

Students Test their Skills during 2019 Weed Science Contest

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More than 240 students from 29 universities tested their mettle during the recent 2019 North American Weed Science Contest—an event endorsed by the Weed Science Society of America and its regional affiliates.

This year's contest was hosted by the BASF Midwest Research Farm, the Valent Midwest Agricultural Research Center, and Klein Farms, a multigenerational family farm based in Seymour, Illinois. Sponsors included Bayer, Corteva Agriscience and Syngenta.

The nation's top weed science students competed in multiple events—from identifying weeds to solving complex weed management challenges faced by farmers and land managers.

“It was a great educational experience that offered students a chance to apply what they've learned in the classroom and to network with some of the top talent working in weed science today,” says Dawn Refsell, a Valent field development manager who helped organize the event.



For the written portion of the contest, students were given 45 minutes to carry out calculations related to various aspects of sprayer calibration, including determining correct spray volumes, amount of product required for herbicide applications and proper nozzle selection.

The 2019 UC Davis Weed Team consisted of graduate students Matt Fatino, Steve Haring, Katie Martin, and Drew Wolter.

The team brought home multiple awards:

- *Steve Haring* :: National winner in the **Written Calibration Exam** (graduate)
- *Steve Haring* :: Western Regional winner, 2nd place in **Individual** (graduate) category
- *Steve Haring* :: Western Regional winner in the **Written Calibration Exam** (graduate)
- *Katie Martin* :: Western Regional winner in the **Problem Solving** (graduate) category
- *Matt Fatino, Steve Haring, Katie Martin, and Drew Wolter* :: Western Regional winner, 3rd place in the **Team** (graduate) category



(LF to RT) Katie Martin, Steve Haring, Matt Fatino, and Drew Wolter