

North Dakota Weed Control Association



President's Report

Greetings fellow weed warriors.

Greetings everyone. Hope you have had a successful summer spray program. The cool crisp air in the morning indicates fall is here and with that an excellent opportunity to knock down those pesty weeds. While travelling in the countryside you might even be able to spot some good hunting spots.

The fall area meetings are scheduled and there will be a couple of topics discussed along with the business of nominating for the 2nd Vice President, area directors and presenting resolutions. Please consider stepping up into a leadership role, we like to hear new perspectives and ideas which may improve our program. I like to hear the county reports which indicate what the local weed issues are and how people are working to address them. This is an excellent opportunity to learn from others and find a means to help your own programs. Also, I am eager to hear from anyone who utilized a drone sprayer and how effective the application was. This is a new tool we have available and I feel the potential is enormous.

For those who have an older drone please keep note that that if the drone does not have remote identification capabilities that drone is non-compliant now. The FAA has given a grace period for compliance until March 16, 2024. After that date all drones and remote-controlled aircraft must have a transmitter that broadcasts its gps location to inform other aircraft of its position. There are aftermarket remote id transmitters available that can be installed on the drone, but supplies may be short. Check with your supplier for a transmitter that will work on your unit.

Have a safe fall spray season and see you at the area meetings.

Stan Wolf
NDWCA President
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Leithold

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AREA 1

Ramsey County has wrapped up spraying for this season. Had an average spraying year due to much wind and high temp. guess global warming is taking effect. We were able to get some flea beetles to distribute, they are always in demand.

Roger Gunderson

Area I Director

gunde1978@mdico.net



AREA 2

Hello Weed Warriors,

Just a bit of a seasonal update on the Southeast corner of the state and how things have been going in our neck of the woods. Spraying has been good for most of the area. We have been blessed with moisture that has pretty much held off any dry dormancy issues we usually have during the mid to late summer. Everything has been growing and that includes noxious weeds.

In checking on a few of our counties some of the same concerns have been brought up. The spreading of Waterhemp is becoming an issue in all of the counties in the area, with all the beans and corn planted in this area, it will only be a matter of time when a large field or area of a county gets taken over by Palmer Amaranth because a landowner just thinks it's just more Waterhemp out there.

Another issue that most are having is the trouble with hiring seasonal employees, or even hiring people to spray for landowners. Fortunately, I have had luck with hiring schoolteachers as of late. I have 3 on staff and am always on the hunt for more if they are looking for a summer job. The need for contract spraying is great and I hope to see more drone sprayers up and running soon. I was just notified that a new drone sprayer is setting up shop in the northeast part of my county, out of the Kensal area.

The weed of the year in my county, at least, has been Yellow toadflax. For some reason it seems to be popping up everywhere in and around the towns in the county and in some pastures as well. To combat the issue this year, I made a great purchase (three of them actually and will probably be adding more next year) they were the DeWalt 20v battery powered 4 gallon back pack sprayers.... Yep, I said backpack. For those who know me, that's a crazy statement coming out of this mouth. But the convenience of having them on a truck and being able to stop and spray small areas and small patches of toadflax when we would see them while out spraying road right of ways was invaluable.

There is so much more I could go on about in this letter, but I'm sure there isn't enough room for my weed ramblings.

Ron Manson

Area II Director

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AREA 3

Williams County- Covered every main road twice, all township roads were covered, started a partnership with train ND for drone use.

McHenry County- Hired a new weed control officer.

Renville County- State Highways are finished, township roads were covered, using new Spray Sync data logger .

Ward- We sprayed gravel pits and private pastures with a contracted Helicopter, only one other employee other than myself spraying the county and township roads because no other seasonal workers applied.



Derrill Fick

Area 3 Director

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AREA 4

Another interesting year of weeds again in 2023. The winter that never ended, followed by hot weather in late May really messed up the spring. The weeds however really don't seem to care about the weather. Absinth wormwood and Canada thistle were abundant in areas of less than adequate control practices. Leafy spurge was showing its ugly head early and due to poor early season grass production, stuck its pretty yellow heads out for everyone to see.

We have products that seem to be making a very positive impact for all of our noxious weeds. We have heard very positive comments on Venue/Fleelexx and Graslan L for controlling Leafy spurge. Highnoon and Milestone are very effective in controlling the Absinth wormwood and Canada thistle.

The Hawkmoth was very high in numbers again this year. The verdict is still out on what long term control may look like.

Our contract sprayers are touching up state highways for noxious weed control. The fall spray appears to be significantly less than the spring application, but still enough to require going through it a second time.

Rick Schmidt

Area IV Director

rick.schmidt@ndsu.edu



AREA 5

Hettinger County is looking for a Weed Officer. Contact Jeri Schmidt County Auditor at 701-824-2515 for more information. Mark the date October 27th Area 5 Meeting in Amidon at the Courthouse starting at 9 am MDT. I am asking that all counties in our Area send a representative to attend this meeting. Also bring your county reports to the meeting.

Joan Lorge

Area V Director

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There has been a few changes noteworthy for this report.

NDWCA INDUSTRY REPORT

CORTEVA – Reminder on the Aminopyralid Products

Aminopyralid product labeling for sales of the hay after being treated with Aminopyralid products (Milestone Herbicide, DuraCor Herbicide, GrazonNext HL Herbicide, Chaparral Herbicide) has been updated on these products, the allowance for the sales of grass harvested for Hay off the farm is now in the current labels of these products as of April 4, 2023, new updated labels can be gotten off from www.cdms.net, we suggest that you go to the site and get the updated labels for your information and records as well. Now the supplemental label has become part of the regular label and is at the end of each label. **CORTEVA** as of this date has not announced any price increases, normally the price increases would come in September and take effect in October.

*****ENVU (formally Bayer) – Update on the TruRange Labeling**

First, EPA contacted ENVU and said that their prior date on the request for TruRange herbicide has been delayed by 150 days, was due in August 2023.

Now they have contacted ENVU and said that the prior date on TruRange Herbicide has been put on indefinite hold, no explanations or reason on this and no estimated date for review.

ENVU has not announced any price increases for the rest of this year but expected some after the first of the year in 2024, current 2023 pricing is in effect at this time.

BASF – Again, after their January 2023 price increases on most of their products, pricing has been stable, Plateau Herbicide was one of the heavier hit for increases seeing about 15% increase, any new price increases should come in January 2024.

NuFarm – E-2 Herbicide labeling issues **“Have Been Cleared Up With EPA”**, NuFarm will be producing E-2 Herbicide within the next few weeks and product should come available in early July, they are still waiting on some State registrations to clear but that should go rather quickly.

NICHINO America – Venue Herbicide Updates

Venue Herbicide - Venue was introduced for use on **Leafy Spurge** in 2023 in ND, use rates are from 3.5 ounces per acre rates on pasture and rangelands to 4 ounces per acre rates in non-crop sites

It needs to be coupled with a 2,4-D amine, ester or Freelexx at 1 quart per acre and MSO Surfactant at 1% by volume or 1 gallon per 100 gallons water or *Liberate Surfactant at 1 quart per 100 gallons water (studying at this time).

NOW: **NICHINO America** – is now separating the labeling on the crop and non-crop Venue Herbicide, the new non-crop product will be called **Pimlico Herbicide** – this product will have all non-crop labeling and “NO” crop labeling, this formulation will change from a 2% formulation to a 4% formulation as well.

NICHINO America is also removing all non-crop labeling from the Venue Herbicide label and that formulation will change as well from a 2% formulation to a 4% formulation and will have a new name as well.

Studies are showing Leafy Spurge can be reduced/controlled after 3 consecutive yearly applications, can be used to water's edge, no grazing restrictions once spray has dried, minimal impact to grasses and trees, also works well on Field Bindweed, Russian Thistle, Kochia, and some others.

Late spring/early summer applications (yellow bract stages are best), very quick to show symptoms on the Leafy Spurge after applications, water's edge, tree belts, CRP acres, Wildlife areas, Roadsides, Non-crop sites

Pimlico Herbicide - **will be packaged in 1-quart containers and estimated costs of \$290.00 per quart at this time.** **Glyphosate** products – are still seeing price reductions, only order what you need at the time, pricing has seemed to stable off for now. **2,4-D Products** – we are now seeing some price decreases in all types of 2,4-D amine and ester products, these are still not dropping as fast as the glyphosate pricing but on the decrease at this time, order what is needed just to help in following any price decreases that might happen. **Adjuvants** - We are seeing some slight surfactant price increases; these have been in the 3% to 5% ranges so far with the petroleum products taking the higher increases at this time.

You will still want to make sure to let your distributors of your products, equipment suppliers and anything else, know in advance of your possible needs so they can be prepared as well to make sure they have what you might need when needed, there are still some spot shortages on certain items.

Respectfully Submitted

William “Bill” Walker

NDWCA Industry Representative



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SECRETARY REPORT

Greetings,

It's hard to believe, but October is already here. Some of you have wrapped up your spraying season, while some of you are utilizing the mild fall, and continuing to spray.

In just a couple of weeks each area in our association will be having their area meetings. In two areas, 2&3, there will have to be elected new directors, as both Ron and Derrill have reached the term limits, of 6 years. I would encourage each of you in those two areas to consider stepping forward and either have someone nominate you or nominate yourself.

Also areas 1,2 & 3 are eligible to nominate someone for second vice president. Another important position on the board.

At the area meetings, each county is asked to give a county report. These reports are probably the most important part of each meeting. First, you tell every county in your area what you are doing, second, you here what every county did during the growing season. At many area meetings, questions are asked to the person giving the report, asking how that worked, etc. At times, questions are bounced off everyone for advice. These can and do make a difference in some counties, and help tremendously at times.

Make sure you bring an extra copy of your report for me, so I can put them in the minutes. Better to have it word for word then a summary. The minutes will be handed out at the meeting. At the annual meeting, the minutes from each area are available in the back of the room to pick up.

Also at the area meetings, representatives from various chemical companies will be on hand giving updates. The ND Dept. of Ag. will also be in person to give updates. There may be representation from other groups as well. These folks take time out of their schedule to attend. Travel is not cheap, so PLEASE attend the meetings, and perhaps thank them as well for coming.

I will be attending all area meetings again as well, so see you all later this month. The schedule is located on page 9 of this newsletter.

In November, we will be sending out the conference newsletter, with speaker schedule, etc. The upcoming conference will be our 40th Anniversary celebration as well. So you don't want to miss it. The registration form is on page 10 of this newsletter, and it will again be in the one in November. It will also be available on our website, for you to print.

We are now accepting credit cards. Please, don't send me your information. For security reasons, call me with your information, or I can also do it at the area meetings.

Merlin Leithold

NDWCA Executive Secretary



An interesting note from long ago. An excerpt from *The Checkered Years, A Bonanza Farm Diary 1884-88* by Mary Dodge Woodward.

June 16, 1886

The boys have been busy pulling mustard of which we have not nearly so much as our neighbors. It is overrunning the country. The authorities are trying to compel the owners of the land to pull it under the law against noxious weeds. The people have been warned by officers of the law that, if allowed to remain, it would be pulled by the county and a tax put on the land to pay the expense. But we think it will be difficult for the county to enforce the law or collect the tax.

Stan Wolf

EDUCATION REPORT

We are currently getting notices out to the schools across the state for our annual poster contest. This year a presentation has been created to be given to the 5th and 6th grade students before the poster is created to give the students a better idea on why noxious weeds are bad and how easy they spread. This presentation can be given by the local weed officer or by the local extension agent to the class. If you have a desire to do this presentation, let me know or you can get ahold of Lindy Berg, Extension Agent in Towner County, and we can get the information to you.

Here are the basic instruction for creating a poster for the contest:

Instructions

- Size of poster must be no larger than 12" X 18"
- Students name and grade, the teachers name and the name and address of the school must be on the back of the poster
- Send posters to the address below

-Mail to: Ward County Weed Control
Derrill Fick
P.O. Box 5005
Minot, ND 58702-5005

The winning poster will be printed on a t-shirt to promote youth awareness for noxious and invasive weeds in ND. The winning student will receive a plaque award with a picture of the winning poster on it. The entire class of the winning student will receive a noxious weed prevention presentation along with a t-shirt with winning poster on it. Our web site is: www.ndweeds.com . This site will have many links and information for you.

Posters will need to be received in my office by December 29th, 2023. The judging will be held at the ND Weed Control Association's annual meeting January 3rd, 4th and 5th, 2024.

Thank you for choosing to be part of the NDWCA poster contest

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me

Derrill Fick
NDWCA Education Committee Chairman
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GOVERNMENT REPORT

Summary of 2022 Noxious Weed Control efforts on US Fish and Wildlife Service Lands (Note 2022 Summary – 2023 report pending)

In 2022, the North Dakota Invasive Strike Team funded 9 positions throughout the state. These positions and resources served as a force multiplier in the efforts to control invasive species on fee title lands. The primary invasive species targeted were Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Wormwood (*Artemisia absinthium*), Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) and Yellow Toad Flax (*Linaria vulgaris*). Continued emphasis was placed on Early Detection, Rapid Response (EDRR) efforts that resulted in several stations reporting new sites of invasive weeds that were quickly controlled. Additionally, stations embraced the ArcGIS online field map technology to map treated sites. This year, half of the field stations utilized this recording and monitoring technology, with the expectation that all stations will transition to using this technology in the near future.

Invasive species were targeted through an Integrated Pest Management approach, utilizing a combination of chemical, mechanical, cultural, and biological actions. Stations chemically treated 4,922 acres on 1,483 different sites on fee title lands. It's important to note that specific spot spraying tactics on all of these sites is extremely time consuming, but very important to maintain the integrity of non-target native forb species present in the mixed grass prairie of ND. Stations reported using mechanical control methods (mowing, etc.) to control 554 acres on 13 sites. The focus of woody invasive primarily targeted Chinese elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*) and Russian Olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*). This year's efforts controlled or eliminated 410 acres of woody invasive on 25 sites.

Biological Control efforts in ND continues to be highlight of the ND Invasive Strike Team with stations reporting 2,930 acres of invasive weeds being treated at 118 sites. In 2022, the five field stations of the Eastern North Dakota Complex implemented the release of biological control agents to target Leafy Spurge on Wetland Management District and Refuge lands. Leafy Spurge flea beetles (*Aphthona nigriscutis* and *Aphthona lacertosa*) are a safe and proven long-term control of Leafy Spurge. Flea beetles have proven to be so effective, that they often consume all available spurge in a localized area, that ultimately results in their demise. With the Leafy Spurge predation eliminated, this resilient invasive species then regains a foothold and competes with native vegetation.

From July 7 through July 27, 2022, Service staff and a crew from the Student Conservation Association (SCA) coordinated the time sensitive purchase, delivery, and release of 331,500 flea beetles. In the same time frame, station staff and the SCA crew, collected and redistributed 21,500 flea beetles from existing viable populations. The purchased and collected flea beetles were distributed to eighty-three Leafy Spurge infestations in the Complex. All release sites were recorded in Field Maps for future monitoring. If site conditions allow for the successful establishment of these releases, the estimated control of 830 acres of Leafy Spurge infested acres will be achieved over the next three years.

The ND Invasive Strike Team accomplishments of 2022 contributed to the sustained and efficient control of invasive species on fee title lands across North Dakota. These proactive efforts continue to demonstrate the Service's commitment to effective land stewardship and strengthening community relationships.

Summary of 2023 Noxious Weed Control efforts on ND Game and Fish Department Lands

Chemically Treated 3,674 acres so far in 2023. Still some fall treatments occurring.

In addition, grazed several thousand acres addressing weed and invasive species concerns.

Also collected and moved bio control flea beetles for leafy spurge at numerous sites.

Treated leafy spurge, Canada thistle, yellow toad flax, absinth wormwood, and hounds' tongue.

Saltcedar detection and treatments scheduled for late September and early October on the Yellowstone and Missouri River in NW ND.

US Army Corps of Engineers

Report pending

Kent Luttschwager

Government Representative

kluttschwager@nd.gov





Noxious Weeds Update from North Dakota Department of Agriculture

WOTUS:

The new WOTUS rule does not impact North Dakota at all. It is still business as usual. We are under the exact same WOTUS rule that has been in effect since 1986 opposed to some other states.

Mapping Technology Grant

The second round of the Mapping Grant is available for county/city weed boards that have not already participated. Applications are due December 1, 2023 at 4:00pm CST. Installations must be done by June 30, 2024. Please contact myself with any questions.

LAP & TAG Update:

The new LAP & TAG agreements for the 2023-2025 biennium will be sent out this week.

LAP agreements will now be 24 months. July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025. After December 31, 2024, county weed boards spending of LAP will be reevaluated for possible reallocation.

TAG funds have increased from \$5,000 to \$7,500 for counties and \$2,000 to \$2,500 for cities.

USFS Funding:

If anyone has proposals they would like to submit, please let me know. Limited funds are available.

County Weed Board Visits:

Still ongoing and currently working on future visits. If you would like me to visit, please let me know!

Invasive and Troublesome Weed Guidebooks/Pocket guides:

The new 5 x 8 books are available! These will replace both the big books and pocket guides. If you would like a box, please get a hold of me.

Law Books:

The North Dakota Noxious Weed Law & Regulations law books are available. If you are interested and want some, please contact me.

Weed Seed Free Forage (WSFF):

If you have any questions about this program and would like to participate, please contact myself for more information. Inspections are taking place already this year.

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

Richard Weisz

Phone: (701) 328-2250

Email: raweisz@nd.gov

Biological Control:

It was a good summer for biocontrol. NDDA assisted with Spurge Beetle Collection days at Grant and Billings Counties. Both days had good turnout while the weather did reduce collections at Grant County. Department staff embarked on a journey to Missoula in June to collect Oberea releases. We took off with the hope of returning with 25 releases and were able to collect 68 releases. These 68 releases were distributed across the state. We are hoping to do two more years of releases at these sites. The long-term goal is to get additional insectaries to collect and distribute releases. We have also seen sites the last two years where hawk moth have completely defoliated spurge plants. It will be interesting to see if the combination of Flea Beetles, Hawk Moth and Red-Headed Stem Borer improves bio control of leafy spurge.

We are still looking for new biocontrol sites for purple loosestrife and yellow toadflax, if you hear of any sites at all please let me know.

John Mortenson

Phone: 701-226-8804

Email: jmortenson@nd.gov



UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

Area 1 –October 24th @ Ramsey County Courthouse-Devils Lake @ 9am CDT

Area 2– October 23rd @Barnes County Highway Department –Valley City @9 am CDT

Area 3– October 25th @ Ward County Weed Building– Minot @9 am CDT

Area 4– October 26th @ Morton County Highway Department– Mandan @9 am CDT

Area 5– October 27th @ Slope County Courthouse– Amidon @ 9 am MDT

2024 Annual Conference January 2nd-5th 2024– Bismarck Hotel (Bismarck, North Dakota)

Reminder to all Counties

The second round of the 2023 NDDA Mapping Technology Grant that is now available to county and city weed boards that have **not already participated**. Remember, this assists with updating GPS/GIS mapping equipment. Funding available currently is approximately \$80,000. As per state law, weed boards will be required to pay at least 25% of the overall purchase, and the grant will cover up to 75%. The maximum grant award amount will be \$7,600.

SpraySync was awarded the bid during a state procurement process. Applicants can purchase from the state contract; however, if the applicant prefers a different company, this would be acceptable. As part of the grant application, applicants will need to provide the NDDA with a quote for the mapping equipment.

These applications are due December 1, 2023, at 4:00pm CST. Installations must be done by June 30, 2024. If you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Richard Weisz

Phone: (701) 328-2250

Email: raweisz@nd.gov

NDWCA 2024 Annual Meeting Registration Form

**Bismarck Hotel & Conference Center, 800 South 3rd Street, Bismarck, ND
(Formerly Ramkota Hotel)**

January 2, 3, 4, & 5 2024

PLEASE COPY THIS FORM AND COMPLETE FOR EACH PERSON ATTENDING!

This form does not register your hotel room. For room reservations call the hotel @701-258-7700 Group: NDWCA: Room Rates: \$96.30 Single; \$109.90 Double. A block of rooms has been reserved. Please mention that you are booking your room for the NDWCA Conference. Hurry before the closet ones to the meeting rooms are all gone!!

NAME: _____ ATTENDING SPOUSE/PARTNER _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIPCODE _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

I AM A VOTING DELEGATE _____

NAME OF COUNTY/CITY OR ORGANIZATION I AM REPRESENTING _____

REGISTRATION BEFORE

DECEMBER 12 \$190.00 _____

REGISTRATION AFTER

DECEMBER 12 \$210.00 _____

Registration includes coffee breaks, Wednesday noon lunch & banquet, Thursday breakfast

FOR EXTRA MEALS (For spouse only. All others must pay full registration)

Thursday Noon Lunch 11:00pm \$30.00 _____

Thursday Banquet 7:00pm \$55.00 _____

Friday Breakfast 6:30 am to 7:45am \$25.00 _____

Total Registration Fee \$ _____

We do accept credit cards. Sorry not American Express at this time. All payments by credit card, please add 3% to all prices.

THIS FORM MAY BE USED TO BECOME A NDWCA MEMBER

EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT ATTENDING THE CONVENTION

2024 FULL MEMBERSHIP **\$285** (VOTING MEMBER) New _____ Renewal _____

2024 ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP **\$185** (NON-VOTING MEMBER) New _____ Renewal _____

Grand Total Enclosed \$ _____

No refunds will be allowed for cancellations after December 22, 2023

Questions for NDWCA call 701-527-6544 or e-mail: ndwca@westriv.com

Credit card transactions may be done over the phone or in person.

We will not accept card payments by mail or e mail

Please send Registration Payment to: NDWCA 6135 Hwy 49, Elgin, ND 58533

Again Thank you to all of our 2023 Sponsors/Vendors

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JANUARY 2024



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