

**Inside This Issue:**

New Omaha Metro Pesticide/Fertilizer Inspector	2
800 Number Scam	2
Nebraska Noxious Weed Acres	3
Aminopyralids: Restrictions for Grazing, Compost and Manure	3
Weeds of the Great Plains	3
Nebraska Buffer Strip Program	3
Private Applicator License Categories	4
Endangered Species Protection	4
Applicator Certification Update	5
Does the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Apply to You?	5
Product Performance Data Requirements for Certain Invertebrate Pests	5
Corn and Soybeans Now an Option for Nebraska DriftWatch	6

**Enlist One and Enlist Duo Herbicides Approved for All Counties in Nebraska**

*Tim Creger, Manager, Pesticide and Fertilizer Programs*

In January 2022, the U.S. EPA approved the reregistration for Enlist One and Enlist Duo herbicides, which are the only 2, 4-D herbicides legally registered for use on 2, 4-D tolerant soybeans and cotton. The EPA was unable to review all data for potential endangered species impacts prior to the deadline. This resulted in the new labels showing 32 counties in Nebraska as prohibited for use due to potential impacts on the American Burying Beetle. Shortly after the January announcement, EPA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services received additional data showing the herbicides would not likely impact the beetle or its habitat, and EPA was able to approve a revised label that no longer had the counties in Nebraska prohibited for use.

There is one important aspect to the new Enlist labels that is critical for applicators and farmers to know, which is a new requirement to ensure soil runoff is limited after application. The new labels require the applicator to determine which soil group the target field is in, and make sure the field has active soil runoff measures in place before the application is made. [NDA has created a walk-through document](#) to help farmers and commercial applicators find soil groups for determining whether the target field needs additional runoff mitigation measures. The take-home message for Enlist products is that they can be used in all counties, but the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) urges users to understand the labels have changed significantly from last year, and to read and follow the new soil runoff measures.

**Dicamba for Use on Dicamba-Tolerant Soybeans**

There are three restricted use pesticide (RUP) dicamba products that can be used on dicamba-tolerant soybeans: Engenia, XtendiMax and Tavium. All three labels for use in Nebraska are unchanged from the 2021 labels, but NDA reminds applicators to pay particular attention to the following, which have generated the most label violations:

- There are a lot of record keeping requirements. Pay attention to the added records each label requires beyond the regular records required for all RUP applications. (For more on record keeping, see link at left). NDA found frequent violations on 2021 records that lacked buffer area calculations, sensitive site surveys, endangered species bulletins, annual applicator training documentation and tank mix or nozzle

[NDA's Pesticide Record Keeping brochure](#) was revised to keep it consistent with EPA certification standards. Please become familiar with these requirements.

*Continued next page*

## 800 Number Scam

NDA Pesticide Program no longer has a toll-free certification line, and we have learned that the old number is now used by a scammer pretending to be a representative of NDA.

DO NOT CALL the number that is found on old NDA specialty items (pencils, etc.) or other material that you may have. Please destroy those items. If you have questions concerning the Pesticide Program, licensing and certification, or other information presented in this newsletter, please call 402-471-2351.

---

### EPA Grant Opportunity; Deadline July 1, 2022

The [Pesticide Educational Resources Collaborative](#) (PERC) is seeking applications for agricultural community-based projects that will serve farmworkers, agricultural pesticide handlers, their families, and/or their communities by contributing to the safe use of pesticides and/or working safely in areas where pesticides are used.

*Continued from previous page*

configuration. MAKE SURE the EPA Registration Numbers recorded are for the containers purchased in 2021 or 2022, since those numbers changed when the products were reregistered in 2021.

- When the label says to measure the wind speed, wind direction and air temperature at boom height, that doesn't mean to look at a weather app on your phone as you stand next to the boom! It means you use a hand-held device capable of measuring wind and temperature, and that you record the reading it shows as an average over 30 to 60 seconds so that you have a real-time record of what was going on in the field.
- All three RUP dicamba labels require the applicator to determine nearby sensitive crops or other areas, and NOT make the application if the wind is blowing toward those sites at the time of the application, or if the wind shifts so that it is blowing in the direction of those sites. This is a tough call to make when you are spraying a large field and staying on the far side, but the wind shifts, and you think you can finish the job since you aren't close to the downwind sensitive site. Dicamba can carry considerable distances, even when conditions are right, and many of the complaints NDA investigates each year involve applications that could have avoided problems had the applicator done a better job of watching wind forecasts a day or two earlier.

More information, including NDA's Dicamba Best Management Practices, RUP dicamba labels, and other label compliance resources can be found at [NDA Dicamba Information for 2022](#).

---

### New Omaha Metro Pesticide/Fertilizer Inspector



The Pesticide/Fertilizer Inspector position previously held by Kevin Holdorf has been filled by Jordan Peterson. Jordan comes to NDA after working for the Ventura County (CA) Ag Commissioner as an entomology inspector. Jordan has a degree in Environmental Science and is eager to learn about urban and rural issues in the Omaha metro area and counties along the Missouri River from Burt County in the north to Otoe County in the south. Jordan has a home office and can be reached by calling the main office in Lincoln.

Welcome, Jordan!

## Nebraska Noxious Weed Infested Acres

*Mitch Coffin, Noxious Weed Program Manager*

Noxious weeds are a serious threat to agriculture across the state and country. The most noticeable infestations in Nebraska occur on roadsides, range and pasture lands. Weeds like purple loosestrife, phragmites and saltcedar tend to impact wetland areas that may not directly affect agriculture but are devastating to our rivers and wetlands. These plants do affect surface water, wildlife and recreation in these infested areas.

In 1990, Nebraska had only four designated state noxious weeds. These four plant species infested 3,987,914 acres (6.1% of the land) in 1990. Those weeds were musk thistle, plumeless thistle, Canada thistle and leafy spurge. Since 1990, an additional eight plants (spotted knapweed, diffuse knapweed, purple loosestrife, phragmites, saltcedar, Japanese knotweed, giant knotweed and sericea lespedeza) have been declared noxious weeds in Nebraska. The 2021 infestation data shows that 833,642 acres (1.7% of the land) were infested with noxious weeds across the state. This data includes the [twelve state-designated noxious weeds](#). Infested acres data is reported annually to the Nebraska Department of Agriculture by each county weed control authority.

This data indicates that more than 3 million acres have been improved and are more productive than in 1990. In the case of range and pastureland, this means more grass which in turn means more pounds of beef. Some noxious weeds are found in cropland and hay ground which can decrease crop yield. These areas are now more productive because of less noxious weed competition while also improving the quality of the crop.

Much of the success of the noxious weed program can be credited to an aggressive public awareness campaign conducted by each county weed control authority. Most landowners and managers are concerned about noxious weeds and strive to improve their property. However, public awareness is needed to ensure continued success.

The real winners are those who have taken the right approach to improve their land by controlling not only noxious weeds, but other invasive weeds that compete with grass and crops. Immediate results may not be noticed for a year or two. However, long-term results will outweigh the cost of controlling noxious and invasive weeds.

Uncontrolled noxious weed infestations should be reported to your [local county weed control authority](#).

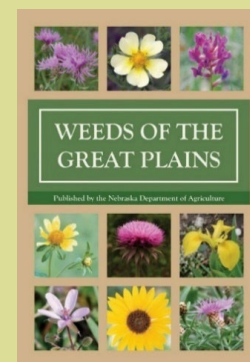
---

## [Aminopyralids: Restrictions for Grazing, Compost and Manure \(UNL PSEP\)](#)

The prices of synthetic fertilizers have increased significantly over the last year, leaving growers and even homeowners facing the decision of finding alternative sources of nutrients. One great option is the use of manure or compost from a local farm or from your own operation. The use of manure in gardening can loosen compacted soil, increase carbon in the soil and reduce surface runoff and leaching, all while providing nutrients that your plants need. While this option is great, it is important to be aware of the potential carryover of herbicides in manure from grazing animals. [Continue reading here](#).

## Weeds of the Great Plains

Purchase the book in person at the NDA office in Lincoln (now at 245 Fallbrook Blvd.) for a cost of \$32.50 or a mailed copy for a cost of \$35 per copy. To order the book or learn more about noxious weeds, go to [NDA's Noxious Weed Program](#) page or call 402-471-2351.



---

## [Nebraska Buffer Strip Program](#)

Funding is still available for filter strips and riparian forest buffer strips.

These are great practices to add to other soil erosion and field management practices for reducing sediments and agrichemicals from reaching our streams and rivers. More information is at the link above.



## Private Applicator License Categories

With the changes to the federal standards for applicator certification, private applicators will be required to obtain soil fumigation (category 01A), structural/non-soil fumigation (category 11), or aerial (category 12) categories on their private license to perform these three uses with RUPs. Those who have licenses that expire in 2023 or 2024 should add those categories that year to perform these three uses.

Private applicator categories are added by passing the category exam at any NDA commercial/noncommercial applicator testing session. Exams will not be offered during private applicator training sessions.

If you recertified in 2022 but need to add one or more of these categories, see the links in the certification article on page five for testing options and study material.

---

NDA's [Plant Health Protection Update](#), a periodic e-letter, provides information related to NDA's Plant Health Protection programs, including Entomology, Export Certification, Nursery Certification, Pesticide, Fertilizer, Seed and Noxious Weed.

## Bulletins Live! Two and Endangered Species Protection

*Craig Romary, Environmental Programs Specialist*

Pesticide products having directions for consulting the Bulletins Live! Two (BLT) map have been registered in Nebraska now for three years or more. So, it is important for applicators to know where to look and how to use the tool when required by the label.

The label will direct the applicator to look for endangered species protection bulletins that may cover the application area. Those bulletins can be found by starting at this page, [Endangered Species Protection Bulletins | US EPA](#), which offers several links of information including the revamped and user-friendly BLT map. If you plan to use the map page (top link), you must use one of the following browsers for it to work well: Google Chrome; Firefox; or Safari.

Zoom in to your area of interest. Be sure to allow a bit of time to pass after every map adjustment to allow the map to reload. Select the month of application (no more than six months in advance). If your application area is located within a shaded pesticide use limitation area, or PULA, click on your application site to highlight the limitation area, then print/save the bulletin using the green "printable bulletin" button. If there are no shaded areas in the vicinity or your application area, you can click the green "printable bulletin" button to save a copy for your files. If your application area is not shaded but there are shaded areas nearby, click on the PULA to highlight the limitation area, then print/save the bulletin using the green "printable bulletin" button.

Note that the directions above will produce bulletins for all products having use restrictions in the use limitation area.

Learn more about the threatened, endangered, and at-risk species in your area:

- [This species-by-county list](#) will be helpful to know which species may be found in your area.
- [The state range maps at this page](#) will give you an idea of where in a county the species may be found.
- [Also, at this page](#), find in-depth information about the type of habitat where these species typically are found and their life history.
- See the [complete list of federal and state-listed threatened and endangered species](#) in Nebraska.

These links and more can be found at [NDA's Endangered Species Protection page](#).



---

## EPA Looks for Farmer Feedback

EPA [wants your input on endangered species label protections](#). The future of pesticide labels is undergoing active construction at EPA, and farmers, pesticide applicators and other ag stakeholders may have an opportunity to influence that work.

## Applicator Certification Update

*Libby Smith, Certification Specialist*

With recertification season coming to an end, NDA and the UNL Pesticide Safety and Education Program (UNL PSEP) certified 5,262 private applicators and 3,099 commercial/noncommercial applicators between January 1 and April 15, 2022. This group of newly-certified and recertified applicators makes up the 27,552 applicators we currently have certified in the state. As a reminder to those who recently attended a training session either online or in-person, you are not considered licensed until you have remitted the licensing fees to NDA and have been issued a card, except for the case of noncommercial applicators as no fees are associated with this type of license. If you have taken a training and have not received a billing postcard, feel free to reach out to our office at 402-471-2351.

NDA issues three types of pesticide applicator licenses. A private applicator license which can be issued to those who apply restricted-use pesticides in the production of an agricultural commodity on property they own or lease. A commercial applicator license is required by those who make applications of restricted-use pesticides for hire or those making applications of general-use pesticides in structural or ornamental and turf categories. A noncommercial applicator license is for those who only make applications of restricted-use pesticides to property or commodities directly under the control of their employer on a not-for-hire basis.

For those who missed the in-person trainings, there are still opportunities to become licensed. Those needing to obtain a private applicator license can enroll in online training with [UNL PSEP](#), and after completing the course, they will be eligible to purchase the license. Certification through examination is also an option for private applicators and is available at any of our walk-in testing sessions. Commercial and noncommercial applicators will need to pass a minimum of two exams to become certified to purchase a license. A [schedule of NDA Walk-In Testing dates](#) can be found on our website. Study materials are available for purchase through the [UNL PSEP](#).

---

## Product Performance Data Requirements for Certain Invertebrate Pests

The EPA has submitted for rule [product performance data requirements](#) to support pesticide product registration. This will apply to products claiming efficacy against pests identified to be of significant public health importance (mosquitoes, cockroaches, etc.), wood-destroyers and certain invasive invertebrate species (e.g., Asian longhorn beetle). Product performance data will be required to document how well the pesticide functions (killing, repelling, etc.) against the pest. These data will be used to substantiate any claims the manufacturer makes about the effectiveness of the product, aiding applicators and end-users in determining which products are appropriate for use.

Registrants must submit studies demonstrating their product's efficacy using specified test species and meeting specified performance standards. Numerical performance standards, such as the percent mortality, percent repellency, percent knockdown, or complete protection time, will need to be achieved to deem the data acceptable for the purpose of supporting a product making a claim against an invertebrate pest.

## Does the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Apply to You?

Do you work on an agricultural establishment, even part of the time?

An agricultural establishment means any farm, forest operation or nursery engaged in the outdoor or enclosed space production of agricultural plants. An establishment that is not primarily agricultural is considered an agricultural establishment if it produces agricultural plants for transplant or use (in part or their entirety) in another location instead of purchasing the agricultural plants. Food and oil crops, turf, forest products, ornamental flowers and trees, organic operations, greenhouses, mushroom houses, and warehouse production facilities are included.

Answer this [quick series of questions](#) to find out for sure!

## Corn and Soybeans Now an Option for Nebraska DriftWatch

In 2018 in Arkansas, four crops (rice, cotton, corn and soybeans) were mapped on a platform identical to DriftWatch. In 2021, this was expanded to five states. For the 2022 growing season, these row-crops have been added into DriftWatch to allow crop producers in all states to map these crops. This should be a valuable service to row crop growers and area pesticide applicators (including farmers and commercial applicators) as more pesticide product labels include application restrictions when applied adjacent to susceptible crops. To register these crops or commercial specialty crops, visit [DriftWatch](#). To register commercial apiaries, visit [BeeCheck](#).

Applicators are encouraged to take advantage of the [FieldCheck](#) registry, which provides notices when new info is added in your area, a free app having specialty crop locations at your fingertips, and seed corn field worker (detasseler) locations (which are added to the SeedFieldCheck registry by seed corn companies).

More information on DriftWatch, BeeCheck, FieldCheck and SeedFieldCheck can be found on NDA's [FieldWatch Registries](#) webpage.



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:

Adam Brockmann - (Northeast Region)

Paul Moyer - (Southeast Region)

Tim Stortz - (Southwest & Panhandle Region)

---

*This newsletter is posted on NDA's website at [nda.nebraska.gov/plant/newsletter/](http://nda.nebraska.gov/plant/newsletter/)*

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

Tim Creger - Manager

Donene Lewis –Staff Assistant

Libby Smith - Certification/WPS Training

Bre Lewis-Jones - Product Registration Specialist

Craig Romary – Environmental Programs

Herbert Bates - Case Review Officer

Inspectors:

Jordan Peterson - (Omaha Metro Region)

Katie Olson - (Northeast Region)

Eric Fuentes-Ruiz - (Southeast Region)

Eric Trumbull - (Panhandle Region)

Aaron Ide - (Southwest Region)