

# North Dakota Weed Control Association Newsletter



October 2025  
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October & November

## 2025 Board of Directors

President: Jim Bahm

(701) 471-9423

1st VP: Josh Short

(701) 370-8927

2nd VP: Travis Jepson

(701) 590-4306

Area I: Roger Gunderson

(701) 662-7330

Area II: Jamen Windish

(701) 845-0240

Area III: Tom Leo

(701) 609-0615

Area IV: CJ Pearce

(701) 329-9090

Area V: Joan Lorge

(701) 523-6675

Industry: Bill Walker

(605) 642-3800

Gov: Levi Jacobson

(701) 391-9782

NDDA: Samantha McGrath

(701) 328-2250

Past Pres. Cliff Ferebee

(701) 590-3401

Executive Secretary: Merlin  
Leithold

(701) 527-6544

## President's Report

Hello to everyone

Summer is over (as the calendar goes). Now we are in October. Time to winterize and put equipment away. Some of us are looking at next year planning. But now lets relax, take a break. Enjoy the fall weather watch a football game or other fall activities (hunting & fishing). Pheasants are plentiful.

So back to business, we have upcoming district meetings. I encourage everyone to attend THEIR!! meeting from weed officer to county weed board members. We need participation from everyone. There are elections, discussions on area meetings, gravel pits, resolutions, by-laws and the upcoming Annual meeting.

Please come and attend. Bring your thoughts and issues for a good discussion.

Respectfully

Jim Bahm

NDWCA President

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

Website: <https://ndweeds.com/> Email: [ndwca@westriv.com](mailto:ndwca@westriv.com)

# Western Invasive Weed Short Course

The NDWCA board of directors is taking applications for someone to attend the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Western Invasive Weed Short Course, which will be held in Loveland, Colorado, April 20-23 at the Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch. The board will pay \$1250 for 1 voting member to attend. This does not cover the entire costs; it just helps defray some of the expenses. Registration is \$850. So, the NDWCA would cover the cost of the registration, and some towards mileage, meals and lodging. The \$850 covers registration, 3 lunches and 3 dinners and daily refreshment breaks.

You can go online to <http://www.mountainwestpest.com/Past Courses> for more information.

You can also contact Merlin for more information.

Member boards may send more than 1 applicant, but we will only pay \$1250 in total costs, whether how many attend.

Applications must be received by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Either by e mail or by USPS. Your application must include name, position held in your respective city or county, years at the position, and reason why you want to attend.

## AREA 1

Ramsey County had a rough early spray season. Weather, Personnel issues, equipment issues. But late July, August, early September have been good to us. Have been catching up.

Roger Gunderson

Area I Director

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



## AREA 2

No Report Submitted

Jamen Windish

Area II Director

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



## AREA 3

Still waiting on Fall around here. This has been, to say the least, a different kind of season in Williams County. All is not lost as we have had some pretty decent weather for spraying. Staffing issues, technology issues and some alternative rain showers have made for a few difficult challenges to work through. I have been fielding some concerns from residents concerning un-washed oil field equipment being transported in and out of the County, and I agree with them. This can be a very difficult problem to address and I do not have a good answer. We are working on future plans for gravel hauling and development permits. We are on track to get the vast majority of our County/Township roads covered. Cost share has been popular and many residents are using Venue and really liking it. I had the opportunity in late spring to visit some of the local high school VO-AG classrooms and visit with them about what we do. These visits were well received. It's really hard to cuss the rain, so I won't, but we need a couple weeks yet to finish harvest around here. I'm excited about the fact that we are not in a draught stage right now!

Mountrail County Update-The number 1 issue in the county right now is the spread of weeds from aggregate. Well pads are spreading Absinth wormwood from the pads and encroaching onto the pasture lands and crop lands. Cheap gravel is cheap gravel! When we deal with poor contractors who are spreading dirty gravel, we end up cleaning up their mess. Spurge has been a tough nut to crack this year. Its getting to the point that we are losing ground with the spurge. Tordon is less effective and we don't have a label on the Method / TruRange yet. Leafy spurge had a second wave in July after the rains and we saw flushes come late in the season. A wormwood is getting to be more of a problem with the soil disturbance issue in the oilfield. In addition there are the Western Dakota counties working on a gravel program to get a lot of these gravel pits cleaned up and taking care of their weed issues. More to come in the near future! Hounds Tongue is really coming on hard this fall, spring inspections didn't yield a lot of concern. Fall will be busy trying to get it sprayed before fall freeze up.

Ward County -We hired one contractor and 2 employees along with myself doing the spraying. Hired a helicopter contractor to spray our gravel pits and on private land. On the private land we used Tordon at 32oz per acre with High Noon at 16 oz. per acre and in the gravel pits we used Method. When we were finished we covered just about 1,700 acres of pasture and gravel pits. Finding many smaller patches of Yellow Toadflax around the county. Hitting these patches with the Tordon/High Noon mix or using Method where possible. Sprayed for Purple Loosestrife along the Souris River again. Still finding plants scattered outside of city where drainages go to river. Spotted Knapweed is still giving us trouble in the same areas. Purchased, through the NDDA Biological Grant, weevils for the control of Spotted Knapweed, we have been spraying Leafy Spurge, Canada Thistle and Wormwood within the city of Minot with more complaints because of developers not controlling their weeds.

Tom Leo  
Area 3 Director  
[TomL@co.williams.nd.us](mailto:TomL@co.williams.nd.us)



## AREA 4

**Emmons/Logan County:** We had a good spraying season so far this year, with very little interruptions due to weather. Our crews managed to cover all our DOT contracted roads along with McIntosh county faster then last year with the addition of a new pickup and sprayer to cover more ground in less time. Allowing us to spend more time on some areas that do not get traveled as frequently and scouting. Private spraying we still are getting in with the warmer temps this fall, as pasture work was slower this year do to the rain making them wetter or creeks impassable. Though we hope to finish a couple more of the larger ones we have in Emmons county before the end of the season. Water Hemlock was talked about in my counties with all the moisture that both counties had, in Emmons, it is in the process of getting put on the county weed list, to help with cost sharing for land owners wanting to control it. We upgraded to SpraySync for our data logging in our road sprayers this year, and it has been nice to be able to see where the crews are working in real time.

CJ Pearce  
Area IV Director  
[worldofcjcraft@live.com](mailto:worldofcjcraft@live.com)



## AREA 5

From early drought to above normal precipitation. No weeds growing to weeds growing in places we haven't seen in a while. Seemed to keep us busy during this year's summer season. Trying to control the weeds.

Bill Walker and Jarrod Hossfeld had a Ventenata tour in the Cave Hills area of Harding County SD, this August. It was attended by Weed Control Officers from across the state. The Harding County Weed and Pest Officer Misty showed us her control efforts. So far, we have not found Ventenata in the state. We are continuing to monitor areas that we think it may be found.

The Area 5 meeting will take place on Thursday October 23<sup>rd</sup> in Dickinson at the Extension Office at 3:00 PM MT time. Please note the PLACE, DATE and Time CHANGE.

Happy Fall spraying! Please Stay Safe!

Joan Lorge  
Area V Director  
[jolorge@nd.gov](mailto:jolorge@nd.gov)



# EDUCATION REPORT

Happy Fall everyone!

Derrill has sent out information again for the poster contest. This program has been very successful around the state and Derrill makes it more fun by showing up at the winning school to present awards and t-shirts. I have seen it personally and I can tell you, the school and students get VERY excited for the presentation! What an exceptional job he does, THANK YOU Derrill!! If you have a school in mind that you think should participate, reach out to Derrill or myself and we will be sure to get the information to you or the school.

Many of you travel to various shows each year and hear from hundreds of presenters. If there is a presentation or topic that you feel the association could benefit from, PLEASE let us know so that we can see if we can include it in one of our functions. It can be very challenging to find current, relevant, or even just more interesting topics to be presented for the association. Any help you can give would be greatly appreciated.

We will start planning in earnest soon for the 2026 summer weed symposium, once again, if you have ANY suggestions for educational topics please let us know. This event really is a great opportunity to help revitalize you in the middle of your season and also possibly increase your knowledge in the industry. Stay tuned for more information as next summer approaches.

Education Co Chairman Derrill Fick & Tom Leo

## SECRETARY REPORT

Greetings.

Hope everyone's spray season went well. Some of you are still spraying, including myself. Well, I'm about to call it a year. Trying to stay ahead of the Canada thistle, and new Leafy spurge growth. Second time around gets old after a couple days.

The newsletter this time is jam-packed with area meeting news and schedules, and with the upcoming conference in January. I do not have a registration form ready yet, as I have been waiting for the hotel to give me their updated meal prices. I will have forms available at the area meetings for you to pick up.

Area meetings need to be attended. Everyone wanted them to continue, so let's not disappoint each other, and fill the meeting rooms each morning. Also, don't forget to do a county or city report. PLEASE, bring a copy along for me, as it's hard to take minutes when you start giving various gallons, etc. You can also email them to me. They become a part of the minutes, giving everyone a chance to understand what each other is doing during the season.

In the newsletter, I have included the Weed Warrior Award Form. Please copy it and nominate someone worthy of this award. I'm sure there is someone that each of you know that would be worthy. Also, the Lifetime Achievement Award Form is also in this newsletter. Both forms have the requirements on them for someone to be nominated.

I will be at all area meetings, and as always, I look forward to seeing many of you again, and I also look forward to seeing and meeting new faces as well.

Merlin Leithold

NDWCA Executive Secretary





# NDWCA INDUSTRY REPORT

While 2,4-D products, ester and amine formulations and most all products that contain 2,4-D products did take drastic price increases earlier this year, these now have seemed to stable off, while they have not decreased in pricing they have not increase over the past couple of months, earlier increases were blamed on tariffs and a law suit brought by a US company against off-shore 2,4-D products, the rumor is we might see some very slight price drops in the coming months, very slight.

Still expect to see your distributors/suppliers having pricing in the high teens to low \$20.00 plus for amines and 2,4-D esters (6 lb.) esters in the \$34.00 to \$38.00 ranges.

Glyphosate products are again showing a 4% to 6% increase on top of the earlier 10% to 12% increase since March 2025, these are not expected to drop soon and again, tariffs on the offshore tech and completed products are the major blame.

By the companies.

**ENVU** - Has no planned price increases at this time, they will normally take increases after the first of the new year (2026) if they do, Method 240 SL Herbicide may be the only product they have mentioned at this time that might get a price increase.

**CORTEVA** – Currently has not come forward with any new price increases since their May 29, 2025 increases, their intent was to possibly try and hold pricing at the June price increases for the 2025/2026 season, normally they have new pricing out by now to take effect October 1, 2025 and to date we have seen none so this might be where they are at, all pricing stated below is currently accurate as of June 16, 2025 for all stewardship products (manufacturer price set products).

All nonmanufacturer price set products did get the increase as of June 2, 2025, all manufacturer price set products will take the increases stated below on June 16, 2025, there will be no exceptions according to CORTEVA and your distributor/Supplier will have to follow the new stewardship pricing as of June 16, 2025.

**Milestone Herbicide** 2.5 gal. cont., \$325.00 per gallon, 1 quart cont., \$81.25 per quart (**non-government pricing**)

**Milestone Herbicide** 2.5 gal. cont., \$294.00 per gal., 1 quart cont., \$73.5 per quart (**Special government agency pricing**)

**Freelexx Herbicide** 2.5, 30 and 250 gal. cont., \$35.00 per gallon

**HighNoon Herbicide** 1 & 2.5 gal. cont., \$98.00 per gallon, 250 gal. tote, \$96.00 per gallon

**Opensight Herbicide** 1.25 and 10 lb. cont., \$105.50 per pound

**Piper EZ Herbicide** 2.5 gal. cont. \$351.00 per gallon

Other products such as Tordon 22K Herbicide up 3%, Grazon PD3 Herbicide up 4.1%, Grazon Next HL Herbicide up 4.2%, Transline Herbicide up 3.1%, Garlon 3A up 3.7%, Garlon 4 Ultra up 4.1%, Vista XRT up 3.4% and again, all other CORTEVA products have price increases.

**Nichino** – Has announced that they will launch Pimlico Herbicide for 2026, this will replace Venue Herbicide in our markets, it will have the non-crop labeling, Pimlico Herbicide will be a 2x strength product and use rates will be basically ½ the Venue use rates per acre, regular Venue Herbicide will be discontinued once out of stock and all product will be switched to Pimlico Herbicide, cost was not available at this time on the Pimlico Herbicide

**Alligare** – Took price increases on May 1, 2025 and this has not changed, they averaged 10% overall on all of their products that would include, Diuron products, Panoramic 2SL (generic Plateau), Whetstone, Alligare 2,4-D amine and Ester (higher than 10% increases), Imazapyr products, triclopyr products and picloram products.

**BASF** – Again, has currently had no price increases on their products, these would include Plateau Herbicide, Arsenal Herbicide and other Imazapyr products, Frequency, Detail and other products, BASF will normally do any price increases after the first of the new year (2026) if they do.

**NuFarm** – has been taking price increases on their products throughout the year (2025) and the larger increases have been on their 2,4-D's or products containing 2,4-D's, these started last fall with the bigger increases coming after January 1, 2025, Products like E-2 Herbicide is currently \$64.05 per gallon which is one of the bigger used products from them, AquaNeat Herbicide (aquatic labeled glyphosate) increased about 7% earlier and has now taken about another 8% increase, this is in line with other glyphosate products.

# NDWCA INDUSTRY REPORT CONTINUED

**Bayer** - Which is the major glyphosate supplier in the US and worldwide has actually only taken about a 4% increase so far on their products, this is the VM and Turf and Ornamental lines of their products, but this will follow through into the Ag markets as well

Many other companies such as **Albaugh** (large in glyphosate production), **Drexel Chemical Company**, **SePro** (large in aquatic products) all have averaged 2% to 10% across the board on all products they produce, and almost all other manufacturers, have all also taken price increases due to mostly packaging increased costs and still, tariff uncertainty at this time.

**Surfactants and adjuvant products** – We are now seeing and have been informed that these will increase from about 3% to as high as 7% on some of the specialty adjuvant products, in most cases the surfactants and water conditioners are showing only a 3% increase or less, these have been attributed to some slight material costs and packaging costs (bottles, caps, boxes, etc..)

Respectfully Submitted

William “Bill” Walker

NDWCA Industry Representative

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



## GOVERNMENT REPORT

Government Representative is currently  
open

## Area Meetings Scheduled for Later this Month

Mark your calendars, as the NDWCA Area Meetings are nearly here.

Area II will be held at the Barnes County Hwy Department Building on October 20<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00 am CDT. Counties in Area II are Barnes, Stutsman, Cass, LaMoure, Ransom, Richland, Dickey, Sargent, Richland, Griggs, Steele and Traill.

Area I will be held at the Ramsey County Courthouse in Devils Lake on October 21<sup>st</sup> starting at 9:00 am CDT. Counties and cities in Area I are Ramsey, Benson, Eddy, Wells, Foster, Nelson, Grand Forks, Walsh, Towner, Cavalier and Pembina and the cities of Grand Forks and Devils Lake.

Area III will be held at the Ward County Weed Control Building in Minot on October 22<sup>nd</sup> starting at 9:00 am CDT. Counties in Area III are Ward, McHenry, Pierce, Rolette, Bottineau, Renville, Burke, Mountrail, Williams and Divide.

Area IV will be held on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Morton County Hwy Department Building in Mandan starting at 9:00 am CDT. Counties and cities in Area IV are Morton, Emmons, Logan, McIntosh, Kidder, Burleigh, Sheridan, McLean, Oliver, Sioux, Grant, and the city of Bismarck.

Area V will be also held on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the Stark County Extension Building in Dickinson starting at 3:00 pm MDT. Counties in Area V are Stark, Hettinger, Adams, Bowman, Slope, Golden Valley, Billings, McKenzie, Dunn and Mercer.

Agenda items: County and City Reports. Please come and present a report from your county or city on how your season has gone. These are excellent learning tools for everyone. This gives you a chance to interact with others, ask questions, and most importantly, hear what others are doing, to better your local programs.

The ND Department of Agriculture will be at the meetings to not only give their updates, but to also field questions and concerns from you as well.

Here from various chemical company representatives on the latest in their industry.

Attendance: Last year at the area meetings, the question was asked whether to continue these meetings. Nearly all of you said yes, leave them as they are, except for Area V that asked that their meeting be moved to Thursday afternoon. As a county or city, talk amongst yourselves and make sure to have at least one member from your board attend the meeting and give a report. If your entire board wants to attend, we welcome that with open arms.

Elections: Areas II & III will be voting on their area director position. Areas II, III & IV are open positions for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Nominations can come from any area.

Other agenda items for all areas will include gravel pit weed control standards for all of North Dakota. Also, we are asking every county that sprays DOT highways, how they charge for the services to DOT. Should we set a uniform standard throughout the state?



2026 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference is set for January 5<sup>th</sup> through January 8<sup>th</sup> in Bismarck at the Bismarck Hotel.

January 5<sup>th</sup> your board of directors will kick off the week with a board meeting at 5:00 pm in the Governors Room at the hotel.

On January 6<sup>th</sup> the ND Department of Agriculture will have their 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Noxious Weed Forum. State law does require a representative from each county or city to attend. They will have a jam-packed slate of speakers, during which they will provide a free noon meal as well. Samantha McGrath, NDDA Noxious Weed Specialist, will provide a lot more details at the area meetings. After the weed forum concludes, the annual business meeting of your association commences. After racking our brains at the meeting conducting the affairs of the association so it can continue the path of bettering the noxious weed control efforts, kick back, and enjoy an evening of food, drinks and a live auction. Bid on your favorite item (whether you thought you would need it or not) and enjoy yourself. Also, bring an auction item to donate to the sale, remember the proceeds go to the education department for educating ourselves but mainly the youth in our great state. At the conclusion of the auction, try your luck at the cornhole tournament, and if you don't want to do the physical part with cornhole, have a seat at the table, and win some money at Texas Holdem.

Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, there will be breakfast, which you will see in the registration form, from 6:30 to 7:45. At 8 we will begin our morning session with a welcome, followed by vendor presentations. Your association takes pride in the fact that we are one of the only organizations that put our vendors on a pedestal. But they are a main cog in making our annual conference a success year after year. After a full slate of speakers, with a break in the middle, we will have our luncheon. Entertainment this year is a young family, the Open Cross Ranch Family. (See elsewhere in the newsletter about them)

The afternoon begins with speakers and a break, followed by our breakout sessions, concluding with a couple of speakers to wrap of the afternoon.

After a social at 6, we will have our annual banquet and awards presentations. Followed by this year's entertainment, Dueling Pianos. (See elsewhere for them as well)

Thursday morning it's up bright and early for another breakfast from 6:30 to 7:45. 8:00 brings more speakers with a break in the middle. We will conclude the session by 12, followed by the board of directors meeting to conclude the conference.

ND Weed Control Association  
6135 Hwy 49  
Elgin, ND 58533  
(701)527-6544(cell)  
ndwca@westriv.com

## Weed Warrior Award

Name of Applicant - \_\_\_\_\_

County/City/Industry/Government\_\_\_\_\_

Years actively involved in the weed control industry \_\_\_\_\_  
(Must be currently involved to be eligible)

Name of person/organization nominating above applicant\_\_\_\_\_

Summary of applicant's involvement in weed control\_\_\_\_\_

Deadline to submit the application is December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mail application to ND Weed Control Association, 6135 Hwy 49, Elgin, ND 58533  
Or e mail it to [ndwca@westriv.com](mailto:ndwca@westriv.com)

ND Weed Control Association  
6135 Hwy 49  
Elgin, ND 58533  
(701)527-6544(cell)  
ndwca@westriv.com

## Lifetime Achievement Award

Name of Applicant - \_\_\_\_\_

County/City/Industry/Government \_\_\_\_\_

Years actively involved in the weed control industry\_\_\_\_\_

(Must be currently retired from weed control to be eligible)

(Must have served on the NDWCA board of directors to be eligible for this award)

Name of person/organization nominating above applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Summary of applicant's involvement in weed control\_\_\_\_\_

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Deadline to submit application is December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mail application to ND Weed Control Association, 6135 Hwy 49, Elgin, ND 58533  
Or e mail it to [ndwca@westriv.com](mailto:ndwca@westriv.com)



## Noxious Weeds Update from North Dakota Department of Agriculture

Samantha McGrath

Phone: (701) 328-2250

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

LAP and TAG Notice of Grant Awards were sent out to county contacts at the beginning of August.

During the last legislative session, an additional \$366,900 was appropriated and distributed between the LAP and TAG programs.

Of that amount:

- **\$234,400** was added to the **LAP allocation formula** and distributed among qualifying counties.

**TAG funding** was increased from **\$7,500 to \$10,000 per county**, with an additional **\$2,500** allocated to city weed boards.

As of now, I am still waiting to receive signed TAG NOGAs from 14 counties and signed LAP NOGAs from 5 counties.

\*Please note that **reimbursements cannot be requested or processed** until the signed Notice of Grant Award has been received.

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Federal funding is available through NDDA, and the department strongly encourages counties to take advantage of this opportunity by applying for these funds.

### ***Office Move:***

We are moving out of our office at the Northbrook Shopping Center and to the State Capitol Grounds. If you plan to visit the office over the next few months, please reach out to us in advance so we can direct you to our location.

Please continue to use the mailing address below:

North Dakota Department of Agriculture

ATTN: Noxious Weeds

600 E Blvd Ave Dept 602

Bismarck, ND 58505

### **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: January 5th 2026 @ 5pm CT  
@ Bismarck Hotel in Bismarck

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

Entertainment for 2026 Annual Conference is Dueling Piano Show,  
more to come in the next newsletter.

Luncheon Entertainment for 2026 Annual Conference is The Open  
Cross Ranch Family, more to come in the next newsletter.

Thank you to all for  
another successful  
Annual Conference