SOUTH DAKOTA WEED & PEST COMMISSION
ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK - WEED AND PEST CONTROL PROGRAM

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SOUTH DAKOTA WEED AND PEST COMMISSION
ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK

The South Dakota Weed and Pest Control Commission, April 11, 2012 in Pierre, SD to approve an Annual Plan of Work for the year 2012.

The Commission identified seven areas of concern to be included in the Annual Plan of Work. Those areas include:

1) Canada Thistle, Leafy Spurge, and Saltcedar control guidance
2) Agency weed control
3) Communications with County Commissioners.
4) Weed and Pest Commission Program Guidance.
5) County/State Program Adjustment.
6) Continue support for new methods for weed and pest control.
7) Early Detection and Rapid Response

CANADA THISTLE, LEAFY SPURGE, & SALTCEDAR GUIDANCE AND CONTROL

1) The Commission recognizes that the increasing infestation of Canada Thistle dictates that the control of this weed is priority for the Commission. The Commission will work with the counties on increasing awareness and control of this weed.

    A) Recommend each county undertake a program of Canada Thistle education working with the Extension Field Specialist and others to inform the public the necessity for control of this weed.

    B) Recommend each county weed board take aggressive action in the control of Canada Thistle in their counties

2) The Commission recognizes that the increasing infestation of Leafy Spurge dictates that the control of this weed is priority for the Commission. The Commission will work with the counties on increasing awareness and control of this weed.

    A) Recommend each county undertake a program of Leafy Spurge education working with the Extension Field Specialist and others to inform the public the necessity for control of this weed.

    B) Recommend each county weed board take aggressive action in the control of Leafy Spurge in their counties.

3) The Commission recognizes that the increasing infestation of Saltcedar dictates that the control of this weed is priority for the Commission.

    A) Recommend each county undertake a program of Saltcedar education working with the Extension Field Specialist and others to inform the public the necessity for control of this weed.

B) Recommend each county weed board take aggressive action in the control of Saltcedar in their counties.

AGENCY WEED CONTROL

The commission recognizes that the control of weeds on Federal, State, City, and County lands is a prerequisite to good weed control by the private land owners.

1) The Commission will support working with Federal, State, City, and County landowners to accomplish invasive species on all of their lands.

2. The Commission will support working with Federal, State, City, and County landowners to increase budgets for invasive species control on all of their lands

3. The Commission will support continuing education for Federal, State, City, and County landowners on invasive species control on their lands

COMMUNICATIONS WITH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

Continuing communications with the South Dakota Association of County Commissioners; recognition of the authority and responsibility of the County Commission in ensuring an active County Weed and Pest Board and effective county weed and pest control program; and acknowledgment of the need for grass-roots input and support, prompted the Commission to adopt the following:

1) The Commission will communicate with the County Commissioners through the Executive Director of the SD Association of County Commissioners:

A) Recommending that each County Commission require the County Weed and Pest Board to:

1. Submit to them a written County Weed and Pest Control Plan, and require written annual progress reports, updates, additions, and deletions to the plan. (Reference available SDDA assistance)

2. That the County Commission require complete accountability of the County Weed and Pest Control Program through:

a. Monthly, in-person reports to the County Commission of all activities and actions of the County Weed and Pest Board and Supervisor(s).

b. Complete justification of Weed and Pest Control budgets based on accurate line item accountability of past appropriated funds, and anticipated program growth, expansion, adjustment, and/or reorganization.

c. Daily logs kept by County Weed and Pest Control Program employees of what hours were worked and what activities were completed each day.

B) Recommend that each County Commission develop county policy establishing:

1. County land use plan, which will facilitate local input required by the National Environmental Protection Act with Federal agencies when land use or policy changes are being considered in the County. SDDA to provide technical assistance to County Commissions through County Weed and Pest Boards to include legal requirements for the control of noxious weeds and declared pests in County land use plans. SDDA to provide assistance to counties to also incorporate noxious weed and declared pest management in County land use plans.
2. Encourage counties to seek out qualified people to serve on the County Weed & Pest Board.

C) Encouraging the adoption of a policy to ensure control of noxious weeds and declared pests on private lands as well as public lands. (Reference Federal Guidelines for the Coordinated Management of Noxious Weeds, State Agreement for the Coordinated Control of Noxious Weeds, Memorandum's of Understanding, and Cooperative Agreements)

D) Recommending more advanced qualifications and job competency for County Weed and Pest Supervisors as indicated in the Long Range Directives and require attendance of annual training as provided by the SD Dept. of Agriculture.

2) Each Weed and Pest Commission member representing an Association of County Weed and Pest Boards District will work through the SD Association of County Commissioners representative to secure a slot on the agenda for any Association of County Commissioners district meetings held in their respective districts to personally relay the above-mentioned identified issues.

WEED AND PEST COMMISSION PROGRAM GUIDANCE:

The Commission recognizes the following issues as meriting support of our national leaders. The Commission will communicate the following to South Dakota's Congressional Delegation and to Executive Branch leadership.

1) Support for IPM weed control. Items to be addressed include:

A) Continued funding and expansion of USDA's role in researching, screening, and releasing effective biological weed control agents.
B) Recognition of limitations of biocontrol as a sole or main means of noxious weed control (Reference biocontrol as one tool in the whole box of IPM strategies as well as federal agency over-dependence on biocontrol as their main or sole weed control methodology).
C) Support the establishment of cooperative, county biological control insectaries for the rearing and subsequent redistribution of biocontrol agents for noxious weed control.

2) Support for weed control. Items to be addressed include:

A) Support for the responsible use of effective herbicides on federal lands. (Reference federal agency reluctance or refusal to use herbicides of any type)
B) Recognition of the necessity of using effective herbicides in integrated pest management.

3) Support for the evaluation and amendment of existing environmental regulations and policies that are socially and economically impacting rural communities, including:

A) The Endangered Species Act as it pertains to ecosystem preservation.
B) The National Biological Survey and the use of such by USFWS and environmental groups.
C) The tremendous expenditures of public taxpayer resources due to the federal requirements of NEPA and Section 7 consultation of ESA.

4) Support for increased funding for weed and pest control on federally owned and/or managed lands.

Specific items to be addressed include:

A) Noxious weed control on lands controlled by FWS, FS, BLM, BIA, COE, BOR, FSA/SCS, FmHA, NPS, and FLB.

B) Support for allocating 25 to 30 percent of any existing or future Federal land acquisition funds to be used for land management or maintenance. i.e.(weed or pest control).

The Commission adopted the following as policy and will encourage State land managing agencies address the following:

5) Best Management Plans (BMP) incorporating existing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies.

A) BMP's incorporate site specific plans for the control of noxious weeds:

1. Noxious weed inventory of infested acres.
2. Noxious weed infestation site location maps.
3. Evaluation and prioritization of available weed control resources.
4. Development of integrated control strategies on specific infestation site locations.
5. Annually evaluate the successes and failures of specific infestation site control strategies and modify as needed to achieve a greater level of control.

B) The Commission may send a representative from the Department of Ag and/or a representative from the SD Weed & Pest Control Commission to any invasive species awareness or advocacy meetings.

The South Dakota Weed and Pest Commission recognizes and advocates the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

6) The Commission will request South Dakota State University support research and education concerning IPM strategies and implementing IPM at the local level.

COUNTY/STATE PROGRAM ADJUSTMENT:

The South Dakota Weed and Pest Commission acknowledges the need for continued funding for weed and pest control programs. The Commission further prioritizes available funding in the following manner:

The Commission recognizes the importance of program planning in the success of a noxious weed control program. The Commission advises that each county develop an annual plan of work to include, but not be limited to the following components:

1) Identify, inventory, and map areas of infestation that are of major concern to the people of the county.

A) Coordinate large scale cooperative control efforts.

1. Identify additional resources, equipment, funding, personnel, etc. needed to successfully complete a large scale control project.
2. Assist landowners develop site specific control plans.
3. Develop schedule to monitor progress within a control block area.
4. Proceed with enforcement procedures on non-complying landowners within identified control area.
5. Evaluate successes/failures within cooperative control block.
6. Revise control plans utilizing information developed through evaluation process.

B) Identify, inventory, and map smaller, individual, isolated tracts of infested land within the county.

1. Develop a schedule to monitor compliance or noncompliance.
2. Proceed with enforcement procedures on non-complying landowners.

2) Information and education.

A) Continuation of existing Commission funded research.
B) Continue and expand public information and education programs.
C) Continue to support large scale multi-agency cooperative noxious weed management projects.
D) Continue to support Coordinated Resource Management and expansion of Memorandum of Understandings.
E) Continue and expand County Weed and Pest Supervisor training and certification.

3) Identify and schedule county educational opportunities.

A) Work with Extension Field Specialist to develop educational programs that address local weed and pest control concerns and needs.
B) Contact county VoAg instructors, 4-H leaders, elementary and high school science teachers, community clubs, farm/ranch organizations, county fairs, farm/home shows, sport shows, etc. informing them about the educational weed and pest control programs/displays available.
C) Develop a series of news releases concerning noxious weed and declared pest control. Submit to local newspapers, radio, TV over the course of the season.
D) Develop a direct mail piece to be sent to all landowners in the county. Stuff direct mail pieces along with the tax notices or other county mail already going out, or make a special mailing.

4) Ensure that all township right-of-ways in the county have control measures in place.

A) Schedule meetings with each township board in the county to discuss noxious weed control plans and request that each designate a township representative to assist the county Board.
B) Assist townships in securing applicators if the County does not, or cannot in a timely manner, control township right-of-ways. Remember, most section lines, if not legally closed, are usually township right-of-ways.

5) County weed and pest boards have necessary weed and pest control measures in place.

A) Have sufficient personnel hired early enough in the year to begin control measures in a timely manner.
B) Have all equipment repaired, assembled, and ready for use early enough to ensure timely control.
C) Update infestation maps and have ready for use when control season begins.

6) Perennial offender preseason notification.

A) Perennial offenders are identified from past records, and infestation map data.
B) Friendly notification sent to all perennial offenders reminding of obligation to control infestations and advising that compliance inspections will be conducted after a specified date.
C) Proceed with enforcement procedures on all non-complying landowners.

The Commission recognizes the importance of written, site specific control plans in the long term success of noxious weed and declared pest enforcements. The Commission recommends that all enforcements, local and state conducted, incorporate a requirement of written control plans for all individuals involved in enforcements.

7) Enforcement control plans should be developed cooperatively involving the Extension Field Specialist, County Weed and Pest Supervisor, and State Weed and Pest Supervisor and take into account the following as a minimum:

A) Grazing and cropping systems currently used.
B) Financial allocations to weed and pest control by the landowner.
C) Types of control equipment and methodologies accessible to landowner.
D) Locations and species of infestations.

The Commission supports the continued training and education of County Weed and Pest personnel.

8) Ongoing county training and informational programs should be conducted as part of a continuing education process including the following:

A) Investigate initiating specialized certification requirements and categories for County Weed and Pest Supervisors.
B) Annual training topics to be determined by the County Weed and Pest Supervisors through statewide surveys and polls conducted by the SD Dept. of Ag. and/or SD Association of County Weed & Pest Supervisors.
C) The SD Dept. of Ag. will be responsible for coordinating annual County Weed and Pest Supervisor & Boards Training with the cooperation of SDSU Extension Service and conduct the training and educational needs of County Weed and Pest Boards.
D) The SD Association of County Weed and Pest Boards form a County Weed & Pest Board Training Committee within their Association to identify, plan, and coordinate training.

9) Continuation of field monitoring of economically threatening grasshopper populations.
A) Assist Counties in identifying and obtaining funding to control grasshoppers that reach economic damaging levels.
B) Continue to cooperate with USDA/APHIS on grasshopper research, monitoring, and control programs.
C) Request Federal funds from USDA/APHIS to control grasshoppers on CRP, rangelands, and other federally managed lands.

D) State Weed and Pest Commission make emergency pest declaration of grasshoppers as early as possible.

The Commission acknowledges the need for evaluations of individual programs as an aid in the identification of areas for improvement and monitoring compliance with established statutes, rules, and policy.

10) The SD Dept. of Ag. may annually evaluate individual county programs based on applicable statutes, rules, and policy as outlined in the SD Weed and Pest Control Handbook.

11) The SD Dept. of Ag. may conduct annual reviews and evaluations of all active projects and/or programs receiving funding from any grant program administered through the Commission.

CONTINUE SUPPORT FOR NEW WEED CONTROL METHODS

The commission recognizes that new and innovative means of weed control are always being developed and will continue to support the introduction of the new methods as soon as practical.

SUPPORT FOR EARLY DETECTION AND RAPID RESPONSE OF INFESTATIONS

The commission recognizes that preventing the introduction of invasive species is the first line of defense against new invasions. However, even the best prevention efforts will not stop all invasive species introductions.

The commission recognizes the most time and cost-effective way to manage the potential negative impacts of new invasive species is through Early Detection and Rapid Response. (EDRR)

1) The commission recommends each county utilizes an EDRR principles.

A) By soliciting reports of new invasive species whenever they are found.

B) Rapidly access the potential threat of the new species.

C) Request research and technical support from SDSU.

D) Establish control measures.

E) Develop a plan of education and outreach.

2012-2013 WEED & PEST COMMISSION WORK PLAN SCHEDULE

September 17, (1 pm – until completed) Business Meeting
September 18, (8 am – 5 pm) District 1 Annual Inspection

October 2012– Mail out Call for Grants

November – Weed and Pest Board District Meetings
Tentative dates are:
November 7 – Rapid City, District 4
November 8 – Fort Pierre, District 3
November 9 – Stratford, District 1
November 13 – Mitchell, District 2

December 2012 – Regular Meeting if needed

February – 20, 21 & 22 2013 Weed & Pest Convention Huron / Review Grants

March / April 2013 – Annual Meeting

The preceding document has been reviewed and accepted by the members of the South Dakota Weed and Pest Commission.

Lynn Deibert, Chairman

Date May 5-12