



NORTH DAKOTA WEED CONTROL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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Upcoming Meetings

Area Meetings - See elsewhere in newsletter

Annual Meeting and Commissioner Forum
January 7-10, 2019 Ramada Inn, Bismarck

****NEWSLETTER****

Members, Keep Up The Good Work

You, our members have done your job in reducing our costs for the paper edition of the newsletter. The board understands that some of our members cannot receive the newsletter by e mail, or prefer the paper edition. But we want to continue to reduce the paper copies, so keep sending in your e mails for the electronic version of the newsletter.

Also, as weed boards get new members, please let us know, so we can update our list. We find where former members continue to receive the newsletter, and new members do not. Unless we are notified, we have no idea the comings and goings of board members.

Presidents Message

Greetings everyone,

The summer spray season seems to have flown by for me, I'm sure most of you feel the same way. Fall is my favorite season and my favorite time of year to spray. Its great being out in the badlands, seeing all the trees changing, and all the wildlife. It is also a fun time of year for cattle producers seeing how all their hard work last winter and this spring has paid off. Calves sure look great this year. Thankfully, this summer we received more rainfall than in 2017, though hay is not bountiful, it is much easier to find than last year.

As far as the ND Weed Control Association goes, we just had our September board meeting, where we discussed many topics including our new website, which will be ready in time for our annual convention in January. Another topic talked about was the recent find of Palmer Amaranth within North Dakota. It was sad to hear such a terrible weed that can be so detrimental to farmers has made its way into our state. The North Dakota Department of Agriculture is taking multiple steps to notify the public and inform landowners on what it looks like, how to determine what it is, and steps a landowner can take if they think they have it on their property.

With fall being here already, it means NDWCA Area meetings are just around the corner. Please contact your area director if you do not know when your area meetings is. We would like to see a better turn out this year than last year in all areas, so start planning for those meetings early. Your presence is valued.

I would like to thank everyone who has put in an effort this summer to control noxious weeds whether that be through educating the public, spraying, talking with your neighbor, simply just explaining to someone what a noxious weed is, or how to control a certain plant. Everyone's efforts help to improve our state, and get us all working towards a common goal, thank you all for your hard work this year.

Katie Clyde

NDWCA 2018 President

Education Committee Report

by Derrill Fick, committee chair

E mails have been sent out to schools for the poster contest. Talk to your schools, to encourage them to enter the contest.

Website by Jamen Windish, NDWCA 1st Vice President

We met with Mike from Up & Running this summer. They will start building the web site the middle of October, and it should take 4 to 6 weeks. There will be a home tab, an about tab, which will have our mission statement and bylaws, there will be pictures of the board, with their short bio's. Directory of noxious weeds, linked back to NDSU, area for the minutes, contact information, newsletter page, interactive calendar, for field days, etc., sponsor page. There will be an online donation or a PayPal button. They will make a video how to update a website, so that down the road, others on the board can update the site. We should have the site paid for with sponsorships, as soon as they are all in. As far as a yearly maintenance fee, only as we need it. We will have full control with Go Daddy. Domain name is ndweeds.com.

Area Meetings Schedule

All Meetings Will Start at 9:00 AM Local Time

October 22 - Barnes County Highway Building, Valley City

October 23 - Ramsey County Courthouse, Devils Lake

October 24 - North Central Research Center, Minot

October 25 - Morton County Highway Building, Mandan

October 26 - Slope County Courthouse, Amidon

Counties - Make sure you bring your counties report to the area meeting. PLEASE, bring a copy to give to me so I can put your report in the minutes correctly. It is important that you not only come to the area meeting, but have a report as well. At the area meetings, you here what other counties are doing. These reports help other counties in their programs. You get to hear first hand what works or doesn't work. Also, you hear first hand, in a small setting, what is happening in industry and government. The NDDA lets you know what is new on their side, giving you the opportunity to ask questions on cost share. With Palmer Amaranth now confirmed in the state, it is really important to come. Plus you can't forget, the socializing, free coffee and cookies or donuts.

NDWCA Interview of Republican candidate for ND Ag Commissioner, Commissioner Doug Goehring

He is a farmer south of Menoken, in Burleigh County. Along with his son, they farm around 2,300 acres in a diversified manner. The NDDA runs 115 programs. They work with over 98 boards and councils, covering nearly all segments of ND Agricultural. Some of these are constitutionally, some are statutorily, and some by choice.

Question#1. What are your priorities for the NDDA for the next four years?

Doug: To survive, be a bit fluid, and recognize the challenges. This is what we have been doing. It is all about collaboration. No one person does it alone. A recent example is Palmer amaranth. Between NDSU, county weed officers and boards, ND Seed Commission and NDDA, we try and tackle these issues head on, develop protocols and work with them. Be calm and truthful when working with all issues.

Question #2. ND State Noxious Weed List is currently at 11 weeds. They are Absinth Wormwood, Musk and Canada Thistle, Dalmation and Yellow Toadflax, Diffuse, Russian, and Spotted Knapweed, Leafy Spurge, Purple Loosestrife and Saltcedar. Do you feel this list is adequate, or do you feel there should be more weeds on it?

Doug: When we have meetings, we ask what weeds are prevalent in different areas in the state. We give county weed boards the ability to address this more specifically. By utilizing LAP and TAG, you can target those weeds. I feel challenged by expanding the noxious weed list unless we have a really good reason to do that. I have been resistant on the Palmer Amaranth issue because it had not been found in the state. Had a lot of consultations on this. You want to have protocols in place to where when it becomes an issue, you are ready to tackle it. I never have said if, but when. Unfortunately when happened, did not realize that it would be this extensive. This will require extensive work by everyone.

Katie asked a follow-up question: Where is Houndstongue in the process of becoming a noxious weed?

NDWCA Interview of Republican candidate for ND Ag Commissioner, Commissioner Doug Goehring Continued:

Doug: It has been approved, and is currently in the administrative stage. Cody asked about Palmer Amaranth?

Doug: It will be going on the noxious weed list in the very near future.

Question #3. What is your opinion of noxious weed control and funding for it?

Doug: We utilize EARP funds for LAP and TAG to the tune of around 1.7 million dollars, over a biennium. As some or all of you here are aware, there was a request by the governor, in his budget request, to cut special funds. We have had conversations that these funds are public dollars not taxpayer dollars. They serve the industries requests for needs and problems they exist. The EARP fund have numerous things funded out of it. I will cut it as requested, but I will also be requesting it back. The legislature has the final say. The governor can make the budget, but the legislature appropriates it. The legislature does not like to cut special funds.

Question #4. We have some county weed boards that are very active, and we also have some county weed boards that are inactive. What would be your solution be to bring those inactive county weed boards to become active?

Doug: We have sent Chelsey out to counties to encourage those counties to utilize the money. I have even made a plea with you to help with this. It is the United States of America. We cannot force them to utilize the money, but we do strongly encourage them to do so. Have sent letters to county commissioners as well.

Kevin asked if we can let local farmers know that they're weed boards are not using the money. Maybe they would talk to their commissioners.

Doug: How much do we want to stir the pot? Some counties do not receive LAP funds because they do not carry the 3 mill requirement. The problem with changing the requirement is that the value of a mill is different in every county.

Merlin stated that some counties are at three mills only for the purpose of receiving LAP. If that requirement went away, some of those county weed boards could be in serious financial trouble.

Doug: Possibly removing the mill concept, and set x amount of dollars required to receive LAP. Not sure if that would be the answer. Asked Gary about Burleigh County, if that would hurt his county. Gary stated that at the rate he cost shares Milestone to his landowners, it could become problematic.

Ron said that with Palmer Amaranth now on the scene, he sees some county weed boards that just won't care. They won't do anything. What can we do to get everyone involved? He knows of some weed boards that are doing nothing, where some of their funds are being transferred to other departments in their counties. We have some core groups that are involved daily, but you can see where some counties are not doing anything.

Doug: On Palmer Amaranth issue, I have just approved sending a letter to all landowners in North Dakota, those we have in our data base. If we find that there is Palmer in a county, and the weed board is inactive, I will go directly to the county commissioners. I will go to their meeting if need be. There is a noxious weed law that has to be enforced. If need be, I may go to the legislature for special funds for the Palmer Amaranth issue. Still debating this. Inactive counties are frustrate me.

Question #5. Do you feel that the current number of staff in plant industries, in the NDDA is adequate, or inadequate? If inadequate, what changes would you do?

Doug: First of all, I would have a conversation with Samantha. (Samantha Brunner, head of plant industries) Currently, if we are short staff, we have to hire temporary staff. I am open for asking for resources if I can show a need. I didn't play the game very well by adding staff. I got in trouble last session, because there was a mandatory cut. Lost 8% of my staff, staff that I didn't acquire over the last 10 years. The game that is played is ask for more and settle for half. I have never asked for anything that I didn't need or justify. The legislature likes that approach with me, as they give me more programs and funds, but they also at the same time want a staff count, because of the fact that government is growing. My staff has been great because they have taken on new duties. If we have an area or you see an area that needs to have an extra FTE, I am all in favor of going in and asking for it. We are seeing more resources coming to the state from oil activities. We can only cut staff so far.

Dave stated that it can be frustrating when you manage your department, and they ask for cuts.

Doug: Yes, especially when you submit a needs based budget, and they still want to cut it.

You have to take the common sense approach to make it work. That is something we will continue to do over the next 4 years.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S CORNER

Well its fall again, and the Area meetings are just around the corner. Last year, the turnout was dismal at the meetings. PLEASE, make it a point to come this year. Please not the changes in days, as we have shifted the days around to make it more convenient for the precentors. I hope to see many of you there. Also, the Democrats did not return my e mails for inviting their candidate for Ag. Commissioner.

Palmer Amaranth has been found and confirmed!!!

Palmer Amaranth has been found in several spots in McIntosh County. There may be more in several other counties. The NDDA is waiting for official confirmation from the lab. Ag. Commissioner Doug Goehring stated that it will become a state noxious weed , with that process beginning soon. Post cards are planning to be mailed out to all landowners in the state, notifying them about Palmer Amaranth, with a color photo, to help identify it.

Your association board of directors had a very good meeting on Tuesday with NDDA and NDSU folks concerning Palmer Amaranth. More information will be provided at the area meetings, and good speakers already planned for the January conference.

Also, for some good news, Houndstongue is in its final stages on becoming a state noxious weed.

Retail Items for sale

Your association continues to sell caps, padfolios, mugs, and other items. We also have a few vests and jackets left. Contact Stan Wolf, Cass County Weed Officer @ 701-730-6786. (We can ship)

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