

Inside This Issue:

Restrictions for Crop Rotations and Cover Crops	2
2020 Commercial Recertification/ Renewal Meetings	3
2020 Commercial Initial Certification Meetings	4
Designating Noxious Weeds	5
County-added Noxious Weeds	5
Links of Interest	5
Private Applicator Recertification	6
Certification Requirements for Private Applicators	6
Worker Protection Standard	6
Pesticide Buyers: Beware	7
Nebraska Buffer Strip Program	7
Healthy Soils Task Force	7
Asian Jumping Worm: Newest Invasive Species	8
Groundwater Protection Links	8
FieldWatch Reminder	9
Welcome, Libby Smith	9
Nebraska Hemp Program	9
Nebraska Seed Program	10

Pesticide Program Update

Tim Creger, Pesticide/Fertilizer Program Manager

As we get closer to the end of 2019, I would like to recognize the people who work to make sure the Nebraska Department of Agriculture’s (NDA) primary mission is carried out. That mission is to protect humans and the environment from the unintended risk and harm pesticides can cause, and to ensure the continued availability of legal pesticides. That statement presents the paradox of our program: allowing the lawful use of products that can, potentially, cause harm.

I often tell people who ask how pesticides are regulated that the process is similar to a three-legged stool. The legs of the stool are Pesticide Product Registration, Pesticide Applicator Certification and Licensing, and Pesticide Enforcement. Take any one of the three out of the mix, and the program can’t stand on its own.

Pesticide product registration is managed for our program by Buzz Vance. Buzz has been with NDA for 21 years, and also handles our fertilizer and soil conditioner program. Buzz reviews thousands of pesticide labels each year, making sure that the products we register are also registered by the U.S. EPA, or are exempt from registration under state and federal law. The requirement to register pesticides in the state allows NDA to monitor which products are sold and distributed, as well as supports a number of programs that provide considerable benefit to the citizens of the state. Pesticide product registration provides NDA with the regulatory control needed to protect consumers, assure the continued availability of quality products, and assure truth in labeling.

Pesticide applicator certification has been managed for the last five years by Trevor Johnson, with assistance from Donene Lewis. The concept of requiring pesticide applicators to be trained and certified started with the creation of the U.S. EPA in 1970. Initially designed to address only the most toxic products, the program has expanded in some states to include more than what is required by federal law. In Nebraska, anyone applying a restricted use pesticide, and anyone commercially applying lawn care and structural pesticides, is required to be certified and licensed to do so. State law also requires people applying pesticides to control mosquitoes or other disease vectors on a large scale (community control programs) to be certified. It is a long-held belief that people who receive education on the proper use of pesticides will have fewer misapplications, and thus, reduce risk to human and environmental health.

(continued next page)

(continued from previous page)

The process of receiving that education is part of obtaining an applicator license, and it takes a license to buy and use the highest risk pesticides, or to work in the highest risk segments of the pesticide industry.

Pesticide enforcement is designed to ensure pesticide applicators are applying and recording application of pesticides correctly, that pesticides sold in the marketplace are correctly labeled and registered, and that complaints involving pesticide incidents are investigated. Without a credible, robust enforcement of state and federal pesticide laws there would be less incentive to follow pesticide label directions, obtain applicator certification, sell correctly labeled or registered pesticides, or protect sensitive sites and humans from pesticide exposure. The Pesticide Program has five field inspectors and a case review officer as part of the enforcement side of the program. Inspectors Eric Fuentes-Ruiz (25 years), Kevin Holdorf (15 years), Katie Olson (new hire), Eric Trumbull (1 ½ years) and Aaron Ide (1 ½ years) work in designated territories in the state, and Herbert Bates (20 years) serves as the Case Review Officer.

Projects dealing with protection of water resources and endangered species are handled by Craig Romary (21 years), who oversees the Nebraska Buffer Strip Act, the DriftWatch website function, and coordinates water quality projects with other state and federal agencies. Other NDA employees who have involvement in the Pesticide and Fertilizer Programs work in administrative management and support services. The Pesticide Program uses a contract laboratory for testing of pesticide products and biological samples, and coordinates activities on a regional and national scale with other state pesticide programs and EPA.

In closing, I want to emphasize that it takes a team of dedicated professionals like those in our program to make it all happen. I am grateful for their service to our citizens and our department for ensuring we continue to carry out state and federal law, as well as making sure the food we eat, the water we drink, and the problems we can have with uncontrolled pests are of the highest priority in their everyday work.

Label Restrictions for Crop Rotations and Cover Crops

When a pesticide is used in a cropping system, the restrictions on the label must be followed for the original crop it is used on, AND any succeeding crops, until all restrictions on that label have been met. One of these is called the plant-back restriction. Plant-back restrictions exist for two reasons:

1. To avoid carryover pesticide injury to the subsequent crop (such as with herbicides).
2. To protect humans and livestock from elevated levels of pesticide residues that a succeeding crop may accumulate.

Because cover crops are re-emerging as an important practice for conserving soil, increasing soil water, and improving soil health and function, one needs to be aware of these restrictions and include them in the planning process. However, many of the plant species used in today's cover crop "cocktails" may not be specifically listed on the label to ensure establishment of the stand or the safety of the feed or forage. The following points highlight scenarios that may affect what is planted for cover crops and how they are used.

This rest of this article can be seen in this [November 2015 CropWatch article](#).

See also, a more recent article on cover crop options in corn and soybeans: [November 2019 CropWatch](#)

[Cover Crops as a Weed Management Tool](#) focuses on how to manage weeds with cover crops. It imparts basic cover crop concepts and provides users with updated content on how to create a plan to ultimately manage weeds with this powerful tool. This site is updated by a team of weed scientists from 14 universities and the USDA ARS, and is a place to find helpful, trustworthy resources on integrated weed management for herbicide resistant weeds.

Interested in selling cover crop or other types of seed in Nebraska? See the Seed Program article on page 10.

Commercial and Non-Commercial 2020 Recertification/Renewal Meetings (No NDA Exams Offered)

Date	Meeting	Categories	City	Location
1-7	Nebraska Turf Conference	00, 04	Omaha	La Vista Conference Center
1-7	Crop Protection Clinic	00, 01	Gering	Gering Civic Center
1-8	Crop Protection Clinic	00, 01	North Platte	Sandhills Convention Center
1-10	Crop Protection Clinic	00, 01	Beatrice	Beatrice Country Club
1-13	Crop Protection Clinic	00, 01	Norfolk	Lifelong Learning Center
1-14	Crop Protection Clinic	00, 01	York	Holthus Convention Center
1-15	Crop Protection Clinic	00, 01	Mead	Eastern Neb. Res. and Ext.
1-21; 22	Crop Management Conference	00, 01	Kearney	Younes Conference Center
1-28	Nebraska Agri-Business Expo	00, 01	Omaha	Embassy Suites
2-6	UNL Recertification	00, 04, 07, 08, 08W, 09, 10, 14	Grand Island	College Park - Hall County Ext.
2-6	UNL Recertification	00, 04, 05, 07, 08, 08W, 11	Lincoln	Lancaster County Extension
2-6	UNL Recertification	00, 04, 07, 08, 08W, 09, 11	Scottsbluff	Panhandle Res. and Extension
2-12	UNL Recertification	00, 04, 07, 09	Holdrege	Phelps County Fairgr. Ag Cntr.
2-12	UNL Recertification	00, 04, 07, 08, 08W	Norfolk	Madison County Extension
2-13	UNL Recertification	00, 04, 07, 08, 08W, 10, 11	Norfolk	Madison County Extension
2-13	UNL Recertification	00, 04, 05, 07, 11, 14	North Platte	W. Central Res. and Extension
2-13	UNL Recertification	00, 04, 07, 08, 08W, 09, 11	Omaha	Douglas County Extension
2-13	UNL Recertification	00, 04, 07, 08, 14	O'Neill	Holt County Courthouse Annex
2-18	UNL Recertification	00, 04, 07, 09, 11	Beatrice	Gage County Extension
2-18	UNL Recertification	00, 01, 04, 05, 07, 08, 08W, 11	Grand Island	College Park - Hall County Ext.
2-18	UNL Recertification	00, 01, 04, 05, 07, 08, 08W	Norfolk	Madison County Extension
2-18	UNL Recertification	00, 01, 04, 07, 09, 10, 14	North Platte	W. Central Res. and Extension
2-20	UNL Recertification	00, 01, 04, 05, 07	Columbus	Platte County Courthouse
2-20	UNL Recertification	00, 04, 05, 07, 08, 08W, 11	Lincoln	Lancaster County Extension
2-20	UNL Recertification	00, 01, 04, 05, 07, 11, 14	Scottsbluff	Panhandle Res. and Extension
2-20; 21	Urban Pest Management Conference	00, 08, 08W, 11	Lincoln	Graduate Hotel
2-25; 26	NE Aviation Trades Assn. (NATA)	00, 01, 07, 12	Kearney	Younes Conference Center
2-27	Custom Applicator School	00, 01	Hastings	Central Community College
3-10	UNL Recertification	00, 04, 07, 11, 14	Beatrice	Gage County Extension
3-10	UNL Recertification	00, 01, 04, 05, 07, 11	Holdrege	Phelps County Fairgr. Ag Cntr
3-10	UNL Recertification	00, 01, 04, 07, 08, 08W, 09, 14	Norfolk	Madison County Extension
3-19	UNL Recertification	00, 01, 04, 07, 09	Beatrice	Gage County Extension
3-19	UNL Recertification	00, 01, 04, 09, 14	Columbus	Platte County Courthouse
3-19	UNL Recertification	00, 01, 04, 07	North Platte	W. Central Res. and Extension
3-19	UNL Recertification	00, 04, 05, 07, 09, 10, 14	Omaha	Douglas County Extension
3-19	UNL Recertification	00, 01, 04, 05, 07, 09	O'Neill	Holt County Courthouse Annex
3-24	UNL Recertification	00, 04, 05, 07, 09, 11, 14	Scottsbluff	Panhandle Res. and Extension
3-26	UNL Recertification	00, 01, 04, 07, 08, 08W, 11, 14	Lincoln	Lancaster County Extension
3-26	UNL Recertification	00, 04, 07, 08, 08W, 09, 11	Omaha	Douglas County Extension

To register for all UNL Recertification meetings, go to the UNL [Pesticide Safety Education Program website](#).

To register for all other training opportunities, click the corresponding link in the table above.

Recertification in the following categories will not be offered via training. Exams will need to be taken to recertify in:

- 01a (Soil Fumigation)
- 02 (Ag Animal)
- 03 (Forest)
- 05S (Sewer Root)
- 06 (Seed Treatment)

See next page for testing options, or see bit.ly/NDAPPdates for walk-in testing sites.

Please Post for Future Reference

Commercial and Non-Commercial 2020 Initial Certification Meetings

(UNL or Association Training plus NDA Exam)

Date	Meeting	Categories	City	Location
1-28	Nebraska Agri-Business Expo	00, 01	Omaha	Embassy Suites
2-4	UNL Initial Certification	00, 01, 04, 05, 08, 08W, 10	Grand Island	College Park - Hall County Ext.
2-4	UNL Initial Certification	00, 01, 04, 07, 09, 11, 14	Lincoln	Lancaster County Extension
2-4	UNL Initial Certification	00, 01, 04, 05, 07, 08, 08W	Norfolk	Madison County Extension
2-11	UNL Initial Certification	00, 01, 03, 05, 09, 14	North Platte	W. Central Res. and Extension
2-11	UNL Initial Certification	00, 03, 04, 06, 07, 09	Omaha	Douglas County Extension
2-11	UNL Initial Certification	00, 01, 04, 09, 11	Scottsbluff	Panhandle Res. and Extension
2-25	UNL Initial Certification	00, 01, 04, 08, 08W	Columbus	Platte County Courthouse
2-25	UNL Initial Certification	00, 04, 06, 07, 09, 11, 14	Grand Island	College Park - Hall County Ext.
2-25	UNL Initial Certification	00, 04, 07, 08, 08W, 09	Norfolk	Madison County Extension
2-25	UNL Initial Certification	00, 04, 05, 07, 08, 08W	Scottsbluff	Panhandle Res. and Extension
2-27	Custom Applicator School	00, 01	Hastings	Central Community College
2-27	UNL Initial Certification	00, 01, 04, 07, 08, 08W, 10	Lincoln	Lancaster County Extension
2-27	UNL Initial Certification	00, 04, 07, 08, 08W	North Platte	W. Central Res. and Extension
2-27	UNL Initial Certification	00, 01, 04, 07, 14	Scottsbluff	Panhandle Res. and Extension
3-17	UNL Initial Certification	00, 01, 04, 06, 14	Beatrice	Gage County Extension
3-17	UNL Initial Certification	00, 04, 05, 07, 08, 08W	Lincoln	Lancaster County Extension
3-17	UNL Initial Certification	00, 01, 04, 05, 10, 14	Norfolk	Madison County Extension
3-17	UNL Initial Certification	00, 01, 04, 07	North Platte	W. Central Res. and Extension
4-9	UNL Initial Certification	00, 04	Lincoln	Lancaster County Extension
4-9	UNL Initial Certification	00, 01, 04	North Platte	W. Central Res. and Extension
4-9	UNL Initial Certification	00, 04, 07, 08, 08W	Omaha	Douglas County Extension
4-9	UNL Initial Certification	00, 04,	Scottsbluff	Panhandle Res. and Extension
4-16	UNL Initial Certification	00, 04, 08, 08W, 14	Omaha	Douglas County Extension
4-16	UNL Initial Certification	00, 04, 09	O'Neill	Holt County Courthouse Annex

To register for all UNL Initial meetings, go to the [UNL Pesticide Safety Education Program site](#).

To register for all other testing opportunities, click the corresponding link in the table above.

In addition to the General Standards exam, categories with * at right are available through [Pearson VUE testing sites](#).

Numerous dates and locations for ["walk-in testing"](#) have been posted.

At "walk-in testing" sites, only testing is conducted for initial certification, adding categories, or recertifying by exam.

Study material for all exams can be purchased from [UNL Pesticide Safety Education Program](#).

Applicator Categories

1	Ag Plant*	8	Structural Health*
1a	Soil Fumigation	8W	Wood Destroying Organism*
2	Ag Animal	9	Public Health*
3	Forest	10	Wood Preservation
4	Ornamental and Turf*	11	Fumigation (grain)*
5	Aquatic	12	Aerial*
5S	Sewer Root (<i>metam sodium</i>)	14	Wildlife Damage Control
6	Seed Treatment	REG	Regulatory Subcategory
7	Right-of-Way*	D/R	Demonstration/Research Subcategory

NDA Certification Testing Policies

- The use of study materials is not allowed while taking the exam.
- Calculators may be used. However; all iPads, cell phones, or similar electronic devices which can store, send, or receive data or images must be turned off, kept in pockets or holsters, and will not be allowed on the tabletop.
- The exams are the property of the State of Nebraska. Removal of exams from examination rooms is prohibited. Copying or reproducing the contents of exams (in part or in whole) is unlawful.
- Persons with special needs or disabilities should notify NDA of accommodations they may require at least 10 days prior to date of the exam.

These policies and more certification information can be found on our [certification page](#).

Please Post for Future Reference

Designating Noxious Weeds, Not an Easy Process

States have struggled for many years in the process of designating plants as noxious weeds. Typically, a plant becomes widespread before states and counties get involved. There is also a perception that if a plant is designated as a noxious weed the problem will go away. Once a plant is established and widespread throughout the state, the best one can hope for is to slow and manage this invasion. Eradication will never happen on widespread noxious weeds.

Nebraska is no exception to the rule. Noxious weed designation in Nebraska has often been a struggle for those involved. However, members of the Nebraska Weed Control Association (NWCA) have been working for the past several years to put science to work to help in this designation battle.

“A New Approach for the Noxious Weed Program” has been developed to help guide the NWCA in making recommendations to the Director of Agriculture. This updated approach incorporates several new steps in the decision making process. In cooperation with the Nebraska Invasive Species Council and NWCA, invasive species lists for plants have been developed and categorized over the past few years. Plants on these lists are non-native to Nebraska and will have an intensive weed risk assessment done before any plant will be considered.

Nebraska continues to monitor surrounding states for information regarding potential new invaders. We continue to work closely not only with neighboring states but all states throughout the United States.

The key to eradication is to catch a weed problem early in the invasion process. If these new invaders can be identified at entry or becoming established in the state, successful eradication can be possible. This process has the potential to save the landowners of Nebraska millions of dollars in the future.

More information on Nebraska’s weed watch list and the process for evaluating plant species can be found at [the Nebraska Invasive Species Program](#).

Did you know?

Several counties in Nebraska have county-added noxious weeds, which landowners are required to control. Those ten weed species, and the counties which have designated them, include:

Banner: FB, ST, WB	Deuel: FB	Pawnee: CCT
Box Butte: FB	Garden: FB	Rock: BT
Brown: BT	Kimball: ST	Saline: CCT
Cherry: PYB	Lancaster: CCT	Scotts Bluff: FB, ST
Cheyenne: CM, FB, ST	Lincoln: YFI	Sheridan: FB, HT, ST
Dawes: FB,HT,ST	Morrill: FB, ST	Sioux: ST

Key: Bull Thistle (BT), Common & Cutleaf Teasel (CCT), Common Mullein (CM), Field Bindweed (FB), Houndstongue (HT), Perennial Yellow Bedstraw (PYB), Scotch Thistle (ST), Woollyleaf Bursage (WB), Yellow Flag Iris (YFI)

See [pridewma.org](#) and [neinvasives.com](#) for more information.

Links of Interest

½ Price Discount!

[Weeds of the Great Plains](#) is a 7” X 10”, hardbound book which features:

- Detailed narratives of 400+ plants;
- Line drawings;
- Large colored photos;
- Close up photos of weed flowers, seedlings, and key ID characteristics.

Use the printable form (above) or [order online](#).

See the [Spring 2019 Issue of the Weed Watch newsletter](#), which

includes a great article on “Opportunistic versus Invasive” weeds, as well as an update to Nebraska’s Invasive Plant Watch List.

Archives of the Weed Watch newsletter can be found at [pridewma.org](#).

[Multimedia Story: Benefits of Birds on the Farm](#)

[Companion Report: Supporting Beneficial Birds and Managing Pest Birds](#)

[Fungicide Impacts on Pollinators](#)

[Report: Neonic soybean seed treatments provide negligible benefits to farmers](#)

Private Applicator Recertification

Private applicators whose licenses are due to expire 4/15/2020 will receive a reminder letter from NDA in mid-December. It is important to bring that letter with you to your training meeting. Applicators who do not bring this letter will be required to stay after the meeting to fill out additional paperwork.

Private applicator training meetings can be found at pested.unl.edu – look for “Certification and Training” in the top header.

Certification Requirements for Private Applicators

See [NDA's Applicator Certification and Licensing page](#) for more information.

Reminder: Please notify NDA when you have a change of address in order to receive pesticide recertification information from the UNL Pesticide Safety Education office prior to your license expiration.

402-471-2351

The [NDA Dicamba page](#), includes information on label statement clarification, endangered species habitat information, temperature inversions and required applicator training.

Does the Worker Protection Standard Apply to Me?

If you work in agriculture, the answer is most likely YES! The Worker Protection Standard (WPS) is a federal law, similar to OSHA, intended to protect employees from hazards in the workplace. Specifically, WPS seeks to protect farmworkers from the potential dangers of pesticide exposure. It is a complex regulation that affects nearly everyone involved in agriculture. To find out if WPS applies to you, see the questionnaire, “[Does the WPS apply to you?](#)” In addition, Pesticide Educational Resources Collaborative (PERC; pesticideresources.org) has a whole host of training materials for farmworkers, detassellers, pesticide applicators, crop advisors, etc. If you still have questions, see the [NDA WPS page](#), and feel free to give us a call at NDA (402-471-2351) to help guide you through your responsibilities and protections under WPS.

PERC now has a collection of WPS-related tools and resources on a thumb drive (available for \$99.00 plus shipping). In places where you can't rely on internet access, this data storage drive gets the job done. The thumb drives would make an excellent take-home reference for employers learning about the WPS. Included on the thumb drive (which can be [ordered here](#)):

Frequently Asked Questions and Guides for:

- [Agricultural Workers](#) (Disponible en español)
- [Pesticide Handlers](#) (Disponible en español)
- [Agricultural Employers](#)
- [Crop Advisors](#)
- [Labor Contractors](#)
- [Trainers of Workers](#)
- [Trainers of Handlers](#)
- [Commercial Pesticide Handler Employers](#)

- WPS Pesticide Safety Training Videos – All versions in HD quality, English and Spanish
- WPS Ag Employer Handbook – English and Spanish
- WPS Worker Training Flip Charts – English, Spanish, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese
- WPS Posters for “Central Posting” area – English, Spanish, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Karen
- WPS How-to-Comply Manual – English and Spanish
- WPS Respiratory Protection Guide – English and Spanish
- Training PowerPoints: Train the Trainer, Training for Handlers, Training for Workers, all available in English and Spanish
- WPS: A Manual for Trainers – English and Spanish



Mouth
(Oral)



Nose
(Inhalation)



Eyes
(Ocular)



Skin
(Dermal)

Online and Store-shelf Pesticide Buyers: Beware

Recent articles stress the need for us to purchase only pesticide products registered by the US EPA and the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. Illegal pesticides can cause serious harm to people, pets, livestock, and the environment because of a lack of required testing for the active ingredient and use site, inadequate or missing directions for use, or they may require applicator certification to legally use them.

Potential FIFRA violations with illegal products:

- Imported pesticides not registered for sale in the United States.
- Illegally repackaged and resold pesticides (including EPA-registered kits/packs that are broken up and sold individually).
- Restricted Use Pesticides sold online without a dealer's license and/or sold to buyers who do not possess certified pesticide applicator licenses.
- Pesticides sold online without proper labels.
- Pesticides sold to buyers in states where the products are not registered.
- Products incorrectly presented as FIFRA 25(b) exempt.

What you should do before purchasing a product:

- Check for an EPA registration label on each pesticide purchased.
- Beware of falsified registrations, such as numbers that correlate to a medical device rather than a pesticide.
- Beware of pesticides with product names in fractured or nonstandard English — like the illegal pesticides imported from China and sold/distributed via Amazon.

Portions of this text were taken from the following articles. Applicators and dealers are encouraged to read more about this topic at:

[Multistate task force sets out to curb rising sales of illegal pesticides](#) (Pest Management Professional, October 2019)

[Illegal pesticides crackdown: Amazon-EPA settlement a symptom of online resellers violating FIFRA](#) (Pest Management Professional, March 2018)

Nebraska Buffer Strip Program: Funding Still Available

[See filter strips "in action."](#) Photos show the benefit of having streamside vegetation in place. In this case, the Nebraska Buffer Strip Program was used to implement filter strips over 20 years ago.

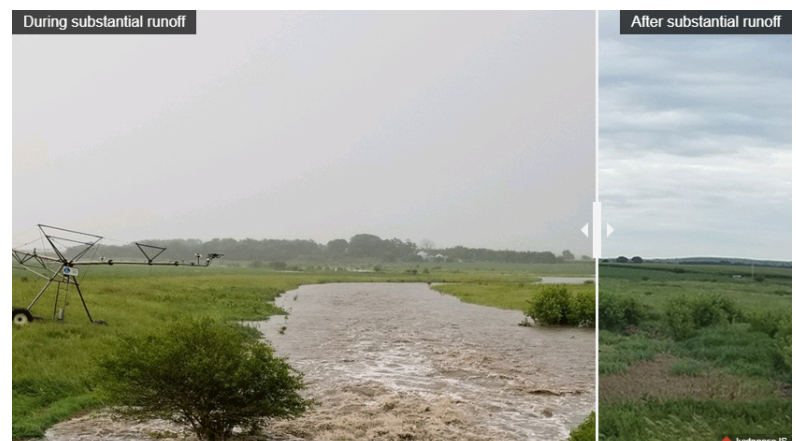
Funding for the Nebraska Buffer Strip Program is still available for new and renewing projects. [Click here](#) for more information, and contact your local NRCS or NRD office to get started!

Healthy Soils Task Force

Background information, the list of task force members, and meeting minutes and presentations have been posted on the Nebraska [Healthy Soils Task Force page](#).

School & Community IPM Resources

Did you know? Head lice are most commonly spread by head-to-head contact with an infested person, and not by articles of clothing. An adult louse is about the size of a sesame seed and cannot jump or fly. More information, including IPM training for schools and webinar links, can be found in this Region 7 EPA [IPM Community Update](#).



Abandoned Well Reminder

Many pesticide labels treat abandoned wells the same as an active well when it comes to mandatory application setbacks for use as well as mixing/loading – and for good reason! Improperly abandoned wells can serve as a direct conduit for groundwater contamination. Contact your [Natural Resources District](#) about cost-share funds to properly abandon these wells – usually between 60% and 100% of the cost of the work!

[Groundwater Well Contamination Video](#)

A groundwater model is used to demonstrate how groundwater is contaminated by wells constructed before new standards were required.

[Ag Chemical Containment and Load-out Regulations](#)

See page 8 of the Winter 2018 newsletter to see how these regulations might be required for both private and commercial applicators.

[County Pesticides and Groundwater Vulnerability Guides](#)

Asian Jumping Worm is Nebraska's Newest Invasive Species

See the articles at [GRO Big Red](#) and the [Nebraska Invasive Species Program](#).

SPECIES PROFILE: WHY THESE WORMS MATTER



Amyntas spp. (also known as Asian jumping worms) originate from Asia and have been introduced to North America. They are identified by their violent thrashing motions and a pale-colored clitellum that completely encircles the body.



Asian jumping worms can cause ecosystem-scale changes. They impact soil and water quality by depleting the leaf litter layer, exposing soil to erosion, altering healthy soil chemistry, accelerating sediment runoff and leaching of nutrients and mineral (including mercury) contaminants into water.



Asian jumping worms reproduce quickly and spread easily. Implementing invasive species-focused public outreach and education will help slow the spread of these non-native worms.

VECTORS: HOW THESE WORMS SPREAD



Asian jumping worms are popular fish bait; however, escaped worms and unused bait can spread the invader and cause long-term damage to fisheries.



Asian jumping worms consume massive amounts of leaf litter and degrade the soft, spongy forest floor. The jumping worm can be spread by forest-goers.



Asian jumping worms can be spread to new territory in North America via cargo/goods transported (air, land, or sea) from abroad or other contaminated regions.



Asian jumping worms can be spread by moving or importing plants, exchanging potting soil, and composting (including worm composting kits).

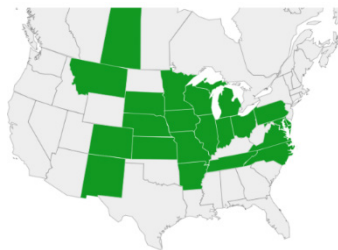
Graphic by: the Oregon Sea Grant

FieldWatch Reminder

- The free [FieldCheck Registration](#) allows you to designate a “notification area” for email alerts when new information is added in that area. When logged in, you are able to see all of the specialty crop and apiary sites in the DriftWatch/ BeeCheck registries (not all apiary sites are visible from the public-facing map).
- A new PRIVATE “Annotation Layer” allows you, when registered in FieldCheck, to customize the map view by adding your own sites (annotations) with information that is typically not included in FieldWatch. This could be ‘out-of-scope’ data, such as non-specialty crops, private gardens, sensitive habitats, schools or other places where people have expressed concerns. This new layer will be wholly-owned and managed by you and is not reviewed by NDA.
- A time/date stamp is also shown on the screen for those who are registered and logged-in to FieldCheck. A screen shot could be used for application records.
- FieldWatch has a free mobile app for applicators, also called FieldCheck. When registered, you can download the app to see all of the mapped specialty crops in your area, as well as your “annotation layer.”

NDA has a [FieldWatch page](#) where applicators and specialty crop growers can find quick info and links to the FieldWatch registries.

In Nebraska, 898 growers have registered a total of 1,967 commercial specialty crop and apiary sites covering over 100,000 acres in FieldWatch. Those sites are currently found in all but 13 counties, and new sites will be added frequently the first half of the year.



Meet Libby Smith: New Certification and Worker Safety Specialist

The Pesticide/Fertilizer Program would like to welcome Libby Smith as the new Certification and Worker Safety Specialist. Libby started in this role November 18th, assuming the position after Trevor Johnson was promoted to the Hemp Program. Libby comes to us from NDA’s Entomology Program, where she was a field inspector for 7 years. Libby has extensive experience in state regulation of plant materials and export commodity inspections. Libby has previous connections to the Pesticide Program by possessing her own pesticide applicator license, and having conducted grain and commodity fumigation observations for NDA. Libby is a graduate of the University of Nebraska, and has previous work experience with a large commercial tree nursery. Welcome Libby!



Nebraska Hemp Program

LB657, passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Pete Ricketts, adopted the Nebraska Hemp Farming Act and amended existing statutes to establish a state hemp program within NDA. The legislation gave NDA the authority to regulate the growing, harvesting and processing of hemp for research purposes in Nebraska under a licensing agreement until further action is taken by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). NDA is currently in the process of drafting regulations and a state hemp plan to submit to USDA.

Licenses to grow and/or process hemp in Nebraska may not be issued until USDA approves Nebraska’s state hemp plan. The Environmental Protection Agency is currently researching pesticide tolerances for use on hemp. In the meantime, minimum risk products are approved for use on hemp. You can find a list of pesticides that have been reviewed by NDA for use on hemp at the [Nebraska Hemp Program page](#).

Hemp has been added as a specialty crop to [DriftWatch](#).

Time to Renew Nebraska Seed Permits

Nebraska produces an abundant amount of agricultural seed each year. While much of the seed produced here is used locally, large amounts (particularly seed corn) is utilized throughout the Great Plains and Midwest. While our state is most noticeably known for agriculture, vegetable and flower seed may be produced here, as well.

Vegetable seed includes the seeds of those crops which are grown in gardens and on truck farms, and are generally known and sold under the name of vegetable or herb seeds. Flower seed includes seeds of herbaceous plants grown for their blooms, ornamental foliage or other ornamental parts and are commonly known and sold under the name of flower or wildflower seeds. Agricultural seed includes the seeds of grass, forage, cereal, oil and fiber crops, and lawn, as well as mixtures of such seeds and any other kinds of seeds, and may include the seed of any plant that is being used as an agricultural crop.

Any seed sold within Nebraska for sowing purposes shall be properly cleaned, tested, labeled and the labeler shall have a valid seed permit in Nebraska to sell such seeds. Cover crops have increased dramatically in the past few years. Any seed sold for cover crops must meet the standards of the Nebraska Seed Law, even if the stand is terminated and not harvested.

Renewal notices were sent out in mid-November, and Nebraska seed permits shall be renewed on or before January 1, of each year. If you have not had a seed permit or are wondering if you need a permit, more information can be found at the [Seed Program page](#) or contact the Nebraska Seed Program at 402-471-2351.

Readers are free to reprint, in whole or in part, information in this newsletter. However, NDA respectfully requests the following citation be used:

Reprinted from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture's Pesticide, Fertilizer & Noxious Weed Newsletter (www.nda.nebraska.gov)

Articles from other sources are often used in this newsletter, and should be cited accordingly.

This newsletter is available in other formats for persons with disabilities upon request. For an alternate format or for additional information on topics in this publication, please call the Nebraska Department of Agriculture at 402-471-2351.

TDD users can contact the Department by first calling the Nebraska Relay System. Telephone 800-833-7352 and asking the operator to call 402-471-2351.

Steve Wellman, Director
Craig Romary, Editor

Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed Program 402-471-2351

Mitch Coffin - Manager

Inspectors:

David Boschult - (northeast region)

Paul Moyer - (southeast region)

Tim Stortz - (southwest & Panhandle region)

This newsletter is posted on NDA's website at bit.ly/NDAPPnews2

Department of Agriculture Pesticide/Fertilizer Program 402-471-2351

Tim Creger - Manager

Donene Lewis – Pesticide and Fertilizer Program Staff Assistant

Libby Smith - Certification/WPS Training

Buzz Vance - Pesticide and Fertilizer Registration Specialist

Craig Romary – Environmental Programs

Herbert Bates - Case Review Officer

Inspectors:

Kevin Holdorf - (Omaha metro region)

Katie Olson - (northeast region)

Eric Fuentes-Ruiz - (southeast region)

Eric Trumbull - (Panhandle region)

Aaron Ide - (southwest region)