

North Dakota Weed Control Association Newsletter

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President's Report

Greetings to fellow weed warriors.

It was great to visit with all of you at our state conference. A time to renew friendships and get to know new people and exchange ideas. Thanks to the Education Committee and Rick for a lively auction and social as usual. Thanks for everyone who participated in the auction, both contributors and buyers. The proceeds go to the great work the Education Committee does in putting on the sprayer schools and other training events.

A lot of good information was presented at the conference from new technology for gps mapping, new spray drone application technology, and the newest weed to watch out for, Ventenata. It is a fast invading early season grass that is not palatable to livestock and is taking over a lot of the grasslands in Wyoming and Montana. Many thanks to the presenters for their time in coming to speak to us. We also thank the sponsors and vendors for supporting the association. I hope everyone took home a bit of new information that will be used to tweak their weed control programs.

I for one am excited to see the spray drones coming online. They will be a great tool for getting to the areas that cannot be sprayed with wheeled vehicles. Even here in the flat Red River Valley we have areas that cannot be easily sprayed with ground units, from large drainage ditches, wide and flat river channels, to cattail sloughs. In Cass County I have about 80 acres of Spotted hemlock, a very poisonous plant in amongst the cattails in various locations. The spray drone can easily fly the irregular areas that need to be sprayed.

Another new item that I am very excited about is our new newsletter format. We have greatly expanded the types of reports and will be providing additional information that may be of interest to you. We will be able to include news items and link to the actual article that are printed in various publications. If something catches your eye that you think might be of interest to others, let us know and we will see if we can include in it the newsletter.

Keep us posted on your challenges this summer. If you notice something new in your area or are having concerns on how to approach a problem issue, let us know. Maybe someone else is having the same issue and together we may be able to help.

See you at the sprayer schools and sweet dreams of an early spring.

Stan Wolf
NDWCA President wolfs@casscountyny.gov

Website:: <https://ndweeds.com/> **Email:** ndwca@westriv.com

AREA 1

Wells County– Currently looking for a Weed Control Officer.

Ramsey County– We should be set for the 2023 spray season.

We are looking into drone

spraying along some of our State Highways.

Roger Gunderson

Area I Director

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AREA 2

Weed Warriors

Welcome to winter, the season that seems to be going on and on this year. The subject I'd like to touch on this quarterly newsletter is what keeps a weed officer busy during the winter when there is "nothing" in the weed world to do.

As much as I enjoy the quietness of my office, and the lack of phone calls that seem to create a quiet get away on cold winter day. As the weed officer in Stutsman County, I begin to get a bit bored within a few short weeks after we have gotten thru our annual meeting in early January. So in early February, after I have gotten everything squared away around the office from the previous year, and I begin starting to make plans for the next season by looking at budgets and getting bids, and evaluating both equipment needs and personnel needs for my program. The greatest time of the year quickly sneaks up on me and brings excitement back to my job. Booth sitting time!!!!

Booth sitting at various shows such as the numerous Ag shows in the area, sport and recreation shows, and the occasional home and garden show, is by far the most entertaining and most rewarding thing I do in the wintertime. It's a time to get out and talk to the people you work for.....the tax paying landowners attending these events. It where you shake hands, meet, and greet, tell stories, share ideas, answer questions, listen to issues and problems, hopefully visit and share ideas with neighboring Weed Officers that are sitting in the booth with you. But the most important thing we are doing is educating the public about not only weeds, but about our programs and the importance of controlling noxious weeds in the state and on their land.

I'm writing this report after sitting a day at my favorite vending booth. The North Dakota Winter Show located in Valley City. It is a 5-day show and I will get to see many old familiar faces and a lot of new faces that will stop by and talk about noxious weeds with me. Not just from my county but from all over the state. I am encouraging all of you, if you have any events near your home that should be attended and a booth set up please reach out to an area director to see about the availability of our banners and other educational materials that could be set up and distributed.

Ron Manson

Area II Director

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ITS EVERYWHERE!!

Jamen Windish Barnes Weed Officer found this Palmer Amaranth plant at the Winter Show in Valley City on March 8.



AREA 3

Bottineau County- We are in the process of looking for seasonal help either as a county employee or as a hired contractor.

Mountrail County- Need seasonal employees. Have been talking to senior students that might want summer work.

Williams County- In need of seasonal workers. Will be attending Job Fairs around Williston looking for these workers. We are going to be using the Spray Sync tracking system, purchased 3 new Kubota UTVs', have become more interested in the use of drones and plan on using more Method and Venue this summer.

McHenry County- In the process of possibly hiring a new weed control officer

Ward County - In need of seasonal employees. Organizing locations to be sprayed with a drone and other locations to be sprayed with a Helicopter. Purchased some chemical in December before new budget took effect. Doing noxious weed ID and updates on weed board programs at private applicator trainings.

Derrill Fick

Area 3 Director

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AREA 4

Some good comes from every challenge. The near record snowfall in our area has people stressed at this point, but the grass will be green before long. Along with green grass will come colorful weeds as well. Enjoy the walk in your fields and pastures and appreciate the beauty that mother nature has in store. Know where those colorful plants that are not so desirable are and plan to eliminate them. The new chemistry's of pesticides that we have at our disposal are the best we have seen. Be aggressive, be timely and use the right products and remember to save time to enjoy what Mother Nature has provided for us.

Rick Schmidt

Area IV Director

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MEET YOUR VICE PRESIDENTS



Cliff Ferebee

1st VP

Dunn County Weed Board

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Jim Bahm

2nd VP

Morton County Weed Board

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AREA 5

Friday February 24th 2023

As I write this the temperature outside is -22. I have been reading herbicide labels and drinking hot coffee.

I hope you have your Annual report done and sent to Richard.

My county Agent held her pesticide recertification classes this past week. I talked to two producers who were worried about the availability of herbicide. They also control houndstongue, one wants new options for control because he says what he is using doesn't work, and also wants bio control options. The other producer was happy with the herbicides he was using and just wanted to make sure he could get more for this year. I think many can relate to these two individuals.

Spring Sprayer Schools will again be held this year, also the Northern Plains Weed Symposium will take place. Please take time to attend these events they are very informative.

Well I think its time to read another label and get another cup of hot coffee.

Joan Lorge

Area V Director

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EDUCATION REPORT

At our annual meeting in January, you as members voted on the posters that were submitted for judging. The chosen poster was created by a student in the 5th grade from Central Elementary in Tioga ND. T-shirts for the students have been made with the poster design on them and a plaque with the same design has been created for the class winner. A presentation will be made in March with the winner not knowing until the day of the presentation. The presentation will consist of why the NDW-CA 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 18th. 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:

May 30th -- in Dickinson at the Stark County Weed Control office

May 31st --in Minot at the Ward County Weed Control Office

June 1st -- at the Carrington Research Center

Each sprayer 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 are working on putting together another Northern Plains Symposium to be held at the 4H camp in Washburn. More information on this Symposium will be sent out as the agenda gets finalized.

The Association has become a member of the Vision West ND Consortium with emphasis on being part of the Natural Resource committee. This Natural Resource Committee membership will give us the ability to help form and have input in the discussion along with some decisions made on oil field sites, oil pipeline systems, gravel pits and the reclamation efforts that are going on across the western part of ND for the control or prevention of noxious weeds.

We hope to see everyone this spring at the sprayer schools and please be safe!!- Education Chairman Derrill Fick

GOVERNMENT REPORT

The ND Game and Fish Department will begin working with partners, private landowners, and sportsmen on a campaign regarding transportation of noxious weeds. There is currently material and information regarding sportsman transferring ANS by duck hunting boats, decoy strings, and muddy boots. However, looking for opportunities to expand and educate hunters about dogs, clothing, boots and other equipment that may be transporting noxious weeds. This idea and project are in the infancy stage and much to be done to develop an effective campaign but looking forward to the challenge.

Kent Luttschwager

Government Representative

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SECRETARY REPORT



First of all, I would like to thank everyone who made it to our conference back in January. I feel it was a huge success. Hats off to the speaker committee for the excellent lineup of speakers. Also, a big thanks for all the vendors and also to everyone who sponsored breaks which included several counties as well. Thanks to Cass County for sponsoring the luncheon entertainment, to Corteva for sponsoring the banquet social and to Bill Walker with Nutrien for sponsoring the banquet entertainment. We are already gearing up for 2024.

Secondly, the association newsletter has changed. Since we have gone strictly by e mail, we can have more topics, etc. One major change, is director reports. All 5 area directors have been asked to submit a report about their county and their area. So if your county has something you would like to share, let your area director know. You may have to contact your director, because they are busy as well, and maybe a little shy!! Contacting them is made easier as well, as I have not only listed their phone numbers, but their e mails as well.

Thirdly, not everyone is signed up for the newsletter. So if someone in your county does not receive it by e mail, copy it for them, and encourage them to get e mail.

Enjoy the newsletter, and if you have comments, good or bad, I encourage you to let me know. There is always room for change. Have a great spring and a Happy Easter.

Merlin Leithold

NDWCA Executive Secretary

NDWCA INDUSTRY REPORT

It has been a bit quitter since our January conference report, product, and supply from most manufacturers is starting to loosen up and pricing seems to be more stable with some of the major manufacturers at this time, we are seeing some spot shortages on some products, but these are expected to change as well as we get into April.

ENVU has taken price increases as of February 1, 2023, these include increases on Plainview SC Herbicide, Esplanade 200 SC Herbicide, Rejuvra Herbicide and Method 240 SL Herbicide of the main ones that will affect you, they again are citing costs of manufacturing, shipping costs, packaging costs and raw materials costs (the old normal).

CORTEVA has remained flat at this time with no increases on their range, pasture and IVM products after the September 2022 increases, CORTEVA is working at trying to hold pricing at this time and supply is getting better than last year as well but, still no concrete guarantees that this will remain as we get into the season.

NuFarm still has not gotten the labeling issues on E-2 Herbicide straightened out with EPA yet, they are working on it but it is moving along slow, E-2 Herbicide may be extremely short or no supply to start the spraying season this year.

Glyphosate pricing has been dropping, now pricing is in the low to mid \$20's for 4 lb. glyphosates and mid to high \$20's for the 5 and 5.5 lb. glyphosates, much different from last year when 440's, \$50's and \$60's were the normal, the Bayer branded Roundup products have remained higher at this time.

2,4-D's pricing is remaining stable or very slight price drops at this time, looking like 2023 might be a bit softer on pricing of these products as well after we get through the spring planting season.

Finally, we in industry and the product distribution suppliers are reminding you to please plan ahead for your spring spraying needs, the sooner you can let your supplier know your needs the better they can plan on having the products on their floor or yours when needed, just some forward thought, product supply is still not what it used to be.

Respectfully Submitted

William "Bill" Walker

NDWCA Industry Representative

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Noxious Weeds Update from North Dakota Department of Agriculture

Annual Noxious Weed Survey:

The 2022 annual noxious weed survey was due March 1, 2023. Please complete and submit these surveys as soon as possible if you have not turned yours in.

Remember, these surveys are 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.

Mapping Technology Grant:

Funding will soon be available for all eligible county/city weed boards to update their existing noxious weed mapping equipment. SpraySync was the lowest bidder in procurement by ND procurement office. Weed boards are not required to use

SpraySync if they prefer a different technology. How much money will be available is still to be determined.

Up to 2 units per county/city weed board initially. NDDA will reevaluate funding ability after the first round of granting.

As per state law, a cost share of 25% weed board to 75% NDDA is required.

Grant applications will be coming out soon, and counties will be required to apply for technology funding.

LAP and TAG Update:

All eligible counties should have received their Notice of Grant Awards for the 2022-2023 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.

Also note, the 2022-2023 fiscal year deadline for LAP and TAG is June 30, 2023. Vouchers for reimbursement sent in after June 30, 2023, 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.

Weed Seed Free Forage (WSFF):

If you have any questions about this program and would like to participate, please contact myself for more information.

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

The North Dakota Noxious Weed Law & Regulations law book has been updated and is available.

We are out of Invasive and Troublesome Weed Guides and are working with NDSU to update and reprint.

County Weed Board Visits:

These visits will always be ongoing. They help me understand the dynamics between counties, how each other operate, and the needs desired.

If you are eager to have me visit or do have a situation, you'd like help with, please don't hesitate to call.

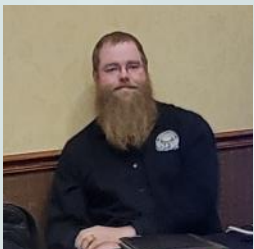
If you have any questions on the topics above or noxious weeds, please contact Richard.

Richard Weisz

Phone: (701) 328-2250

Email: raweisz@nd.gov

Biological Control:



With summer just around the corner it is a great time to start planning for biocontrol releases. NDDA has implemented a new process for requesting biocontrol agents. The Biological Control Request form is available on the department's website. If you or people you know are going to be looking for biocontrol agents this summer please submit the form to our office. The purpose behind the form is to build a data-base of potential release sites. By knowing sooner than later which agents people are looking for will allow our department time to work with partner agencies to procure agents. It will also allow for those times when we get agents without notice to have release sites lined up for agents. As always, if you have any questions regarding biocontrol, feel free to contact John Mortenson at 701-226-8804 or jmorton@nd.gov

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

Board of Director Meetings : March 30, 2023 @ 10:00 am CT @ Bismarck Hotel

Sprayer Schools 2023: May 30th Dickinson, May 31st Minot, June 1st Carrington

Northern Plains Weed Symposium: August 22nd-24th 2023@ Washburn 4-H Camp

2024 Annual Conference January 2nd-5th 2024

**Thank you to all for
another successful
Annual Conference**

A special thank you to the ND Soybean Council for allowing Area II the use of the 3D printed Palmer Amaranth plant that you found pictured on page 2 of this newsletter. Thank you to Ron Manson for the photo.



Thank you to all to all of our Sponsors/ Vendors

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Mountrail County Weed

Lifetime Achievement Award

Dan Dew became the 12th Recipient of this Award

Dan recently retired as the weed officer in Renville County, a position he held for a number of years. Dan served on the ND Weed Associations board of directors for many years as well.

As director from area III, Dan was in charge of setting up the area meetings. This also included running the meeting, a task Dan would have rather not have done. But by the time his terms were up, Dan had become a natural, and some would say, he even liked it. As a director, Dan had many good ideas, some which are still implemented today. But Dan was also known for his humor, which he always knew when it was needed.

While he was a director, Dan served on several committees. The education committee was where Dan was deeply involved in. He served on the audit committee several times, making sure the association's finances were accounted for.

Dan was also the association's lobbyist to Washington DC one year. As a matter of fact, Dan is the **ONLY** lobbyist the association has had to Washington, DC.

We tried to get Dan to work as a state lobbyist, but Dan wanted no part of that. Dan's name is also permanently engraved on the large plaque that is displayed annually during the conference.

Dan was given the award during the 2023 Annual Conference by 2023 President Stan Wolf



Pictured Above (Dan Dew & Stan Wolf)

Outgoing Gavel Award

2022 President Jim Hennessy was given the

Outgoing Gavel Award by 2023 President Stan Wolf during the 2023 Annual Conference. Jim is currently the Weed Officer in Mountrail County. He served as the Association's 33rd President in 2022. Under his guidance the Association revived the Weed Symposium in Washburn. Became more active at various vendor shows throughout the state.

Weed Warrior Award

Randy Gaebe from Bowman County was the 12th recipient of this award. It goes to a person active in weed control, and nominated to receive the award those who work closely with the nominee. Randy could not be at the banquet, but was awarded the plaque at their county board meeting by Josh Hetland, current



Pictured Above (Jim Hennessy & Stan Wolf)