THE WEED SOCIETY / OF NEW SOUTH WALES

P.O. Box K287, Haymarket, N.S.W., 2000

PRESIDENT Mr. M.W. Barrett

HON. SECRETARY Mr. W.J. Burke

DECEMBER, 1976.

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FIELD TRIP TO KOSCIUSKO NATIONAL PARK

Mr. Roger Good (National Park and Wildlife Service) will arrange for a three day week-end trip to Kosciusko National Park on January 29th - 31st, 1977, if enough members and wives are able to make the trip, approximately 12 people are needed.

So far only two members, Mr. A. Nelson Johnson and Mr. E. Cuthbertson have indicated they would like to go. Just the presence of these two international weed experts should make the trip worthwhile. Please give this trip serious thought and fill out the tear off slip at the end of the Newsletter and return promptly to the Secretary if you would like to go. Wives and girlfriends are welcome.

The suggested programme is as follows:-

FRIDAY 28th or SATURDAY 29th (morning) - Travel to Cooma by own transport. Meet outside COOMA VISITORS' CENTRE, 12.30 p.m.

SATURDAY 29th - Cooma to Thredbo, inspecting weed problems, roadside stabilization programmes etc.

SUNDAY 30th - Thredbo to Kosciusko, view alpine flowers and damage problems, scenic walks and night programme at Park Headquarters.

MONDAY 31st - several alternatives are available:

(1) Wilsons Valley, Jindabyne, Kiandra, Yarrongobilly Caves.

(2) Wilsons Valley, Guthega and Island Bend Dams, Waste Point, Eucumbene Dam and thence to Sydney.

Estimated cost including 2 nights' accommodation, meals, transport from Cooma etc. $100 - $120 per two (couple) people. (Accommodation at Wilson's Valley Motel $25 - $30 per night, per couple.)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held some time in mid or towards the end of February. Please keep this meeting in mind, - further details concerning the exact date will be given in the January - February Newsletter.

WEEDS, WEED CONTROL AND ENERGY

A note from the International Plant Protection Centre, Oregon State University:

Weeds undeniably consume forms of energy during their growth cycle. Just as obviously, practices to control weeds also require energy. In an ever more energy-conscious world, the balance between the two energy expenditures, and the comparative energy consumption of various weed control techniques, increasingly have become a topic for debate and the subject of published articles.

While a multitude of papers discuss energy and agriculture in general, relatively few specifically focus on pesticides and the weed/weed control/energy relationship; also, papers may appear in journals or publications that are not available widely. For these reasons, the International Plant Protection Center (IPPC) started collecting pertinent articles several months ago. IPPC staff member C.A. Anderson now has assembled and briefly annotated a dozen examples. These are listed below as an information source for the worldwide weed research community.

NOTE: Figures used to calculate weed control costs - in terms of energy - are necessarily "guesstimates" at best. Also, IPPC neither concurs nor disagrees with the conclusions and positions stated in the cited papers. Photocopies of any of the papers are available from IPPC at a cost of US$.15.00 per page, plus postage.

Pimental, D. et al. 1973. Food Production and the Energy Crisis. SCIENCE, vol. 182, p. 443-449.

The authors state that herbicides for weed control in corn use more energy than mechanical cultivation.

Anonymous. 1974. Herbicides May Save Fuel Costs. INTERNATIONAL PEST CONTROL, May/June, p.3.

Sales of herbicides are rising because farmers who use them save fuel costs in equipment operations.

Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. 1974. The U.S. Food and Fiber Sector: Energy Use and Outlook. *Report submitted on September 20, 1974, to the Sub-committee on Agricultural Credit and Rural Electrification, Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C., p.111.*

This extensive report on U.S. agriculture and energy includes sections on the fuel cost of both manufacturing and applying pesticides.

Nalejawa, J. 1974. Will Vegetable Oils Replace Petroleum as Adjuvants to Herbicides? WEEDS TODAY, fall, p. 17-18.

Vegetable oils are cheaper to use and, in some cases, provide better results than petroleum derivatives.

Smith, J.A. and J.G. Kammuller. 1974. Agrochemicals and the Energy Crisis. SHELL IN AGRICULTURE, March, p.1-2.

In an interview, these Shell executives indicate that chemicals take little energy to manufacture and will be in increasing demand for their yield-increasing properties.

Jones, D.P. 1975. The Energy Relations of Pesticides. SPAN, vol. 18, no. 1, p. 20-22. (This entire issue of SPAN is devoted to energy and agriculture.)

The author, after considering the total energy required to manufacture, transport and apply a pesticide, concludes that the amount is negligible and that there is usually a net energy gain in the use of pesticides.

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Donaghy, D.I. 1975. Alternative Methods of Weed Control for Conserving Energy. Paper presented at the Canada Weed Committee/Western Section meeting, December 2-4, 1975, Vancouver, BC/Canada.
Herbicides not only reduce the overall energy inputs needed for weed control, they also improve the productivity of other energy-consuming inputs used.

Cooke, F.T. 1975. Energy Conservation Through Weed Control. Paper presented at the Southern Weed Science Society (USA) 28th Annual Meeting, January 21-23, 1975, Memphis, TN/USA.
Efficient use of herbicides will reduce the energy needed to control weeds in cotton.

Chapman, T. and J. Colthurst. 1975. Energy Inputs and Crop Protection. SHELL IN AGRICULTURE, March, p.1-2.
Use of pesticides is more conserving of energy than cultivation of additional land to compensate for crop losses which would occur in the absence of pesticides.

Green, M. B. and A. McCulloch. 1976. Energy Considerations in the Use of Pesticides. JOURNAL OF THE SCIENCE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, vol. 27, no. 2, p. 95-100.
Using a computer program to estimate the energy needed to manufacture herbicides and including the energy cost of applying the herbicides, the authors conclude that chemical weed control requires less energy than mechanical weed control.

NOTES

1. The Weed Society of Queensland have been very active during 1976 judging from their Newsletters. It is noted that they have recently designed a logo to go with their Newsletter. Should this be food for thought for our Society?

2. WSSA (the Weed Science Society of America) has announced a planned reduction in membership fees. Regular memberships will drop from US$20 to $15 and student/affiliate members from $10 to $7.50, according to the April 1976 issue of the WSSA Newsletter.

   The cut is based on the WSSA Board of Directors' finding that the Society's strong financial position will permit the reductions.

ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Dinner at Len Evans' Cellars was a resounding success with over 35 people attending. Notable among those attending were Paul Weiss from Canberra and Geoff Sainty from Griffith. Congratulations should go to Mike Barrett for organising such a successful dinner.

(Cut here)

I would like to go on the Field Trip to Kosciusko National Park from JANUARY 29th - 31st, 1977. ☐

Number of people involved ☐

Return to:

The Secretary,
The Weed Society of N.S.W.,
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HAYMARKET. 2000