



NORTH DAKOTA WEED CONTROL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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June, 2021

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Past Pres: Cody Schnabel	(701)391-8006
Ex. Sec. Merlin Leithold	(c) (701)527-6544 (h) (701)584-3204

Upcoming Meetings :

Board of Directors Meeting June 29, 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,

It is so nice to be able to say that it is that time of the year again when we all get to get back out into the field and work on our goal of controlling noxious weeds.

Some areas have gotten some much needed rain and some areas remain exceptionally dry. It is important to remember to work safely when we are out and about. It doesn't take much to start a fire when working in dry vegetation. Please be cautious and remember to carry a fire extinguisher with you.

Always wear proper personal protective equipment which should include high visibility colors when working along any roadway. And please remember to drive cautiously when in tricky terrain. There is no weed out there that is worth putting your or your coworker's lives in jeopardy just to spray.

I'd like to personally thank everyone involved in conducting another successful year of sprayer schools. Derrill and the education committee do a fantastic job putting them together. The presenters are always top notch and they bring so much valuable knowledge to the audience. We had some full houses this year, but the hosts and meal and break sponsors made sure we had the best experience possible. And a special thank you to all of you that were able to attend. It is because of dedicated folks like you that we have such successful weed control programs in the state!

Have a great summer and remember to stay safe.
Travis Jepson
2021 NDWCA President

Executive Secretary Corner

June is upon us. Your association has been busy, with the wrap-up of the legislative session, various trade shows, earth day, sprayer workshops and more. Very nice to have restrictions lifted with Covid, allowing for the above events to happen.

For those of you getting the newsletter by e mail, you have now realized that we now send out updates between each newsletter. With biocontrol upon us, look for updates from us on field days, etc. If your county is planning a field day, send me an email, and I will be more than happy to send it out for all to see. Even if you have an ag day, county fair, and have a role in it, and would like everyone to attend, let me know.

Board meeting the end of June. If you have items you would like to have discussed. Let us know.

See you all soon, Merlin

Industry Update:

by Bill Walker, NDWCA Industry Director & Nutrien Solutions Representative

Industry Report, June 2021:

In this letter we are going to talk about something that is happening now and has affected almost all that spray any type of pesticide at this time, it's the elephant in the room or even the elephant outdoors, it's product shortages on many pesticide products that are needed right now at this time of year for you to do your jobs or take care of your customers.

Starting earlier in the year some manufacturers were telling the distributors and suppliers that some products were possibly going to be short in 2021, we can understand that, other manufacturers were saying they expected no problems and business as usual (seems that was not the truth) and we have a hard time understanding that, these started out as just a few products short and now has escalated in many products that are used almost daily by farmers, weed boards and their applicators, custom applicators and almost anybody needing to spray products for weed and pest control.

I first want to say "This is not the fault of your supplier or distributor", **all fault on this lies directly on the manufacturers and manufacturers not planning very far ahead**, while many manufacturers are playing the blame game on every conceivable reason they can find for not having products when needed, some of the reasons are actually legitimate but most are not.

Glyphosate products are short because materials to make these are short, this started late last year and has progressed on into this year and we were warned about this, most generic glyphosates rely on technical materials made off shore, getting these to the U.S, off loaded at the ports and to the manufacturers has been to say the least a nightmare, much less getting the empty containers back to the ports and back to whatever country they came from (in most cases China).

Other manufacturers are blaming the ice storms in Texas earlier this year saying the storms shut down plants that make ingredients needed to manufacturer products as well, in many cases this has affected 2,4-D type products and some other products needing the ingredients manufactured by these plants, but what about before that happened, where was the planning ahead.

Some are still blaming COVID 19 while others are blaming no trucking, no workers, limited work force allowed, and some have even gone as far as blaming the stuck ship in the Suez Canal, but again, where was the planning ahead because of these possible reasons.

You would think that possibly some or even one manufacturer would possibly own their lack of planning ahead, coming from 2020 into 2021 but so far none have, it's all somebody else's fault.

It's hard to list all the products that we are seeing short right now, I personally think I don't have enough space in this newsletter to list all of them, but it is many, and it seems the list grows daily.

I will leave you with this – The company I work for is asked by most manufacturers to give them a forecast for their next years needs late in the previous year, normally September or October, so these forecast are given at those times, also we are requested to give the manufacturer possible dates we are expected to be taking or need the products at those times as well, you would think that with the forecast given and if you see you do not have ample supply that you would start possibly producing product to meet these needs of the forecast, planning ahead.

What do the manufacturers do with these forecasts ? planning ahead to meet your needs ?.

Corteva Reps for North Dakota

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If anyone is not quite sure on which rep is for your county, you can get ahold of Bill Walker @ 605-645-1636

Education Report by Derrill Fick, 2021 NDWCA Education Chairman

We had a booth at the Earth Day festival in Bismarck on April 13th. This booth lets us interact with local students and the general public to inform them of noxious weed control.

We had a great turnout at our sprayer schools this year. I want to thank everyone for attending. All totaled we had 121 people attend. This is our greatest attendance since we started the sprayer schools! The people attending were from weed boards and state and federal agencies that are tasked with noxious weed control. With the worst threat of the virus hopefully behind us, I am happy we can finally get together face to face and get back to our normal spraying activities and trainings. Of course, the sprayer schools could not be possible without the speakers and presenters so I need to thank all of them for their expertise and willingness to speak at these schools. At these schools we had local paramedics give us a short basic first aid training on how to respond to an accident until the paramedics show up. We had from the ND Dept. of Agriculture Plant Industries division updates on noxious weeds, the Pesticide and Fertilizer Division had their Agriculture Program Inspectors give updates and what is needed during a use inspection. There was also a Right-of-Way recertification training administered by the Pesticide Training Program of NDSU. We had a weed ID section put on by the NDSU Research Centers and a sprayer equipment calibration session provided by Bill Walker of Nutrien Solutions. The locations where these sprayer schools were held were: the Carrington Research Center in Carrington, in Minot at the Ward County Weed Control Office and in Dickinson at the Stark County Weed Control office.

NDDA Report by Chelsey Penuel, Plant Protection Specialist

NDDA Biocontrol

Leafy spurge: Please monitor leafy spurge infestations for the emergence of leafy spurge flea beetles. As with all biocontrol agents, we encounter a time sensitive issue with the leafy spurge flea beetles. Collection and redistribution are typically from mid-June to early-July. The NDDA will send out weekly updates of sunflower growing degrees days for emergence of leafy spurge flea beetles through peak collecting.

The NDDA is available to assist counties in hosting public field collection days. Please contact Chelsey if you are planning a public collection day. We will assist with advertising and can bring along sweep nets, bug sorters, other supplies, and information to pass along to the public on how to start an insectary, monitoring, collecting, and redistribution of leafy spurge flea beetles.

Yellow toadflax: The NDDA, along with USFS, monitored some release sites near Minot, ND for the yellow toadflax stem-mining weevil. The weevils were just beginning to emerge, and many were identified in stems. The NDDA is planning to collect some in the upcoming weeks. Please let Chelsey know if you have a yellow toadflax population that would support biocontrol. The number of releases will be limited.

Contact information:

Chelsey Penuel

701-226-4321

cpenuel@nd.gov

NDDA Report, Richard Weisz, NDDA Noxious Weed Specialist

Richard wanted to remind everyone that if you have LAP and TAG monies still coming to you from the NDDA, you better get with the program. June 30th, which is also the end of the biennium is fast approaching. This is a hard deadline. You miss it and you could lose valuable funds for your county..

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

Palmer Amaranth Protocol has been Tweaked!!

Greetings fellow weed officers and weed board members,

The Palmer Amaranth Protocol has been tweaked and updated for 2021. Last year a protocol was developed to define the roles of weed officers, NDSU Extension and the NDDA when Palmer amaranth was identified in an area. This winter staff from NDSU Extension, NDDA, and NDWCA got together to work out a few areas to further refine the roles of each agency. The major items are: Weed Officers will work with Extension in identifying Palmer amaranth and reporting the sites to NDDA. The weed officer will then back away and let Extension work with the landowner to develop a "Best Management Practice" plan for that landowner. The weed officer will check to see if control measures are undertaken. If the landowner undertakes control measures to the best of his ability, no action is taken by the weed officer. In other words, as Doug Goehring, Ag Commissioner, stated **"treat Palmer as just another noxious weed. Handle it in the same way as any other noxious weed in your county"**. It is the responsibility of the landowner to control all noxious weeds on their lands. Weed officers are to record the infestation location but not disclose that information to protect the privacy of the landowner. If anyone asks where the Palmer infestation is located, you can respond by stating "this is an open investigation and you can not disclose that information".

If you have not received the updated Palmer Amaranth Protocol 2021 or have questions, contact your extension agent, Merlin Leithold, or myself. Have a safe and successful weed control season.

Stan Wolf

2nd Vice President NDWCA

North Dakota Weed Control Association
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PLACE
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