



NORTH DAKOTA WEED CONTROL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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March, 2021

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Upcoming Meetings :

Board of Directors Meeting March 30, 2021, 10:00 am

The 2022 Annual Conference set for January 4-7

Both at Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center, Bismarck

Your association has caps, a couple of jackets and vests, and padfolios, cups and a few other items for sale.

Contact Merlin, Cody or Derrill for more information

****NEWSLETTER****

Members, Keep Up The Good Work

You, our members have done your job in reducing our costs for the paper edition of the newsletter. The board understands that some of our members cannot receive the newsletter by e mail, or prefer the paper edition. But we want to continue to reduce the paper copies, so keep sending in your e mails for the electronic version of the newsletter.

Also, as weed boards get new members throughout the year, please let us know, so we can update our list. We find where former members continue to receive the newsletter, and new members do not. Unless we are notified, we have no idea the comings and goings of board members.

Presidents Message

Greetings,

With the nice weather we've had this winter and the lack of snow I've been really itching to get things started this spring. Now is a great time to prepare for the upcoming year. Make sure all your equipment is in working order and iron out any wrinkles you may have run into in your previous year. 2020 was a difficult year for everyone including weed control. It was a difficult decision for the board to make to cancel the convention and I sure missed seeing all of you and sharing ideas, stories and tips that you've learned throughout the year.

Sprayer schools will be held the last full week of May. It would be great if you and your crews could attend. The education committee does a great job putting together a day filled with excellent speakers and important content. With the cancellation of both sprayer schools and the convention last year it will be even more important to attend this year and get refreshed on all that is going on in the world of weed control.

If you have any important events that you would like included on the websites calendar please let Merlin or me know and we will get them on there. We are also in the process of including videos on the website so if you have any homemade training videos that you've created that you would like to share we would love to see them.

I appreciate all the hard work that you all do. I'm confident that 2021 will be a better year than 2020 and I can't wait to finally see you all again soon.

Travis Jepson
2021 NDWCA President

Executive Secretary Corner

A new year, and many changes, from Washington to probably your weed board. Your association has started to send out messages to all of you who receive the newsletter via e mail. You could say our own list serve. The mailing list reaches well over 200 recipients. From weed control, to government, to other organizations interested in weed control. If your county/city has a field day, or is hosting an event, having a booth at a trade show, and would like everyone to know about it and come to it, e mail me the information and I can send it out to the group. For those of you not signed up to receive the newsletter electronically, NOW is the time to do so, so you don't miss out on anything. A busy year is planned by your association, hopefully we can make it all work.

See you all soon, Merlin

Industry Update:

by Bill Walker, NDWCA Industry Director & Nutrien Solutions Representative

Adjuvants (Surfactants) for Pesticide Spraying – They are Different

When working with pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, and other applications), there are physical and environmental factors that may suppress their effectiveness.

Using adjuvants with spray applications has proven to (a) improve or otherwise facilitate the physical handling characteristics of a pesticide spray; (b) improve performance effectiveness and consistency of sprayables; and (c) legally comply with the labeled use requirements of pesticides. Many factors that limit spray performance can be alleviated or managed with specific adjuvant products.

Adjuvants is the broad term that covers all types of products to help with spray applications which include, surfactants, penetrating surfactants, stickers, water conditioning agents, nitrogen and basic N blend products, drift control products, acidification agents, compatibility agents, anti-foam agents, tanks cleaners, dyes and others.

This paper will discuss the use of surfactants for herbicide/insecticide spraying.

“NOT” all surfactants are created equal; they range in price from \$9.00-\$10.00 per gallon on the low end and from \$24.00-\$70.00 per gallon on the high end. Typically, surfactants have specific qualities that change the effectiveness of various chemistries when added to the spray solution to improve pesticide performance.

Cheaply priced surfactants in most all cases are overall not your best value. In many cases these surfactants are manufactured with high amounts of Isopropyl alcohol or Butyl alcohol which makes them less expensive to manufacture but causes problems such as drying out faster on leaf surface (reducing uptake), excessive atomization (causing more fines and drift), storage problems (flammability issues).

Surfactants that are a spreader and penetrator type are manufactured from glycols (heavy molecular weight alcohols), tall oil fatty acids and methyl esters of fatty acids. These surfactants are more costly to manufacture but will:

- Enhance uptake of pesticides into plants (dry slower on leaf surface);

- Help with droplet deposition (maintaining droplet sizes, reducing fines and drift);

- Enhance spreading of spray droplet on the leaf surface;

- No storage problems because glycol alcohols are non-flammable.

- Designed to help products to be more effective and actually help to buffer, change or manipulate the water to make it a more compatible carrier for the pesticide.

- In many cases will be a neutral pH formulation.

In most cases, spreader and penetrator type surfactants will cost between \$18.00- \$30.00 per gallon and the silicone type surfactants sell as high as \$70.00 per gallon.

When shopping for a surfactant to add with your pesticide, the pesticide cost must first be considered. Pesticide pricing is **“NOT”** really getting any less expensive. New pesticide products are coming out with much smaller use rates per acre which actually make the product more expensive. Consider the loss of performance and potential waste of the pesticide when using inexpensive high in isopropyl or butyl alcohol surfactants. Things to consider:

- Is the pesticide reaching the spray target? (More driftable fines drifting away)

- Is the pesticide drying too quickly for good uptake? (Evaporating before it even hits the target)

- Is the higher rate of alcohol reacting poorly with the pesticide? (Compatibility issues)

Look for a surfactant or penetrating surfactant that may be matched to the products you are using; (example) glyphosates, 2, 4-Ds, picloram, dicamba and products like these work better with a surfactant that not only spreads but helps to acidify the waters and reduces water pH, **but**, if you use this type of surfactant with SU chemistry (Alley, Cimarron, Escort XP, MSM, Chaparral, Telar XP and other SU chemistries) then this will start to breakdown the active ingredient of these products more quickly.

Generally, if looking for a non-ionic surfactant or penetrating surfactant (which is what many products will call for on the labels) then look for a product that **“IS NOT”** high in isopropyl or butyl alcohol, is a good 90% or 100% formulation, that helps to control drift, helps with droplet adhesion, is low foaming, enhances uptake into the plant, and pH neutral formulations, these will generally cost you more but the benefits will pay for themselves.

Regular 100%, 90%, 80% NIS work well in temperatures from 40 degrees on up to around 85 degrees or so, at this point then a penetrating surfactant might be used.

(Continued on next page)

Industry Report Continued

Penetrating type surfactants help to cut through the harder waxy leaf tissues when it gets hot and dry. As the temperatures climb plants will thicken their wax layers to help in stopping transpiration from the leaves.

If you really need to spray in 95 degree to 100-degree temperatures, then studies have shown that Organosilicone surfactants or hybrid Organosilicone/MSO type of surfactants really shine here.

Water Conditioners or surfactants with these, should be used in hard water situations to help untie the products from the positive ions possibly in these waters and to increase you control with phenoxy type products.

Crop Oil Concentrates or Vegetable Oils should be used for faster burns on plant tissues if needed or when applying insecticide and fungicide type products for longer contact to the pest.

Drift Control products should be added or used anytime, there is any concern, for off target drift or susceptible crops nearby. Any time you want better control of your spray solutions then these need to be added.

Any time you have foam in the mixing procedures or in the tanks during spraying then De-Foamer or Anti-Foamer should be added, especially with glyphosate type products applications, remember, excess foam can really screw up calibration and spraying accuracy.

ALWAYS REMEMBER

Adjuvant products are considered management tools for your pesticides and pesticide spraying activities

and **The cheap surfactant “may” cost you more in the long run!!!**

Education Report by Derrill Fick, 2021 NDWCA Education Chairman

I want to thank everyone for their understanding of us not holding the sprayer schools last year, the face-to-face area meetings last fall and the face-to-face annual meeting this winter. These were tough decisions to make but it was decided for the safety of everyone. With that being said we are going to try it again this year so we have set up the Sprayer Schools for 2021 as follows:

May 25th --at the Carrington Research Center

May 26th --in Minot at the Ward County Weed Control Office

(The Ward County Weed Control Office has moved to a new location: 200 72nd St SE Minot)

May 27th --in Dickinson at the Stark County Weed Control shop

Each school will have registration starting at 8 am local time. At these schools' we will have from the ND Dept. of Agriculture Plant Industries division updates on noxious weeds, the Pesticide and Fertilizer Division will have their Agriculture Program Inspectors give updates and hands-on examples of how to use the proper personal protective equipment and what is needed during a use inspection. There will also be a Right-of-Way recertification training administered by the Pesticide Training Program of NDSU. We will have a weed ID section put on by the NDSU Research Centers and sprayer equipment calibration session provided by Bill Walker of Nutrien Solutions. A complete agenda will be sent out on the list serve so please plan on attending these schools.

Again, we will be having a booth at the Earth Day festival coming up in Bismarck on April 13th. This booth lets us interact with local students and the general public to inform them of noxious weed control.

On February 25th Stan Wolf and I held a zoom meeting with the 5th grade class of the school in McVie, ND. Devyn Fougner from that class was presented with a plaque and T-Shirt and the rest of the 5th grade students received a T-shirt with a picture on it of the poster that Devyn had made. It was a short presentation but it was a surprise for Devyn and it created noxious weed awareness for the students.

We hope to see everyone this spring and please be safe!!

NDDA Report by Richard Weisz, NDDA Noxious Weed Specialist

I wanted to send a quick reminder that our 2020 annual noxious weed surveys are due March 1, 2021. Remember, these surveys are now required as part of the new LAP allocation formula. If you don't turn it in by the deadline, you may not be eligible for LAP funding in the next fiscal year.

I currently have received 40 surveys. 13 surveys are still to be submitted.

Also, reallocation of unspent funds is expected to happen with **both LAP & TAG** as we approach the end of the biennium. We are looking to start the reallocation process around March 1, 2021. I encourage you to send in any vouchers for both LAP & TAG to exhaust your current funding as soon as possible, allowing you to capitalize on this year's reallocation.

I will be calling all counties to check in and see if you will be utilizing all funding granted through the 2019-2021 biennium.

As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me at (701) 328-2250 or email rweisz@nd.gov.

January 12th, 2020

Dear North Dakota Weed & Pest Board Members & Association,

I wanted to let you all know that my last day with Corteva AgriSciences will be this Friday, January 15th. I have decided to pursue my deep heart felt desires and return home to be closer to friends, family, and Bobcat Football. Yes, I leave with a greater appreciation for "Bizon" Football too, thanks to you all! While this decision is deeply personal, it is also a great professional opportunity to learn about the distribution side of the business and develop managerial perspective as a Product Manager for Helena Agri-Enterprises.

I did not come to this decision easily. It is truly the people relationships that made this decision tough. You all left a positive and extremely memorable mark on my career here with Corteva over the last five years. I am so thankful for our conversations, solution seeking endeavors and occasional hunting talk. The comradery this group shares is truly special. Know that I am thankful for your support of me and my purpose with Corteva. You all are the 'Best of the West' amongst Weed & Pest Supervisors and folks recognize this group across Wisconsin and Minnesota as such! This is something to be proud of and means by which to continue doing good work, because if there is anything I know, it is that our job is never done.

You can look forward to Corteva AgriSciences naming a replacement within the coming months. In the interim if you need anything please reach out to Claire Volk at (307)439-9095. I will have quite a scenic route covering Western Montana (West of Billings) into Northern Wyoming.

So if you are ever adventuring west, please reach out, I would enjoy buying you a coffee. My phone number is staying the same and personal email is karissa.floerchinger@gmail.com.

Sincerely, Karissa Floerchinger

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PLACE
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