



*2024*  
*AAPCO SPRING MEETING*

*SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES*  
*IN ORDER OF PRESENTATION*

**MONDAY**  
**March 4, 2024**

**MEGAN PATTERSON**

*Megan Patterson currently serves as the Director for the Division of Animal and Plant Health for the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. In this role, she oversees Maine's Board of Pesticide Control and several programs, including Seed Certification, Plant Health, Animal Health, and Animal Welfare. Megan previously worked for the Maine Board of Pesticides Control, most recently as the program director. As the pesticide program director, she directed all aspects of Maine's pesticide regulatory programs. Recent pesticide program work has included certification plan-related rulemaking as well as responding to legislation on multiple topics such as PFAS in pesticides/pesticide packaging, limiting the use of neonicotinoids, prohibiting the use of chlorpyrifos, studying the ecological impacts of aerial application in forestry, and implementing pesticide use reporting. She holds a master's degree in Ecology and Environmental Science from the University of Maine, focusing on applied entomology. She is the current President of the Association of American Pesticide Control Officials.*

**ROBERT BONNIE**

*Robert Bonnie is the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation at USDA. Prior to joining USDA, Bonnie was at Duke University first as a Rubenstein Fellow and later as an Executive in Residence at the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions working on conservation and environmental issues in rural America. In 2020, Bonnie also worked with the Bipartisan Policy Center on its Farm and Forest Carbon Solutions Initiative. Bonnie was Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment at USDA from 2013 to 2017, and a senior advisor to Secretary Tom Vilsack from 2009 to 2013. Prior to joining USDA, Robert was vice president for land conservation at Environmental Defense Fund where he focused on developing incentives to reward stewardship on private lands. Robert has master's degrees from Duke in forestry and environmental management. He lives with his wife, Julie, and daughter, Lilly, in Loudoun County, Virginia.*

**ROD SYNDER**

*Rod Snyder was appointed Senior Advisor for Agriculture to the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in October 2021. He is recognized for his nearly two decades of leadership at the intersection of agricultural and environmental policy. From 2014-2021, Snyder served as president of Field to Market: The Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture, which is the largest multi-stakeholder initiative working to advance the sustainability of commodity crop farming in the United States. In this role, he forged science-based consensus among diverse stakeholders across the food and agriculture value chain on complex issues such as climate change, water quality, biodiversity, and pest management. In 2015, Snyder co-founded the Sustainable Agriculture Summit, which has grown to be the largest and most prominent annual sustainable agriculture conference in North America. Prior to his time at Field to Market, Snyder held positions as Public Policy Director for the National Corn Growers Association and Government Affairs Leader for CropLife America. He has been a longtime champion of agricultural solutions to climate change and has on two*

*occasions organized farmer delegations to participate in UN Climate Summits in Paris and Copenhagen.*

*Snyder holds a B.A. in Political Science from Eastern University in St. Davids, Pennsylvania. He resides on his family farm in Shenandoah Junction, West Virginia.*

### **EDWARD MESSINA**

*Ed is currently the Director of EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), and previously served as the Deputy Office Director for Programs, OPP, in collaboration with its many stakeholders, regulates the manufacture and use of all pesticides in the United States - including insecticides, herbicides, rodenticides, disinfectants, sanitizers, and more - and establishes maximum levels for pesticide residues in food, thereby safeguarding the nation's food supply.*

*Prior to that Ed was the Director of EPA's Monitoring, Assistance, and Media Programs Division, within the Office of Compliance, in charge of EPA's inspection policies; the Acting Associate Director of EPA's Air Enforcement Division, where he helped manage complex air litigation; and a branch chief for both Air and Waste enforcement programs. Ed started his legal career in Chicago where he litigated and negotiated several environmental matters as an Associate Regional Counsel for EPA Region 5. While in Chicago, Ed completed a rotation as a Special Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois where he conducted trials in federal district court and presented oral arguments before the United States Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit. Ed has both a JD and a Master of Studies in Environmental Law from Vermont Law School and a BA from Brandeis University.*

### **GREG SULLIVAN**

*Greg directs a division of attorneys, scientists, engineers and inspectors responsible for developing and implementing national policy for FIFRA enforcement program, as well as RCRA, TSCA, CAA section 112(r) and EPCRA/CERCLA civil administrative and judicial enforcement programs. The division also directly assures compliance with, and initiates and resolves enforcement cases under, each of the above statutory areas. Greg has worked as an attorney and manager in Superfund and RCRA corrective action enforcement. Greg's B.A. is from Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington and J.D. is from the American University, Washington College of Law, Washington, D.C. He is a member of the New York state bar.*

### **ELIZABETH VIZARD**

*Liz is the Acting Deputy Division Director of the Office of Compliance in the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. Liz's career started in the private sector as a pesticide project manager with the environmental consulting firm Jellinek, Schwartz & Connolly. She began her federal career with EPA in 2000 and has since held a series of positions in the Office of Pesticide Programs, the Office of Site Remediation Enforcement, and Office of Compliance. Liz's strategic planning and performance measure work has involved multiple media programs and cross-cutting focus areas. Liz works collaboratively on national compliance monitoring guidance, interpretation, and policy support. In addition, her division implements national strategic performance measurements, manages compliance monitoring strategies, provides inspector training and tools, and collaborates on targeting approaches. Liz*

holds a Bachelors of Science degree in Biology-Environmental Studies from Drew University. In 2017 she successfully completed OECA's Leadership Development Program and was awarded OECA's 2019 Honor Award for Manager of the Year.

### **JUSTIN OESTERREICH**

Justin Oesterreich serves as the Assistant Director for Investigations of the EPA Criminal Investigation Division (CID). The Criminal Investigation Division is within the Office of Criminal Enforcement Forensics and Training. He joined federal law enforcement in 2002 as a special agent with the United States Secret Service in the Kansas City Field Office, where he investigated violations related to frauds committed against US financial systems as well as threats against public officials. He specialized in mortgage fraud and organized crime. After 6 years with the Secret Service, Justin joined the EPA CID in Kansas City, Kansas as a special agent. In 2014, he was promoted to the Assistant Special Agent-in-Charge of the EPA CID, Chicago Area Office and most recently he served as the Assistant Special Agent-in-Charge of the Kansas City Area Office. Prior to joining federal service, Justin served as a police officer with the Kansas Highway Patrol and the Topeka, KS Police Department as well as a non-commissioned officer with the Kansas Army National Guard Military Police. Justin holds a Bachelors of Science in Criminal Justice.

### **LISA UHL**

Special Agent Lisa Uhl is a Desk Officer in the Investigations Branch of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Criminal Investigation Division (CID) managing the national criminal docket, along with ADI Oesterreich and 2 other agents. She has been with CID as a Special Agent since 2008, working over 4 years in the Atlanta Area Office and over 12 years in the Gulf Breeze, Florida Resident Office where she recently received a National Case Award for her work on the F.B. McGuinness case which ended a 35 year criminal enterprise that manufactured and distributed drugs, pesticides, and other products to chicken farmers and worldwide customers involved in cock fighting. Prior to CID, Lisa has spent her entire career with EPA, she previously was an agent with the EPA Office of Inspector General for over 2 years and spent 12 years as an Environmental Engineer with EPA, mostly in Region 4's civil enforcement program. Lisa is happily married with 2 kids, one who plays college lacrosse and the other serves in the U.S. Air Force as a 2nd Lieutenant in Guam.

### **TED MCKINNEY**

Ted serves as the Chief Executive Officer of NASDA, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, a position to which he was named in September 2021. NASDA is the Washington, DC based organization representing the State Commissioners, Secretaries and Directors of Agriculture to the US and the world.

Prior to NASDA, he was also the first U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs from 2017-2021. In that role, Under Secretary McKinney led the development and implementation of the Department's trade policy, oversaw and facilitated foreign market access, and promoted opportunities for U.S. agriculture through various trade programs and high-level government negotiations. He also oversaw the U.S. Codex Alimentarius staff and functions.

*After his USDA service, McKinney led foreign affairs and outreach on behalf of the US food and agriculture industry and its engagement with the United Nations Global Food Systems Summits.*

*In 2014, McKinney was appointed by then-Governor Mike Pence to serve as Director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, a position he held until joining USDA in 2017. His career also included 19 years with Dow AgroSciences, where over time he served in nearly all Government & Public Affairs roles, and 14 years with Elanco, at that time a subsidiary of Eli Lilly and Company, where he was Director of Global Corporate Affairs. His industry and civic involvement is vast, including service as founder and Co-Chair of the National FFA Convention Local Organizing Committee, membership on the Indiana State Fair Commission, and Purdue College of Agriculture Dean's Advisory Council, as well as on the boards of directors of the International Food Information Council and the U.S. Meat Export Federation. McKinney grew up on a family grain and livestock farm in Tipton, Indiana, and was a 10-year 4-H member and an Indiana State FFA Officer. He graduated from Purdue University with a B.S. degree in Agricultural Economics in 1981, at which time he received the G.A. Ross Award as the outstanding University senior male graduate. In 2002, he was named a Purdue Agriculture Distinguished Alumnus and, in 2004, received an FFA Honorary American degree. He has also received the Sagamore of the Wabash Award from Indiana Governors Pence and Holcomb. He and his wife, Julie, have three children and six grandchildren, and reside in Alexandria, Virginia.*

#### **ANNIE-FRANCE GRAVEL**

*Annie-France Gravel has been leading Health Canada's Pesticide Compliance Program as National Director from Montreal since 2018. With a background in management, social sciences and environmental studies, she has worked in compliance and enforcement for 15 years. Prior to that, Annie-France has worked in environmental health risk communications and with Environment Canada in the areas of multipartite ecosystem management, community engagement, and funding programs. Her career started in Quebec City, led her to Vancouver and Halifax and she also toured the United States with Cirque du Soleil.*

#### **RENEE KEEZER**

*Renee Keezer is the Pesticide Coordinator for the White Earth Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribes. The White Earth Pesticide Program operates under a cooperative agreement with the Region 5 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). As the only employee in the Pesticide Program, Renee does the administration of the grant and activities that are required in the workplan. This includes conducting inspections under White Earth's Pesticide Code and FIFRA, maintaining adequate pesticide laws, outreach and education, integrated pest management, responding to public tips, complaints, and inquiries, and water sampling to identify and monitor pesticides of interest and pesticides of concern.*

*Renee currently serves as the Region 5 Executive Council Representative for the Tribal Pesticide Program Council (TPPC), Minnesota alternative representative for the Region 5 Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC), and Tribal representative for the State of Minnesota Pesticide Management Planning Committee (PMPC). The PMPC reviews data from ambient water quality monitoring for the purpose of evaluating the impact from the routine application of agricultural chemicals on groundwater and surface water Minnesota.*

*The committee gives recommendations to the Commission of Agriculture for major water quality evaluation activities and decisions.*

*Renee has a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science with an emphasis in Environmental Health and Toxicology, and a Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Studies with an Ojibwe minor. Renee is currently a Master's student at Bemidji State University where she will graduate in May of 2024 with a Master's of Science in Environmental Science.*

### **MELANIE KIRBY**

*Melanie Kirby (Tortugas Pueblo) serves as the Extension Educator and Pollinator Specialist at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She holds a Master of Science in Entomology from Washington State University and has nearly 30 years of experience as a professional beekeeper specializing in queen bee breeding. She has country-wide experience working with migratory beekeepers and with a diversity of farmers and ranchers. She is the founder and director of the Adaptive Bee Breeders Alliance which is a coast-to-coast network of breeders and researchers working on climate adaptive approaches to reproductive health for bees. She also founded Poeh Povi: The Flower Path, an Indigenous Matriarch collective focused on pollinator habitat regeneration on wildfire impacted areas in the southern Rockies. Melanie has recently been appointed by US Sec. of Ag to the new Pollinator Subcommittee of the National Agriculture Research, Extension Education, and Economics Advisory Board. She participates in the TPPC Pollinator Protection working group, the National Managed Pollinator Protection Plan working group, and several other boards and organizations focusing on pollinator health and education.*

### **STEVE DWINELL**

*Steven Dwinell was appointed Director of the Division of Public Health and Agricultural Management at the end of September 2022. Steve previously worked for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), beginning in 1992 in the pesticide regulatory program. Over his career, Steve has worked in the environmental consulting industry, served as Chief of the FDACS Bureau of Entomology and Pest Control, Assistant Director of the FDACS Division of Agricultural Environmental Services, and Director of the FDACS Office of Agricultural Water Policy. From 2018 to 2022, he was a Quality Assurance Manager for Rollins, Inc., the parent company of a number of national pest management brands.*

*Steve has a Masters in Agricultural Entomology from the University of Florida and is a Board-Certified Entomologist. He is a past president of Association of Structural Pest Control Officials (ASPCRO), served as co-chair of the Managed Pollinator Protection Plan Committee for the Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO), AAPCO SFIREG committee chair, and is currently the co-chair of the AAPCO Endangered Species Act Workgroup.*

*Steve lives in Orwell, Vermont with his wife and five rescue dogs, one cat, and a varying number of chickens. Their house is on East Creek, and they enjoy daily walks to watch the cascades and the changing seasons.*

**ROYAN TETER**

*Royan is originally from northern New Mexico where he grew up on his family's farm and cattle ranch. He began his career with the EPA in 1991 after earning a degree in environmental engineering from New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. Prior to joining the EPA Headquarters Team, he served in the Agency's Region 7 Office for 27 years, holding positions in several programs including air, water, solid waste, pollution prevention, and pesticides. He was Chief of Region 7's Pesticides Section from 2008 to 2016, Chief of the Pesticides and Tanks Enforcement Branch within EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance from 2018 thru 2022, and currently serves as a Senior Advisor in OECA's Waste and Chemical Enforcement Division.*

**CAROLYN SCHROEDER**

*Carolyn came to EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) in 2004 from a public health background and has been working in the area of farmworker and pesticide applicator protection. Carolyn is the Chief of the Certification and Worker Protection Branch (CWPB) in EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) Pesticide Re-evaluation Division. Carolyn has been part of OPP for nearly 20 years, spending most of those years in CWPB to improve pesticide worker safety through regulation, resource development, outreach, and training. CWPB's primary focus is on the implementation of two federal regulations: the Agricultural Worker Protection Standard and the Certification of Pesticide Applicators. She has a B.S. in Biology from Millersville University, and an M.S. in public health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.*

**RYNE YEAGER**

*Ryne Yarger is the acting Senior Environmental Protection Specialist within the Office of Pesticide Programs' Certification and Worker Protection Branch at the US Environmental Protection Agency. Ryne joined EPA in 2011 as a policy/rule writer addressing various pesticide-related issues impacting public health and environmental protections. Since 2018, he has been a part of the Certification and Worker Protection Branch supporting regulatory and implementation efforts for the revised Certification of Pesticide Applicators regulations in 2017 and the revised 2015 Worker Protection Standard requirements. Ryne has been the HQ point of contact for Regions 3 and 8 on certification plan issues and reviews, and has provided review and technical support for several other plans over the last 5 years.*

**KIMBERLY BROWN**

*Kim Brown started with the University of TN Extension team in March of 2022 located in Jackson, TN at the West Tennessee Research and Education Center. She is the West Tennessee Turfgrass Specialist and working in pesticide safety education. Kim has worked in pesticide safety education for more than 12 years, spending the majority of that time working as the Pesticide Safety Education Coordinator for the LSU AgCenter from 2012 – 2021. Prior to working with the LSU AgCenter, Kim was the assistant pesticide safety education coordinator at Auburn University. She earned her B.S. from Auburn University in Agronomy and her M.S. from Louisiana State University in Plant, Soils and Environmental Science. She is an expert in pesticide safety and regulation. She has conducted numerous training programs for commercial and private pesticide applicators, and she has worked with numerous state*

agencies and industry associations on pesticide safety and training. She developed a Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Trainer training that has been approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF). She served as the trainer for WPS training in Louisiana and has worked with LDAF on numerous updates to Louisiana pesticide applicator licensing and recertification requirements.

### **KACI BUHL**

Kaci Buhl, MS is an Associate Professor of Practice at Oregon State University (OSU). She leads the Statewide Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP), working to educate professional pesticide applicators in collaboration with state agencies and NGOs. On the national level, Ms. Buhl is the Deputy Director of the Pesticide Educational Resources Collaborative (PERC), which creates pesticide-related videos, manuals, exams, and other resources for farmworkers, pesticide handlers, and licensed applicators. She studied Integrated Pest Management (IPM) at Michigan State University and previously coordinated the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC).

### **COLTON BOND**

Colton Bond is a Pesticide Certification and Training Specialist with the Oregon Department of Agriculture. He is the primary author of Oregon's EPA-approved certification and training plan and is currently leading implementation efforts in the state.

### **AMANDA BACHMAN**

Amanda Bachmann is the Pesticide Education and Urban Entomology Field Specialist with SDSU Extension and is based in Pierre. She has a PhD in Entomology from Penn State. Her responsibilities include providing pesticide safety education and training for commercial and private applicators in South Dakota. As an urban entomologist, she works not only with the 'traditional' urban pests like bed bugs and mosquitos but also urban pollinators and other beneficial insects. She is also an executive committee member for the South Dakota Volunteer Naturalists and serves as President of the AAPSE.



**TUESDAY**  
**March 5, 2024**

**BRIAN ANDERSON**

*Brian Anderson is the Associate Director of the Environmental Fate and Effects Division in the EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs. Brian has worked on a number of exposure, ecotoxicology, risk assessment, and endangered species related issues over the last 20 years. He lives in Virginia where he enjoys hiking, golf, and music.*

**KIMBERLY NESCI**

*Kimberly Nesci serves as the Director of the Office of Pest Management Policy (OPMP). In this role, she leads the development and coordination of USDA policy on pesticides, biotechnology, integrated pest management, and other related topics. Ms. Nesci joined USDA in January 2022 and brings over 25 years of experience in pesticide regulation to OPMP. Prior to her current position, Ms. Nesci served as the Director of the Biological and Economic Analysis Division in EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), where she oversaw the development of biological and economic impact analyses on the usage and benefits of pesticides to support the Federal pesticide regulatory process. During her time in OPP, Ms. Nesci held multiple leadership positions and, prior to her career in the government, Ms. Nesci worked at a pesticide consulting firm. Ms. Nesci holds a Master's degree in Entomology from the University of Maryland.*

**IRVIN HUANG**

*Irvin Huang is a toxicologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and works out of Ecological Service Program's headquarters Branch of National Consultations, based in Falls Church, Virginia. He is a member of the pesticide team, where he and his colleagues work collaboratively with EPA, pesticide registrants, and other stakeholders to conduct endangered species consultations on FIFRA-related actions. Prior to joining the Fish and Wildlife Service, Irvin was a Knauss Marine Policy Fellow with NOAA's National Ocean Service, where he worked on a variety of policy issues related to coastal zone management. Irvin received his PhD from Stony Brook University's School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences in 2019 and his BS from the University of California, Davis in 2012.*

**NIKKI WILDART**

*Nikki Wildart (she/her) is a biologist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) focused on Endangered Species Act pollutant discharge elimination and mitigation interagency consultations. She has a foundation in designing and managing biological assessment and ecosystem restoration projects in a variety of settings, from dense urban infrastructure to rural and agricultural landscapes. Her expertise includes watershed planning, climate change resilience, point and non-point source pollution, fish and macroinvertebrate biology, and endangered species protection. She enjoys synthesizing research to better understand the relationship between complex ecosystems and anthropogenic impacts and is committed to helping trend the scientific field toward a more equitable future.*

**GRETCHEN PALUCH**

*Dr. Gretchen Paluch currently serves as the Pesticide Bureau Chief for the Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship. In this role she is responsible for directing Iowa's pesticide regulatory programs, which include the distribution and use of pesticides in a manner to safeguard human health, plants, crops, food, feed, water and other environmental resources of Iowa's citizens, farmers, and industry workers. Iowa's pesticide regulatory programs include retail dealer licensing, commercial and private applicator certification testing and licensing, pesticide product registration, use/misuse complaints, worker protection, and compliance assistance/outreach. Gretchen earned her PhDs in Toxicology, Entomology, and Statistics from Iowa State University and currently serves as President-Elect for the Association of American Pesticide Control Officials.*

**ASHLEA FRANK**

*Ashlea is a Principal Consultant specializing in pesticides and the Endangered Species Act compliance at Compliance Services International (CSI) and is a technical consultant to the FIFRA Endangered Species Task Force (FESTF). Her work over the past 20 years has focused on pesticide and endangered species complexities, providing technical and strategic support for balancing food production needs with species protection goals. She uses science-based analysis, spatial data interactions, and technology forward portrayals to communicate complex issues and collaboratively work through solutions with businesses, governmental agencies, and end-users. She holds a Master's Degree in Entomology from the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia and lives in the beautiful Texas Hill Country.*

**FRANK WONG**

*Dr. Frank Wong, Ph.D., is a U.S. Industry Affairs Lead for Bayer Crop Science based in Raleigh, NC. Frank obtained his Ph D. in Plant Pathology from Cornell University and prior to joining Bayer, was a statewide extension specialist at the University of California, Riverside from 2001-2011, and served as the American Phytopathology Society subject matter expert liaison with EPA from 2009-2011. Frank has over 25 years of experience in practical plant disease and pest management, and with works with a broad range of stakeholders to find solutions for regulatory and policy issues for the ag production, turf and ornamental, pest management, public health and vegetation management industries. Frank is a past chair of the RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment) Legislative Affairs Committee and serves on a number of industry workgroups and committees in support of Bayer, RISE and CLA (Crop Life America) activities including the Growing Matters Coalition, Federal Endangered Species Task Force and Crop Life America ESA Task Force.*

**BILL CHISM**

*Bill Chism is the chair of the Endangered Species Act Committee of the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA). He grew up working on a vegetable farm in the Salinas Valley of California. He worked for the University of California extension conducting weed control research on vegetable crops. After receiving his PhD in Weed Science from Virginia Tech he worked for 10 years for a pesticide registrant. He retired after 21 years at the EPA conducting assessments on the benefits of pesticides to farmers as part of the registration review*

process. *Fun Fact – Bill lives with his wife, two cats, two dogs, and four horses in Frederick County, MD.*

### **SAM POLLY**

*Sam Polly is a native of the Redwood Belt in coastal Northern California. The son of a high school agriculture teacher and FFA advisor, Sam's family is deeply rooted in agriculture. Sam holds a BS in Soil Science and an MS in Agricultural Education from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. As a plant health care specialist, Sam employed his ISA certified arborist and California Qualified Pesticide Applicator training in the fast-paced, high-scrutiny San Francisco Bay Area. His pesticide applications have spanned agriculture, ornamental and turf, interiorscape, and right-of-way. During his time in the Bay Area, Sam effectively maintained plant health at high-profile settings such as Stanford University, Sony, Hewlett-Packard, San Francisco City Hall, City of Palo Alto, and countless others. Sam also taught college soil science for four years.*

*In recent years Sam worked in his hometown as an environmental consultant, helping California and Oregon businesses, schools, cities, and landowners navigate the sea of environmental regulations, particularly with water quality and wetland compliance. In this role, Sam served as a defense expert witness in multiple Clean Water Act lawsuits and state agency Notices of Violation targeting farmers and industrial operations. Sam is excited to serve Missouri as the State Director of Pesticide Safety Education with his experience and enthusiasm.*

### **SARAH HOVINGA**

*Sarah focuses on advancing regulatory science in digital agriculture, with an emphasis on drones and digital labeling. With over 19 years of diverse experience in biopesticide and agrochemical R&D, she brings a holistic and global perspective to current and future agricultural practices. Sarah studied at the University of California, Davis (B.S., Biological Sciences, and B.A., Spanish) and at California State University, Sacramento (M.S., Biochemistry). She currently serves as co-chair of the CropLife America Drones Working Group and on the CLA Digitalization Task Force, and regularly participates in emerging technology and precision application forums at CropLife International, the Pesticide Programs Dialogue Committee, the Unmanned Aerial Pesticide Application Systems Task Force, and in the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers. Sarah lives in Sacramento area of California with her husband and young daughter.*

### **CHRISTIE KEATING**

*Christi Keating is a Team Leader for Federal Registrations at BASF Corporation in the Agricultural Solutions Division. She brings 15 years of experience to crop, non-crop, and seed treatment product registrations and regulatory affairs. Christi is the BASF representative on the CropLife Label Digitization Task Force. In her spare time, she can be found at her yoga studio or hiking the North Carolina segments of the Mountain to Sea trail with her husband, three kids, and two dogs.*

**LISA DREILINGER**

*Lisa Dreilinger is classically trained as a PhD chemist and currently holds the role of Global Head of Regulatory, Consumer Microbial Control at Arxada. Previously she was Sr. Director of Regulatory and Government Affairs at Reckitt where she worked for over 16 years focusing on many product types including pesticides. She has been very active and collaborative externally working with the trades including HCPA, CBC, ACI among others. She has also been an active member of the EPA's PPDC including co-leading the PPDC Label Reform Workgroup.*

**MICHELLE ARLING**

*Michelle Arling joined EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs Immediate Office in 2016, and works on issues such as EPA's compliance with the human studies regulation, ethics, and web-distributed and digital labeling. Before that, she worked in the Certification and Worker Protection branch for 14 years, developing relationships with state regulators and educators, supporting worker safety training programs in Central America, and helping to revise the Certification and Worker Protection rules. She earned her BA in Political Science and Spanish from Drew University, and her JD from Catholic University. When not working, Michelle enjoys baking, running, and spending time with her husband, two children and two dogs.*

**WEDNESDAY**  
**March 6, 2024**

**SERHAN MERMER**

*Serhan Mermer, PhD, holds a PhD from Oregon State University and degrees from Adnan Menderes University, with expertise in environmental toxicology, chemistry, and risk assessment, particularly concerning agrochemicals and pesticides. His research focus includes utilizing advanced analytical techniques such as HRMS, LC-MS, and GC-MS and measuring pesticide levels in various matrices. Additionally, Serhan serves as the assistant director of the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC), providing unbiased, factual risk communication on pesticides and antimicrobials. Through his research and leadership, he aims to foster sustainable agricultural practices and assist stakeholders in science-based decision-making.*

**SUZANNE FORSYTH**

*Suzanne Forsyth is the Director of the Pesticide Educational Resources Collaborative (PERC) housed at the University of California Davis Continuing and Professional Education. Over the years she has led other EPA cooperative agreements such as the Pesticide Educational Resources Collaborative – Medical (PERC-med), the Tribal Pesticide Program Council (TPPC), and the Pesticide Regulatory Education Program (PREP). She also served as a research chemist for a pesticide registrant. Through these experiences she has gained over 30 years of experience serving stakeholders with an interest in promoting the safe use of pesticides and to help prevent pesticide exposure to applicators and handlers, workers, and their families.*

*Ms. Forsyth graduated from the University of California Davis with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Toxicology and earned a Master of Public Health from the University of California Berkeley. She lives on a 5-acre hobby farm outside of Davis, which she shares with her four Salukis and a farm cat.*

**EMMA TORRES**

*Emma Torres, MSW, is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Campesinos Sin Fronteras, a community-based grassroots organization serving farmworkers and their families in the Yuma County, Arizona, border communities. Ms. Torres, has been a farmworker community representative since 1984. A former migrant farmworker, Ms. Torres has over thirty-five years of public health experience, holds a master's degree in Social Work, and is a UCLA Johnson and Johnson Health Executive Program Graduate.*

*In 1986, Ms. Torres pioneered the Arizona Community Health Worker / Promotora model beginning her career as Promotora and Assistant Coordinator of Arizona's "Comienzo Sano" (Health Start), Prenatal Care Promotora de Salud Program. Ms. Torres is a strong proponent*

and advocate of the *Promotora* model as one of the most effective strategies for reaching and serving low-income Hispanic Latinos and migrant farmworker families. Her advocacy work for farmworker families has received local, state, and national recognition. In 1991, Ms. Torres was selected as a member of the HHS, Migrant, and Seasonal Farmworker's Health Advisory Group; in 1999, Ms. Torres received the Robert Wood Johnson National Health Leader Award. In 2003, Ms. Torres received a presidential appointment to serve as a US/Mexico Border Health Commission member representing Arizona where she still serves. She is a recipient of the OHTLI Award, the highest recognition awarded by the Mexican government given to people who live outside the country and are outstanding leaders on behalf of the Mexican population. In 2007, Ms. Torres was appointed as a representative of IME (the Institute for Mexicans Abroad). In 2007, Ms. Torres was recognized as one of the 10 Most Influential Hispanics in Yuma County, in 2009, she was honored with the "Heart of Yuma Award" given by the Yuma community to individuals who have strengthened their community through their dedication, passion for service, and volunteerism. For her lifelong investment in the field, in 2016, Ms. Torres received the Arizona Housing Hero Award from the Arizona State Department of Housing. In 2022, Ms. Torres was recognized as one (1) of 48 Arizona Most Intriguing Women, an Arizona Centennial Legacy Project, whose leadership, accomplishments, and dedication have positively impacted Arizona and the nation. On October 26, 2003, Ms. Torres was inducted into the Arizona Women's Hall of Fame, acknowledging her valuable historical contributions to the State. Ms. Torres has been an EPA/WPS trainer and educator since the WPS began. In December 2003, Ms. Torres was appointed to the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PDDC). In 2017, Ms. Torres established the KYMZ 99.9 FM. Radio Sin Fronteras, a community radio station with the potential of reaching nearly a million people. Ms. Torres is currently a fellow of the Robert Wood Johnson National Health Leaders, Board Chair of the Alianza Nacional de Mujeres Campesinas, member of the South Yuma County Anti-Drug Coalition, and the Yuma County Farmworker Service Coalition.

### **CATHERINE LePREVOST**

Catherine LePrevost, PhD, is an Associate Extension Professor and the Agromedicine Extension Specialist in the Department of Applied Ecology at North Carolina State University. She is also Coordinator of the North Carolina Agromedicine Institute on North Carolina State University's campus. She has a master's degree in toxicology and a doctoral degree in science education.

Catherine is interested in science education that takes place outside of the classroom, especially with rural and agricultural communities on topics related to pesticides and occupational health. She has developed Worker Protection Standard training materials for agricultural workers and modules on pesticides and human health for private pesticide applicator recertification in North Carolina.

Catherine's research explores the role of community health workers in agricultural worker health and the impact of community health workers' access to technology and professional development. Catherine currently leads several projects related to advancing the digital inclusion of agricultural communities, including serving as a researcher on a new NIH-funded, community-led initiative to expand agricultural workers' access to telehealth services.

**KRIS SCHAEDEL**

*Kris Schaedel grew up in Oregon and attended University in Northern Arizona. After a decade working as a field biologist throughout the state doing river and stream surveys, she settled into a permanent position at the Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District. She has worked for the HRSWCD for 11 years. As a small district without a tax base, her job has been diverse and encompassed many aspects of the conservation world. In more recent years, her focus has turned towards partnership and facilitating a more robust bilingual agricultural training program and water conservation projects to serve the watersheds, agricultural industry, and people of the Mid-Columbia Region.*

**VIRGINIA BALBI**

*Dr. Virginia Balbi is the bilingual outreach coordinator for the Pesticide Safety Education Program at Oregon State University. Her current work focuses on establishing the new Spanish language pre-certification training and materials as well as collaborating with the Oregon Department of Agriculture to translate the Oregon Core Manual Addendum. After receiving her B.S. in Agronomy from the Universidad de la República (Uruguay), she was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to pursue graduate studies in the US and obtained her Ph.D. in Plant Physiology from OSU. Virginia has taught and carried out research in different crops and model systems in universities and research institutions in several countries.*

**OFELIO BORGES**

*Ofelio was born and raised in Hidalgo, México. At the age of 20, he immigrated to the USA and has worked in the Tree Fruit Industry for approximately 35 years carrying out tasks at different levels including being a migrant farmworker in California, Washington and Oregon, a farm supervisor, manager, and orchard owner. Ofelio has also worked for the Washington State Department of Agriculture for over 23 years as the Program Manager for the Technical Services and Education Program. Ofelio is one of the main creators of the pesticide safety training programs that currently exist in Washington State as well as the Agricultural Leadership Program. In 2023, Ofelio was awarded with the Latino Leadership Award by the Washington State Tree Fruit Association.*

**JENNIFER WEBER**

*Jennifer Weber is the Coordinator of the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Pesticide Safety Education Program, a statewide program serving the needs of both the agricultural and structural pest control industries. Prior to this position, she worked for the Arizona Department of Agriculture's Ag Consultation and Training Program and the UC Davis Statewide IPM Project's Pesticide Safety Education Program. Through these opportunities, she gained over 25 years of experience providing safety information in English and Spanish to individuals who work directly with pesticides and in areas where pesticides are applied. Ms. Weber graduated from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo with a bachelor's degree in dairy science. Following graduation, she spent two years working on a livestock health program in Ecuador as a Peace Corps volunteer. She later earned a master's degree in Multicultural and Bilingual Education from California State University, Sacramento.*

**LAUREN GOTT**

*Lauren Gott is the Pesticide Certification Specialist for the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development in the Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division. Lauren has worked with the Department for 7 years and has been in her current role for a year and a half. Previously, she was a pesticide field inspector around Grand Rapids and Midland areas. Lauren has a Bachelor of Science degree from Grand Valley State University in Natural Resource Management and a minor in Environmental Science. Lauren also has a certificate of Community Sustainability Management from the University of Colorado Boulder Environmental Center. She enjoys being outdoors, sports, and baking.*