



NORTH DAKOTA WEED CONTROL ASSOCIATION

6135 Hwy 49, Elgin, ND 58533

Web site - www.ndweeds.com

E-mail - ndwca@westriv.com



Jamen Windish
NDWCA President
1525 12th St NW
Valley City, ND 58072
701)320-6011(c)
jwindish@barnescounty.us

Cody Schnabel
NDWCA 1st Vice-President
2916 37th St. NW
Mandan, ND 58554
(701)391-8006 (c)
Cody.Schnabel@mortonnd.org

Travis Jepson
NDWCA 2nd Vice-President
1340 W Villard
Dickinson, ND 58601
(701)590-4306
scweedcontrol1@me.com

Merlin Leithold
Executive Secretary
6135 Hwy 49
Elgin, ND 58533
(701)527-6544(c) (701)584-3204(h)
ndwca@westriv.com

Chairman Birdsall and SBARE Committee

The North Dakota Weed Control Association is proposing to develop a Noxious Weed Control Development Fund whereby monies would be set aside from the ND Legacy Fund and use the interest proceeds to fund noxious/invasive weed research projects, bio-control trials, and outreach programs. The Noxious Weed Control Development Fund would be set up similar to the various commodity research groups, which utilize checkoff dollars for research and outreach programs. NDSU and other research entities could then apply for grant monies for their projects.

Noxious and invasive weeds affect all lands in the state, including cropland, grasslands, native prairies, and wastelands. The grasslands, native prairies, pastures, state and federal parks comprise of about 18 million acres. That is about one fourth of the landmass of the state, which is where most of the noxious weeds are located. With the recent addition of Palmer amaranth to the state noxious weed list, the work of noxious weed control has greatly increased. Every landowner has to deal with noxious/invasive weeds on some part of their property, and farm operators, land managers, and weed control boards rely on ongoing research to determine effective and economical control options. This requires good multi-year research projects, which require a consistent funding source.

The NDSU Noxious Weed Specialist has done much work that has benefited us; for example, developing effective herbicide rates for controlling Yellow toadflax. When Perspective herbicide was released, it provided a reasonable level of control for Yellow toadflax when applying 5 oz./acre of product. This did burn down the tops but did not completely kill the roots. NDSU research concluded that reducing the rate to 1 oz./acre the herbicide was translocated to the roots, which killed the plant.

Another example for the need for noxious/invasive weed research, Dr. Caleb Dalley recently addressed the NDWCA conference regarding control of Narrowleaf hawksbeard that is infesting crop and non-crop lands in northwestern North Dakota. Dr. Dalley provided research information on how to control the weed in various cropping situations. However, when asked what to use to control the weed in a road right-of-way, he had no research information to cite; therefore he could not provide any information on effective control measures.

In addition, invasive grass weeds are moving east toward North Dakota from Montana. This is a new threat that will need research on how to control in North Dakota along with outreach and teaching landowners and weed control staff on how to identify the grasses and apply appropriate control measures. If these invasive grass weeds are uncontrolled, pasture and rangeland cattle production may be compromised, not to mention the effect on native prairies in the parks.

In summary, the proposed Noxious Weed Control Development Fund would request monies from the ND Legacy Fund to be set aside with the interest proceeds utilized to fund selected research projects, develop innovative control techniques, and education and outreach projects directed to noxious and invasive weed control. This would require writing the proposal to include a budget, writing rules for accountability, and developing a research committee before presenting this to the ND legislature for legislative action. Our timeline is rather short to have this completed by early summer in preparation for the upcoming legislative session.

We are asking the SBARE Committee and all North Dakota commodity groups to join us in supporting this proposal. If you feel that this is a worthwhile use of the ND Legacy Fund with the goal to provide funds for noxious weed research, we ask for your support and assistance and input in getting this accomplished. It will take all of us standing together to request a portion of the ND Legacy for the benefit of all land owners, farm operators and public that utilize our enjoy prairie heritage and grasslands.

Our goal: Take a portion of the revenue of our one-time below ground harvest to protect our above ground resources and heritage, our native prairies, grasslands, pastures, and cropland.

Please reply to my contact information listed below with your response and thoughts, good, bad or otherwise.

Thank you

Stan Wolf
North Dakota Weed Control Association
Cass County Weed Officer
wolfs@casscountynd.gov
701-298-2388