



NORTH DAKOTA WEED CONTROL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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Upcoming Meetings :

Board of Directors Meeting March 29, 2022, 10:00 am

The 2023 Annual Conference set for January 2-5

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 or Derrill for more information

****NEWSLETTER****

Paper edition going away after 2022

As many of you know, we have been asking for e mails to send the newsletter out by e mail. Currently we have 379 receiving it by e mail. We still have 141 receiving this by regular mail. If you receive it by paper, you are missing the updates with industry or board news, as we use our e mail list as a list serve, a way to notify members of issues affecting them as they happen. The annual conference in 2023 will be your last chance to sign up, or you will be without a newsletter come March, 2023.

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

Here's to a New Year and hopefully a new normal!

This year will leave many of us with new goals and challenges in the workforce. The past two years have given us a new perspective of what kind of extremes we may encounter with labor, chemical prices and availability, equipment shortages and new world policies. We as a group in the ND Weed Control Association will need to work with our neighbors, state agencies, local county government and industry to meet the ever changing demands of this global and volatile economy, to accomplish the task before us to control noxious weeds in the state.

I hope we can accomplish our goals and challenges through the use of good IPM programs that will consider chemical, mechanical, biological and use of grazing programs. We have become very reliant on one method of weed control which sometimes, under global markets, can cost us a great deal more than the other tools that lie before us. This past winter I had the opportunity to take part in the Ranching for Profit School. One tool that we tend to overlook that is right in front of us is the intensive grazing of livestock. Not just cattle but sheep and goats also. With more pressure on the availability of chemicals, also brings opportunity to integrate the means of control through combinations of grazing along with chemical or biological, chemical and grazing. I'm not trying to tell people how to do their weed programs, just advocating the use of many methods together.

I hope this season will prove to be a productive and successful one for everyone. The ND Weed Control Association has a lot of exciting and educational programs planned for our members this year! Last, but not least we need your feedback to make this organization a better and more effect group to the Ag community.

So we as a board for the ND Weed Control Association will be expecting communication and feedback. So let's get to work and do a great job this coming season,

"We don't have our cell phone numbers listed for nothing – So give us a call and help us to make this organization the best!"

Jim Hennessy

2022 NDWCA President

Executive Secretary Corner

A new year came and we were able to have a conference. A new site, lots of new faces, but many familiar faces as well. Missed some of you who were not able to attend, for different reasons. We hope you will be back next year. Supply shortages kept some vendors away, but a big thank you to the vendors who did come. As one vendor said to me, its not about the sales, its like seeing friends once a year and having a good time. Can't put a price on that. I can't agree more. I look forward to the annual conference as well. From when I started as a weed officer, to being on the board through the years, and now as your secretary, my excitement hasn't changed. You miss people when they retire, but fortunately new ones take their place and everything keeps rolling along. Lets hope that 2022 is better for everyone then 2021. Before you know it, we will be back in Bismarck for the 2023 conference. See you all soon, Merlin

Industry Update:

by Bill Walker, NDWCA Industry Director & Nutrien Solutions Representative

I'll start with the good news, this industry has not seen a price increase letter from the manufacturers in almost 8 weeks now, pricing seems to be somewhat stable at this time but remember, spring planting season is coming and what affects the farmers/ranchers will also affect us on this side of the fence.

Glyphosate supplies will continue to have a major shortage problem, this will affect the agriculture community much worse than our side but will affect us all the same, larger users especially those spraying cattails with aquatic glyphosates will see product supply issues and all will see drastic price increases when product does come available, glyphosate prices since the start of the 2021 and into 2022 have risen to now about 160%, this is not expected to drop in pricing anytime soon. Generic glyphosate products have been extremely hard to get and supply this year as well and will continue to be even harder to get as we move further into 2022 with pricing on generic glyphosates following the same pattern as the branded products. Branded glyphosate products seem a bit easier to get at this time, but we are still seeing spot outages and short allocations on all glyphosates, get them when you can right now.

2,4-D products have been showing large price increases as well, amines have risen about 100% in costs from the beginning of this year and have just recently taken another increase, we are looking at 2,4-D amine getting too or exceeding the \$22.00 to \$24.00 plus per gallon cost and esters have taken even greater cost increases with costs in the low \$30.00's (4 lb. esters) to almost \$40.00 per gallon (6 lb. esters) at this time, supply of 2,4-D esters has gotten tighter as the year has gone, and again, this is expected to last well into 2022 and will affect the ag markets larger than ours but will affect ours as well.

Manufacturers are still having difficulty in securing raw materials to formulate products and with many of the raw materials coming out of China, we will continue to see rising prices. Now that the Olympics are wrapping up China will most likely ramp up productions but that will take time as well, do not expect to see raw materials or products coming out of China anytime soon, it will take several months to ramp up, get the products made and even more time to get what our manufacturers need for raw materials to finish products here. We have seen price increases on other products as well, many manufacturers took unprecedented mid-season (2021) price increases and early season (2022) price increases as well due to many different issues as well, these all vary from COVID 19 issues (yet) to last year's hurricane event in Louisiana damaging needed plants, slowing barging, rising raw materials costs, shipping and trucking, packaging materials (lids, containers, boxes), etc., etc., etc.

***BASF** – Took price increases across the board in October 2021, normally these are taken January 1 of this year (2022), increases include Plateau 1.6%, Arsenal 2%, Overdrive 4%, and BASF says we may see additional price increases now that we are in 2022.

***Bayer** - has taken price increases effective October 1, 2021 (normally these are January 1, 2022), Esplanade 200 SC about 4%, Plainview SC about 1%, **Method 240 SL has remained the same at \$322.56 per gallon (so far)** and other Bayer products range from 2% to 8% plus and, they also cite jugs, labeling, packaging, shipping, labor rates, active ingredients of the products as reasons for early increases and again, we may possibly see 2022 increases if packaging for goods, raw materials for production, labor, and shipping keeps rising.

*****Method 240 SL Herbicide** - labeling for a 24c Special Local Need Label was submitted to the North Dakota Department of Ag for consideration, this label is specific for Leafy Spurge control in privately owned non-hayed rangeland and non-hayed perennial grasslands. The North Dakota Departments of Agriculture did approve the request, this request had to be approved by the EPA, the **EPA denied the request** from the ND Department of Agriculture.

What does this mean, Method 240 SL can still be used in North Dakota according to all current labeled uses and restrictions, it still does have the supplemental label allowing for spraying of right-a-ways that transect graded areas with no grazing restrictions, please follow all current labeled uses when using Method 240 SL Herbicide in your spraying programs.

CORTEVA - we did see price increases from CORTEVA in late September 2021, those price increases ranged from about 2% to 9% on many products, we have seen spot outages from CORTEVA on products such as Tordon 22K, Vastlan, Freelexx, GrazonNext HL, Graslan L, and others to a lesser degree, many of the range and pasture products are now on an allocation basis to the distributors in 2022. We did see some additional price increases in early 2022 from CORTEVA on their Range and Pasture products and ag products as well, these were from 4% to 7% at that time.

NuFarm – who is basic in 2,4-D type products has been raising prices on 2,4-D products, amines and esters and products with 2,4-Ds in them as well, pricing seems to be level at this time but again, spring planting season is coming so be prepared.

E-2 Herbicide which has been a product many have started using has taken a drastic price increase and new pricing is in effect (product is price set by NuFarm) E-2 Herbicide \$64.80 per gallon in 2.5-gallon containers (was \$43.50 per gallon) about a 33% increase.

Industry Report Continued

NuFarm has stated that dicamba pricing is also now on the rise and expect any products with dicamba in them or straight dicamba to be much higher as 2022 progresses.

Once again, you should consider the minimal use of dicamba products with all the current issues faced with the dicamba trait crops.

Again, the moral of this story is the same as in January – be prepared in 2022 to have to spend some extra dollars on the chemicals/products needed to perform and complete your work, your cost share programs, and if farming as well.

While we have seen pricing stable off over the last 7 to 8 weeks, we have not seen any price decreases and do not expect any anytime soon.

Also be prepared for possible “Shortages” and “Spot Outages” on certain products “again” and, possibly even more products as 2022 progresses.

Again, our industry has not seen this for many years, if we all plan a little ahead, make some adjustments, consider some possible alternatives in our weed management programs and, have some understanding that we are all doing what we can, we can all get through this and hopefully move on to better times in the near future.

Education Report by Derrill Fick, 2021 NDWCA Education Chairman

On February 28th I meet with an assembly of the kindergarten through 6th grade classes of the Mott Elementary School. Bailey Johnson from the 5th grade class was then 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 Bailey had made. Bailey had the winning poster that was one of many judged at our annual meeting in January. This was a shorter presentation but it was a surprise for Bailey. A power point presentation was then given to the 4th through 6th grades on why the NDWCA is doing the poster contest and how it hopefully creates noxious weed awareness for the students.

Again, we will be having a booth at the Earth Day festival coming up in Bismarck on April 26th. This booth lets us interact with local students and the general public to inform them of the importance of noxious weed control.

We have set up the Sprayer Schools for this year as follows:

May 24th --at the Carrington Research Center

May 25th --in Minot at the Ward County Weed Control Office

May 26th --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.

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



Biological Control

Chelsey Penuel has left the North Dakota Department of Agriculture. John Mortenson has assumed the duties of the biological control program; he also coordinates the hemp program for the department. He has worked for NDDA for 3 years. Before working for NDDA John spent years working for USDA-NRCS, South McLean Soil Conservation, and NDGF. John is originally from Wahpeton, ND and graduated from North Dakota State University with a bachelor's degree in natural resource management and range science. If you have any questions or need assistance with biological control, please contact John at (701) 328-4128 or jmortenson@nd.gov.

NDDA Report by Richard Weisz, NDDA Noxious Weed Specialist

Annual Noxious Weed Survey:

The 2021 annual noxious weed survey was due March 1, 2022. Please complete and submit these surveys as soon as possible if you have not turned yours in.

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. Also, completing this survey helps keep our contact directory of weed officers/board members current and up to date.

An email with the survey has been sent out on the listserv. You can also find it on the NDDA noxious weed webpage or contact Richard directly.

LAP and TAG Update:

All eligible counties should have received their Notice of Grant Awards for the 2021-2022 Landowner Assistance Program and 2021-2023 Targeted Assistance Grant financial information from NDDA. Please have these signed and returned to Richard as soon as you are able. Please remember, LAP agreements are for 1 year only, rather than the full biennium as in previous years. The goal for this change is to allow more counties to achieve eligibility through LAP funding.

Also note, the 2021-2022 fiscal year deadline for LAP and TAG is June 30, 2022. Vouchers for reimbursement sent in after June 30, 2022 cannot be reimbursed nor can vouchers/counties that haven't turned in their Notice of Grant Awards.

USFS Funding:

If anyone has proposals they would like to submit, please let Richard know. This would help clinch more dollars on our next USFS grant if we can show participation.

Law Book & Invasive and Troublesome Weed (pocket guide/books):

The North Dakota Noxious Weed Law & Regulations law book have been updated and are available.

The Invasive and Troublesome Weeds in ND (pocket guides/books) are available if anyone needs more as well. If you are interested in the law books or outreach material and want some, please contact Richard @ 701-328-2250 Or rweisz@nd.gov

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