



**Science
Societies**

Straw Joins Penn State's turfgrass science program

February 27, 2025



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In January, CSSA member Chase Straw became an Assistant Professor of Turfgrass Soils and the Director of the Center for Sports Surface Research at Penn State. Dr. Straw earned his B.S. in Turfgrass Science from the University of Kentucky, followed by M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Georgia. His academic pursuits have been complemented by practical experience, including two years as a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of Minnesota. Prior to joining Penn State, he was an Assistant Professor of Turfgrass Management and Physiology at Texas A&M University for nearly five years.

At Penn State, Straw's role includes a 40% research, 40% teaching, and 20% extension appointment. His research focuses on technology-driven strategies to enhance the performance and sustainability of golf courses and sports fields. Additionally, he serves as the Academic Director on the Sports Field Management Association's Board of Directors.

Straw's vision for the Center for Sports Surface Research includes fostering innovation and collaboration with industry professionals to address the evolving challenges of sports surface management. He is dedicated to equipping students with cutting-edge knowledge and skills, preparing them to make meaningful contributions to the field.

Straw has been an active member of CSSA in a number of ways, such as serving as an Associate Editor for [Crop, Forage & Turfgrass Management](#) and as a member of the CSSA and ASA K-12 Committee.

Source: Penn State Turfgrass Newsletter

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