

# North Dakota Weed Control Association

March 2024  
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October & November

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## President's Report

Greetings everyone.

I feel honored to serve as your president and to work with a great board of directors. They have worked hard to keep a strong weed control association and worked with the Department of Agriculture. Mother Nature worked with us to enable everyone to attend the convention.

I would like to thank Stan Wolf for leading the association this past year. Also, thanks to the outgoing directors: Ron Manson, Derrill Fick, & Ken Luttschwager. Welcome to the new board members: Jamen Windish, Tom Leo, & Josh Short. I would like to thank Merlin Leithold and his family for all the work they do for the association, especially during the convention.

Congratulations to Brad Seifert, Mercer County Weed Officer, for the association Weed Warrior Award & Travis Jepson, Stark County Weed Officer, for the Ag Commissioner Award.

We had an excellent convention with many good speakers. We thank the vendors, the sponsors, Richard Weisz, weed specialist for the Department of Ag, for organizing the Commissioner's Forum and the very informative program. We had great food and enjoyable entertainment. We also had time to visit with vendors to get informed about new products available to control weeds.

The auction was very successful. Thanks for bringing all the auction items. The added humorous act was enjoyable.

We'll be working on the convention to be held in Bismarck February 3-6, 2025.

If you have any suggestions for the convention, contact your directors or Merlin.

Cliff Ferebee  
NDWCA President  
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## AREA 1

**Wells County**– Currently looking for a Weed Control Officer, but do have a possibility.

**Ramsey County**– We will be looking for a replacement for Curtail, otherwise things are ok.

**Cavalier County**–They are getting a new spray truck and getting it outfitted.

**Towner County**–Lindy was asking why we can't get Curtail anymore

Roger Gunderson

Area I Director

[gunde1978@mdico.net](mailto:gunde1978@mdico.net)



## AREA 2

Cass County Weed Control is in the process of preparing for the upcoming season. We have sent out notices soliciting for spray contractor bids for the years 2024 and 2025. As we have done in the past, we are looking to secure contracts for two sprayers and divide up the county. We are also looking for one seasonal person to assist the weed officer in scouting and spraying. Last fall we put Spotted hemlock on the county noxious weed list. We are seeing over 80 acres of infestation scattered across the county.

As some of you may have heard, I am planning on retiring this summer and we will be looking for a person to replace me. It has been a quick and enjoyable 20 years with many good friendships. Hope to see you at the sprayer school.

Stan Wolf, Cass Co Weed Officer

What a crazy winter or lack thereof we have had. There have been many days I wished I was out spraying. Sprayer Schools will be happening in May in Carrington for our area again this year. This event is always good to attend for new and old employees. It is a good start to the spray season. Here in Barnes County, we will be seeking a few summer employees to help assist in our weed control efforts in the rights of ways. I hope everyone has a good spring and stays safe out there.

Jamen Windish

Area II Director

[jwindish@barnescounty.us](mailto:jwindish@barnescounty.us)



## MEET YOUR VICE PRESIDENTS



Jim Bahm

1st VP

Morton County Weed Board

[jrbahm@gmail.com](mailto:jrbahm@gmail.com)



Josh Short

2nd VP

Cavalier County Weed Officer

[jshort@nd.gov](mailto:jshort@nd.gov)

## AREA 3

Greetings,

Not too many reports for area 3. Everyone is slowly ramping up getting equipment through the shop in preparation for spring. Some of the trade shows have wrapped up, one of the big ones being the KMOT in Minot where Derrill had a booth. It seems to be the consensus to hold the sprayer school in Ward County again as it is more centrally located and has a nice facility to host. Last year in Williams County we kind of switched things up a bit and transitioned over to using Method on the roadsides. I am anxious to see the results. We also used some Venue in certain areas, the burn down was great and we look forward to following up with that for the next two years. I anticipate that there won't be much to spray in those Venue areas, we'll see.

Respectfully,

Tom Leo

Area 3 Director



## AREA 4

No Report Submitted for March Newsletter

Rick Schmidt

Area IV Director

[rick.schmidt@ndsu.edu](mailto:rick.schmidt@ndsu.edu)



## AREA 5

No Report Submitted for March Newsletter

Joan Lorge

Area V Director

[jolorge@nd.gov](mailto:jolorge@nd.gov)



# EDUCATION REPORT

At our annual meeting in January, you as members voted on the posters that were submitted for judging. The chosen poster was created by Zoe Reisenauer, a student in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade from the New Rockford Sheyenne Public School in New Rockford, ND. T-shirts for Zoe and the other students in her class were made with the poster design on them and a plaque with the same design had been created for and given to Zoe. A presentation was made on February 23<sup>rd</sup> to the whole class along with the Eddy County Extension agent Michelle Gilley and the Eddy County Weed Control Board President Corey Longnecker. 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 will be having a booth at the Earth Day festival coming up in Bismarck on April 16<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.

We have set up the Sprayer Schools for this year:

May 29<sup>th</sup> -- at the Carrington Research Center

May 30<sup>th</sup> -- in Minot at the Ward County Weed Control Office

May 31<sup>st</sup> -- in Dickinson at the Stark County Weed Control office

Each sprayer school will have registration starting at 8 am local time. At these schools' we will have from the ND Dept. of Agriculture Plant Industries division updates on noxious weeds, the Pesticide and Fertilizer Division will have their Agriculture Program Inspectors give updates and hands-on examples of how to use the proper personal protective equipment and what is needed during a use inspection. There will also be a Right-of-Way recertification training administered by the Pesticide Training Program of NDSU. We will have a weed ID section put on by the NDSU Research Centers and sprayer equipment calibration session provided by Bill Walker of Nutrien Solutions. A complete agenda will be sent out on the list serve so please plan on attending these schools.

We are working on putting together another Northern Plains Weed Management Symposium to be held at the 4H camp in Washburn. We are planning to start the Symposium at noon on August 20<sup>th</sup> and ending at noon on Thursday the 22<sup>nd</sup>. A save the date notice will be sent out soon and other information about the activities will be sent out as we get them confirmed.

The Association has become a member of the Vision West ND Consortium with emphasis on being part of the Natural Resource committee. This Natural Resource Committee membership will give us the ability to help form and have input in the discussion along with some decisions made on oil field sites, oil pipeline systems, gravel pits and the reclamation efforts that are going on across the western part of ND for the control or prevention of noxious weeds. There is a Natural Resources Public Meeting on March 26, 2024, in Manning, ND, the meeting will be held in the Dunn County Court House Commissioners Board Room.

We hope to see everyone this spring at the sprayer schools and please be safe!!

Education Co Chairman Derrill Fick & Tom Leo

## SECRETARY REPORT

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

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

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

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

Happy Easter.

Merlin Leithold

NDWCA Executive Secretary



# NDWCA INDUSTRY REPORT

Again, I will restate - as we get into 2024, the markets on pesticide products seem to be getting a bit more normal on 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.

## **\*\*\*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.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** If comparing HighNoon or DuraCor to Milestone Herbicide and which to possibly use or cost share, 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.

**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 (Warning - makes them more hazardous to use) and requires more PPE when using in comparison to Tordon 22K Herbicide (Caution), 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)**

There has been some comparisons on the labels of Tordon 22K Herbicide and Triumph 22K Herbicide at some of the NDWCA area meetings and annual meeting, the comparisons were not done on a “LABEL to LABEL” comparison, there was some information excerpted from the SDS sheets on the Tordon 22K Herbicide and was used to try to make that product look like it has/had the same signal wording as the generic offering of Triumph 22K Herbicide and, is not as safe as well.

**SDS (Safety Data Sheets)** are now designed to work on a world wide basis, additional information has to be added into these to satisfy not only the U.S. markets but world markets as well as California, if a company is doing business world wide than they will have to add additional information into the SDS sheets to satisfy other countries requirements but, these extra requirements might not necessarily be needed in the U.S., hence different wording that might not exactly match the U.S. label “SIGNAL” wording on that product.

**Herbicide Labels** are written for the country they are sold and distributed in, the EPA states that the **“label is the law”** on that product **(NOT THE SDS SHEETS)**, when comparing products to see if they are the same for safety, needed PPE, if the product is the same active ingredients, Use sites and so forth the **“Label”** is used, again, not a SDS sheet on one product and the label on another.

One more thing – It was also stated that because Tordon 22K Herbicide was now a clear formulation that it was not working the same as it used to, let me ‘CLEAR’ that up as well, CORTEVA had problems sourcing the dye during COVID years that gave Tordon 22K it light to dark amber to light brown color so, they just took out the dye, CORTEVA did not change the product formulation in any way, just took out the dye so now Tordon 22K as well as several other CORTEVA products are now a clear formulation.

If you are being told any of this as a product comparison to any of the current products you are using, please check these and any comparison comments made “Very Carefully” before making that decision to change, that decision could put you and your employees at some additional risk when using one of those products they are telling you is the same as.

**Curtail Herbicide** - is has discontinued and no longer will be available, 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.

# NDWCA INDUSTRY REPORT CONTINUED

## **\*\*ENVU (formally Bayer)**

ENVU – **Did their price increases on February 1, 2024**, which includes 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.**

2023 Pricing			New 2024 Pricing
Method 240 SL Herbicide	2.5 gal. cont.	\$343.04 per gal.	\$357.12 per gal.
Esplanade 200 SC Herbicide	2.5 gal. cont.	\$1,437.44 per gal.	\$1,509.12 per gal.
	1 quart cont.	\$395.54 per quart	\$415.36 per quart
Rejuvra Herbicide	2.5 gal. cont.	\$1,064.45 per gal.	\$1,102.08 per gal.
	1 quart cont.	\$319.54 per quart	\$336.00 per quart

\*Escort XP, Telar XP, Oust XP, Oust Extra XP Have all mostly remained stable or flat, very slight increases if any.

**\*\*NuFarm** – Has announced a price decrease on E-2 Herbicide pricing now is as follows.

E-2 Herbicide	2.5 gal. cont.	\$58.05 per gal.
	250 gal. tote	\$57.45 per gal.

This is about a \$7.00 per gallon decrease from 2023 pricing, E-2 is manufacturer priced set.

## **\*\*NACHINO America – Venue Herbicide Updates (No Current Changes)**

**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

**There is a good supply of Venue Herbicide available for the 2024 season yet.**

It needs to be coupled with a 2,4-D 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 of Pimlico Herbicide will cover approximately 16 acres at the high rates.**

# NDWCA INDUSTRY REPORT CONTINUED

**\*\*ALLIGARE** - Alligare has no Changes Since the Conference Report.

## **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.

## **Whetstone Herbicide**

\$265.00 per gallon in 2.5 gallon containers

\$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.

**\*\*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, more on the petroleum based or oil-based products.

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.

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

Respectfully Submitted

William “Bill” Walker

NDWCA Industry Representative

[william.walker@nutrien.com](mailto:william.walker@nutrien.com)



# GOVERNMENT REPORT

March 2024

Currently most agencies are in the process of hiring summer seasonal staff that will play a big role in their noxious weed control efforts. We also spend the winter months getting equipment worked on and ready for the upcoming growing season. Below is a recap of what some agencies accomplished in 2023.

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

### **FY23 North Dakota Invasive Strike Team Highlights**

The North Dakota Invasive Strike Team funded multiple positions throughout the state in 2023. A total of 3,249 acres of noxious weeds were treated chemically and another 3,324 acres were treated through biological and mechanical methods across the Northwest, Central and Eastern ND Complexes.

#### **Northwest North Dakota WMD Complex**

**Crosby WMD** chemically treated leafy spurge, baby's breath and Canada thistle which continue to be an issue throughout the district. Yellow toadflax, spotted knapweed and common tansy are also a threat but limited to only a couple WPA's.

While foliar chemical applications were the primary method of treatment in the district, cut-stump treatments were attempted on Russian olive trees surrounding the Crosby headquarters in October. Effectiveness of these treatments will be evaluated in the spring of 2024.

**Lostwood NWR** field crews sprayed 555 acres of noxious weeds with leafy spurge being the top weed by acreage. Staff tested new chemicals recommended by county weed boards and chemical reps with encouraging results thus far. Sites will be revisited in FY24 & FY25 to determine overall effectiveness. Overall, historic large patches of leafy spurge are decreasing in density and size (per spatial data and visual assessment) with consistent annual treatments and monitoring. Yellow toadflax continues to be a problem with new patches discovered every year on the refuge and district.

**J Clark Salyer & Upper Souris NWR** hired two ACE interns that helped locate, map and treat noxious weeds including leafy spurge, yellow toadflax and Canada thistle. A total of 1073 acres were chemically treated and 985 acres were biologically treated. Aspen mulching was a high priority at J. Clark NWR where crews used heavy equipment to mechanically treat 645 acres in 2023.

#### **Central North Dakota WMD Complex**

**Audubon's** efforts on invasives were focused on Lake Ilo NWR. Large portions of the refuge were surveyed and sprayed for Canada thistle. The Audubon field crew was assisted by staff from Long Lake NWR for 3 days which greatly increased the area surveyed and treated.

**Long Lake NWR** utilized 2 seasonal staff to complete strike team efforts in 2023. New UTV mounted sprayers and Raven GPS units helped to guide seasonal and permanent staff with more accurate application and treatment recording for target species. Leafy spurge, Canada thistle and wormwood was treated at 170 sites totaling 449 acres. Leafy spurge flea beetles were collected and released in areas with consistent issues that can be difficult to access with equipment. Biocontrol agents were released at 11 different sites, treating approximately 391 acres. Seasonal staff also worked to control approximately 11 acres of invasive Siberian elms that are encroaching into the grasslands of Slade NWR through basal bark application of herbicide. Seasonal staff also located and mapped leafy spurge when weather wasn't conducive for spraying for a total of 121 acres mapped at 271 locations.

The new patch of purple loosestrife that was identified last year had a follow-up treatment completed and monitoring will continue. It was a successful year overall as crews hone capabilities and improve efficiencies that would not be possible without the added Strike Team funds received every year.

#### **Eastern North Dakota WMD Complex**

**Devils Lake WMD** released 71,000 leafy spurge beetles across 10 sites in the district in 2023. Scattered Russian olive trees over a hundred acres were shredded at Kellys Slough NWR using the diamond disc mulcher on the bobcat. This equipment works great and has provided 3-4 years of tree control without chemically treating the stump.

New patches of yellow toadflax were discovered, one patch was sprayed and the other was pulled. Isolated patches have been discovered in the past on different WPA's in the district so this weed may be on the rise. Isolated plants or small patches of houndstongue were sprayed at White Horse Hill National Game Preserve with a backpack sprayer. However, the district overall has seen a drastic reduction in acreage treated by chemicals and an increase use of mechanical control for noxious weeds.

# GOVERNMENT REPORT CONTINUED

## Chase Lake WMD

Chase Lake Wetland Management District, which includes Chase Lake and Arrowwood NWR, was reorganized in late 2023 to include four counties. This change allowed increased capacity to move from reactive invasive species monitoring and control, to a more proactive approach.

No weed mapping activities had occurred since the early to mid-2000s due to lack of staff. In 2023, one technician was hired and mapped weed infestations on fee title lands. All infestations were mapped in Field Maps with emphasis on leafy spurge and houndstongue detection. The focus was on approximately 25% of the district fee title lands, starting with the highest priority ranked WPAs, which was approximately 40 WPAs or 600-700 acres planning to be surveyed. In an amazing effort, 38 WPA areas and all of Chase Lake NWR (on foot since it's Wilderness area!) for a total of 19,633 upland acres surveyed. Of the upland areas surveyed, over 700 acres of weedy forbs were mapped including leafy spurge, houndstongue, Canada thistle, wormwood, knapweed and baby's breath.

There was a great effort to secure biological control, leafy spurge beetles, for distribution on infestations mapped. Strike Team funds were utilized to purchase 200,000 beetles and 54,000 beetles were collected at public collection days organized through two county weed boards. Beetles were released on fee title lands in Stutsman, Wells, Eddy and Foster counties to treat an estimated 319 acres of leafy spurge.

An effort was made to focus on *Aphthona nigriscutis* due to the soil types found on many of the WPAs in the Missouri coteau area. Securing *A. nigriscutis* wouldn't have been possible without the communication and coordination of North Dakota Plant Protections Specialist, John Mortenson. This networking opportunity was first facilitated with the help of Jessica Zarate. In addition to the *Aphthona* sp. collection opportunities, Mortenson offered to share 250 *Oberea erythrocephala* that had been collected in Montana which were released into a larger, thicker patch of leafy spurge on a WPA where leafy spurge beetles were also released. Staff will closely monitor these areas and continue working with these new partners. Additionally, Strike Team funding was used to purchase an ATV-mounted sprayer and chemical to treat mapped weed infestations in 2024.

Chase Lake WMD staff plans to reignite invasive mapping efforts gathering current/baseline data to assess the state of invasives across the district using Field Maps and ADL's. With this updated baseline information on invasive infestations, staff can assess where efforts should be directed first, and which control methods are most conducive. Not only will this effort provide greatly improved Early Detection and Rapid Response efforts, it would allow for a better archiving method that is more accessible and can withstand staff turnover.

## **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, houndstongue, 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



Levi Jacobson  
Government Representative  
[lcjacobson@nd.gov](mailto:lcjacobson@nd.gov)



## Noxious Weeds Update from North Dakota Department of Agriculture

Hello,

I'm writing to let everyone know that as of March 1, I am no longer the Noxious Weeds Specialist. I will be staying within in Department and have accepted the Pesticide Inspector Supervisor position.

If you have any questions, please contact Samantha Brunner at [sbrunner@nd.gov](mailto:sbrunner@nd.gov) or (701) 328-4765. Also, calls to my old phone number will be forwarded to her.

I want to thank everyone I was able to get to know and serve over the years. You all were the best part of my job and I will sincerely miss those relationships.

Thank you for a fantastic 6 years and I hope things continue to go well for everyone!

Best Regards,

Richard Weisz

Phone: (701) 328-2250

Email: [raweisz@nd.gov](mailto:raweisz@nd.gov)

### Biological Control:

As always, if you have any questions regarding biocontrol, feel free to contact John Mortenson at 701-226-8804 or [jmortenson@nd.gov](mailto:jmortenson@nd.gov)



Reds Fixit Shop LLC is offering a Spring Sale on the Elite Datalogger \$2500.00 each while the supply lasts. Please contact Kathy Thomas at 406-252-1400 or email [Redsfixit3@redsfixit.com](mailto:Redsfixit3@redsfixit.com) to place your order. We sure missed not seeing everyone this year at the Association Meeting.

Thanks and have a safe spray season.



## UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

**Board of Director Meetings : March 26, 2024 @ 10:00 am CT @ Bismarck Hotel**

**EPA Signature Letter Deadline: April 5th, 2024**

**Sprayer Schools 2024: May 29th Carrington, May 30th Minot, May 31st Dickinson**

**Northern Plains Weed Symposium: August 20th-22nd 2024@ Washburn 4-H Camp**

**2025 Annual Conference February 3rd –6th 2025**

Thank you to all for  
another successful  
Annual Conference

# Thank you to all to all of our Sponsors/Vendors

## **Silver Level**

Basin Electric

Grant County Weed Board

Cass County Weed Board

Farmers Union Oil Co. – Beulah

Frontier Precision Inc.

Reds Fixit/Montana Plastics

ND Department of Ag.

## **Gold Level**

Union Bank – Hazen

Farm Credit Services

Van Diest Supply

Spotters Aerial

Ag Terra

Warne Chemical

Nichino America

Thank you to all to all of  
our Sponsors/Vendors

**Platinum Level**

Dakota Helicopter

**Diamond Level**

SpraySync

Novus Ag

Envu

Corteva

Nutrien Solutions



## Lifetime Achievement Award

### Randy Melhoff became the 14th Recipient of this Award

Before applying for the secretary position, Randy was the NDSU Extension Agent and the county weed officer in Eddy County, living in New Rockford. Randy was one of several candidates that applied for the position in 1995. The other applicants went on to achieve great success in our state.

A graduate from NDSU, and being an extension agent, greatly impacted our association. Because of his other job, Randy broadened our involvement with NDSU. When we were looking at funding, Randy persuaded us to go in front of SBARE to ask for their support. In turn we were asked by NDSU to appear in front of SBARE to ask for support for NDSU for research for noxious weeds.

Because of Randy's persuasion, the association became a voting member of the ND AG Coalition. That gave the association a voice in some key agriculture issues, including twice being on the selection committee to select finalists for the vice president of Agriculture at NDSU.

Randy became secretary when our association implemented new bylaws, which created an elected executive board and only 5 area directors. Ensuring the success of our association took strong leadership from our secretary, and we were not disappointed.

Under his leadership, the association began having vendor booths at various trade shows, a practice that continues today.



Pictured Above ( Randy Melhoff & Cliff Ferebee)



Pictured Above ( Stan Wolf & Cliff Ferebee)

## Outgoing Gavel Award

2023 President Stan Wolf was given the Outgoing Gavel Award by 2024 President Cliff Ferebee during the 2024 Annual Conference. Stan is currently the Weed Officer in Cass County. He served as the Association's 34th President in 2023. Under his guidance the Association began the process of asking EPA for the labeling of TruRange Herbicide. Stan also nudged the association to become more active with other ag groups in the state, including having booths at their events.

## Weed Warrior Award

Brad Seifert from Mercer County became the 13th recipient of this award. It goes to a person active in weed control, and nominated to receive the award those who work closely with the nominee. Brad has been the weed officer in Mercer County for many years. Brad does not know the phrase, take the weekend off! Brad can be seen many weekends spraying roadsides. He is respected among fellow employees as well as landowners in his county.



Pictured Above ( Brad Seifert & Cliff Ferebee)

## Lifetime Achievement Award

Ken Erass became the 13th Recipient of this Award



Pictured Above ( Ken Erass & Jim Hennessy)

Ken started as a County Extension agent in Renville County in 1975 and worked with producers fighting leafy spurge, he would also help with noxious weed control in other counties as he made his way around the state with stops in Mountrail for about 15 years working as county agent and the County weed board. Then Ken moved onto Slope County and also McHenry County before starting work for the North Dakota Department of Agriculture in 1998 as a Noxious Weed specialist for 9 years and sitting on the Board of Directors of the NDWCA as an advisor.

While with NDDA, Ken was instrumental in managing the fight with Yellow Starthistle, and spent countless hours looking for Saltcedar along rivers and lakes.

During Ken's tenure, the TAG grant was started and the Commissioners forum began.

Ken in recent years also worked with the Ward County Extension office as Horticulturalist for 21/2 years while also working with Ward County and their weed Board. Ken's love of nature and the outdoors has always been near and dear to him and maintaining a strong natural resource system Ken always had devoted substantial time to the 4-H youth in many counties and shared with them his love of nature and rangeland.

The next two pages are the EPA Letter on true range Herbicide that your Association will be sending to EPA in Washington. With the help of our congressional delegation.

Deadline to submit signature page back to us is April 5th, 2024. The page of signatures can be sent to either Stan Wolf or Merlin Leithold. Several of our neighbor states are taking similar action.



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 approval

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. This indicates that the current slate of herbicides is not up to the task for long term control of Leafy spurge.

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 Wolf**  
**NDWCA 2023 President**  
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**Merlin Leithold**  
**Executive Secretary**  
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 [ndwca@westriv.com](mailto:ndwca@westriv.com)



# North Dakota Weed Control Association

NDWCA

The North Dakota Weed Control Association and the undersigned believe that we need additional tools to combat Leafy Spurge. We strongly encourage the EPA to approve the TruRange Herbicide (aminocyclopyrachlor) label request for the control of Leafy spurge and other invasive and noxious weeds within grazed sites in rangeland and grazed pastures.

Respectfully Signed,

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North Dakota Weed Control Association

President

Additional Signatures / Organizations / Landowners / Agencies

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**Stan Wolf**  
**NDWCA 2023 President**  
 (701)730-6786  
 [wolfs@casscountynd.gov](mailto:wolfs@casscountynd.gov)

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