

(To be approved)

**NDWCA 39<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**  
**January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 - 3:30 pm**  
**Bismarck Hotel & Conference Center, Bismarck, ND**

The NDWCA Annual Business Meeting was called to order by 2023 President Stan Wolf at 3:57 pm. Stan apologized for the meeting starting late, due to the fact that the financial audit happened later than expected. Stan went on to welcome everyone to the meeting.

**Roll of voting members:** Merlin Leithold, executive secretary called the roll of voting members. 27 counties and cities, 1 commodity group and 2 industry members present and eligible to vote.

**Additional agenda items:** Jamen Windish, Barnes County moved to approve the agenda as presented. Katie Dillman, Billings County seconded the motion. **M/C**

**Minutes:**

The minutes of the 2023 annual meeting were reviewed. Kevin Schmidt, Morton County moved to approve the minutes as presented. Brent Nelson, Walsh County seconded the motion. **M/C**

**Presidents Report:** President Wolf gave the report.

I want to welcome everyone to the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NDWCA conference. This year's theme is '40 Years of Progress'. As we look back to the beginning of the association, we can see the monumental task of working together for the common goal of controlling noxious weeds.

When the association was formed, the Noxious Weed law was recently strengthened to include the formation of county weed boards responsible for controlling the spread of noxious weeds, primarily Leafy spurge. The weed control association was formed to provide the education, tools, and policies to further the control and management of noxious weeds by County and City Weed Boards, private landowners, and managers of state and federal lands. It was also the liaison to the legislature providing important information to the legislators for the work we do.

Over the years the Association has conducted yearly sprayer schools, several symposiums and invited many relevant speakers to our annual conferences to update the membership on various weed control issues, new invasive weeds, new technologies, legal proceedings on how to manage and operate our weed control programs, and numerous other things. The association planning committee works diligently to put the conference together. Please thank the directors and staff and let them know of your appreciation. If you have a topic you would like addressed let them know, maybe it can be covered in future conferences. Also visit the vendors and thank them for supporting the conference. Their presence and support is very important.

As I reflect upon my year as president, I am excited to see the progress and innovation that is in the future. As we look back when the association started, we had basically one herbicide, Tordon. Biological control of Leafy spurge was in the development state and not yet released. With the cooperative efforts of NDSU research new herbicide recommendations were

developed, the USDA released additional biological control agents. Presently we have numerous herbicides and combinations available to control the many noxious and invasive weeds. GPS mapping of weeds became available along with improved sprayers to make spray operations better. The newest technology that is available is the drone sprayer. This will allow for the control of weeds in areas that were inaccessible by wheeled sprayers or even on foot. Along with that is the technology of using drones to possibly identify small patches or even individual weeds among the various grasses or crops. We have come a very long way from dragging a hose and hand spraying. The technology available to us is getting on par with the most sophisticated crop sprayers. However, one thing that will most likely not change is the need to get out and walk an area to scout for and control weeds.

This past year we have moved our newsletter into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by emailing the newsletter. This has saved an immense amount of money and enhanced the amount and type of information we can include. The addition of color, pictures, and expanded reports enhances the reading experience.

We face a couple of challenges ahead. Dr. Quincy Law, NDSU Noxious Weed Specialist, has resigned to take a position closer to his family. The association is in communication with NDSU and Extension to facilitate the filling of that very important research position. We have also stated our need for this position to the SBARE board, which assigns priority to various needs of research and extension to the legislature.

Another challenge is having new herbicides registered that will enhance our weed control efforts. Currently the EPA has put an indefinite hold on the registration of an important herbicide. The board approved to draft a letter to the EPA stating that this action is unacceptable and request that the herbicide be registered. We are asking people to sign the letter in support. Please consider signing onto the letter, either as an individual or as a weed board upon proper board approval.

With that being said, I want to thank the area directors, executive committee, and other members of the board for their support over the year. Their input is vital in developing objectives and programs of the association. I would invite weed officers and weed board members to participate in the process by letting their area directors know of the challenges and issues they are facing. I would also like to thank our Exec Secretary for his work in managing the daily affairs of the association. His knowledge of history, contacts, and processes makes the task of leadership for me and the entire board much easier.

I thank you all for your support and it has been an honor to serve.

### **Financial Report**

Merlin presented the financial report. He highlighted various line items. Financially, we have grown again this year. Merlin thanked the board for going under budget again in 202. By doing so, it really improves our bottom line.

### **Audit Report**

Jim Bahm gave the Audit Committee report. Cody Schnabel, Morton County, and Stan Wolf were also on the audit committee. Jim said that the books are in order and accurate.

Jim then moved to accept the auditor's report and approve the financial report. Steve Ginsbach, Richland County, seconded the motion. **M/C**

### **Budget**

Merlin presented the budget for 2024. Roger Griffin, Morton County, ask what the National Travel account is used for. Merlin answered his question along with Bill Walker. Kevin Schmidt moved to accept the budget as presented. Josh Short, Cavalier County seconded the motion.

### **M/C**

**Education Report:** Given by Derrill Fick, 2023 Education Chairman

Last January at our annual meeting, you as members, voted on the posters that were submitted for judging. The chosen poster was created by a student in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade from Central Elementary in Tioga ND, Easton Rehak. T-shirts with the poster design on them were made for Easton and the other students in his class along with a plaque with the same design was given to Easton. A presentation was made in March with Easton not knowing until the day of the presentation. The presentation consisted of why the NDWCA is doing the poster contest and how it hopefully creates noxious weed awareness for the students.

Again, we had a booth at the Earth Day festival in Bismarck on April 18<sup>th</sup>. This booth lets us interact with local students and the general public to inform them of the importance of noxious weed control.

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 on 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 had a great turnout at our sprayer schools this year. I want to thank everyone who attended. All totaled we had 126 people attend. The people attending are from weed boards and state and federal agencies that are tasked with noxious weed control. We are very happy that we have a continued interest in people wanting to learn about noxious weeds and the safe and correct way to identify and control them. These sprayer schools could not be possible without the speakers and presenters so I need to thank all of them for their expertise and willingness to speak at these schools.

The locations where these sprayer schools were held were: The Carrington Research Center in Carrington, in Minot at the Ward County Weed Control Office and in Dickinson at the Stark County Weed Control office.

This fall we put notices out to the schools across the state for our annual poster contest. This year a presentation has been created by Lindy Berg, Extension Agent in Towner County, to be given to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 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 was created to 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 and we can get this information to you.

As in the past, 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. So, the current posters will be displayed for your ability to vote on who will be the next winner. Make sure you vote!!!

### **Legislative Report**

Merlin gave the lobbyist report. First of all, I'd like to thank the board for allowing me to be their lobbyist for another session. If any of you would like to step forward and assume the task, let me or any board member know. I would be more than happy to train you in. A change would be good.

We had a very quiet year. There was a century code change that affects weed boards to a very small extent. Previously, if a noxious weed complaint was received by the Ag. Dept., they only had to pass it on to the proper weed authority, (Counties/Cities), if the complaint was signed. That part of Century Code mirrored what a weed officer needs to do with a complaint as well. With the new change in Century Code, all requests received by the Ag. Dept., must be sent on to the proper weed authority (Counties/ Cities), whether they are verbal or written, signed or unsigned.

The only other legislative item was the Ag. Dept. budget, which we monitor during the session and provide testimony or direct conservations with legislatures as needed.

### **Industry Report**

Presented by Bill Walker, NDWCA Industry Director.

Now as we get into 2024, the markets on pesticide products seem to be getting a bit more normal on the products, pricing, price increases and availability.

While some products are taking slight price increases which is normal this time of year, a few of the others are taking more drastic price decreases (glyphosate and 2,4-D products), we have seen these drop by as much as 50% plus on glyphosates and 40% to 50% or more on the 2,4-D pricing as well.

Also, this year seen a more stable market and fewer major product outages as in the past few years.

#### **\*\*\*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](http://www.cdms.net), we suggest that you go to the site and get the updated labels for your information and records as well.

What that means is that now, the supplemental label has become part of the regular label and is at the end of each label.

**\*\*CORTEVA** has announced their price increases on many of their stewardship priced products (manufacturer price set products) as well as their other products for 2023/2024, these went into effect as of October 1, 2023, and will affect most all of their stewardship products pricing as most all of these have price increases.

<b>Milestone Herbicide</b>	was \$280.00 gal. (Govt. pricing)	Now \$290.00 gal. (Govt. pricing)
	was \$70.00 per quart (Govt. pricing)	Now \$72.50 per quart (Govt. pricing)
<b>Freelexx Herbicide</b>	was \$30.00 per gal. (All sizes)	Now \$32.75 per gal. (All sizes)
<b>HighNoon Herbicide</b>	was \$92.00 per gal. cont.)	Now \$94.00 per gal. (1 and 2.5 gal.
<b>DuraCor Herbicide</b>	was \$92.00 per gal. cont.)	Now \$94.00 per gal. 1 and 2.5 gal.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** If comparing HighNoon or DuraCor to Milestone Herbicide if you take the comparable Milestone rates per acre to the HighNoon or DuraCor herbicide rates, than your costs using HighNoon or DuraCor as compared to Milestone would be about \$1.00 per acre less and you will pick up a broader spectrum of weeds.

<b>Opensight Herbicide</b>	was \$96.75 per lb. (all sizes)	Now \$98.00 per lb. (all sizes)
<b>Piper (dry formulation)</b>	was \$82.00 per lb.	Now \$84.00 per lb.
<b>Piper EZ Herbicide</b>	stayed flat	\$328.00 per gallon
<b>Vastlan Herbicide</b>	was \$102.00 per gal.	Now \$105.00 per gal.
<b>TerraVue Herbicide</b>	was \$100.00 per lb.	Now \$104.00 per lb.

Capstone Herbicide and Cleantraxx Herbicide also took increases.

**Tordon 22K Herbicide** also increased about 2.5% as well as most all other non-Stewardship products increased from 2.5% to about 5% overall.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** You may hear some talk on generic Picloram products in comparison to Tordon 22K, please look these “LABELS” over carefully as the generic (Triumph 22K Herbicide) has a higher signal word (makes them more hazardous to use) and requires more PPE when using, don’t just take a salespersons word just trying to sell you something and saying that, “They are the Same” (Please Remember – THE LABEL IS THE LAW – NOT THE SDS SHEETS)

**Curtail Herbicide** - is has discontinued and no longer will be available, there is extremely limited to no supplies in the market now, also the companies that were making a generic Curtail product (Alligare, Albaugh) have also discontinued their products and there is none available from them as well.

**Graslan L Herbicide** - name is discontinued and is now called Grazon PD3 Herbicide, is exactly the same active ingredients, use sites, use rates as the old Graslan L named product.

**\*\*ENVU (formally Bayer) – Update on the TruRange Labeling for Leafy Spurge and other Invasive Weeds Control**

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

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

**ENVU - is expected to increase pricing on products either January 1, 2024, or February 1, 2024,** which include such products as - **Method 240 SL Herbicide, Escort XP Herbicide, Telar XP Herbicide, Plainview SC Herbicide, Esplanade 200 SC Herbicide, Rejuvra Herbicide, Oust XP Herbicide and Oust Extra Herbicide and others.**

**Rejuvra Herbicide** – ENVU has Rejuvra Herbicide, something you might want to look at if you get questions on Cheatgrass control in range and pasture, also if any “Ventenata Grass” is found this would be the product for control of that as well.

**\*\*BASF** – Has announced some price increases for 2024, Plateau Herbicide has taken a slight increase for 2024 along with Arsenal Herbicide, Overdrive Herbicide, Frequency Herbicide and Detail Herbicide at face value.

BASF has gone to a volume-based program with its distributors so it makes it harder for us to actually pin down if we will have slight increase in pricing or possibly have slight decreased in pricing.

**\*\*NuFarm** – E-2 Herbicide labeling issues **“Have Been Cleared Up With EPA”**, NuFarm has again been producing E-2 Herbicide and it seems at this time supplies are good

**E-2 Herbicide** pricing has remained the same so far for 2024 (\$65.05 per gallon in 2.5 gal. containers), NuFarm has not announced any price increases on the E-2 product at this time.

NuFarm has announced price decreases on their 2,4-D products as with most all manufacturers of 2,4-D products, expect these products to be well below the current pricing as 2024 season progresses, barring any unseen natural disasters.

### **\*\*NACHINO 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 Herbicide 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 (still studying at this time).

**NOW: - NICHINO America** – is 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.

**Pimlico Herbicide** - New application rates will be from 1.7 to 1.9 ounces per acre rates with the new formulation, 2,4-D rates will remain the same as well as the MSO Surfactant.

**NICHINO America** will also be 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, tree belts, CRP acres, Wildlife Areas, Roadsides and Non-Crop Areas, 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.

**Pimlico Herbicide - will be packaged in 1-quart containers and estimated costs of \$290.00 per quart at this time.**

**1 – Quart will cover approximately 16 acres at the high rates.**

**SPECIAL NOTE:** NICHINO has been asked if they would consider putting the Pimlico Herbicide into 16-ounce containers, they are considering this request but have made no decisions as of yet.

**\*\*ALLIGARE** - Alligare has announced some of its pricing for 2023/2024, they are starting to become a little stronger in the market working with the distributors, and they are mostly a generic/alternative products manufacturer.

### **Whetstone Herbicide**

Whetstone Herbicide is the generic product to Milestone Herbicide, has all same labeling, use rates, use sites and active ingredients, has the off-site hay sales labeling as well, this product is available from distribution, this product is manufacture price set like the Milestone Herbicide.

<b>Whetstone Herbicide</b>	\$265.00 per gallon in 2.5 gal. cont.
	\$67.50 per quart in 1-quart containers

**Alligare has introduced 2 new products for bareground.**

**Mainline Herbicide** – is a mixture of Flumioxazin (Payload) and Imazapic (Plateau), this is a liquid product for easier use, rates are 16 to 24 ounces per acre, makes a good base or tank mix partner with other bareground products, is also a good soft bareground choice for some more sensitive sites, 2.5-gallon containers, \$214.00 per gallon.

**Ballast Herbicide** – is a mixture of Flumioxazin (Payload) and Imazapyr (Arsenal), this is a liquid product for easier use, rates are 32 to 48 ounces per acre, makes a good base or tank mix partner with other bareground products, makes a better hard bareground site choice, need to watch trees and shrubs with roots into the applied sites, could kill those, 2.5-gallon containers, \$184.00 per gallon.

**Diuron 80 DF and Liquid Diuron** could be harder to get in 2024, if using these products, you might want to let your suppliers know ASAP to try and secure the products needed (Attributed to the War in the Middle East).

**\*\*Glyphosate** products – pricing has seemed to stable off for now, large price drops as this year progressed, pricing dropped by as much as one half in most cases and up to 2/3 in some cases from the 2022 pricing of glyphosate products, Bayer still seems to be the highest priced on their Roundup branded products.

**\*\*2,4-D Products** – we are now seeing some price decreases in all types of 2,4-D amine and ester products, these have seemed to stable off for now, decreases as much as 40% plus from last year's pricing at this time over last year.

**\*\*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, your equipment suppliers and any other supplier know in advance of your possible needs so they can be prepared to make sure, they have what you might need, when needed.

There were still some spot shortages on certain items in 2023 and shipping (trucking) seems to be taking a little longer than normal as well to get products to your distributors from the manufacturers, while manufacturers are saying 2024 looks good for supply

**“Nobody can predict what might happen weather wise or worldwide to disrupt a worldwide economy that also affects us here.”**

**SUBJECT: Percentage of Product Cost Increases in 5 Years (Your Herbicide Products Only)**

Here is the workup that was done for Jamen Windish in Barnes County, ND on what product price increases have done since 2019 just before COVID and through the past 5 years up until current, I used 12 products that are mostly purchased by North Dakota counties and much is based on Barnes County purchases as well but, what you have purchased also works into the mix.

Product Increase	2019 Year	2023 year/current	Approximate %
Tordon 22K Herbicide	\$44.60 gal.	\$54.20 gal.	18%
2, 4-D Amine	\$10.60 gal.	\$22.50 gal.	57.5%
Milestone Herbicide	\$265.00 gal.	\$290.00 gal.	8.5%
E-2 Herbicide	\$42.00 gal.	\$65.05 gal.	46%
Freelexx Herbicide	\$19.60 gal.	\$32.75 gal.	40%
DuraCor/HighNoon Herbicide	\$83.00 gal.	\$94.00 gal.	12.5%
Liberate Surfactant	\$23.00 gal.	\$28.40 gal.	19%
Plateau Herbicide	\$103.00 gal.	\$120.00 gal.	18%
Method 240 SL Herbicide	\$318.72 gal.	\$343.04 gal.	10%
Graslan L Herbicide	\$40.00 gal.	\$59.00 gal.	32.5%
Now Grazon PD3 Herbicide			
Curtail Herbicide	\$39.80 gal.	\$57.40 gal.	33%
Opensight Herbicide	\$84.00 lb.	\$98.00 lb.	14.5%
Total percentage			309.5
Divided by 12 products for average			25.80%

The Graslan L/Grazon PD 3 and the Curtail pricing was based on Nelson County, Ramsey County, Burke County, and Oliver County, ND.

2,4-D amine had decreased by about \$2.00 per gallon going into 2023 and decreased again by about \$8.00 per gallon, and now has decreased to an average cost of about \$14.00 gallon range, this can change the number slightly, this could change the numbers slightly down.

ENVU has not taken their price increases yet this year, they have announced that these will be taken January 1, 2024, on Method 240 SL, Escort XP, Telar XP, Rejuvra, Esplanade 200 SC, Oust XP, OustExtra XP and other products, this could change the numbers slightly up as well.

**NDDA** – Richard Weisz, noxious weed specialist  
(Not in attendance, no report)



**Government Report** – Levi Jacobson, Government Director

**Summary of 2023 Noxious Weed Control efforts on US Fish and Wildlife Service Lands**

No report at this time.

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

Chemically treated 3,811.2 acres and mowed another 27 acres.

Treated leafy spurge, Canada thistle, yellow toad flax, absinth wormwood, hounds tongue, Saltcedar

Collected and moved bio control flea beetles for leafy spurge on 18 different Wildlife Management Areas (WMA). Many of these areas also had Hawk Moth caterpillars released also.

Worked with Department of AG and released Red Headed Leafy Spurge Borers (Oberea) on three WMAs to hopefully establish a population.

Continued efforts to monitor and treat Saltcedar along the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers in the NW corner of the state.

Budget for noxious weed control includes permanent staff salary, seasonal staff, contractors, and operating expenses is \$725,000 for noxious weed control for 2023 – 2025 biennium.

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

**US Army Corps of Engineers**

5500 acres of GPS weed data collected (weed density, weed species distribution)

6200 acres of treated weeds on Sakakawea

150 acres of treated weeds on Pipestem

400 acres of treated weeds on Bowman-Haley

1000 acres of treated weeds by the Aerial Spraying Contractor

**Old Business:**

**Resolutions:** There was one resolution presented to the assembly from Area II. The resolution was brought to Area II by Barnes County. President Stan Wolf asked Merlin to read the resolution.

**Whereas:** In North Dakota, numerous county weed boards are struggling to meet their expense's on a yearly basis. In most cases, those same counties are levying four mills or budgeting in excess of four mills.

**Whereas:** The North Dakota Century Code states that county weed boards can only levy a maximum of four mills.

**Whereas:** North Dakota Century Code Chapter 4.1-47-14 – County Noxious Weed Control Program – Payment of Expenses – Financial Report – Tax Levy Authorization Subsection 2a states: The county weed board may annually request from the board of county commissioners the levy of a tax, not to exceed the levy limitation in subsection 11 of section 57-15-06.7

**Whereas:** North Dakota Century Code Chapter 57-15-06.7 states: Additional levies – Exceptions to tax levy limitations in counties. The tax levy limitations specified in Section 57-15-06 do not apply to the following mill levies, which are expressed in mills per dollar of taxable valuation of property in the county: Subsection 11. A county levying a tax for weed control as provided in section 4.1-47-14 may levy a tax not exceeding four mills.

**Therefore be it resolved:** Area II voted in favor of this resolution at the Area II meeting held on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 and asks that the North Dakota Weed Control Association be in full support of this resolution at their annual business meeting to be held on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, at the Bismarck Hotel, in Bismarck, North Dakota.

**Be it further resolved:** That the North Dakota Weed Control Association Board of Directors, following passage of this resolution, move forward with establishing a bill for the 69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session to be held in 2025.

Stan asked for a motion to pass or not pass this resolution so that we may bring it up for discussion. Ron Manson, Stutsman County moved to pass this resolution. Bill Walker seconded the motion. Discussion

Stan asked Jamen Windish, Barnes County, to come up and give the reasoning behind the resolution. Increases for herbicides and parts fuel has ran rampart. In Barnes County, 4 mills cover our expenses, but does not leave us with any extra for equipment. Asking the county commissioners for money from the general fund is hard to get as well.

Brent asked about amending the resolution. Jamen moved to amend the resolution as follows:

**Therefore be it further resolved:** That this resolution be amended, paragraph 4, line 5, after 4.1-47-14, to read, may levy a tax not exceeding eight mills. This would be placed in the resolution between paragraph 5 and 6. Katie Dillman second the motion. Discussion. Voice vote. **M/C** Discussion on amended resolution. Ballot vote on amended resolution. Resolution passed by 62%. The association will now work with the legislature on this subject.

**EPA Letter:**

Office of Pesticide Programs

Registration Division

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

William Jefferson Clinton Bldg. East

Washington, DC 20004

Attn: Eric Bohnenblust

Minor Use and Emergency Response Branch Chief

Cc: Emily Schmid, PM 25

RE: TruRange Herbicide label registration request for approve.

Weed control is critically important for our environment, and the delay of registration for TruRange Herbicide (aminocyclopyrachlor) negatively impacts that control. Landowners, government land managers, livestock ranchers and farmers, and weed control associations all have an obligation to control state and federal noxious/invasive weeds in a way that is effective

and safe for applicators and the environment. The TruRange Herbicide could be an important tool in supporting our weed control efforts, but only if it's available for use.

Leafy spurge is a very difficult weed to control, in part because of its aggressive root system and the lack of truly effective products for long term control of the plant. Landowners and land managers have been using multiple chemistries for the past 50+ years to control this weed. While there are many success stories of control, often they need to spray the same acres on the same land every year just to manage the existing weed infestation and they have to use higher rates of existing products or mix multiple products to just achieve temporary control or management.

Several years ago, a product containing the active ingredient aminocyclopyrachlor (Perspective Herbicide/Method 240 SL Herbicide) became available for the control of Leafy spurge. Many of our landowners and land managers used this product in demonstration plots and areas where the product could be applied according to the label. Most applications provided multiple years of control on Leafy spurge and most other weeds. This provided multiple benefits to landowners, including general cost savings and fewer applications of active ingredients, which benefits the land, water, people, and overall environment.

For many years now, landowners and land managers have been waiting for this chemistry to become available with a label for agricultural use. After years of testing and using this product, we know how to apply the product safely and effectively. The people with boots on the ground strongly feel that approving the registration of TruRange herbicide with a reasonable label for permanent grazed rangeland and pasture sites is essential to finally having a product that gives land managers some hope of dealing with this "6-decade old" problem weed.

Stan went on to mention how many signatures we already have, and that if anyone would like, there is a signup sheet at the registration table.

Again, Stan thanked everyone for his year in office.

#### **President's Transition – the transfer of the gavel –From Stan Wolf to Cliff Ferebee**

Cliff thanked Stan for his service to the association.

#### **New Business:**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Election:** Eligible areas are I, II and III. Josh Short was nominated from the area meetings. Josh was asked to give a short speech. Josh is the weed officer in Cavalier County since October 2019, knowing absolutely nothing. Several people in the organization have helped him get where he is today. Bill move that nominations cease and that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Josh. Katie seconded the motion. **M/C**

Cliff said that the social and auction starts in the next room with Rick Schmidt as our auctioneer. Afterwards there will be Cornhole and Texas Holdem going on as well.

In 2025, our Annual Meeting and Conference will be held right back here at the Bismarck, February 3-6, 2025. We could not get earlier dates here at the hotel.

Josh Short moved to adjourn the meeting. Jamen Windish seconded the motion. **M/C**

Meeting adjourned at 5:21 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Merlin Leithold, Executive Secretary