

# North Dakota Weed Control Association Newsletter

March 2025  
Volume 35, Issue 1

Newsletter Publishing  
Months March, June,  
October & November



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## President's Report

Greetings everyone

February is gone and spring is around the corner. I want to say a big thank you for the great conference this year. Well attended, good speakers, great topics. The meals and entertainment was great as usual. Thanks to all the sponsors and vendors you are greatly appreciated. Like I said spring is around the corner and in our area very dry. Which means weeds.

Thank you and be visiting with you soon.

Best regards

Jim Bahm  
NDWCA President  
[jrbahm@gmail.com](mailto:jrbahm@gmail.com)

# AREA 1

Ramsey County has found a new Spray operator and prospective truck driver for this season

Roger Gunderson

Area I Director

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



# AREA 2

Hope everyone had a good winter. Spring is right around the corner. I know I am ready to get out of the office and start getting equipment ready. I am hoping for a nice spring and get a lot of these minor projects done before the leafy spurge really gets going. I am optimistic for a great summer with weather. We are having the annual Winter show going on as I am typing this up. I am hoping for a good crowd but as the years go on this event has turned from an ag show to a craft show. I hope everyone has a nice and long spring and they can get everything ready before summer. And most importantly I hope everyone stays safe!

Jamen Windish

Area II Director

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



# AREA 3

Nothing to Report for Area 3.

Tom Leo

Area 3 Director

[TomL@co.williams.nd.us](mailto:TomL@co.williams.nd.us)



## AREA 4

My name is CJ Pearce, I have been the weed control officer for Emmons County for a decade, and Control officer for Logan County for 2 years. I, like most officers, am the contact point for producers in the counties when having issues with noxious weeds on their properties, or handling complaints in the counties. We do all the right of way spraying, as well as private spraying for landowners in Emmons County to which we use surplus military vehicles HMMWV's (Humvees). With my job comes the wearing of many hats, I am the contact person, electrician, plumber, mechanic and sprayer. I have a few kids; one is completing his second year in college and the rest are all in high school for the coming year. For hobbies, I enjoy making art, music, reading and playing games (cards, board games or video games).



CJ Pearce

Area IV Director

[worldofcraft@live.com](mailto:worldofcraft@live.com)

## AREA 5

I hope everyone is starting to gear up for the upcoming season. Putting bids out for herbicide, looking for seasonal help and planning this year's projects. Remember Spring Sprayer schools in May starting in Dickinson on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Think RAIN, and Please be CAREFUL this spraying season!



Joan Lorge

Area V Director

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# EDUCATION REPORT

Nothing To Report

Education Co Chairman Derrill Fick & Tom Leo

# SECRETARY REPORT

Greetings.

First of all, thank you to everyone who attended our annual conference this past February in Bismarck. Thank you to our vendors and definitely a thank you to our sponsors. When we attend a conference we sometimes take little things for granted. A lot of planning takes place to put on a annual conference. Your board of directors will start that process next week. If anyone has suggestions let me or any board member know. I had several suggestions for entertainment which I am pursuing. March is on the back half, before you know it spraying will begin. Thank you again.

Merlin Leithold

NDWCA Executive Secretary



# NDWCA INDUSTRY REPORT

As we move into the 2025 year and look forward to the 2025 season we have seen just a few changes.

As 2024 progressed it seemed that most of the manufacturers had caught up with supply demands, product time getting to the distributors has decreased, making supply better and delivery time to the end users better in the later part of the 2024 season “BUT” as 2024 progressed some of the supply regressed and supplies have gotten short on some products going into 2025 again.

## **\*2,4-D products**

2,4-D products went from a down swing in early 2024 to now an upswing starting in late 2024 and continuing on into 2025.

These changes are due to **tariffs** that are being applied to offshore products coming into the U.S., many 2,4-D products are either made offshore or many components need to make them are made offshore and, that is effecting pricing, pricing is also increasing due to the demand of certain 2,4-D products.

Rumor is, it is expected to trend throughout the rest of this year, increases on 2,4-D amine products is up \$6.00 per gallon plus from the manufacturers, ester products have followed this same trend, U.S. manufacturers are stating higher demands on products produced in the U.S and it's favored nation suppliers, offshore products from China, India and some others are expected to have higher tariffs put on them which will in turn, drive up the costs of those products as well.

Some of this has stemmed from some lawsuits filed by U.S. companies on the dumping of excess products onto the U.S. markets, some are also saying this is attributed to larger demand of these products as some users, are replacing the use of dicamba products in fallow and set aside acres with 2,4-D products, (trying to reduce dicamba complaint issues).

**\*CORTEVA** – Has announced it's 2024/2025 pricing structure on its products, so far it does look like CORTEVA is basically holding pricing on many of their products at the 2024 level or below for 2025.

**HighNoon Herbicide** has remained at \$94.00 per gallon in 1's and 2.5's and \$91.50 per gallon in 250-gallon totes.

**SPECAIL NOTE:** If you are looking at what products cost you per acre, you might consider using **HighNoon Herbicide** in place of your **Milestone Herbicide** application sites, HighNoon Herbicide applied at 20 ounces per acre (\$14.80 acre) will coast you about \$1.00 per acre less than Milestone Herbicide applied at 7 ounces per acre (\$15.89 acre), this is equivalent rates of aminopyralid applied and HighNoon will gain you a broader spectrum of weed control.

**Milestone Herbicide** has remained at \$290.00 per gallon in 2.5's and \$72.50 per quart,

**Freelexx Herbicide** has remained at \$32.75 per gallon in all sizes.

**Transline Herbicide** has taken a price decrease of about \$30.00 per gallon and **Vista XTR Herbicide** has also taken a price decrease of about \$25.00 per gallon at this time, **Vastlan Herbicide** also took a slight drop down to \$102.00 per gallon, \$3.00 per gallon decrease.

**Tordon 22K Herbicide** – looks like it will stay flat on government pricing and programs for 2025.

**Grazon PD3 Herbicide** – Looks like there would be no increases from 2024 to 2025.

Slight increase on

**Piper EZ Herbicide** up slightly to \$332.00 per gallon (up \$4.00 per gallon, **Opensight Herbicide** up to \$100.00 per pound, up \$2.00 lb.

**Curtail Herbicide** - has been discontinued and no longer will available from any company, consider using **HighNoon Herbicide as a replacement** or possibly even **E-2 Herbicide** as a replacement for your Curtail Herbicide you have used in your cost share programs in the past.

# NDWCA INDUSTRY REPORT CONTINUED

## \*ENVU

ENVU – at this time there has not been any price increases on **Esplanade 200 SC Herbicide** and **Plainview SC Herbicide** for 2025.

**Method 240 SL Herbicide** did take about a 2% increase February 1, 2025 – pricing is now \$364.80 per gallon in 2.5-gallon containers.

**Rejuvra Herbicide** pricing has remained the same at this time from 2024 for 2025.

Current pricing on **Rejuvra is \$1,135.36 per gallon in 2.5-gallon containers and \$346.24 per quart in quart containers**, excellent product for Ventenata, Medusahead and Cheatgrass control in range and pasture sites.

Other products such as **Escort XP, Telar XP, Oust XP and Oust Extra** at this time looks like they may remain flat in pricing for 2025.

**TruRange Herbicide Update** – EPA has approved the label, it has gone through the final comment period, and they received one comment which they (EPA) has to address before they can release the final label, ENVU is anticipating product available for 2025 applications, product availability will also depend upon how quickly any of the State Agriculture Departments approve the label/product for use within their state as well.

**From Justin Hossfeld, National Sales Manager, Range and Pasture:**

**The TruRange label completion has slowed somewhat due to the change in administrations and what feels like posturing by the EPA in their decision to expose the label to more scrutiny than should be required because ACP is not a new active and has been in adjacent spaces and aerially applied in R&P spaces in the Southwest.**

**We (ENVU) have insisted on and expect a meeting soon with EPA leadership to lobby for them to follow through what they committed to. I do not have a good estimate for a timeline, but it will likely slow things by at least 45 to 60 days.**

**It's very disappointing and frustrating and I apologize for the delay,**

Justin

**Justin Hossfeld**

National Sales Manager - Range & Pasture



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This product would be for use for control of noxious and general broadleaf weed control on grazed sites, rangeland, or permanent pasture, will have **(NO haying labeling)** and will most likely come as a restricted use product, will be a very good product for Leafy Spurge and Canada Thistle control and possible brush in your permanent pastures and rangeland sites.

**\*NuFarm** – has started to send out updated pricing, much of their pricing will be based upon what happens in the phenoxy markets coming up, We may see drastic price increases on many of their products containing 2,4-Ds over the next few months, NuFarm is basic in 2,4-D type products so we may see price changes quickly over the next few months.

NuFarm does make **E-2 Herbicide** which could possibly be a decent replacement for Curtail Herbicide, has very good non-crop labeling, CRP, Farmsteads, Pasture and Rangelands, and Right-A-Ways labeling.

Current pricing on E-2 Herbicide is \$61.25 per gallon (up slightly from earlier this year) but still, puts it right in where the Curtail pricing was, use rates 3 to 4 pints per acre rates will get most broadleaf weeds.

# NDWCA INDUSTRY REPORT CONTINUED

## **\*NACHINO America – Venue Herbicide Updates.**

**There is some supply of Venue Herbicide available for the 2025 season, once out everything will be switched over to Pimlico**, Pimlico will be the 2x strength product and use rates will be lower than the Venue product.

**Venue Herbicide is still \$145.00 per quart while supplies last, pricing will change once the Pimlico Herbicide is available (again, stronger version of Venue Herbicide, lower use rates).**

**\*ALLIGARE** - Alligare has started to put out their programs for 2025, they do manufacturer **Whetstone Herbicide**, it might be something to look at.

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 price set by Alligare, like the Milestone Herbicide.

### **Whetstone Herbicide**

\$265.00 per gallon in 2.5 gal. cont.

\$67.50 per quart in 1-quart containers

**\*Glyphosate** products – pricing has seemed to be stable for now, large price drops earlier in 2024, pricing dropped by as much as one half in most cases and up to 2/3 in some cases from the 2022/ 2023 pricing of glyphosate products, this includes all brands including Bayer’s branded Roundup products, 2025 pricing has been stable so far.

**\*Adjuvants/ Surfactants/Drift Control Products** – We have seen some slight price increases on some products, these have been in the 2% to 3 % ranges or less, most of these price changes on these normally come about the first of each year.

Again, there were some spot outages on some products in early 2024, as 2024 progressed these got better but as 2025 starts, we are seeing some spot outages again, you will still want to make sure to let your distributors of your products, your equipment suppliers, your parts suppliers and any other supplier, know in advance of your possible needs so they can be prepared to make sure, they have what you need, when needed.

Respectfully Submitted

William “Bill” Walker

NDWCA Industry Representative

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# GOVERNMENT REPORT

## Summary of 2024 Noxious Weed Control efforts on US Fish and Wildlife Service Lands

### Eastern North Dakota WMD Complex

**Devils Lake WMD** collected leafy spurge beetles at a local collection site and also purchased 67,200 beetles that were distributed across 10 sites in the district in 2024. We've also coordinated with local weed boards to release gall fly and stem-mining weevils on Waterfowl Production Areas to control Canada Thistle and have found some early success. We continued to target scattered Russian olive trees as well as Chinese Elm invasions at Kellys Slough NWR using the Diamond™ disc mulcher. This equipment continues to work well, and we are finding good long term control of these species without chemically treating the stump. We also utilized AmeriCorps Volunteers to cut, and stump treat Russian Olive trees at Kellys Slough National Wildlife Refuge.

Yellow toadflax patches continue to be monitored with one additional site discovered in 2024. Sites were treated with hand pulling. One patch has become troublesome and will be treated with chemical in 2025. The district continues to coordinate with local weed boards and target troublesome noxious weed areas with mechanical control and decrease the acreage treated by chemicals. We are finding the coordination and communication with local representatives to be an effective means to keep plant diversity at a high level in our grassland habitats.

**Chase Lake WMD (includes Arrowwood)** - Chase Lake Wetland Management District partnered with the Student Conservation Association in 2024 to hire two interns for the summer. The SCA crew continued the Chase Lake WMD Invasives project surveying district fee title lands, mapping infestations, and subsequently treating newly found infestation acres with biological control. Nearly 300,000 bio control agents were released across the district.

Additionally, other FWS staff treated 327 acres of mapped infestations chemically.

**Valley City WMD** - Limited weed mapping activities have occurred since 2015 due to a lack of staffing. However, this year the district hired one SCA intern who assisted in locating and mapping noxious weeds. She surveyed 8 WPAs, covering approximately 2,500 acres, and mapped 110 acres of noxious weeds. The most common weed identified was leafy spurge. During this process, new patches of both leafy spurge and yellow toadflax were discovered.

To help control the spread of leafy spurge, the district released 80,000 leafy spurge beetles at 10 high-priority sites. In addition to biological control efforts, the district mechanically treated 113 acres for noxious weeds and woody species. One of the WPAs is hayed every other year to manage the spread of elm saplings from the neighboring tree belt. This year, a forestry cutter was used to remove larger elms that had grown too large to be managed by mowing, approximately 5 acres were treated using this method.

**Tewaukon NWR/WMD** - Tewaukon staff treated a total of 657 acres of invasive species on the Refuge and on WPAs in 2024. This included mowing areas infested by phragmites to experiment with using flooding to control densely covered areas, mowing bull thistle and musk thistle in prairie reconstructions, and releasing spurge beetles on 60 sites across the Refuge and District.

In addition to the work done by staff, Tewaukon also brought in a Conservation Corp crew from Minnesota. The purpose of their visits was to enhance tallgrass prairie habitats within Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge and Wetland Management District lands. Conservation Corps crew members accomplished this through invasive plant management and tree removal along Tewaukon's Auto Tour Route and on Aaser WPA. Crew members targeted Russian olive trees using the cut-stump herbicide treatment method and was able to address 40 unique sites along the Auto Tour Route as well as cutting down and treating densely invaded Russian olive trees on the Aaser WPA, improving nearly 100 acres of tallgrass prairie that had an average of 30% infestation rate of Russian olive trees across the treated area on Aaser WPA.



## Northwest ND Complex

**J Clark Salyer & Upper Souris NWR** hired three ACE interns that helped locate, map and treat noxious weeds including leafy spurge, yellow toadflax and Canada thistle. A total of 932 acres were chemically treated and 695 acres were biologically treated. Aspen mulching was a high priority at J. Clark NWR where crews used heavy equipment to mechanically treat 587 acres in 2024.

**Des Lacs NWR & Lostwood WMD** spray crews chemically treated 86 acres of leafy spurge, Canada thistle and wormwood on forty different sites on the refuge and district. Fall treatments were limited due to drought conditions. Yellow Toadflax and Common Tansy continue to be a problem with new patches being discovered on a regular basis on the refuge and district.

**Crosby WMD** chemically treated a total of 18 acres of weeds this year. Leafy spurge, baby's breath and Canada thistle continue to be the dominant invasive species throughout the district. Yellow toadflax, spotted knapweed and common tansy are limited to small patches on a couple WPAs so far. Staff noticed decreases in baby's breath and tansy where it was treated the previous year. Cut-stump treatment applied last year on Russian olives was less effective than desired. Staff plans to try a different chemical mix this coming year to prevent re-sprouts.

**Lostwood NWR** hired one ACE intern that helped treat 430 acres of noxious weeds and surveyed over 4100 acres. We anticipated a spring prescribed burn would promote noxious weed growth and were prepared for EDRR. As anticipated, new patches were located, mapped and treated. We've had great results in previous years with a single Milestone treatment post-burn and are optimistic for positive results in FY25.

## Central ND Complex

**Long Lake NWR** utilized 2 seasonal staff to complete our strike team efforts using chemical, mechanical and biological treatment methods. The staff targeted leafy spurge, wormwood, and invasive tree species across the complex. They used UTV mounted sprayers to apply herbicide to 88 acres of leafy spurge and wormwood, across 215 sites. They also completed basal bark treatment of invasive tree species across 11.3 acres at 7 sites, continuing our work to control the invasion of Siberian elms at Slade NWR and adding a few new sites in the WMD. Invasive Eastern red cedar seedlings were removed from 30 acres of Long Lake NWR using mechanical methods. Many of the source trees were also removed. The staff also released over 100,000 leafy spurge beetles, across 850 acres at 4 sites. These releases were mostly at new sites, in an effort to expand their footprint in our district. We also rechecked the location of our purple loosestrife EDRR and found no plants. We will continue to monitor the area. Much of this work would not have been completed without the Strike Team funds to hire seasonals and purchase chemical and other equipment.

**Audubon NWR & WMD** seasonal field technicians, along with Volunteers from a local Pheasants Forever Chapter, spent a majority of the summer season mechanically treating Russian Olive and Eastern Red Cedar trees. Hundreds of hours were logged shearing trees and then chemically treating the stumps. These activities occurred around the refuge headquarters and uplands, on several dikes and water control structures, and within the uplands of several WPA's within McLean and Sheridan Counties. When weather conditions allowed, patches of Canada Thistle on refuge and district uplands were treated with Milestone. A considerable effort was also made to pick Black Henbane plants from several dikes and water control structures on the refuge.

**Kulm WMD** staff and 3 seasonal laborers or technicians completed strike team efforts this year. Removal of scattered trees occurred during the winter months. Leafy spurge was targeted for treatment according to our annual planning and response to complaints. The early rains this year brought a flush of wormwood and Canada thistle, and a considerable amount of time was spent mechanically treating those units with mowing in the summer months. Follow up fall chemical applications were used on acreages that had suitable regrowth of the target pest. Work continues on a long-term tree removal project where rows were removed 10 years ago. Seedlings from those shelterbelts were treated on 41 acres with UTV and handheld basal bark chemical applications. Our single spotted knapweed site was hand-pulled to treat this year. Siberian elm is the greatest woody invasive threat in the Kulm district. Other species include Russian olive, cottonwood, and a few Eastern red cedars. Passive monitoring of flea beetles occurred when on sites, but an attempt to formally monitor our recent release sites will be attempted again next year. Weed complaints and abundance tend to ebb and flow, but this year was higher than average for Canada thistle, especially.

## Summary of 2024 Noxious Weed Control efforts on ND Game and Fish Department lands

Chemically Treated 2,914.7 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 12 different Wildlife Management Areas (WMA).

Worked with Department of AG and released Red Headed Leafy Spurge Borers (Oberea) on three WMAs again in 2025. Continued efforts to monitor and treat saltcedar along the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers in the NW corner of the state, as well as along the Missouri south of Bismarck.

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 and mowed several hundred acres addressing weed and invasive species concerns.

## Summary of 2024 Noxious weed control efforts on US Army Corps of Engineers Lands

Treated 2000 acres with helicopter sprayer for mostly Canada thistle on Lake Sakakawea.

Surveyed and treated 5898 acres of federal property at the Garrison project with ATV sprayers.

Surveyed and treated 1200 acres of federal property at Bowman project with ATV sprayers.

Surveyed and treated 250 acres of federal property at Pipestem project with ATV sprayers.

We have purchased a spraying drone that will be implemented into our control processes in 2025.

Treated 154 acres of Leafy Spurge and 3.5 acres of Canada Thistle on Oahe Project.

## Summary of 2024 Noxious weed control efforts on ND Department of Trust Lands

In 2024, NDDTL documented applications from 60 producers who reported noxious weed and pest control activities impacting just over 20,500 acres on 134 tracts thru a combination of spot-spraying, patch-spraying, & broadcast applications. On average, each producer who applied for cost-share received \$463 per tract. Primary weed species targeted thru applications included Leafy Spurge, Canada Thistle, Absinth Wormwood, and Houndstongue. This is current as of January 7<sup>th</sup> 2025 with a few applications still coming in.

## Summary of 2024 Noxious weed control efforts on ND Forest Service Lands

The North Dakota Forest Service manages approximately 14,000 acres. Noxious weed control efforts are focused on the roughly 2,200 acres of grasslands as the forested portions naturally suppress the spread of North Dakota designated noxious weeds. Approximately 160 acres of leafy spurge was sprayed in the fall using Plateau and Emulate. This has shown to provide effective control for a few years while maintaining grassland diversity as spraying occurs after most forbes are dormant. In July, spurge beetles were collected and deployed to high density infestations with poor accessibility in Turtle Mountain State Forest. Spotted knapweed has been found near Hahn's Bay recreation area and is inspected and hand-pulled throughout the summer. The occasional Absinthe Wormwood has been identified throughout other State Forest locations and those sites are inspected and hand-pulled as well.



Levi Jacobson

Government Representative

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# Conference Photos





## Noxious Weeds Update from North Dakota Department of Agriculture

Samantha McGrath

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

### **LAP and TAG Update:**

We were able to take unspent funds in the LAP and reallocate them for counties. Please look out for these new Notice of Grant Awards coming in email soon. These awards are active from March 10 until June 30, 2025. We'd really like to see the majority of these funds spent to support the reallocation for future funding. Just a reminder TAG Funds expire June 30, 2025. Receipts must be dated between January—June 2025.

### **USFS Funding:**

US Forest Service Funding is available; reach out for a funding report 50/50 cost-share available, must meet certain criteria (usually used in 10% forested or riparian areas), and applications accepted throughout the year based on funds. Please reach out for an application or if you have any questions.

### **Biocontrol Update**

Any questions or ideas around biocontrol feel free to reach out to John at 701-226-8804.

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



## UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

Board of Director Meetings : March 25, 2025 @ 10:00 am CT @  
Bismarck Hotel @ Bismarck

Sprayer School May 27, 2025 @ Dickinson @ 8:30 am MDT

May 28, 2025 @ Minot @ 8:30 am CDT

May 29, 2025 @ Carrington @ 8:30 am CDT

2026 Annual Conference January 5-8 2026 @ Bismarck Hotel  
@ Bismarck

Thank you to all for  
another successful  
Annual Conference

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