

NDWCA Area IV Minutes

By Email by Rick Schmidt

Yet to be approved

October, 2020

Area Director, Rick Schmidt sent out to the area counties the minutes and reports from industry and NDDA. Counties responding were Oliver, Morton, Burleigh, Sheridan and Grant.

Minutes:

2019 area IV minutes were approved.

Old Business:

Annual Meeting Update: by Merlin Leithold, ex. secretary

The ND Weed Control Association annual conference is slated for January 11-14, 2021 at the Ramada Inn & Conference Center in Bismarck. (Same place as the past several years). Theme this year is

“Your Land, Your Weed, Your Problem”

The 11, there is a board meeting scheduled for 5:30 pm at the hotel. Tuesday morning the ND Department of Agriculture we will kick things off with the Commissioners Forum. Tuesday afternoon at 3:00 pm we will have our annual business meeting, followed by the annual and very entertaining beer & brat social and auction. Please bring an auction item for this event, as a donation, which proceeds go for youth programs in the state.

Wednesday morning we have tentatively scheduled the mayor from Bismarck for a welcome at 8:00 am. We will have a full line of speakers, but with the way current events have been going with Covid, they are not in the correct places.

This year we will be going back to basics. Teaching all of us how to be a better weed officer and board person. We plan on having various weed officers talk on an area they are highly qualified to do so in. For example, we will have one talk about Leafy spurge biocontrol. Another on spraying techniques. Another on building relationships with their landowners. Another on the correct procedures for forcing a landowner to control his/her weeds.

Bill Walker will give a presentation on surfactants as well. Hope to have some NDSU presentations as well.

At 6:00 pm on Wednesday evening we will have our annual banquet and awards presentation. Entertainment this year are the Little Blue Stems from Elgin. They are a group made up of sisters and a brother, play bluegrass and country, and Christian. These kids are in elementary and high school. They are sponsored again by Nutrien and Bill Walker.

Thursday morning we are not having a breakfast, as the hotel has a free continental breakfast.

The speaker session will begin at 8 and conclude around 11:30.

There will be a board meeting following the morning session.

Now, the unknown portion. At the board meeting on Sept. 29, the board decided to go ahead with the conference,. BUT, they plan to revisit this mid-November or sooner. Since that board meeting, Burleigh County, where the conference is held, moved up a level to red. At that level, it would be impossible to hold a conference. Everyone is hoping that the virus levels begin to stabilize and go lower to a more normal status. Watch for the November newsletter towards the end of November. In there, everything will be clearer. Also, if the conference is not held, the board will do what it can to hold the annual meeting, electronically. STAY TUNED

County reports:

Morton: Given by Cody Schnabel

Our spraying season turned out to be about average. The wind almost never quit, but we almost never had to worry about rain. We had very few breakdowns. We finished out the season having gotten all of our roads sprayed at least once, and a few a second time through. We hosted a bug day in Morton County at the WMA South of Mandan. The ND Game and Fish has been letting us do a sweep day there, open to the public, every other year; we are thankful for them allowing us in to do this. We also again joined forces with Grant County to host a bug day on Lake Tschida; we are thankful for Grant County and Merlin for making it possible. Morton County offered a Landowner Assistance Program. In this, we offered 1200 gallons of Tordon 22K for \$12 per gallon; 120 gallons of Plateau for \$26 per gallon; 1200 quarts of Milestone for \$18 per quart; 250 gallons of Curtail for \$11 per gallon. Because we increased the quantities of these products in our program a great deal, we sold more herbicide this year than any other year, but did not sell out our entire program like other years. We received a couple landowner complaints about their neighbors with infestations. Weed control officer Cody, through inspections and phone calls, handled these. We did not find any new Palmer Amaranth in Morton County. We inspected several suspicious plants reported to our weed officer, but happy to say, none turned out to be Palmer. Our weed officer Cody has proudly served this year as president of the North Dakota Weed Control Association. This year has had a whole new set of challenges to contend with, in addition to our traditional weed control challenges. Everything has changed in the way we meet and do business with people.

Sheridan County: Given by LaVern Laib

We sprayed approximately 220 acres of leafy spurge. We started June 1 because the spurge spots we had been spraying started growing late. The spots we had not sprayed before had showed up right on schedule and we now were behind for the season. We also spot sprayed approximately 50 acres of Highway right of way for Canada thistle and yellow toadflax. We held our annual chemical sale. Sales seem to be declining. Finding contractors to spray is a problem.

Oliver: Given by Rick Schmidt

The Oliver County Weed Board was much quieter than normal due to the Covid virus. S&M Lawn Service was hired to spray the 4 State Hwy's in the county again this year at \$65.00 hour and the weed board provided the chemical.

The chemicals that were distributed through the Weed Board include:

Curtail - 72.5 gallons, Milestone - 313 quarts, Plateau – 25 gallons, MSO – 62.5 gallons, Opensight – 63 – 1.25 pound containers, Liberate – 90 gallons, Method – 33 quarts, Escort – 17 – 8 ounce containers, Tordon – 105 gallons, and Graslan L – 140 gallons.

There were only 3 noxious weed compliance reports that were sent out and all were addressed quickly this year.

Participated in the Biological Control collection day at Lake Tschida, thanks to Grant and Morton Co. weed boards.

Absinth wormwood and Canada thistle were major problems in crop ground. Kochia is the most economically draining weed into the profits of farmers. No reports of Palmer amaranth.

The Extension Administrative Assistant is paid 1/5 of her salary from the Weed Control budget per request of the County Commissioner.

Burleigh: Given by Dylan Ripplinger

2020 has been a demanding year with the employment of the new Weed Officer for Burleigh County. The Weed Officer (Dylan Ripplinger), spent the season learning the county programs, meeting and assisting landowners, selling herbicide, attending field days, understanding where problem weed areas are, and is developing a new management program to better control noxious weeds within the county. Canada Thistle, Absinth Wormwood, Leafy Spurge, and Houndstongue are the 4 most prevalent noxious weeds within Burleigh County this year. Thistle, Leafy Spurge, and Wormwood are issues in the ROW and Pasture land within Burleigh County, and Houndstongue has been found in great numbers in the wooded areas along the Missouri River. Also along the river, multiple areas of Purple Loosestrife have been found. Other noxious weeds are present in the county but seem to be manageable. No Palmer Amaranth has been found within the county. BCWB is also planning to purchase a data logger system to map these noxious weeds. Burleigh County Weed Board started spraying operations during the last week of May and continued until mid-October this year. It has been a somewhat dry year this summer, and that has allowed the Absinth Wormwood to flourish everywhere throughout the county. 1278 Acres of 110 landowners were sprayed this year, and 552 quarts of Milestone were sold to 111 landowners with the county cost share program. 1690 miles/acres of right-of-way have been sprayed by the spray contractors within Burleigh County. This includes township roads, county roads, and state highways. Along with ROW and private landowner spraying, approximately 11 miles/acres of the Missouri river have been sprayed for purple loosestrife. Leafy Spurge Flea Beetles were collected in Stutsman, Morton, and Grant counties to be dispersed throughout Burleigh County. The framework for a good biological control program within Burleigh County is currently being established with 21 Leafy Spurge Flea Beetle releases done this year to multiple landowners and areas. The hope is to create a collectable site within Burleigh County in the future. This year has been an observation and learning year for the Burleigh County Weed Control Program. As the new BC Weed Officer, I wanted to determine what policies and practices worked, and which ones didn't for the county. This was essential to develop the most beneficial program for Burleigh County. BCWB received over 150 weed complaint calls from landowners this season. 80% of all weed calls were regarding the subdivisions surrounding Bismarck. Most of the calls were in regards to vacant or unoccupied lots containing uncontrolled noxious weeds. BCWB is

developing an outreach program to assist these landowners in future years with noxious weed control. Lastly; BCWB has purchased a 2020 Honda UTV with a 100 Gal. sprayer, a trailer to haul it, and a new 2020 Chevy Pickup. These will be used to improve the BCWB program.

Grant: Given by Merlin Leithold

I started out the year in April spraying guard rails by bridges and the shoulders at the bridges for visibility. Needed to get total vegetation control for the season.

Finished that project the middle of May, then started to gear up for noxious weed spraying. Pump went out, sat for a week and a half until new pump arrived. Ordered 2 pumps, now have one on the shelf as a spare.

Also, put in a new mapping system on the truck from AgTerra. Worked great after initial kinks were worked out. Had Cody from Morton County help install the system. Jason from AgTerra was probably tired of us calling him every 5 minutes that day!

Finally the last week in May, I began spraying roads in the county for noxious weeds. This work continued into October, only 1 day a week many weeks. Either the rain, wind, or a combination. There were only a few days that I had to shut down early in the day due to excess heat. I tried several different chemical mixes again this year to try and get a handle on some of the ditches. Some areas I used Milestone at 6 ounces plus liberate. Most of the areas I used 1 quart of Tordon, 1 pint Platoon (Amine) plus Liberate. The area where I used Facet L at 2 quarts plus MSO at 1 quart/acre, last season looked very good. Nearly season long control. I had used Liberate on some instead of the MSO, saw no difference. Then late summer early fall, I used Tordon at 1 quart, Milestone at 5 ounces and the Liberate. Since I was finding so much Wormwood, I needed something. Last season I used 6 ounces, saw some grass injury where it was drier. Saw good control from using the mix last season. Still battling Canada thistle on one of my highways. Many of us believe it was in the straw that was used after construction. Never had an issue before construction, after 2 years nearly solid wormwood, followed by Canada thistle, which does get cleaned up by Milestone, but new spots every year. If you color in on a map each spot every year, the ditches would be 100% colored in over the last 5 years.

Did get all of the county roads, around 1,600 miles sprayed. Felt good, since last year the weather prevented it. Sprayed a number of roads twice.

Had our 24th annual bug day at Boy Scouts on the beautiful south shore of Lake Tschida, on July 9, on a very windy day. Around 140 people attended. One of the largest crowds ever. Handed out approximately a little over 387,000 beetles, half from last year. A decent amount of spurge again. As always, have to wait until next year to see whether the site maintains itself, or if it disappears. People from 11 counties and 6 county weed officers. Thanks to Cody and his staff from Morton County for coming to help. APHIS had a crew of 4, and ND Dept. of Ag was also there. The Fargo Forum had a reporter there as well.

We did have a contract sprayer spraying for landowners as well. He sprayed for 25 different landowners.

We cost shared Tordon, Milestone, Plateau and Curtail. We also sold at the weed building Liberate, Amine, Roundup, MSO, Blue Dye and Defoamer. A one stop shop for spraying noxious weeds. Private landowner sales were up from 2019.

Industry: Karissa Floerchinger– Corteva Agriscience

Hello,

To better serve you, we have redrawn the territory lines in the Western US. The East side of North Dakota and South Dakota will continue to be supported by Pasture and Land Management Specialist, Karissa Floerchinger. Pasture and Land Management Specialist, Claire Volk, now supports the West side of North Dakota and South Dakota. We look forward to working with you to meet the ever-changing challenges that you face.

If you are located in the following **North Dakota** counties, then Claire will now support your Pasture and Land Management efforts: Adams, Billings, Bowman, Burke, Divide, Dunn, Golden Valley, Grant, Hettinger, McKenzie, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Mountrail, Oliver, Renville, Sioux, Slope, Stark, Ward and Williams.

If you are located in the following **South Dakota** counties, then Claire will now support your Pasture and Land Management efforts: Bennett, Butte, Corson, Custer, Dewey, Fall River, Gregory, Haakon, Harding, Jackson, Jones, Lawrence, Lyman, Meade, Mellette, Oglala Lakota (Shannon), Pennington, Perkins, Stanley, Todd, Tripp and Ziebach.

We have a lot of exciting things happening to discuss with you, including the recent launch of [DuraCor®](#) and [TerraVue™](#) herbicides, as well as the anticipated [ProClova™](#) herbicide that is currently with the EPA for registration.

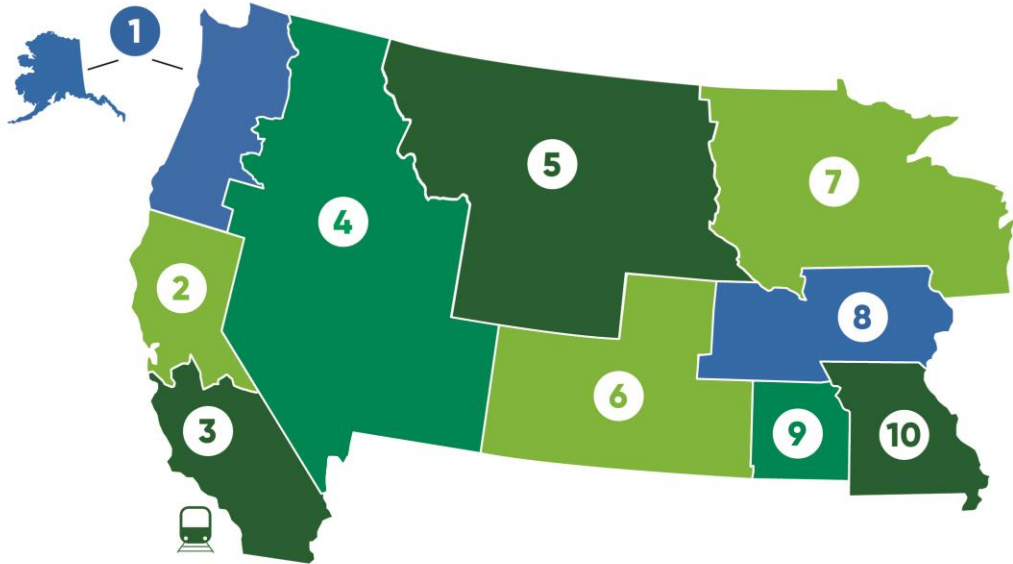


You can contact Claire over the phone at 307-439-9095 and email claire.volk@corteva.com. Feel free to reach out to Claire to meet your new Pasture and Land Management Specialist!



You can still reach Karissa at 406-788-4044 and email karissa.floerchinger@corteva.com. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions!

2020-2021 Western PLM District Territories



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October 14th, 2020



Dear Weed & Pest Supervisors & Board Members,

Friends and supporters as you read in the attached briefing, I will no longer be the Corteva Representative for the Pasture and Land Management Division essentially to those counties west of the Missouri River. I have sincerely enjoyed getting to know all of you as business partners and friends. I appreciate you all allowing me to lean on you with questions as I sought understanding over the past four great years. Those to the east I look forward to building upon our established relationship and assisting in the stewardship of Corteva products as you all target noxious and invasive weeds well into the future.

It has been a superb year for weed spraying across the Dakota's. I thank you all for your continued support of Corteva products including but not limited to TerraVue, DuraCor, Milestone, Opensight, GrazonNext HL, Tordon, Vista, Transline, Curtail and Freelexx. As you all know we launched TerraVue and DuraCor this year as the premier residual broadleaf weed control herbicides. They are respectively the next generation of Milestone, Opensight and GrazonNext HL.

In the Dakota's alone TerraVue and DuraCor have been sprayed on over 140,000 acres. As a reminder both products contain Milestone and the new active ingredient Rinskor which broadens the weeds controlled to 140 weeds verses 70 labeled weeds on the Milestone label. Rinskor is a new active ingredient that targets a new site of action on the plant achieving better contact on all species but particularly on wild carrot and wild parsnip species. Same if not better control has been achieved on North Dakota Noxious Weeds including Absinth wormwood, Canada thistle, Diffuse/Russian/Spotted Knapweed, Musk thistle, Palmer amaranth, Purple Loosestrife, and more! Brush control results are promising on Russian Olives when combined with Vastlan.



Wessington Springs SD
Plumeless Thistle
Sprayed June 20th 2020
16 oz DuraCor

<i>TerraVue</i>	<i>DuraCor</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-2.85 oz/acre use rates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12-20 oz/acre use rates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot treatment rate 5.7 oz. If area is hayed or grazed, not more than 50% of an acre may be treated at that rate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot treatments may be applied at 40 fl ozs of DuraCor™ per acre, as long as an application is not made to more than 50% of the treatable acre.

Higher broadcast rate (5.7 oz) allowed for TVC	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use Sites: rangeland & pasture, natural areas, wildlife habitat and management areas, non-crop areas, utility, roadside rights-of-way, including grazed areas in & around these sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use Sites: rangeland, permanent grass pastures, Conservation Reserve Program area, wildlife habitat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Dispersible Granular: disperses quickly in water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liquid Suspension Concentrate: shake or stir before using, can freeze
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supplemental Label: *For use on rights-of-ways and utility lines transecting grazed areas.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-restricted herbicide, no haying or grazing restrictions in MT, WY, ND, SD 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tank mix compatibility/low odor/low use rate/can be used up to waters edge 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Always follow the label 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supplemental Label: For use on grass harvested for hay intended for distribution or sale OFF the farm or ranch. For distribution and use in MT, WY, ND, SD 	

We must also mention that we will shortly launch ProClova. This product will primarily target pasture acres that have white clover as the primary forage species, providing invasive weed control and white clover safety. ProClova should also have a broader fit for the non-residual acre in our area. Stay tuned for more information as we currently anticipate an approved label in the fourth quarter of 2020.

Crook County Wyo
Leafy Spurge
Sprayed June 23rd
16 oz DuraCor + 16
+ 16 oz Freelexx +



Available Value-Added Resources:

- To hear from Barnes County Weed Supervisor, Jamen Windish check out this link as it pertains to the article “A Mandatory Practice” : <http://app.engage.corteva.com/e/es?s=777435755&e=97431&elqTrackId=785bbbc2806846cc80473e1899f7cba2&elq=10a7692b94cb4bfb955a400b36fc1ec7&elqaid=12086&elqat=1>
- For those of you seeking up-to-date data on DuraCor check out the September 23rd 2020 Techline article “Maintaining balance” by visiting: <https://www.techlinenews.com/articles/maintaining-balance>
- We have developed a resource to help you all as supervisors when approaching the public with regards to vegetation management practices at **NotifyYourNeighbor.Corteva.US**. One simply goes to the site and requests access of which will be received 48 hours or less.

I want to thank you all for your support! If you have an opportunity to provide weed control and require additional resources, we invite you to reach out to your dedicated Pasture & Land Management Representative for support. We continue to bring new technologies and resources to the field and are proud to help you steward all products in the field. Claire is looking forward to working with you all and would enjoy meeting you, please feel free to reach out to Claire at your convenience. Hope to see you soon!

Van Diest: Tom Hedrick

Good morning everyone! First and foremost I want to thank you for your business support this year. We appreciate the opportunity to serve your county weed control program. Our goal at Van Diest Supply Company is to provide you with timely service, product knowledge, and application information. Starting with supplier updates”.

Corteva – Milestone will remain flat in price for 2021.

\$ 265 / gallon in 2.5's and \$ 66.25 for quarts.

Vastlan (Choline Triclopyr) took a 3% increase to \$ 89.60 / gallon.

Freelex (Choline 2,4 -D) is agency priced at \$ 20.50 / gallon.

Opensight (Milestone + MSM) is agency priced at \$ 86 / pound.

Tordon 22 K and Graslan L - little change in price expected.

The two new products TerraVue / Duracor looked very good this year.

They are premixes of Milestone + Rinskor that provide additional broadleaf control with accelerated activity and efficacy on many weeds. TerraVue WDG is labeled for ROW, rangeland, permanent pastures, CRP, and other sites. Agency priced currently at \$ 94 / pound with use rates up to 2.85 oz / acre.

Duracor liquid is labeled for rangeland, permanent grass pastures, CRP, wildlife management areas. Agency priced currently at \$ 85 / gallon with use rate up to 20 oz / acre. Prices for both of these products could change by early new year. If you haven't tried these products, I would certainly recommend that you do.

Bayer – Method herbicide should be in good supply for 2021.

Agency priced at \$ 322.56 / gallon. No increase in price.

For bareground, Plainview herbicide is a three way mix of Arsenal + Method + Esplanade. Provides excellent control of annual perennial weeds and grasses, including woody plants, brush, and trees.

Esplanade 200 SC will be agency priced through December at \$ 1189.12, in 2.5's. Price will increase to \$ 1218.56 January 1st.

Quarts will be \$ 327.04 through December, and \$ 335.36 after that.

New from Bayer is Rejuvra herbicide. This herbicide will control annual weeds and grasses in established rangeland, pasture, CRP, parks, open spaces and wildlife areas. Applied preemergent before germination, Rejuvra will release beneficial plants and grasses for an extended period of time, allowing native plants to flourish. Use rate is 5 ounces / acre , agency priced at \$ 994.56 / gallon. So the 5 ounce rate will run \$ 38.85 / acre.

Hopefully we can get together at the January conference . Thanks again for your support. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Happy fall hunting and be safe out there.

Bill Walker, NDWCA Industry Rep & Nutrien Solutions

As we face a year of trials and uncertainty, so far, the pesticide industry has held up fairly well through it all, we have seen some products get tight and even some out of production until this next year and even then, no guarantees how well production will resume, we have to remember that much of the technical materials used to make the products were coming from offshore countries like China so some materials have become short.

Dicamba is still highlighted and we should continue to watch where we are using this product and now, researchers are seeing more and more tolerance to dicamba from certain weed types, the pigweeds are showing more tolerance which in turn will have an effect on Palmer Amaranth control in some areas, dicamba products are still on the market and being sold, it is just the “NEW” dicamba products that were being marketed for the dicamba resistant beans and other crops that have been pulled from sales for now, some states have also made the dicamba products still for sale a “Restricted Use Product” thus requiring licensing to buy and apply.

Glyphosate issues are still on going, everything is still in the courts and basically by mid-2020 Bayer had in place a proposed settlement to address most of the pending cases estimated to be about 100,000 cases at this time, spurred on by a pair of multi-million dollar judgements against the company in California courtrooms.

Bayer:

Has recently introduced a new product called **Rejuvra Herbicide** – it is labeled for annual grass control in range, pasture and wildlife areas, use up to 5 ounces per acre with no grazing restrictions, can use up to 7 ounces per acre rates but will have grazing restrictions on rates over 5 ounces, can be used on established perennial grasses, helps to increase pollinator habitat, wildlife habitat, forage production, helps to target the seed bank of annual grasses, seeing multi-year control (up to 3 years or so) with a single application, Cheatgrass, Foxtails, Downy Brome, Medusahead and Ventenata are just a few on the label, cost will be around \$42.75 per acre plus for the chemical not including application, is packaged in 2.5 gallon containers only at this time, 2.5 gallons will treat approximately 64 acres at the 5 ounce per acre rate.

Bayer has now released pricing information for the coming year, looks like we will see a slight price increase on Esplanade 200 SC Herbicide and Esplanade EZ Herbicide (about 2.5% increase), Method 240 SL pricing will remain the same as 2020 for 2021 at \$322.56 per gallon and still is only available in 2.5 gallon containers, most all other products (Escort XP, Telar XP, Plainview SC Herbicide, Oust XP and others have remained stable pricing from 2020 to 2021 so far.

Glyphosates (the Roundup Brands manufactured by Bayer), we have seen some slight price increases so far, pricing could/will be dictated by how much technical material is coming from offshore, not only on the Roundup brands but all glyphosate products.

CORTEVA:

Has announced that we will see some price increases on some products, **Freelexx, Opensight, TerraVue, Vastlan, Vista XRT, Garlon 4 Ultra, Capstone Herbicide, Pathfinder II, Pathway Herbicide** among others, increases will range from 1% on up to about 5.6% on some products.

Milestone Herbicide will remain stable from what they have said so far, government program in the western states is still in effect and pricing is the same at this time.

Tordon 22K Herbicide is stable at this time but still might be looked at for some price increases later.

CORTEVA is currently looking at a couple of new products that might come available sometime in 2021, these would be targeted at range, pasture and right-a-ways, stay tuned for updates on these as we get them.

CORTEVA is currently making some changes to its staff and the territories they do cover, their plan now is to split North Dakota and South Dakota into two different company representatives with one covering the east and one covering the west, looks like the Missouri river might be the dividing line for this split, my personal concerns is when this happens, of possibly getting differing ideas, creating some confusion between the sides and direction.

BASF:

Has not come forward with any possible price increases so far, they will normally put these out sometime in November/December but we are not expecting any real large increases on the BASF products, we did see a fairly large increase on Overdrive this year (2020) but again this is a dicamba type product and your use should be limited to necessary sites or types of weeds, Plateau supplies seemed stable for the year and pricing was stable, Arsenal Herbicide did see some supply disruptions but were temporary.

NuFarm:

In talking with NuFarm they think pricing structure will stay fairly stable, at this time they think phenoxy products like the 2,4-D products look stable, as reported earlier in the year, NuFarm has exited some of it's glyphosate business in the Vegetation Management markets, AquaNeat, Razor PRO and other VM glyphosates are no longer available and the supply chains have pretty much been exhausted of these, they have taken over the Payload and Piper Herbicide marketing for Valent, E-2 Herbicide looks stable so far for pricing (no information as of this date).

Surfactants and Additives:

From what we see so far these are taking a very nominal increase in pricing, 2% to 3% at this time, oil/petroleum pricing does have some effect on these when petroleum based and, with the current petroleum pricing, upticks in pricing on surfactants that use petroleum have been almost zero, also, most of these products are made in the USA so the problems faced with many pesticide products and technical material coming from offshore countries are not faced with the manufacturing of these products, the only real factor effecting these would be COVID-19 and that is only if plants are shut down because of that situation.

Other products at this time seem to be somewhat stable but we will make no predictions on what might happen.

We have to remember, much of our technical material or even the finished products are/were made in China, tariffs placed on China products have been as much as 25% and are still in effect, with the current

world situation I believe, nobody can really tell what might happen for 2021, in a survey on COVID-19 and did it effect this business, 43% said yes it did, another 43% said yes it did but they adapted, if the country is slowed once again to COVID-19 problems then all bets are off.

It's still early and the next couple of months up until the first of the year will really tell what might happen in 2021, hopefully by our annual meeting in January we will have a much clearer picture.

NDDA Update: Richard Weisz, noxious weed specialist:

2020 NDDA Noxious Weeds Updates

- **NDDA Noxious Weeds Program Contacts:**
 - **Richard Weisz**, Noxious Weeds Specialist (Bismarck)
 - Noxious weeds, federal and state funding, enforcement issues
 - (701) 328-2250

 - **Chelsey Penuel**, Plant Protection Specialist (Fargo)
 - Biocontrol, WSFF
 - (701) 226-4321

 - **Jim Hansen**, GIS/GPS Specialist (Coleharbor)
 - Mapping, dataloggers, NDDA online maps
 - (701) 425-8454

- **Outreach:**
 - Books and pocket guides are available. Please let Richard know if you need more outreach material, and we will ship it out to you.

- **Funding:**
 - 20-21 LAP Notice of Grant Awards (NOGA) have been sent to all eligible counties.
 - Currently, 28 LAP NOGAs out of 41 have been fully executed.
 - Please sign and return as soon as you're able.
 - Let Richard know if you need me to resend.

 - **TAG and LAP funds:**
 - Target Assistance Grant (TAG) Program: \$281,000
 - \$95,872 spent
 - \$185,128 available
 - Landowner Assistance Program (LAP) Grant: \$1,000,000.00
 - \$464,607.36 spent

- \$535,392.64 available
- **Ideas for using TAG funds:**
 - GPS equipment - dataloggers, etc.
 - Spray equipment - new or repairs
 - PPE
 - Weed scouting, monitoring, or mapping
 - Re-vegetation
 - Safety or calibration training
 - Computer hardware or software
 - Educational items or newsletters
- **LAP:**
 - Going forward, LAP is being allocated every year instead of every two years.
 - Reason: allows for more counties to meet the 3-mill eligibility mark.
 - LAP grant periods are:
 - July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020
 - July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.
 - LAP Reallocation.
 - Will occur towards the end of this fiscal year.
 - Use formula to reallocate.
 - Formula no longer includes noxious weeds acres, but submission of noxious weed survey is required or county may not be eligible for LAP funding.
- **USFS Grants:**
 - 2018 – Cooperative Weed Management
 - 2019 – Continued Cooperative Weed Management
 - 2020 – Invasive Plant Cost-Share Grant
 - Funding is available so please reach out if you have any questions or interest.
- **2021 Agriculture Commissioner’s Noxious Weed Forum:**
 - **January 12, 2021** at the Bismarck Ramada
 - Free and open to the public
 - As of now, we are still planning on having the Forum in person, however this will be re-evaluated if needed.
- **GPS & Dataloggers:**
 - Get your GPS data submitted.
 - Call Jim if you have:

- Questions on submitting data or computer software or hardware
- Printed Map
- **Palmer amaranth:**
 - Confirmed counties in 2020:
 - New Counties:
 - Cass, Barnes, Stutsman
 - New sites in confirmed counties:
 - Benson, Richland
 - Upon revisiting sites from 2018 to 2019 Palmer plants were only found at the 2018 Richland County site and the 2019 Grant County location.
 - Please keep an eye out while spraying.
 - Please work with landowners and NDSU Extension for suspect plants.
 - Report suspect plants to the NDDA.
 - Do outreach to Landowners in your county, especially cattle producers that may procure feed from outside areas where weeds that do not occur in North Dakota exist

NDDA Biocontrol Update

Leafy spurge biocontrol: The NDDA assisted and put out press for 5 leafy spurge flea beetle collection and distribution field days in Benson, Billings, Grant, Morton and Stark counties. In addition to public collection events, weed boards and state agencies moved many more flea beetles throughout the state, and the NDDA was able to move approximately 10 releases of leafy spurge flea beetles to McHenry County in effort to help control the large infestations of leafy spurge in the area. Both weather and the Covid-19 pandemic complicated or led to the cancelation of public collection events, however, some county weed control boards were able to use staff to collect flea beetles for local landowners in need.

Montana Biocontrol Project was able to supply the NDDA with 10 releases of leafy spurge stem borer. In addition, the NDDA purchased 10 releases of leafy spurge tip gall midge. All releases were distributed in McHenry County.

Canada thistle biocontrol: Six of the seven Canada thistle rust fungus established in 2019, were monitored in June and July for evidence of establishment. No evidence was detected during monitoring. Native populations of the rust fungus were monitored at the Cass county site, and samples were collected for viewing under microscopes.

In September, the NDDA released additional inoculum at the Cass and Emmons counties sites established in 2019. Additional inoculum was sent to Stutsman and Ward counties for release at sites established in 2019.

The NDDA joined the USDA APHIS to monitor 2019 release site in Morton County in July. No evidence was detected.

Purple loosestrife biocontrol: The NDDA purchased 2 releases of purple loosestrife defoliating beetles that were released in May in Barnes County.

NDDA WSFF Update

During the 2020 growing season, the NDDA Weed Seed Free Forage (WSFF) program contracted with 6 individuals to perform WSFF inspections throughout the state and 4 county weed control boards to perform WSFF inspections within their jurisdiction. Thus far (numbers not final), fields were inspected in 12 counties; counties included Billings, Cass, Dunn, Lamoure, McKenzie, Mountrail, Sargent, Slope, Stark, Towner, Ward and Williams. Inspections occurred from April 20, 2020 through September 10, 2020. Over 6,906 acres inspected and 11,148 bales of alfalfa, mixed hay, and wheat, barley, and durum straw were certified.

New Business

Elections:

2nd Vice President - none

Area Director: Cody moved that Rick Schmidt remain as area director, Laverne Laib as 1st alternate and CJ Pearce as 2nd alternate. Merlin seconded the motion. **M/C**