

**Name:** Laura Smith

**Occupation:** Field Scientist, Corteva Agriscience

**Previous work and volunteer experience in Weed Science:**

Weed science or more specifically trying to find a way to remove unwanted plants from crops started on the family farm hoeing soybeans at 6 years old. Lots of good memories walking those fields with my siblings, but I was sure thankful for the introduction of glyphosate resistant crops!

During my undergraduate degree I worked as a crop scout, spending many days and evenings reading weed books to correctly identify the weed problems that I encountered during the day.

After graduation, I was lucky and honoured to start a MSc. with Dr. Peter Sikkema, evaluating the control of Glyphosate resistant Canada fleabane in corn, completing this program in 2014. I then moved to Manitoba taking a field biologist role with Dow AgroSciences where I researched cereal, row crop, pasture, and land management herbicides.

After the merger and creation of Corteva Agriscience, I moved back to Ontario where my main responsibility became the row crop herbicide program and managing glyphosate resistant weed populations.

**How did you become involved with CWSS and when?**

I started attending CWSS during my MSc. in 2012, in Winnipeg Manitoba. I have not missed a conference since and have presented at nearly all of them!

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

I have mainly attended as a Dow AgroSciences/Corteva Agriscience representative, presenting awards to the many talented members at the conference. I became the Corn, soybean & edible beans vice chair in 2019 and now transitioning to the Chair role in 2023. I always enjoy all involvement in CWSS!

**Favourite memory/experience in your weed science career to date?**

I have many wonderful memories in weed science through the years, but the biggest always comes back to the people I have had the privilege to meet, work with, laugh with and learn from.



**What is your favourite weed and why?**

My favourite weed will be always Canada fleabane, it helped me to realize how much I enjoy weed science and controlling weeds!

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

My career goal is to continue to grow and learn, while working within the crop protection industry. I enjoy researching products that can be registered to help farmers control their current and future weed problems and maintain or improve their productivity.