

Pesticide, Fertilizer & Noxious Weed Newsletter

Summer 2016

Volume 39

New Look, New Name, Same Informative Subject Matter!

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NDA Pesticide Program to Offer Computerized Testing Options

In order to meet the increasing number of requests for more applicator testing sessions, the Pesticide/Fertilizer Program has contracted with a national leader in on-demand computer-based testing services. Not only will there be more opportunities to test, individuals will have more flexibility to register for times that fit their schedule. In addition, testers will know their results upon completing each test, allowing them to register and take the test again, if they so choose. Lastly, it is hoped the time needed for the certification process will be shortened using this system.

The company, Pearson VUE, has been working since last fall to offer many of the most frequently requested examinations at testing centers around the state. At this time, NDA has a kick-off date of July 1st for the service to begin.

The initial service will offer the General Standards exam (00), plus the following category exams: Ag Plant Pest (01), Ornamental and Turf Pest (04), Right-of-Way Pest (07), Structural & Health-related Pest (08), Wood Destroying Organism (08W), and Aerial Pest Control (12). If the service is well received, other categories will be added over time. The cost for each exam session (one exam can be taken per session) is \$55, paid to Pearson VUE, not NDA. Registration for a test session can be made online or by telephone no less than 24 hours before the session.

The locations where exams will be offered include Omaha (three sites), Lincoln (two sites), North Platte (two sites), Scottsbluff, Columbus, Norfolk, Grand Island, Alliance and McCook (see map on page 2). The day and time each site is open varies, and will be published once the service is live. The days and hours of service will enable testers to schedule exams as their time allows, rather than the infrequent dates and locations offered in NDA walk-in testing sessions. It is anticipated that the service will become more attractive as EPA moves forward with revisions to the national certification regulations sometime next year. Those new rules could require applicators to take many more hours of training to recertify a license, which could make recertifying by exam a more favorable option.

Stay tuned to NDA's Applicator Certification web page, and NDA news/social media outlets for more information on this new opportunity.

Walk-in 'Paper' Testing Sites for 2016

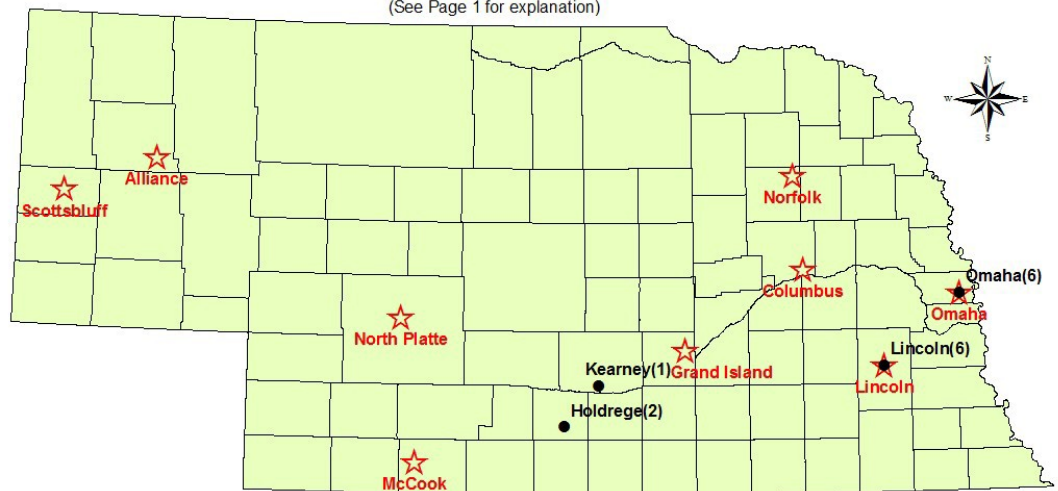
In addition to the new computerized sessions, NDA will still have "walk-in" testing sessions that are proctored by NDA personnel. These are also shown on the map on page 2, along with the number of days offered in that location in parentheses. Visit bit.ly/NDAPPdates for a listing of these dates and locations.

(Continued next page)

If you did not recertify at a meeting before your pesticide license expired, you will have to take exams to become certified. See bit.ly/NDAPPdates for a listing of testing opportunities

2016 NDA Applicator Testing Sessions Available

(See Page 1 for explanation)



- Walk-in 'Paper' Sites (# days available beginning June 23)
- ☆ Computerized Testing Sites (available after July 1, proposed)

Thank you for your cooperation in limiting the use of electronic devices at recertification meetings!



Certification Season Wrap-Up

The 2016 certification season has come to a close. The weather kept this season interesting with many rescheduled dates, but other than that, it went as smooth as can be expected. Applicators with licenses that expired April 15, 2016, and who did not attend recertification meetings held January-April, will need to take exams in order to recertify their licenses. Walk-in testing dates are offered throughout the state and can be found here: bit.ly/NDAPPdates (see preceding article and map).

NDA started a new policy concerning the use of electronic devices at recertification meetings in 2016. The goal of this policy is to reduce distractions at meetings and ensure that our applicators are receiving adequate training to recertify their licenses. Overall, the policy was a success. There were much fewer instances of applicators using electronic devices at meetings than in years past. We look forward to your continued cooperation with this policy and hope that you get the most out of your required training sessions.

Here are a few certification reminders as you get under way this season:

- Check the expiration date on your license;
- Make sure that you have paid for your commercial or private license well ahead of when you plan to spray or purchase pesticides;
- If you are unsure of your license status, call us at (402) 471-2351;
- Always read and follow the label instructions of whatever product you are applying;
- Watch for our winter newsletter containing 2017 applicator training and testing dates.

Pesticide Container Recycling – 25th Year!

Nebraska's voluntary pesticide container recycling program has reason to shout. Now in its 25th year, the program has recycled nearly 2.3 million pounds of pesticide containers since 1991.

This year clean pesticide containers may be taken to 24 Nebraska sites at no cost to participants, said Clyde Ogg, pesticide safety extension educator with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"Triple-rinsing and recycling containers is the right thing to do," Ogg said. "It's cost-effective, cooperative, and an environmental way to dispose of these containers."

The program accepts pressure-rinsed or triple-rinsed 1- and 2.5-gallon plastic pesticide or crop oil containers, as well as 15-, 30- or 55-gallon drums. Containers must be clean and drained, inside and out. Caps, labels, booklets, and slipcover plastic labels must be removed. Glued-on paper labels may be left on the container. Rinsate should be returned to the spray tank.

Currently, the clean HPDE plastic is collected and granulated by Ag Container Recycling Council contractors and processed for ACRC-approved use by drain tile (corrugated pipe) manufacturers. Other approved uses include fence posts, sign posts, underground utility conduit, certain industrial pallets, rebar stands for concrete and more.

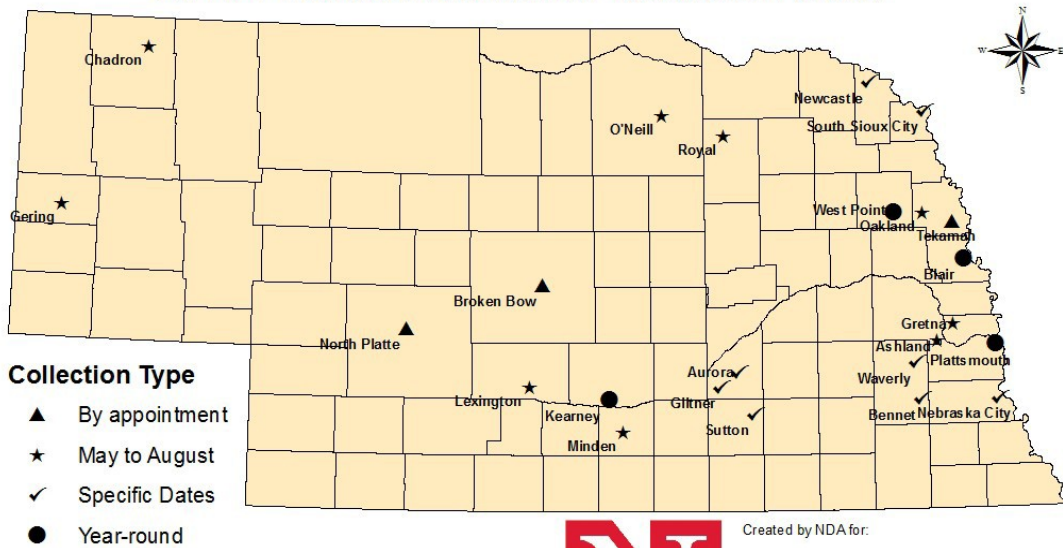
"The fact that Nebraska's program has been going strong for 25 years demonstrates responsible and dedicated stewardship by the agricultural community," Ogg said.

See pested.unl.edu for a complete list of sites, dates, and instructions.

Federal law requires the rinsing of liquid pesticide containers before disposal of any kind, including recycling. Containers must be cleaned before received for recycling by either triple rinse or pressure rinse methods.

See the NebGuide, *Rinsing Pesticide Containers*, for more information on how to properly manage your rinsate and container waste to make recycling more beneficial: tinyurl.com/jn5bnvt

2016 Pesticide Container Collection Sites



Laundering Applicator Clothing and Protective Gloves & Clothing, recent articles from UNL's Pesticide Safety Education Program, can be seen under the Pesticide Safety heading at bit.ly/CropWatch5616

Did you know?

You can receive timely updates to the Pesticide, Fertilizer, and Noxious Weed Programs by subscribing to the Plant Health Protection Update, a periodic news feed covering topics from the 'plant' programs of the Animal & Plant Health Protection focus area. In addition, important notices are often distributed through NDA's Facebook and Twitter pages, as well as this newsletter's list serve. See bit.ly/NDAMedia3 for these and other agriculture news options provided by NDA.



Invasive Species Brochure

The Nebraska Invasive Species Program has developed a new brochure raising awareness to steps we can take to reduce the spread of unwanted species. See it inserted in this issue, and at: bit.ly/NEinvasives.

Public Health Topic – Zika Virus

Tom Janousek, Entomologist, Nebraska Mosquito & Vector Control Association

Zika Virus is the newest mosquito-borne virus to enter the U.S. Travelers from Zika-infected countries can bring the virus to Nebraska but the mosquitoes that carry it are rarely found in Nebraska. Therefore, Zika transmission by mosquitoes will likely be rare in Nebraska.

Zika Virus was prevalent in Africa and SE Asia but in 2015 was found in South and Central America. It reached the United States by travelers from regions with Zika Virus activity. As of May 11, 2016, transmission by mosquitoes in United States has not occurred but 503 travelers from Zika infected, or endemic, regions have tested positive for the virus. Nebraska has had 2 cases of Zika found in travelers from Zika-endemic areas.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (cdc.gov), the Zika Virus is primarily spread through the bite of an *Aedes* mosquito. The most common symptoms are mild fever, rash and joint pain lasting a few days. Only 1 in 5 with the disease shows symptoms. The virus remains in the human blood system for a few days. Deaths are rare. Zika Virus has been shown to cause birth defects to the fetus of infected pregnant women. Birth defects include shrinking of the brain or microcephaly, and vision and hearing defects. It is not known when during pregnancy the virus transmission from an infected mother occurs. Once infected, a person probably develops immunity from future infections.

Transmission by sexual contact with infected individuals has also been documented. Although not documented in the United States, transmission by blood transfusion has been observed in other countries.

Currently, there are no vaccines for Zika Virus. Treatment of the symptoms is the course of action.

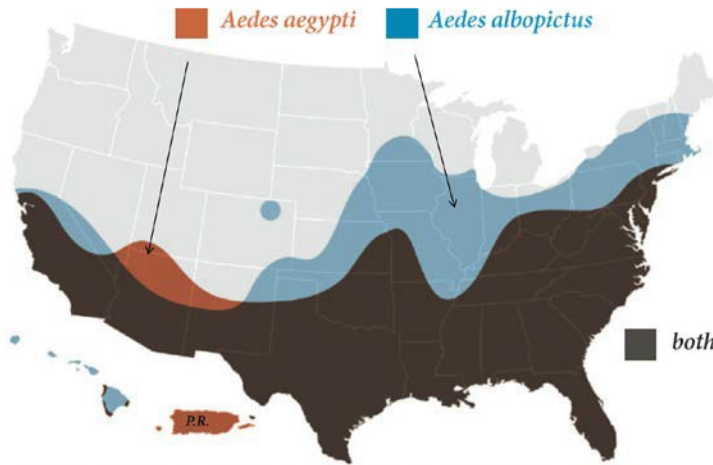
The *Aedes* mosquitoes that can transmit Zika Virus are commonly found throughout southern U.S., so future transmission in those areas is likely. The figure (next page) shows the United States range of *Aedes aegypti*, considered the primary vector of Zika Virus, and *Aedes albopictus*, considered a secondary vector. However, *A. aegypti*, which is a container-breeding, day-time flying species, has not been documented in Nebraska. *A. albopictus* has been found in Nebraska but does not appear to be able to withstand cold temperatures.

When traveling in affected areas, the best prevention is to reduce skin exposure and to use repellents.

Nebraskans should be more concerned about the West Nile Virus, since mosquitoes able to transmit this virus are very abundant in Nebraska while those capable of transmitting Zika Virus are very rare.

(Continued next page)

The Nebraska Mosquito & Vector Control Association strongly recommends surveillance to determine the presence of mosquitoes, including those that can carry diseases. If sufficient levels of mosquitoes are observed, then integrated mosquito control efforts should be undertaken by licensed professionals. Since both the Zika and West Nile Virus mosquitoes are found in water-holding containers, backyard and neighborhood clean-ups will eliminate many of the disease-carrying mosquitoes.



Known distribution is estimated and actual distribution may shift quickly due to mosquito movement and weather patterns.

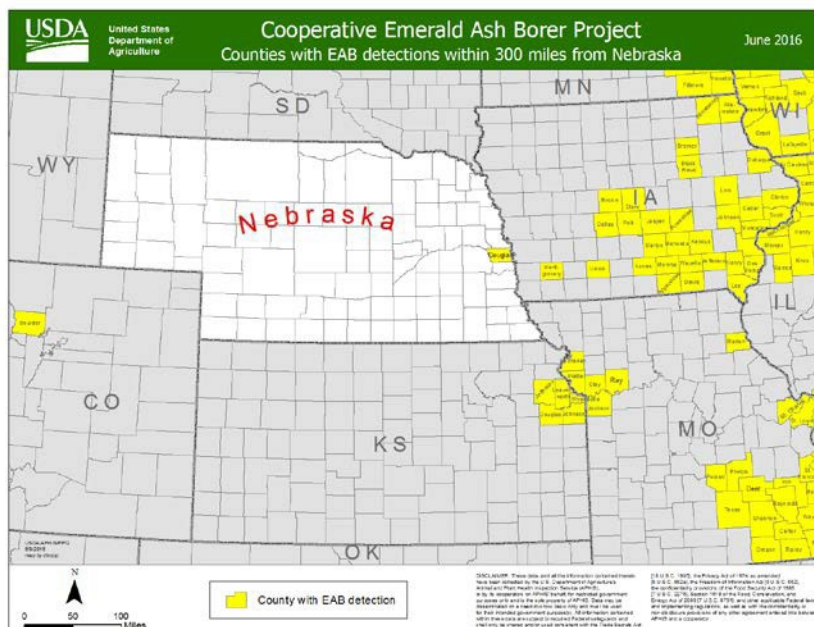
(Map originally published at bit.ly/NCIPMCzika, and used with permission from the North Central IPM Center)

Tips for implementing an IPM plan for mosquitoes, including setting threshold levels for control, ongoing monitoring and surveillance, preventative sanitation, and control options can be found at this National Cooperative Extension link: bit.ly/IPM4skepters

A recent article by National Public Radio (bit.ly/NPRzika0116) follows up on research which tested the effectiveness of mosquito repellents. Graphs showing the effectiveness at keeping mosquitos away shortly after application and four hours later are included, as well as links to the original published research paper.

Emerald Ash Borer is Here

The first detection of emerald ash borer (EAB) in Nebraska, from a park in the Omaha area, was confirmed June 8, 2016. NDA has issued a quarantine prohibiting ash nursery stock from leaving the quarantine area, which also regulates the movement of hardwood firewood and mulch, ash timber products and green waste material out of Douglas, Sarpy, Cass, Washington and Dodge counties to assist in the prevention of human-assisted spread into un-infested areas. The Nebraska EAB working group says that treatments for EAB should be considered only when EAB is known to be present within 15 miles of your tree. This 15-mile recommendation strikes a balance between protecting valuable trees and limiting the negative effects of unnecessary treatments. Treating trees outside of the 15-mile zone provides little or no benefit to the trees, yet exposes humans and the environment to pesticides, wastes money and, in the case of trunk injections, causes unjustified tree damage. The full press release, including links to more information, can be found at: nda.nebraska.gov.



Worth a Look: Insecticide Options for Protecting Ash Trees, Second Edition, June 2014. and Biological Control of EAB. Both at emeraldashborer.info

DriftWatch Update

DriftWatch has been growing, both in size and in functionality. North Carolina was recently added to the list of states utilizing DriftWatch, bringing the total to 13 states and one Canadian province. Other states are looking to join DriftWatch in the near future. Continent-wide, approximately 383,000 acres of specialty crops and 6,000 apiaries are registered by 6,900 specialty crop growers – all shown on one user-friendly web map.

FieldWatch, the nonprofit company that manages DriftWatch, has also created BeeCheck, a registry solely for beekeepers. There is a separate button at the FieldWatch website for beekeepers to register, and there are new field signs and flags available for beekeepers to purchase (please be on the lookout for these in the field). All apiaries and specialty crop sites are displayed on the same web map.



FieldWatch is working with several agriculture software providers to bring the specialty crop location information directly to your GPS units and mobile devices. Please contact FieldWatch at the link below if you are interested in learning more about this membership benefit.

Lastly, FieldWatch still provides, free of charge, the ability to receive email notices when new information is added to your geographic area of interest. New growers and sites are added weekly, so this service should be a benefit to most any outdoor applicator, especially those with Ag Plant, Right of Way, Ornamental & Turf, and Public Health categories. Continent-wide, there are approximately 1,250 registered applicators taking advantage of this service – are you one of them? Simply go to the link below, click the “FieldWatch for Applicators” button, and follow the instructions for registering as an applicator.

If you have not done so recently, please visit FieldWatch/DriftWatch at www.fieldwatch.com. If you have questions about Nebraska DriftWatch/BeeCheck, please contact Craig at (402) 471-6883.

Several other states have their own specialty crop registry system:

- Florida apiaries (bit.ly/FLBEEreg)
- Iowa (bit.ly/CropIA2)
- Maryland (1.usa.gov/1hcjNCH)
- North Dakota (bit.ly/NDspcrop)
- Ohio (1.usa.gov/1jXVvfB)
- Oklahoma (bit.ly/CropOK2)
- South Dakota (1.usa.gov/TUCI84)
- Texas (bit.ly/1pgpkNJ)

Applicators working in states not listed should contact the state department of agriculture to see if there is a similar service there. Clicking on this map will provide contact information for that agency in each state: bit.ly/NASDAmap.

Both NDA and UNL Extension published press releases earlier this spring promoting drift prevention and communication for pesticide applications. See the NDA press release at bit.ly/2016DWpr and the UNL Pesticide Safety Education Program/CropWatch article at bit.ly/UNLdriftinfo2.

**Communication +
Cooperation +
Collaboration =
Successful
Co-existence**



State Management Plan (SMP) for Pesticides and Water

NDA facilitated the initial meeting of the SMP Committee, which consisted of representatives from the Nebraska Departments of Environmental Quality, Health & Human Services, and Natural Resources, as well as the Nebraska Association of Natural Resources Districts. As described in the SMP policy document, this committee will advise the NDA Director on whether the need exists to develop a pesticide-specific Pesticide Management Plan (PMP) to address water quality concerns in surface or groundwater resources. The SMP policy document and background information are posted at bit.ly/NDAPPsmp. Updates to this process will also be posted at this page.

Nebraska Water Quality Reports

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality annually publishes a report summarizing the monitoring programs it conducts. The 2015 Nebraska Water Monitoring Programs Report, found at bit.ly/NDEQswmon, contains a summary of a variety of monitoring programs for pesticides, including groundwater, surface water, and fish tissue.

Invasive Old World Bluestems

The Winter-Spring 2016 issue of UNL's Center for Grassland Studies newsletter contains an article about the increase of Caucasian bluestem and yellow bluestem along the southern edge of Nebraska. These grasses were planted in southern states because they are easy to establish, even though they are less palatable than native grasses, and are often not grazed. But now, previously native grasslands have been transformed to near monocultures of old world bluestems. See the full article at bit.ly/UNLcfigsWS16.

BMPs for Wildlife

A new publication by the California Invasive Plant Council, *Best Management Practices for Wildland Stewardship: Protecting Wildlife When Using Herbicides for Invasive Plant Management*, includes a great overview of potential risks of herbicides to wildlife species, BMPs for reducing those risks, and a comparison of relative risks to wildlife. These concepts are applicable in any state, including Nebraska. See this large (19MB) document here: bit.ly/CALipcguide.

Herbicide Sites of Action

Repeated use of herbicides with the same site of action can result in the development of herbicide-resistant weed populations. These classification tables, where herbicide active ingredients are listed both by site of action and by premix names, are a useful tool for reducing instances of resistance. See the charts at bit.ly/1sD17Rr. More information, including a web-based and mobile product/ingredient search tool, field management strategies, and weed identification guides, is available at takeactiononweeds.com.

What's in My Groundwater?

NDA and the Department of Environmental Quality developed an informational poster describing how groundwater quality monitoring data area used. The importance of groundwater to Nebraska is highlighted, followed by a summary of the water quality results housed in the Quality-assessed Agrichemical Contaminant Database for Nebraska Groundwater. Lastly, it includes examples of how state, local, and federal agencies are using this data to make decisions about programs and services.



The poster, entitled *What's in My Groundwater and is it OK?* (8.6 MB), can be viewed online at NDA's website: bit.ly/WhatsInMyH20.

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Online at bit.ly/NDAPPnews2

Greg Ibach, Director
Craig Romary, Editor

PROTECT THE PLACES YOU HUNT

Come Clean, Leave Clean

Invasive species are non-native plants, animals and micro-organisms that damage the lands and waters our native plants and animals need to survive. They can do the following:

- Reduce wildlife habitat
- Make trails and woodlands impassable
- Cause rashes, burns and respiratory problems in people
- Hurt local businesses, communities and landowners
- Come home with you to cause problems where you live

Everyone needs to be part of the fight against invasive species. By removing plants and mud from shoes, clothing and gear and brushing dogs before leaving an area, we can prevent the spread of invasive plants and pests.



Spread the Word, Not the Problem

For more information on how you can stop the spread of harmful invasive species, please visit:



Visit: neinvasives.com



PlayCleanGo.org



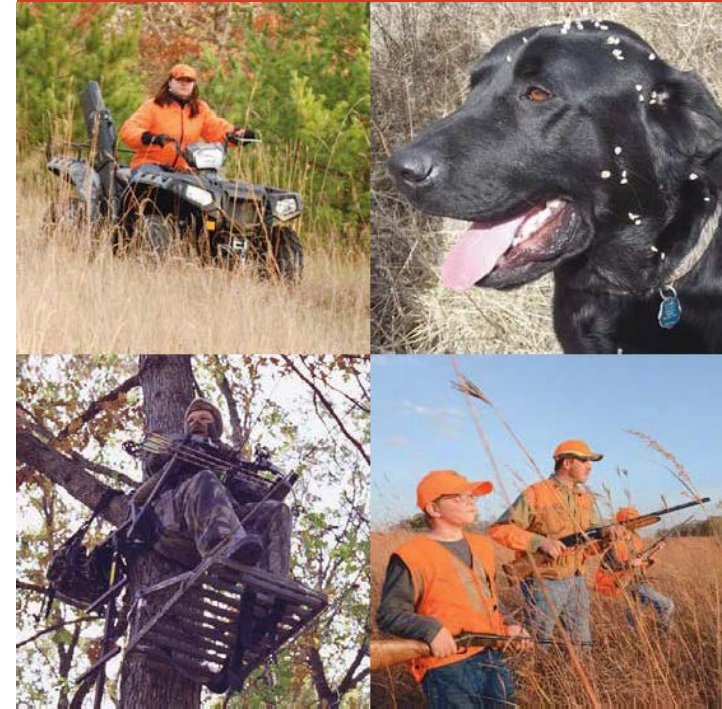
Visit: outdoornebraska.gov

PlayCleanGo is sponsored by State of Minnesota and USDA Forest Service, equal opportunity employers.

Inside photo by Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.

Wipe 'Em Off. Wipe 'Em Out!

Stop Invasive Species In Your Tracks



Help Prevent the Spread
of Invasive Plants and Animals

- **CLEAN** your gear before entering and leaving the recreation site
- **REMOVE** plants, animals and mud from boots, gear, pets and vehicles
- **STAY** on designated roads and trails
- **USE CERTIFIED** or local firewood



STOP INVASIVE SPECIES
IN YOUR TRACKS.

PlayCleanGo.org

Give Invasive Species the Brush Off

Help Prevent the Spread of Invasive Plants and Animals

Vehicles / ATV's / Bikes

- ✓ **REMOVE** plants, animals, and mud from gear before entering and leaving the recreation site
- ✓ **CLEAN** your gear before entering and leaving the recreation site
- ✓ **STAY** on designated roads and trails

Tents / Campers / RVs

- ✓ **REMOVE** plants, animals, and mud from gear, trailer before entering and leaving the recreation site
- ✓ **USE CERTIFIED** or local firewood and hay

Pets

- ✓ **REMOVE** plants, seeds, and mud before entering and leaving the recreation site

Watercraft

- ✓ **CLEAN** your gear before entering and leaving the recreation site
- ✓ **DRAIN** bilge, ballast, wells and buckets before you leave the area
- ✓ **DRY** equipment before launching into another body of water
- ✓ **DISPOSE** of unwanted bait in a sealed container

