Applied Research Corporation

Previous work and volunteer experience in Weed Science:

2015- 2018: Currently, I am the General Manager with the Western Applied Research Corporation in Scott, Saskatchewan. We are a non-profit producer-based organization who facilitates practical applied research. Our goal is to transfer technology from research to Saskatchewan producers and evaluate the economic impact for producers.

2013-2015: I completed my M.Sc. in Plant Science, with a focus on weed-crop competition and weed control in Western Canada, at the University of Saskatchewan under Dr. Christian Willenborg.

How did you become involved with CWSS and when?

I first became involved with CWSS as a graduate student at the University of Saskatchewan. I presented my graduate thesis at the 2015 CWSS meeting in Montreal.

What has the extent of your involvement been? (i.e. have you served on committees/executive?)

I am new to CWSS but I have enjoyed recently being involved with the Soils & Crops Planning Committee as well as a member of the Saskatchewan Soil Fertility Committee.

Favorite memory/experience in your weed science career to date?

My most memorable experience within my weed science community was my first attendance at the Canadian Weed Science Society Annual Conference. This is where I had the opportunity to meet the researchers whose journals I have been reading throughout my education. This opportunity to interact and learn first hand from these experts was a highlight of my career.

What is your favorite weed and why?

My favorite weed is wild oats. Although most producers would cringe at this answer, I marvel at the structure and craftiness of this weed. There are several key features that I am fascinated by including its resistance to herbicides, its ability to drop seed and twist into the ground to ensure its survivability, as well as the ability to “hook” onto by-passers to aid in its transfer. And lastly, its ability to out-compete most crops and weeds. In my opinion, this weed is by far the feistiest and most resistant.

What are your career goals/future plans in weed science (if you are comfortable sharing)?

I want to provide producers with weed management solutions to help maximize their profits and promote long-term sustainability for the industry. Additionally, I plan to continue learning from weed experts within.