

**North Dakota**

**Weed Control**

**Association**

# 40

## Years of History

(1984—2023)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Governor</u>
1973--- 1981.....	Arthur A. Link
1981—1985.....	Allen I. Olson
1985—1992.....	George A. Sinner
1992—2000.....	Ed Schafer
2000—2010.....	John Hoeven
2010—2016.....	Jack Dalrymple
2016---present.....	Doug Burgum

<u>Year</u>	<u>Agriculture Commissioner</u>
1981—1988.....	H. Kent Jones
1989—1996.....	Sarah Vogel
1997—2009.....	Roger Johnson
2009—present.....	Doug Goehring

<u>Year</u>	<u>NDWCA Executive Secretary</u>
1984—1995.....	Wayne Colberg
1996—2008.....	Randy Mehlhoff
2008---2013.....	Becky Schroeder
2013—present.....	Merlin Leithold

<u>Year</u>	<u>Secretary/Treasurer</u>
-------------	----------------------------

1984—1992.....Jerry King  
1993—1996..... Gerald Busche

Lobbyists

Loren Andreson            Myron Dieterle            Merlin Leithold

The following explains where I found my information about how the North Dakota Weed Control Association was formed and the changes that have occurred over the years. Some of the information came from newsletters that have been sent out over the years along with the conference program guides.

I also received some very helpful reports from people that have been in the association for many years or who were involved in the beginning, but are no longer part of the association. Thank you to Wayne Colberg for sending information on the first years of the association.

I went through the minutes of the Ward County Weed Control Board from its creation since Loren Andreson, past weed officer in Ward County, and Chuck Weiser, Ward County Weed Board member, were very involved with the first activities of the association. There I was able to piece together many of the activities that involved the ND Weed Control Association.

I was able to go into the ND State Legislative Assembly archives to research legislative bills that were passed into law from the inception of any weed control activity in ND to the creation and continuation of the Association. I compiled the reports that I received and generalized the legislative bills as much as possible because there have been a lot of changes over the years. I may not have recorded every action and I may have missed some but these activities stood out the most.

It has been very interesting and fun seeing the changes that have occurred over the years and I hope the North Dakota Weed Control Association will continue to be a strong leader in the control of invasive and noxious weeds.

Derrill Fick, 2023 Education Committee Chairman

The newsletters will be listed on the NDWCA website: [www.ndweeds.com](http://www.ndweeds.com)

List of Legislative bills that I am citing, if you would like more detail on each bill, you may look them up on the ND Legislative Assembly web site: <http://www.legis.nd.gov/>

- 1979** Weeds, Chapter 651, Senate Bill 2475, Definition and Control of Noxious Weeds  
House Concurrent Resolution No. 3059, Noxious Weeds Study
- 1981** Weeds, Chapter 638, Senate Bill 2046, Noxious Weed Control  
Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4029, Leafy Spurge Eradication Program
- 1983** Weeds, Chapter 693, House Bill No. 1223, Noxious Weed Control; Vetoed Measure for "Leafy Spurge Control", Ch. 704, House Bill No. 1367; Chapter 738, House Concurrent Resolution No. 3012, Leafy Spurge Awareness and Eradication Week
- 1985** Chapter 103, Senate Bill No. 2137, Pesticide Regulation  
Chapter 104, House Bill No. 1432, Pesticide Loss Reports  
Weeds, Chapter 684, House Bill No. 1458, Weed Control-Leafy Spurge Appropriation
- 1987** Chapter 92, Senate Bill No. 2162, Pesticide Application and Licensing; Weeds, Chapter 749, House Bill 1286, Certification of Gravel pits, Sand pits and Hay; Appropriation Chapter 31, House Bill No. 1295, Leafy Spurge Control
- 1989** Chapter 88, Senate Bill No. 2508, Pesticide Application  
Chapter 89, House Bill No. 1475, Pesticide Applicators  
Chapter 90, Senate Bill No. 2360, Pesticide Loss Appropriations, Chapter 64, Senate Bill No. 2463, Little Missouri Weed Control; Weeds, Chapter 763, House Bill No. 1626 County Weed Levies
- 1991** Chapter 71, Senate Bill No. 2227, Pesticide Regulation  
Chapter 72, Senate Bill No. 2025, Pesticide Container Disposal Program; Appropriations, Chapter 51, Senate Bill No. 2086, Noxious Weed Control; Weeds, Chapter 711, Senate Bill No. 2235, Weed Control Program; Weeds, Chapter 712, Senate Bill No. 2460, Weed Control on Game and Fish Land; Foods, Drugs, Oils and Compounds, Chapter 227, Senate Bill No. 2451, Environment and Rangeland Protection Fund
- 1993** Chapter 58, House Bill No. 1054, Pest Control  
Chapter 59, Senate Bill No. 2139, Pesticide Distribution  
Chapter 61, Senate Bill No. 2387, Pesticide Container Disposal  
Weeds, Chapter 610, Senate Bill No. 2523, Weeds, weed board authority
- 1995** Appropriations, Chapter 31, Senate Bill No. 2009, Agriculture

Commissioner; Chapter 72, House Bill No. 1104, Pesticide and Container Disposal; Weeds, Chapter 603, House Bill No. 1502, Pest Definition

**1997** Chapter 72, House Bill No. 1433, Pesticide Control Board Fund Chapter 73, Senate Bill No. 2315, Applicator Financial Responsibility; Chapter 74, Senate Bill No. 2083, Pesticide & Container Disposal; Appropriations, Chapter 9, House Bill No. 1009, Agriculture Commissioner

**1997** Appropriations, Chapter 29, House Bill No. 1431, Weed Control, Bio-control, Invasive Weeds

**1999** Chapter 62, House Bill No. 1439, Applicator Financial Responsibility; Chapter 63, Senate Bill No. 2081, Pesticide and Container Disposal; Appropriations, Chapter 31, Senate Bill No. 2009, Agriculture Commissioner; Weeds, Chapter 546, House Bill No. 1256, Noxious Weed Certification

**2001** Appropriations, Chapter 9, House Bill No. 1009, Agriculture Commissioner; Appropriations, Chapter 53, House Bill No. 1467, EARP fund; Chapter 74, Senate Bill No. 2167, Pesticide Applicators; Chapter 76, Senate Bill No. 2419, Pesticide Applicator Financial Responsibility; Chapter 77, Senate Bill No. 2110, Pesticide and Container Disposal

**2003** Agriculture, Chapter 53, Senate Bill No. 2124, Noxious Weed Seed Tolerance, Yellow Starthistle; Agriculture, Chapter 62, Senate Bill No. 2082, Pesticide Applicator, Use and Fees Agriculture, Chapter 63, House Bill No. 1066, Pesticide and Container Disposal; Appropriations, Chapter 30 Senate Bill No. 2009, Agriculture Commissioner

**2005** Appropriations, Chapter 9, House Bill No. 1009, Agriculture Commissioner; Weeds, Chapter 601, Senate Bill No. 2280, Noxious Weed and Pest Eradication; Motor Vehicles, Chapter 346, House Bill No. 1327, All Terrain Vehicle

**2007** Chapter 66, Senate Bill No. 2095, Pesticide Definitions Chapter 67, Senate Bill No. 2228, Pesticide Damage Notification; Chapter 68, House Bill No. 1085, Pesticide and Container Disposal; Appropriations, Chapter 36, Senate Bill No. 2009, Agriculture Commissioner

**2009** Weeds, Chapter 606, Senate Bill No. 2371, Noxious Weeds Appropriations; Appropriations, Chapter 9, House Bill No. 1009, Agriculture Commissioner; Agriculture, Chapter 77, Senate Bill

- No. 2248, Rewrite of Pesticide Law; Agriculture, Chapter 85, House Bill No. 1270, Weed Seed Free Forage; Agriculture, Chapter 86, House Bill No. 1026, Legislative Council Rewrite
- 2011** Agriculture, Chapter 67, Senate Bill No. 2085, Control and Sale of Noxious Weeds; Agriculture, Chapter 68, House Bill No. 1317, Noxious Weed Control; Appropriations, Chapter 35, Senate Bill No. 2009, Agriculture Commissioner; Weeds, Chapter 505, Senate Bill No. 2147, Cutting Weeds
- 2013** Agriculture, Chapter 69, Senate Bill No. 2070, Control of Plant Pests; Agriculture, Chapter 70, House Bill No. 1054, Weed Seed Free Forage; Appropriations, Chapter 9, House Bill No. 1009, Agriculture Commissioner
- 2015** Senate Bill No. 2144 authorizes county and city noxious weed control programs to request funding from their respective political subdivisions. Senate Bill No. 2217 provides that if the county weed board seeks a tax levy in the county, the board must file a financial report with the county auditor, showing its ending balance for the preceding calendar year.
- 2015 cont.**...Senate Bill No. 2056 requires county weed boards request that their board of county commissioners levy a tax for noxious weed control purposes.
- 2017** Nothing that affected noxious weeds
- 2019** HB1149 allows a county weed board, if certain standards and requirements are met, to certify gravel, scoria, topsoil, or sand surface mining operations are not contaminated with noxious weeds.HB1099 Allows for gravel pit inspections and to charge a fee.
- 2021** Nothing that affected noxious weeds
- 2023** HB1099 removes the requirement that weed control complaints must be signed before being forwarded to the proper weed control authority by the Agriculture Commissioner.

# HISTORY OF THE NORTH DAKOTA WEED CONTROL ASSOCIATION

Since the first time that invasive and noxious weeds were found in the United States, people have been very concerned about the spread of these weeds. As time went on and more people moved around the country these weeds tagged along and as we all know these weeds have no boundaries. These weeds will grow wherever the conditions are right for them.

In the early 1900 Leafy Spurge was recorded to be found in the eastern part of North Dakota. With North Dakota being a major agriculture producing state, weeds are the last thing a farmer/rancher needs to contend with. As time went on leafy spurge and other noxious and invasive weeds were found throughout the state and were starting to become a problem for the production of livestock on rangeland and in cropland.

During the 1950s and 1960s some of the people in agriculture production contacted their legislative representative to see if there was anything that the state government of North Dakota could do for financial help for the control of these noxious and invasive weeds and to put a regulation on the physical movement of these weeds through transportation of the root stock or the seeds.

The major beginning of the laws and regulations of weed control in North Dakota began in the mid-1970s when the North Dakota legislature created a weed control officer position that was to be overseen by the North Dakota Agriculture Department and in conjunction with the North Dakota State Extension Office. This Weed Control Officer was to be hired by the County Commissioners and was to work with the county Highway Department for control of noxious weeds along county roads. This Weed Officer was instructed to familiarize himself with the location of noxious weeds on private lands, mostly leafy spurge.

In 1979 the legislature passed the law that stated "the Agriculture Commissioner was to create a list of noxious weeds to be controlled or eradicated and was also to direct each township and city governing authority in the state to appoint a weed control officer for their area". Up to this point the funding for the control of noxious weeds was to come from each governing authorities own general funds or they could levy a 2% levy to defray the cost.

During this 1979 session the Legislative Council was directed to create an alternative for funding the control of noxious weeds, mainly Leafy spurge and Canada thistle.

In 1981 the Legislature passed the law that directed the County Commissioners of each county to create the "County Weed Board". This board was to be created by July 21<sup>st</sup> of 1981 and that the board was to designate a weed control officer who was to be responsible for the operation and the enforcement of this law. This bill is what we still go by today for the most part, of course there have been a few wording changes over the years but this is the basis for what weed control in N.D. started with.

Of course, in 1983 the changes or additions started to happen. The Legislative Assembly added the definition for a Township Road which allowed the county weed boards to control and receive funding for weed control on township roads and to shorten the notice time sent to out of state landowners. In 1983 then Governor Allen Olson vetoed House Bill 1367 which gave appropriations to the ND State Highway Department for weed control. The bill was set for \$800,000 but he reset it at \$425,000. This is the Legislative Assembly that created the "Leafy Spurge Awareness and Eradication Week" that is set for the second week of June and "...is to continue until the leafy spurge problem is controlled."

With the implementation of a Weed Control Board and a Weed Control Officer for each county it only made sense to create an organization that would bring together each county weed official from across the state so ideas could be shared on how to manage the funds and operations of their county most effectively.

In the fall of 1983, a few of the newly hired weed board members and weed officers decided to get together in Stanley, ND to discuss cost share programs, spraying activities and the development of bylaws for the creation of a ND State Weed Association. In January 1984 many weed officers and weed board members met at the Holiday Inn in Bismarck. Here they created the North Dakota Weed Control Association. They elected Wayne Colberg, who was a weed officer in Cass County, as their first chairman and was to serve for a two-year term. At this meeting they created the bylaws and discussed how to best approach the N.D. Legislature to create more funding for the county weed boards. They decided to set dues of \$50.00 and have the area meetings held across the state in the spring.

On January 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of 1985 many of the weed officers and weed board members from across the state attended the NDWCA annual



meeting at the Kirkwood Motor Inn in Bismarck. This annual meeting started with the business portion the first day where they created the Board of Directors which was made up of a county weed board member and a county weed control officer from each of the five areas. Doug Tollefson, from the ND Department of Agriculture Noxious Weeds Division, was also appointed to this board. Educational speakers were the next day with Dr. Rodney Lym, Weed Specialist from NDSU, as their main speaker and he has been a speaker at every annual meeting since.

Area meetings were held in the spring and fall of 1985 and have continued to be held about this same time since. This year was a legislative year so again there were changes to the noxious weed law. The Legislative Assembly passed the law that created the three-mill tax levy for noxious weed control in each county. This Assembly also appropriated from the ND General Fund \$300,000 to the Agriculture Department for leafy spurge control for the 1985-1987 biennium and created more penalties for damage due to pesticide applications. 2K Tordon Pellets were being used very extensively across the state.

In January of 1986 the annual meeting was held at the Kirkwood Motor Inn in Bismarck. Here Myron Dieterle, Weed Board Member from Sheridan County, was elected president and was to serve a two-year term. Wayne Colberg was appointed as secretary/treasurer. Robin Merrill, a Dow Chemical Representative, was in attendance and informed the group of the continued use of Tordon 22K and discontinued manufacturing of the Tordon 2K pellets. 1986 also saw the beginning of the use of biological agents in ND.

A few county weed board members and officers along with Doug Tollefson from the ND Dept. of Ag. went to Bozeman, Montana to pick up Hawk Moth Larvae to be used in ND on Leafy Spurge. A field day was set up in Ward County for people to look at test plots on leafy spurge that had been sprayed with helicopters. Helicopters had been used in Ward County since 1982 and these plots were to show how effective this type of spraying operation can be.

The annual meeting of 1987 was held in January at the Kirkwood Motor Inn in Bismarck. This being a legislative year some legislators were invited to attend the meetings, among those invited were Senator Walter Meyers and Representative Orlin Hanson. Funding for Leafy Spurge control for the 1987-1989 biennium was set by the legislators at \$540,000. This money is to be transferred out of the general fund of the State. In 1987 Dow Chemical gave the NDWCA a \$15,000 grant to create a map of sensitive soils in ND. Terry Volk, Weed Officer in Bottineau County, was given the task of creating and distributing this map. In Morton County,

another helicopter test plot was performed on Leafy Spurge. This test plot area also included the use of ground equipment, backpacks, and handguns. In 1988 the annual meeting was held at the Holiday Inn in Minot with George Bishoff, Sargent County Weed Board member, being elected to a two-year term. A major discussion at this annual meeting was the use of biological agents for the control of leafy spurge. This was the year that the Ward County Weed Board acquired a helicopter from the surplus center in Fort Rucker, Alabama to be transformed into a sprayer for spraying in rough terrain. Loren Andreson, Weed Officer of Ward County, was on the NDWCA board of directors at the time and informed the association board that it might be possible to acquire more helicopters to be used across the state. Loren was instructed to investigate this and was given the title "NDWCA helicopter coordinator".

The 1989 annual meeting was held at the Holiday Inn in Bismarck. The main topic for this year was again the use of Biological Agents for the control of Leafy Spurge. Sarah Vogel has become Agriculture Commissioner with Jeff Weispfenning as Deputy Commissioner. Mark Peterson will be the new noxious weed coordinator for the Agriculture Department. In July of 1989 a group of people went to Manitoba to tour the use of biological agents for leafy spurge. Here the Aphthona Flea Beetles were in use and were doing a very good job. Some counties began using the flea beetles that year.

The legislature was in session that year. The Legislative Assembly approved the addition of one more mill levy that the counties may use for the control of noxious weeds and appropriated \$40,000 from the general fund "for the purpose of eradicating and controlling noxious weeds".

In 1990 the annual meeting was at the Gladstone Select Inn in Jamestown. Jim Naves, Weed Officer in Stutsman County, was elected president and was to serve a two-year term. Biological agents were again a hot topic. Some Aphthona sites for leafy spurge have been established but very small numbers. As reported by Loren Winks, the State Committee Coordinator for biological agents, Urophora biological agents for spotted knapweed were also released. The NDWCA newsletter was being published for the first time.

The annual meeting for 1991 was held at the Sheridan Inn in Bismarck. This being a legislative year some of the legislators were invited but being a busy time for them they were unable to make it to any meetings. This year saw the creation of the Environment and Rangeland Protection Fund (EARP). This fund was to be used for rangeland improvement projects which included noxious weed control.

The monies for this fund are to come from the registration of any chemical sold or used in ND. In previous years this fee was \$25.00 and went to the general fund of the state. Once this new law went into effect it raised the fee to \$150.00 of which \$25.00 still went to the general fund but the remainder went to the EARP fund. There were again some changes to the pesticide regulations and the creation of a pesticide and container disposal fund for the ND Department of Agriculture. This year more releases of Aphthona flea beetles were done across the state which was spearheaded by the State Coordinating Bio-Control Committee. Members of this committee were from APHIS, ARS, Extension Service, ND state Ag. Dept. and members from the NDWCA.

The Radisson Hotel in Fargo was the site for the 1992 annual meeting. Here Victor Lemke, Hettinger County Weed Officer, was voted in as president. The main attraction for this conference was the tour of the NDSU Crop and Weed Science Department and also a tour of the Case IH Steiger tractor plant.

Bio-Control was again a main topic with a notice from the Bio-Control coordinating committee that Aphthona flea beetles will again be distributed during the summer. This year Ag Commissioner Sarah Vogel appointed Cindie Heiser as the Noxious Weed Coordinator for the ND Department of Agriculture replacing Burton Pflinger. Cindie was very instrumental in the spread of the flea beetles across ND and made the coordination of agencies and landowners very easy so the insects could be distributed. The Weed Innovation Network (WIN) projects were started with matching funding from the ND Department of Agriculture.

The 1993 annual meeting was held at the Doublewood Inn in Bismarck. George Hildebrandt, Golden Valley Weed Board member, was elected as president. Updates from the ND Dept. of Ag Were given. The use of biological agents again was a hot topic. The use of other agents was presented by USDA-ARS along with the use of sheep and goats. The Legislative Assembly this year again changed some wording on pesticide distribution, they allowed the continuation of the pesticide and container disposal program and gave more authority to the weed boards.

The 1994 annual convention, held at the Hospitality Inn in Dickinson, was celebrated as the tenth annual meeting. George Hildebrandt was again elected president.

Feedback from this meeting concerning cost share distribution, resulted in a statewide committee being formed by the Ag Dept., to draft more workable guidelines. The formula proposed by the committee, is still in effect is some form today. Ag Commissioner Sarah Vogel and Noxious Weeds Coordinator Cindie Heiser implemented the new guidelines that spring. The Environmental Protection Award Program was announced.

This is a monetary donation from Myron Dieterle and Dow to be given to FFA members that show a "wise management of noxious weeds". Updates were also given by Jerry Saude of the ND State Land Department of State Weed Control Efforts and by Shawn Morten of Dakota Helicopter for the Helicopter Leafy Spurge Program. Project Safe Send was continued because of its popularity for getting unused pesticides out of the environment.

In 1995 the Annual Meeting was held at the Seven Seas in Mandan. Jim Basaraba, weed officer in Williams County, was elected president. At this meeting the association by-laws were revisited and changes were approved. A change that was approved was letting the voting membership include organizations, agencies or any group interested in weed management. The makeup of the Board of Directors was also changed. Under the new by-laws there will be two directors at large representing the Government and industry. Five members will be elected from the city and county weed boards, one from each area.

The Executive Board, President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, will be elected from the membership at the annual meeting. This meeting was highlighted by research updates from Dr. Rod Lym and Dr. Richard Zollinger of the NDSU Plant Sciences Department. Biological use updates were given by Cindie Heiser of the ND Dept. of Ag. and by Keith Winks director of the USDA-APHIS office in Bismarck. Fargo hosted the Leafy Spurge Symposium which is a research group from the US, Canada, and Europe.

The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$971,438 from the EARP fund to be used for noxious weed control across the state. They also continued the funding for pesticide and container disposal which included project safe send and also defined a prairie dog as a pest. Guy Welch, who works for the ND Department of Agriculture stressed the importance of finding and controlling Spotted Knapweed because the acreage continues to grow across the state. He was also mapping and doing an inventory of Purple Loosestrife. A funding formula was developed so monies designated by the Agriculture Department for noxious weed control can be fairly distributed to the county weed boards. This "formula" was developed by members of the NDWCA and the Noxious Weed division of the Ag. Dept.

The International Inn in Minot was the site for the 1996 annual meeting. At this meeting the new Executive Secretary was appointed. Randy Mehlhoff, the Extension Agent in Eddy County at New Rockford, was given the task of being the Executive Secretary which also included the treasurer position. With the new bylaws taking effect during the conference, an election was held for President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice

President and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Jim Basaraba was elected to remain as the President for one year. Jerald Busche was elected as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice, and Merlin Leithold was elected as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice. Part of the program at this conference was the panel discussion of "Integrating Weed Management Practices". This panel was attended by members from the NDSU Extension weed office, Entomology department, Extension Rangeland department and Plant Sciences department. This meeting also told us of the Noxious Weed Free Forage program in Montana. A report was in the newsletter about the use of plateau as an alternative to Tordon for the control of leafy spurge.

ND Department of Agriculture candidates Dina Butcher and Roger Johnson addressed the NDWCA board members at their spring board meeting. Reports from the ND Dept. of Ag stated that leafy spurge has surpassed the 1-million-acre mark but says it is mostly from better reporting from the counties. In previous years the area meetings were held twice a year, spring, and fall. Starting in 1996 there will only be fall area meetings but the spring time frame will be used as educational sprayer schools. At the end of her term as Agriculture Commissioner, Sarah Vogel proclaimed Purple Loosestrife as a noxious weed in ND.

The 1997 annual meeting was held at the Seven Seas in Mandan where Gerald Busche, weed board member from LaMoure County, advanced as the new president. This conference brought presenters in from around the state that had WIN projects through the ND Dept. of Ag. These projects included the use of biological insects and the use of integrated multi-species grazing on leafy spurge. Also presented was the use of flea beetle separators and using the growing degree days for sunflowers as the gauge to track the emergence of the flea beetles.

The use of different chemicals and chemical rates were discussed and the use of GPS/GIS tracking was presented. During this legislative session the legislators appropriated \$215,000 out of the EARP fund to be used for the development of biological programs and managing noxious and new invasive weeds and \$782,000 for the other noxious weeds programs. They also set up the Pesticide Control Board and they continued the pesticide and container disposal operations, both of which are funded from the EARP fund. Roger Johnson was elected as new Agriculture Commissioner.

The Ramada Inn in Grand Forks hosted the 1998 annual meeting. Here Merlin Leithold, weed officer from Grant County, advanced as the new president. The continued spread of the leafy spurge flea beetles by the county weed boards was a popular topic. New research on the use of Plateau and Tordon was discussed. "Invasive Weeds" was a topic of Randy Westbrook from USDA in North Carolina. The continued increase of Canada Thistle, Spotted Knapweed and Purple Loosestrife was part of the

information that was given to the group by Dr. Rod Lym from NDSU and also from Cindie Fugere (Heiser) of the ND Dept. of Agriculture.

The 1999 annual meeting was held at the Seven Seas in Mandan where Darwin Peterson, Bottineau County Weed Board member, advanced as the new president. This meeting gave us a presentation from "Team Leafy Spurge" to show us the full potential for the use of biological agents which include goats and sheep. Other speakers talked about the correct use of the flea beetles as to where they should be placed and when to be collecting them. The use of GPS/GIS tracking of weed infestations and flea beetle locations was demonstrated.

The Legislative Assembly again allowed for the pesticide and container disposal program, changed some portions of the financial responsibility law, added scoria to gravel inspections and increased the registration of chemicals to \$350 with \$50 going to the general fund and the remainder used for noxious weed control which amounted to over one million dollars. Spurge Fest '99 was held at Medora the end of June which featured presentations by leafy spurge researchers from around the region.

The ND Dept. of Ag announced it will cost share Curtail at 75% for the control of Canada thistle. Yellow Starthistle was added to the state list of noxious weeds after it was found in newly seeded CRP land. Ag Commissioner Roger Johnson appointed Jeff Olson as plant services manager and hired Ken Eraas as the Noxious Weeds Specialist.

In the year 2000 the annual meeting was held in Jamestown at the Best Western where Bill Ragan, Stutsman County Weed Officer, advanced as the new president. This conference brought us topics that included weed control on the National Grasslands, grazing options for leafy spurge, examples of flea beetle distributions and the notice of the increase of Purple Loosestrife across the state. It was announced that the ND Insurance Reserve Fund will have liability coverage up to \$25,000 for the cleanup of an accidental spill of chemical by a weed board in addition to the other operations already covered. Many biological control field days were held across the state because of the establishment of the many insectaries and large reproduction of the Aphthona flea beetles. A section 18 emergency exemption for the use of Plateau on Rangeland was approved. Previously Plateau could only be used in non-crop areas such as rights-of way. Total acreage of Canada thistle in the state as reported by the weed boards surpassed the 900,000-acre mark.

The 2001 annual meeting was held in Bismarck at the Radisson Inn where Joan Lorge, weed officer in Slope County, advanced to be

president. The topics at this convention were revolving around the increase in Canada thistle problems and the possible use of insects for control along with chemical applications. Purple Loosestrife was a major topic with reports of how bad the infestation is in Canada.

At this meeting we were also introduced to the noxious weed management concept "The Fire Model" by Steve Dewey, Utah State Extension Weed Specialist. Another weed that was talked about was Salt Cedar as it is moving in from the west along the Missouri River. Spurge Fest II was in Medora again with tours and information on the control of Leafy spurge using bio-control agents.

The Education Committee of the Association headed by Terry Volk and Bill Ragan created the Weed Officer Manual and was partially financed by a WIN grant from the ND Dept. of Ag. The Legislative Assembly appropriated out of the EARP fund for noxious weed control \$1,340,000, they added more people that had to be certified as chemical applicators and continued the pesticide and container disposal program.

At the Doublewood Inn in Fargo the 2002 annual meeting was held. Here Jerome Peerboom advanced as the new president. Canada thistle control was a major topic along with Salt Cedar as it is moving in from the western states. The highlight of this conference was the tour of the NDSU Plant/Weed sciences department, the NDSU Entomology Department and the USDA-ARS Bio Science Research Lab. During the 2002 season the ND Dept. of Ag allowed a cost share program to counties for the use of GPS units for the mapping of new and invasive weeds. The NDWA held its first Ag Forum at the Seven Seas in February. Salt Cedar and Dalmatian Toadflax were added to the state noxious weeds list.

In 2003 the annual meeting was held at the Seven Seas in Mandan Where Brent Nelson, weed officer from Walsh County, advanced to president. Here the ND Department of Agriculture and the NDWCA held their first combined conferences. It seemed as a natural fit since the Ag Commissioner is to annually hold a Commissioner Forum as prescribed by law and since the NDWCA was holding an annual meeting with mostly the same people these two conferences came together to be held during the same week at the same location.

This conference highlighted some ornamental plants that have the potential to become noxious and invasive weeds. At this conference also was a panel of past board members that talked about how the association was started and how it has evolved. During the year weed ID seminars were held across the state to inform land managers about all the different weeds that have the potential to overcome any rangeland. This year the Legislative Assembly passed a bill that made zero tolerance for any Yellow Starthistle seed on any seed labeling. They also allowed up to

\$1,346,000 for noxious weed control from the EARP fund and continued the pesticide and container disposal operations.

The 2004 annual meeting was held in Minot at the International Inn where Wayne Carter, weed officer from Morton County, advanced as president. This meeting brought updates on Spotted Knapweed control and the continued research on Salt Cedar control. Federal agencies gave updates on their weed control activities which included grazing and burning. During 2004 the NDDA allocated funds for expanding the biological program by purchasing biological agents for thistles, knapweeds, field bindweed and toadflax. They also came up with Cooperative Weed Management Grants that allowed counties to have access to more funding for weed control. Weed Free Forage Inspector trainings also took place across the state. Rachel Seifert-Spilde was hired to replace Dean Cline as the noxious weed specialist.

The Seven Seas in Mandan was the site for the 2005 annual meeting. Here Terry Volk, Bottineau County Weed Officer, advanced as president. A continued topic was the implementation and correct placement of the *Aphthona* flea beetles. An update on the control measures taken for Salt Cedar on Lake Sakakawea was given by Tony Jacobson of the US Army Corp of Engineers. We had speakers from South Dakota to talk about the safe use of 4-wheelers since the 4-wheelers are becoming more commonly used by the weed boards.

The Legislative Assembly allowed \$1,595,000 for the noxious weed program. The legislators changed wording in the noxious weed law to include cities that have their own weed boards so they may get the same type of funding as county weed boards and making sure that if a complaint is filed the person that files the complaint knows the process to get the problem resolved. They also allowed the use of 4-wheelers on in-slopes of state highways. This is the year that the NDWCA was able to purchase display units for each area with a grant from the ND Department of Agriculture.

In 2006 the annual meeting was held at the Days Inn in Dickinson. Jim McAllister, Weed Officer in Barnes County, advanced to the president position. The major topic at this conference was the problem that Organic Growers have controlling weeds. It was presented to the members what Organic Growers do to keep the weeds from spreading. The Southwest ND Gravel Pit Weed Free Certification program was presented to show how when counties get together, they can create a program that benefits a large area so noxious weeds do not get spread from one county to another. This year a cooperative effort was made to produce a Brochure called "Potentially Invasive Ornamentals" to educate the public that all plants sold are not always good for your



garden. The 2005 annual reports showed that the total number of noxious weed acres in the state are down from the 2004 reports. The new invasive plant Orange Hawkweed was reported in Rolette County. Craig Hultburg, US Fish and Wildlife Service at Audubon, developed a weed ID pocket-sized booklet with funding from Dakota Prairie RC&D.

The 2007 annual meeting was held at the Seven Seas in Mandan. Myron Dieterle, Sheridan County Weed Board member, advanced to the president position of the association. This year we heard from Dr. Kevin Sedivec, NDSU Animal/Range Scientist, about the Range Youth Camp that teaches students about how to keep rangeland healthy for animal and wildlife production. The use and improvements in GPS recording were presented. A new granting program was presented by the Dakota Prairie RC&D Council that allowed funds for the education of Invasive Species as a partnership with counties for matching funds.

The new invasive weeds that were brought to our attention were Garlic Mustard and Common Tansy. Judy Carlson was appointed by Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson as the Noxious Weeds Coordinator who will report to Ken Junkert since he is the Plant Industries program manager. This is the year that the county and city weed boards received their grants from the ND Dept. of Ag for the purchase of the Data Loggers from Vince Thomas (Reds-Fix-it-Shop) and the purchase of the Laptop computers from the ND Association of Counties. This information is sent to the ND Dept. of Ag. GPS/GIS specialist Jim Hansen to compile for the legislature.

Weed ID workshops were again organized which included a presentation by Marge Rayda from USDA, PPQ on the use of a CD from the Seed Science Society for quicker identification of most plants. In August of 2007 the Education Committee held the first Northern Plains Weed Management Symposium at the Western 4-H Camp at Washburn. This was an ideal chance for any land managers to increase their knowledge of noxious and invasive weed management.

This year the ND Dept. of Agriculture changed part of their funding programs to the cities and counties. The (formula) for dividing up the Landowner Assistance Program (LAP) funds was changed but the weed boards are still required to carry 3 mills in order to receive any LAP funds. The amount available for this program was \$942,700. They implemented the Targeted County Assistance Grant (TAG) which replaced all other New Invasive Weed programs developed by the Ag. Dept. \$400,000 was available for the biennium for this program. During the legislative session the Legislature directed the Legislative Council to do a study on state laws relating to agriculture to clarify any inconsistencies in the noxious weeds law.

The Doublewood Inn in Fargo was the site for the 2008 annual meeting. Derrill Fick, Weed Officer in Ward County, advanced as president. At this conference we heard from the ND Ag. Dept. about how the Data Loggers were improving the correct number of acres recorded for noxious weeds across the state. A topic of the main conference was the use and the differences in generic herbicides. The tour for this conference was to the NDSU Campus where we toured the Animal and Range Science Dept. which included the Beef Research facility and the Equine Research Facility and a tour of the USDA Red River Valley Ag. Research Center.

The first annual poster contest was held with the members present voting on the posters created by 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders from across the state. During the 2008 summer the NDWCA Board of Directors hired Becky Schroeder from Valley City as the new Executive Secretary.

In 2009 the annual meeting was held at the Seven Seas in Mandan where Bruce Fagerholt, Walsh County Weed Board Chairman, advanced to be president of the association. At this meeting we heard about the biological agents for Salt Cedar as they seem to work but only on larger infestations and about certain Canada thistle biological agents that might attack native thistles. We also heard about Organic Weed Control Systems work in rangeland and cropland.

Governor John Hoeven appointed Doug Goehring of Menoken ND as the new Agriculture Commissioner after Roger Johnson resigned to take a job as the president of the National Farmers Union Organization. The Education Committee held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Northern Plains Weed Management Symposium at the 4-H camp grounds in Washburn. The Legislative Assembly approved the increase of invasive weed funding from the Ag. Dept. from 50% to 75% reimbursement. They also approved the Ag. Department to administer the Weed Seed Forage Program.

At the 2010 annual meeting Stan Wolf, Weed Officer in Cass County, advanced as president as it was being held at the Seven Seas in Mandan. At this conference we heard from Carla Hoopes from the Montana State University on the weed awareness program that is used in Montana. Here we were introduced to the new DuPont herbicide Perspective. We were also informed of the invasive weed Halogeton being found on US Forest land by Medora. This year the ND Department of Agriculture declared Yellow Toadflax to be added to the noxious weeds list and to have Field Bindweed and Yellow Starthistle removed. The NDDA has received grant funds from the US Forest Service for the control of Yellow and Dalmatian Toadflax.

The Plant Industries Division of the NDDA has moved its office from the Capital Building to a different office building, this allows us easier access

to them without having to go to the Capital Building. The EPA sanctioned National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) was being worked on to create a permit so that each chemical applicator must have a permit and a notice to a state or federal authority that they are going to be applying chemical on or near any water in the state. Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring and Agriculture Commissioner Candidate Merle Boucher addressed a NDWCA Board of Directors meeting to give insight as to what might be expected if he was to be elected as next Agriculture Commissioner.

The 2011 annual meeting was held at the Seven Seas in Mandan where Roger Wickstrom, Weed Officer in Bowman County, advanced as president. Later during the spring, the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Dan Folske, Weed Officer in Burke County, advanced to fill the vacated term of Roger Wickstrom. At this annual meeting we heard about thistle research using grazing as an alternative. We were informed of the process for Public Records and Open Records laws by the Attorney General staff and we received updates from DuPont on the continued labeling of Perspective.

As far as the Legislative Assembly this year, it was passed that it is illegal to sell any noxious weed in any form and the legislators clarified who is to be contacted if a failure to control situation happens within their county. The ND Dept. of Ag. made funds available to the weed boards for the control of Houndstongue where the Ag. Dept. will reimburse 75% of the total contracted amount.

In 2012 the annual meeting was held at the Seven Seas in Mandan. Here Dan Folske, Weed Officer in Burke County, continued as president as this would have been his regular term. Here we did a Weed Seed Free Forage Inspection refresher workshop and learned the correct procedure for handling open records. Dan Dew gave his report on his trip to Washington D.C. Here he met with the Senators and Representatives of North Dakota and South Dakota as part of the Healthy Habitats Coalition to ask them about continued funding for the control of invasive species. At this conference we were given an update on the NPDES permit through the ND Dept. of Health.

The 2013 annual meeting was held in Mandan at the Seven Seas where Gary Hartman, Weed Control Officer in Burleigh County, advanced to the presidential position. At this conference we were shown the current updates on Canada thistle biological agents that will control the thistle if you incorporate them with other control measures.

There was an agency panel that helped explain how the Federal, State and Tribal agencies control their noxious weeds. We also heard about the continued use and an update on the labeling for the DuPont chemical Perspective. At the March NDWCA board meeting, Merlin

Leithold was appointed as the new Executive Secretary. The NDDA made available to the weed boards bio-control agents for Yellow and Dalmatian Toadflax. Carrie Larson was appointed as the new head of the Plant Industries Division of the ND Department of Agriculture. The 2014 annual meeting was again held in Mandan at the Best Western Seven Seas where Jim McAllister from Barnes County advanced to the association president position. At this annual meeting we had an Aggregate panel that talked about the interaction that weed boards need to have with gravel companies, how to handle pipeline issues, along with an update on invasive grasses. Chelsey Penuel was hire by the NDDA as the new noxious weed coordinator, replacing Rachel Seifert-Spilde.

In 2015 the annual meeting was held at the newly named Baymont Inn (Seven Seas) in Mandan where Derrill Fick from Ward County took over as president of the association. During this annual meeting we heard updates from the Department of Health about the Waters of the US, updates on the new invasive weeds Palmer Amaranth and Japanese Knotweed, and we were introduced to the use of Drones from NDSU. Richard Weisz was hired by the NDDA in the noxious weeds division.

2016, the annual meeting was held at the Baymont Inn in Mandan. Here Leon Pederson from Cavalier County moved up to be the association president. During this annual meeting we heard about the different mapping and data collection devises, drone updates and we toured the Heritage center.

In 2017 the annual meeting was held at the Ramada Inn in Bismarck. Kevin Schmidt moved up to being the president of the association. At this annual meeting we herd from NDSU about palmer amaranth becoming more aggressive in neighboring states, biological control of Yellow Toadflax update, the use of drones, and new chemicals from DOW AgriSciences. A resolution to add palmer amaranth on the state noxious weed list failed to pass during our business meeting. A resolution passed that asked the NDDA to pursue a section 18 label use on the chemical method 240SL. A resolution passed at the annual business meeting to add Houndstongue to the noxious weed list.

The 2018 annual meeting was held at the Ramada Inn in Bismarck. Here, Katie Clyde, weed officer from Billings County was moved up as president of the association. This year it passed during our business meeting as a resolution to have the Agriculture Department pursue giving the counties the ability to inspect gravel pits and to charge for that service. The annual meeting gave us a panel discussion from state

agencies, an update on monarch butterflies and milkweed, continued updates about Palmer Amaranth and Rod Lym from NDSU gave us his history of working on the control of leafy spurge.

In 2019 the annual meeting was held at the Ramada Inn in Bismarck where Jamen Windish from Barnes County was installed as the new association president. At the annual meeting we heard from the different chemical suppliers about their new products and spray adjuvants, updates on spraying with drones, and research on Downy Brome and Narrowleaf Hawksbeard control. Houndstongue and Palmer Amaranth were added to the state noxious weed list by the NDDA.

The 2020 annual meeting was held at the Ramada Inn in Bismarck. Here Cody Schnabel from Morton County was transitioned into being the association president. During the meeting we heard about how Palmer Amaranth has started to spread into ND and an update on a tour that was taken to Nebraska to see how bad Palmer can get if left uncontrolled. We heard from the NDSU climatologist on weather patterns, and from the ND Association of Counties safety specialist about ATV/UTV injuries.

The 2021 annual meeting was cancelled because of Covid-19, but Travis Jepson from Stark County was still transitioned into being the president of the association. Even though we did not have an annual meeting the board still went through the motions of conducting business by electronic means and with snail mail. There was an election for 2<sup>nd</sup> VP held, but it was a paper ballot sent to each voting member in each eligible voting county. This seemed to work ok but I hope we do not have to do that again.

In 2022 the annual meeting was moved to the Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center. This is where Jim Hennessey from Mountrail County was installed as the president of the association. At this annual meeting we were shown how to do spraying equipment maintenance. We were informed on how to handle open records and open meetings, updated on the spread of Palmer Amaranth, chemical updates, sprayer calibrations and what information a weed officer needs to do their duties as a weed officer. We held a 3-day training symposium at the 4H camp in Washburn ND. Here we had more hands-on training and use of spraying equipment along with a live demonstration of drones. The 2023 annual meeting was held in Bismarck at the Ramkota/Bismarck Hotel. Here Stan Wolf was moved up to the president position of the association. We had presentations on the use of chemicals and the use of biological agents of the state listed noxious

weeds. We had updates on the spread of Palmer amaranth, Ventenata, Salt cedar, and Cheatgrass. We were shown the continued ease and use of drones, even spraying with drones and also new ways of mapping where you have sprayed.

<u>Year</u>	<u>NDWCA Convention Location</u>	<u>President Installed</u>
1984...	Holiday Inn, Bismarck.....	Wayne Colberg
1985...	Kirkwood Motor Inn, Bismarck.....	Wayne Colberg
1986...	Kirkwood Motor Inn, Bismarck.....	Myron Dieterle
1987...	Kirkwood Motor Inn, Bismarck.....	Myron Dieterle
1988 ...	Holiday Inn, Minot.....	George Bishoff
1989...	Holiday Inn, Minot.....	George Bishoff
1990...	Gladstone Select, Jamestown.....	Jim Naves
1991 ...	Sheridan Inn, Bismarck .....	Jim Naves
1992...	Radisson Hotel, Fargo.....	Victor Lemke
1993 ...	Doublewood Inn, Bismarck.....	George Hildebrandt
1994...	Hospitality Inn, Dickinson.....	George Hildebrandt
1995...	Seven Seas, Mandan.....	Jim Basaraba
1996.	International Inn, Minot .....	Jim Basaraba
1997 ...	Seven Seas, Mandan.....	Gerald Busche
1998...	Ramada Inn, Grand Forks.....	Merlin Leithold
1999 ...	Seven Seas, Mandan.....	Darwin Peterson
2000 ...	Best Western, Jamestown.....	Bill Ragan
2001 ...	Radisson Inn, Bismarck .....	Joan Lorge
2002...	Doublewood Inn, Fargo.....	Jerome Peerboom
2003 ...	Seven Seas, Mandan.....	Brent Nelson +
2004...	International Inn, Minot.....	Wayne Carter
2005 ...	Seven Seas, Mandan .....	Terry Volk
2006...	Days Inn, Dickinson.....	Jim McAllister
2007 ...	Seven Seas, Mandan.....	Myron Dieterle
2008...	Doublewood Inn, Fargo.....	. Derrill Fick
2009 ...	Seven Seas, Mandan.....	Bruce Fagerholt
2010...	Seven Seas, Mandan.....	Stan Wolf
2011 ...	Seven Seas, Mandan.....	Dan Folske
2012...	Seven Seas, Mandan.....	Dan Folske
2013 ...	Seven Seas, Mandan.....	Gary Hartman
2014...	Seven Seas, Mandan.....	Jim McAllister

2015 ...Baymont Inn, Mandan.....Derrill Fick  
 2016 ...Baymont Inn, Mandan.....Leon Pederson  
 2017 ... Ramada Inn, Bismarck..... Kevin Schmidt  
 2018 ...Ramada Inn, Bismarck.....Katie Clyde  
 2019 ...Ramada Inn, Bismarck.....Jamen Windish  
 2020 ...Ramada Inn, Bismarck.....Cody Schnabel  
 2021 ...Cancelled due to Covid..... Travis Jepson  
 2022 ...Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck..... Jim Hennessey  
 2023 ...Ramkota/Bismarck Hotel, Bismarck.... Stan Wolf  
 2024 ...Ramkota/Bismarck Hotel, Bismarck.... Cliff Ferebee  
 +First Joint Forum with the NDDA