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NDWCA NEWSLETTER

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2008 NDWCA President's Report

With spring here and the ever occurring spraying season starting, I would like to remind everybody to be safe and to act smart in your weed control efforts as you implement your weed control programs.

Noxious weed control is a big job that seems to be never ending. With the variety of noxious weeds currently out there and the ones that have the potential to become noxious within our state it is no wonder why we as weed managers sometimes get discouraged when we can only control a certain number of acres during the year. Hang in there because we are all trying to accomplish the same goal, to stop the spread of noxious weeds in our state! It is strongly encouraged to work together with other agencies and land managers within your area for the control of and identification of noxious weeds.

June has been declared by Gov. Hoeven to be noxious weed awareness month. With this in mind, now is the time to be more diligent in your weed identification and observations of noxious weed locations. Even though weed control happens in more months than just June, now would be a good time to check summer flower shops and other locations that sell plants to see if they are selling any noxious weeds. Also come up with and follow thru with a weed management plan so you may have a better idea on how to handle your weed problems in future years.

August 12th, 13th, 14th 2008 is the second annual Northern Plains Weed Management Symposium. This symposium will again be held in Washburn ND and is a very good opportunity to increase your knowledge relating to noxious weed management. It is open to any weed control personnel, weed board members, land managers, or agency people involved in weed control. There will be pamphlets mailed out so please attend if you have the chance.

If anybody is lucky enough to collect flea beetles this year and would like to have a field day, use the list serve to notify when and where the field day will be. If you would like help in setting up your field day notify Dave Hirsch at the USDA-APHIS center.

I was fortunate enough to be able attend the NP 304 meeting in Miami Fl. with Mike Foley from the USDA-ARS center in Fargo. This meeting reinforced the need to cooperate, share ideas and help support the ARS center and other agencies as they do research and try to develop new ways of controlling our noxious weeds.

The next meeting date will be June 26th at the Seven Seas Hotel in Mandan. If anybody has any concerns that they would like for the board to address please let me know or you may contact any board member.

Please check out our website at www.ndweeds.homestead.com

Derrill Fick, 2008 NDWCA President

Goals for the NDWCA

In going over some past notes that I had and notes that my predecessor had I found a list of goals that were acquired from the area meetings in the fall of 1994. This list was a representation of all the area meetings that fall with the challenge from Cindie Fugere from the NDDA to establish goals that will be achieved in ten years. The top five goals were:

1. Increase Education
2. Adequate Funding
3. Involve state and federal land managers
4. Expansion of Biological Control
5. Effective noxious weed law enforcement

Each of these goals has been met to a point. It seems to me that there is still a lot more that we can do as an association to have an effective weed control program and to continue developing new goals and to proudly meet any

current goals that we are trying to achieve. Lets' not wait another 14 years to only accomplish a small portion of these goals, we have to work together as agencies and individuals to share ideas and to follow through with a working relationship that will help us to accomplish our main goal, control noxious weeds!

Derrill Fick, 2008 NDWCA President

**June 2008 – North Dakota
Noxious Weed Awareness Month**

ND Governor John Hoeven has declared June 2008 as Noxious Weed Awareness Month in ND. Weed control advocates are encouraged to plan an event to educate citizens on the benefits of safe weed control.

Johnson Names Noxious Weed Specialist

Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson has appointed Blake J. Schaan as a noxious weed specialist in the North Dakota Department of Agriculture. "Blake's farm background, including his certification as a pesticide applicator, and his training in biology are excellent qualifications for this position," Johnson said. "We are glad to have him on staff before the 2008 crop season gets underway."

Schaan is a native of Rugby, and attended Minot State University-Bottineau before graduating from the University of North Dakota with a degree in wildlife biology. While in college, he was a seasonal employee for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department and USDA Wildlife Services.

Johnson said Schaan will work with county and city weed boards, state and federal agencies, and private landowners to ensure compliance with North Dakota's noxious weed laws.

Schaan's duties include:

- Identifying potential invasive weed threats and developing programs to mitigate those threats.
- Promoting public awareness of noxious and invasive weeds and of weed laws.

- Working with researchers, government agencies and others on weed management issues.
- Promoting the development of biological control programs.

Nicole Nieuwsma First Annual NDWCA Poster Contest Winner

The NDWCA invited all fifth and sixth graders across ND to participate in the first annual poster coloring contest. Students were asked to create a poster showing how weeds affect the environment. Nicole Nieuwsma, a fifth grader from Linton Elementary, is the 2008 winner. Nicole was presented with a plaque at Bismarck's Earth Day as well as a t-shirt that showed her winning poster as the design.

Next morning weed bandits arrived in Linton to hand out weed ID booklets and t-shirts to Nicole's class. The bandits included Theodore Thistle, Lucy Loosestrife and Spencer Spurge. The contest was sponsored by the NDWCA and TransCanada Pipeline.

Website Lists North Dakota Vineyard Locations

Pesticide applicators should consult the North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) website to avoid spraying vineyards.

"The number of vineyards in North Dakota is steadily increasing," said Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson. "It is very important that pesticide applicators know the location of these operations to make sure they do not accidentally contaminate the grapes."

Locations of North Dakota vineyards are listed on the NDDA website at www.agdepartment.com/PDFFiles/NDGrapeGrowthLocations.pdf. Each of the more than 20 listings includes the vineyard name, the owners, phone numbers and a legal description of location and county.

Johnson said grapes are very sensitive to many herbicides used in North Dakota.

"Misapplication or spray drift can destroy a high-value crop unless pesticide users are careful about products they use, the application method, and where the products are used," he said. "The vines are also very susceptible to

damage or death from herbicides.”

Johnson also encouraged applicators to contact vineyard owners in the area before applying pesticides.

Commercial grape growers should contact NDDA at (800) 242-7535 or ndda@nd.gov to be included on the webpage.

NDWCA Education Committee

Wow what an exciting year! Our first annual color contest winner this year is a fifth grader of Linton, ND. She was awarded a plaque as well as a t-shirt that was made with her winning poster on it at the first annual Earth Day in Bismarck. The next morning her classroom was taken over by Lucy Loosestrife, Theodore Thistle and Spencer Spurge! Her classmates all received a t-shirt with her poster on it, can coolies as well as weed ID booklets.

The weed bandits then headed west and invaded South Heart where the top three posters from their sixth grade class received t-shirts and the entire class received weed ID booklets.

Rumor had it the bandits headed north and invaded Williston's Wilkinson Elementary where they had two sixth grade classrooms with top three posters sent in for the coloring contest. Those six students received t-shirts and the classrooms received weed ID books.

A few days later the fifth graders from Grafton Middle School were invaded and had their top three posters awarded. The fifth graders from Grafton Middle School were invaded and had their top three posters awarded. T-shirts and weed ID booklets were handed out to the class.

The bandits were busy this year and hope to have even more involvement with the poster contest from schools across the state this fall. Thank you to TransCanada Pipeline for sponsoring this contest and making it possible for us to have a successful statewide poster contest.

After all this invasion of the weed bandits, it was time to learn how to spray in order to contain and eliminate their invasions. The Education Committee had two sprayer schools this year, one in Rugby and one in Bismarck. Rugby had sixteen attendees and Bismarck had a record of 58 attendees! Wow! Both trainings

were very informative and with the surveys received from attendees very much wanted, very informative and very helpful with what we do in the field. With that I need to thank a whole slug of people. Thank you to Andrew Thostenson & Mike Liane for their presentation on ROW. Thank you to Jim Gray with his pesticide presentation and getting us up to snuff on new regulations and guidelines. I'd like to thank Bill Walker, our Calibration King, and Erik Dietrich, our ATV Safety King for their afternoon trainings and presentations. Very informative trainings and these two "Kings" work so well together and make the afternoon fun.

Thank you to B.R. Hornstein (Pierce County) & Gary Hartman (Burleigh County) for hosting this year's sprayer schools and providing snacks and beverages during the breaks and meals. And last but not least, we need to send out a HUGE thank you to Joel Roehl with BASF for feeding us lunch!

Don't forget to get your registration in for the NDWCA's Second Annual Weed Symposium this August 12-14th. The Education Committee has worked very hard to bring you yet another amazing symposium. Sign up before it's too late! Have a GREAT summer and I hope to see you in August.

Shauna Berg, Cavalier County Weed Officer-NDWCA Ed Committee Chair

2008 Project Safe Send

Project Safe Send was started in 1992 to help farmers safely and legally get rid of unusable pesticides. Since then, thousands of people have brought in over half a million pounds of pesticides.

A healthy environment is something we take for granted. But keeping our air and water clean requires commitment and can be costly.

Project safe Send is free and collections are held at many locations across the state in the summer. These collection sites rotate throughout the state to provide access to a greater number of farmers and ranchers. After the collections, hazardous pesticides are carefully packed and shipped out of state for incineration.

Collection Sites - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. local time

Tuesday, July 8

WEST FARGO

County Highway Dept. shop - 1201 W Main Ave,
West Fargo; south side of Main Ave.

Wednesday, July 9

GRAFTON DOT

US Hwy 81 north through Grafton, cross the Park
River to Division St. (Walsh County 10), take
Division St to N.P. Avenue

Thursday, July 10

GRAND FORKS DOT

1951 N. Washington St.

Friday, July 11

FINLEY DOT

ND 32 at north edge of Finley.

Monday, July 14

WAHPETON DOT

½ mile west of Wahpeton on ND Hwy 13.

Tuesday, July 15

LISBON DOT

ND 27 west from the Junction of ND 27 and ND 32,
go 1.2 miles. 1.5 miles then right on 6th St, go
about 2 blocks, on the north side of road.

Tuesday, July 15

BISMARCK DOT

218 S. Airport Road.

Wednesday, July 16

ELLENDALE DOT

West of junction of ND 11 and US 281.

Wednesday, July 16

BOWMAN DOT

1 mile west of Bowman, south side of US 12.

Thursday, July 17

JAMESTOWN DOT

3568 81ST Ave NE.

Thursday, July 17

BELFIELD DOT

I-94 to exit 42, then 1/2 mile south on US 85.

Friday, July 18

WATFORD CITY DOT

3/4 mile south of junction of US 85 and ND 23.

Monday, July 21

KENMARE DOT

½ mile east of junction US 52 and Ward Co. 2.

Tuesday, July 22

VELVA DOT

1/3 mile south of junction of US 52 and ND 41.

Wednesday, July 23

HARVEY DOT

Junction of business loop Highway 52 and 3, north

Thursday, July 24

CANDO DOT

2 blocks north of Hwy 17 on east edge of Cando
about 1 mile east of Hwy 281.