

Inside This Issue:

Certification Update	2
New Coordinator at UNL PSEP	2
SeedFieldCheck Available in Nebraska	3
Pesticide Container Recycling Program	3
Invasive Plants Watch List Updated	4
Weed Book Updated	4
Aquatic Invasive Species Update	4
Applying RUPs in Indian Country	5
Tank and Spray Equipment Cleaning	5
Bulk Pesticide Rules	5
Washing Applicator Work Clothes	6

New Labels for Dicamba on Dicamba-Tolerant Soybeans

Tim Creger, Pesticide/Fertilizer Program Manager

In late October 2020, the U.S. EPA reregistered four restricted use pesticide (RUP) dicamba products for use on dicamba-tolerant soybeans. The new registrations were granted for five years and included XtendiMax, Engenia, Tavium and FeXapan. Since that time, the company that makes FeXapan has withdrawn their product from the marketplace.

The new labels for the remaining three RUP dicamba products were changed to address specific concerns identified in a court order issued on June 3, 2020 by the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court. The list below shows the major changes from the previous labels.

- No applications are allowed after June 30;
- A pH buffering agent must be used in all tank mixes;
- Downwind buffers have been increased to 240 feet for most fields; 310 feet if the target field is within an endangered species protection zone;
- All labels are limited to one rate of application rather than two; and
- Labels allow for reduced downwind buffer if an approved hooded sprayer is used

While the above list shows the major changes to the labels for 2021 through 2025, it is important to remember the labels still have many more restrictions that were carried forward from the previous labels. Annual dicamba applicator training is still required, but NDA will not be providing the training nor posting the names of trained applicators on its website. Applicators must still use only the spray nozzles and tank mix partners allowed for the specific RUP dicamba product being used. These are found on the website listed on each product label. Application records must be made within 72 hours of the application for both private and commercial applications, and those records still require additional information than what is required for regular RUP applications.

NDA revised the *RUP Dicamba Best Management Practices* document and posted it online at [Dicamba Information for 2021](#). This site also has links to all three RUP dicamba labels, registrant websites, sources for applicator training, endangered species bulletins and the NOAA sunrise/sunset calculator. Questions about the RUP dicamba labels can be directed to Tim Creger at 402-471-6882, or by email at tim.creger@nebraska.gov.

New Coordinator at UNL PSEP



NDA would like to welcome Jennifer Weisbrod as the new Pesticide Safety Education Program Coordinator. Jennifer began her role in January, succeeding Clyde Ogg, who retired in December 2020. Jennifer finished her Master's degree in Entomology with a focus on pollinators and pesticides and briefly worked in a laboratory processing DNA before joining the PSEP team. Jennifer has experience in natural resource management through state parks, providing education to the public. She spent much of her graduate degree working closely with beekeepers to promote pesticide safety and awareness through management practices and a citizen science project. Welcome Jennifer!

Certification Update

Libby Smith, Certification Specialist

Commercial Applicator Testing

NDA will continue to host testing sessions across the state at various Extension offices through the remainder of the year. All testing locations have reopened to the public and no longer require a reservation. NDA will be at each listed location starting at 9:00 a.m. with all category exams. No exams will be issued later than 2:00 p.m. There will be no training given at these testing sessions. Training can be taken prior to examination by purchasing either study manuals or flipbooks offered through UNL's [Pesticide Safety and Education Program](#). The study manuals are spiral bound notebooks while the flipbooks are in a new digital format containing the print from the study manuals as well as video clips.

The current schedule of testing dates and locations can be found on [NDA's testing page](#).

Computer-based exams are also offered through [Pearson VUE testing services](#) for those looking for a time that better fits their schedule or for those looking for instant feedback on test results.

60-Day Exemption

The 60-Day exemption is a special provision of the Nebraska Pesticide Act which allows an individual to apply pesticides temporarily without a license. This exemption is a once-in-a-lifetime exemption and only available to those who have never held a pesticide applicator license in the past. The 60-Day exemption is viewed as a training/mentoring period in which the applicator can gain experience while studying to take applicator certification exams. Two basic requirements of the exemption are that the noncertified applicator must be trained and work under the supervision of a licensed applicator who is certified in the same categories the noncertified person is working, and the certified applicator providing the supervision and training must assume the responsibility for the actions of the noncertified applicator. To receive the 60-Day exemption, an application must be submitted to NDA within 10 days of the noncertified applicator's first application and a training verification form must be on file at the place of business. More information on the 60-Day exemption, along with links to the application and training verification forms, can be found in this [60-Day Rule brochure](#).

Reminders for All Applicators

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

402-471-2351

The NDA Pesticide Program no longer has an 800 number. Pesticide and licensing questions should be directed to:

402-471-2351

SeedFieldCheck Available in Nebraska

FieldWatch, Inc. expanded its SeedFieldCheck™ registry into Nebraska for the 2021 growing season. SeedFieldCheck enables seed companies to register the locations of their field crews daily. Registered fields are either “planned” or “occupied” to alert pesticide applicators when there may be crews in the area. The information will be available in near real-time, allowing seed companies the ability to make edits and update plans quickly, replacing the endless circulation of emails and paper or electronic maps to targeted applicators.

Aerial and ground applicators need to register with FieldWatch (free and simple) using the applicator portal called [FieldCheck](#). Applicators will see sites in “planned” status to indicate that workers are planned to be in fields the following day OR in “occupied” status if there are workers currently in seed fields. SeedFieldCheck integrates into the existing FieldWatch specialty crop and apiary registry display for applicators registered in FieldCheck.

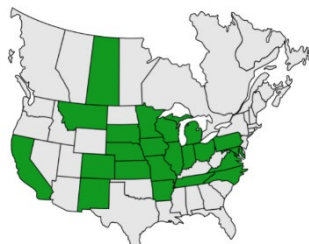
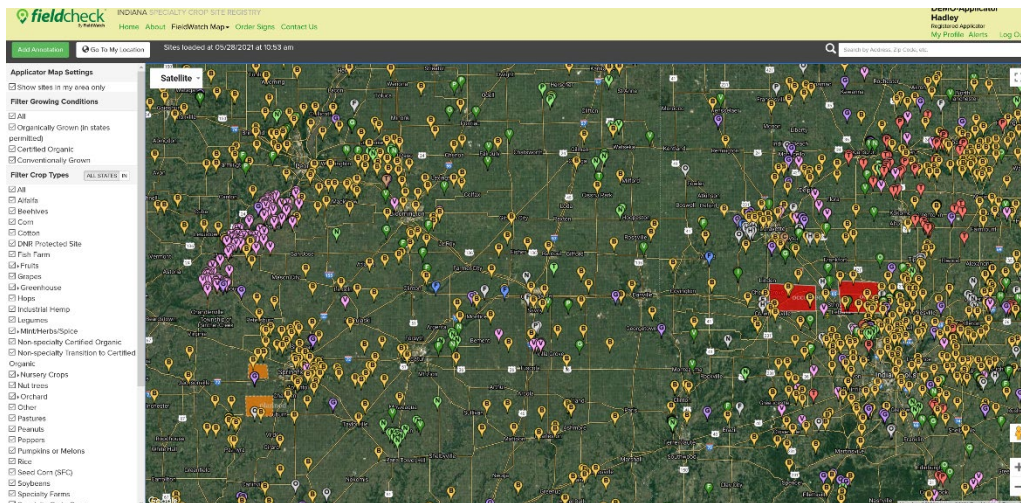
SeedFieldCheck should reduce field worker exposures to pesticides and assist applicators in their compliance with the “do not contact” provision of the Worker Protection Standard.

This service will be available in the following states, including Nebraska, in 2021: Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan. More information on SeedFieldCheck, including a link to a video demonstration, can be found at: [SeedFieldCheck: A Seed Field Worker Notification System](#).



Courtesy <http://www.notafraditosweat.com/>

Approximately 40,000 acres of seed corn are registered in Nebraska and potentially will be ‘turned on’ in FieldCheck as time gets near. Sign up in FieldCheck to benefit from all FieldWatch services.



The FieldCheck applicator portal provides specialty crop info in all states at left. SeedFieldCheck sites above are exaggerated to show how they are integrated in FieldWatch with specialty crops and beehives. FieldCheck users can download the app (right) for mobile access.



Nebraska’s Pesticide Container Recycling Program

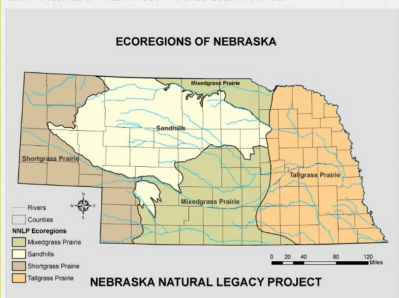
At this time, four container recycling locations are lined up for 2021: Broken Bow, Gretna, North Platte, and West Point. Please take a look at the information and site specifics at [Nebraska Pesticide Container Recycling Program](#), and help continue making this ongoing program successful. In addition, if you are interested in serving as a collection point for your region, contact UNL PSEP or the contractor listed on that site.

The plastic from recycled containers is used to make industry-approved products such as pallets, drain tile, underground utility conduit, landscape edging and nursery pots. Instead of adding them to a landfill, consider recycling your empty pesticide containers this year.

Nebraska collected 74,560 pounds of containers in 2020 despite the pandemic. Since the program’s inception, more than 2.5 million pounds have been collected in Nebraska for recycling. That is equivalent to the weight of more than eight Statues of Liberty (National Park Service).



(PSEP photo)



[Nebraska Invasive Species Program](#) photos. Can you identify these invasive plants? See if you can find them at the link provided.

Aquatic Invasive Species Update

See March 2021 press releases, decontamination procedures, and other information about invasive zebra mussel larvae and adults found in “moss balls” purchased for home aquaria. Check your aquarium at home if you purchased similar aquatic plants. “Destroy! Don’t Dump!” to prevent the spread of this invasive mussel. [Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers! | Nebraska Invasive Species Program](#)

Invasive Plants Watch List Updated

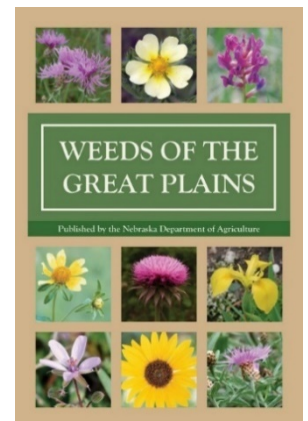
The Nebraska Invasive Species Council has updated the [Invasive Plants Watch List](#) for 2021. The Watch List is divided into the geographical ecoregions shown at left, then further divided as aquatic plant species and terrestrial plant species. Twenty-three species were added to the 2021 Watch List. Watch List species are identified by plant experts and are defined as future, priority or established invasive species. Species are on the Watch List for county weed authorities to document their range to determine whether the species are spreading. It’s used to raise awareness of species to avoid in new plantings as well as the benefits of controlling species already present. Resource agencies and the public are encouraged to report Future Invasive Plants on the Watch List at <https://neinvasives.com/report-a-sighting>.

Individual pages are available for many species, containing a plant and habitat description, known locations, potential ecological and economic impacts, and color photos. Learn more about the Weed Watch List, as well other invasive species, including fish, mollusks, insects, birds and mammals at [Nebraska Invasive Species Program | Nebraska \(neinvasives.com\)](#).

Popular Weed Book Updated

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA), in cooperation with the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, has updated the popular “Weeds of the Great Plains” book. The new edition features 40 additional species of weeds not found in previous editions of the book. The weed identification book features:

- Full-page color photos, descriptions and line drawings of nearly 300 species of weeds;
- Identification methods to distinguish 125 additional similar species;
- 450 close-up color photographs of weed flowers, seedlings and key identification characteristics;
- Habitats in which each weed species is commonly found;
- List of states and provinces in which each weed species grows;
- Potential livestock poisoning;
- Historical uses of each plant;
- Comprehensive glossary; and
- Index of common names and another with scientific names.



Purchase the book in person at the NDA office in Lincoln for a cost of \$32.50, or for a cost of \$35 per copy, the book can be mailed. To order the book or learn more about noxious weeds, go to [NDA’s Noxious Weed Program](#) page.

Reminder: Federal Certification for Applying RUPs in Indian Country

Any person who applies restricted use pesticides in an area of Indian Country covered by the EPA plan will need a federal certificate from EPA, including Tribal members and employees, lease holders, landowners, and commercial applicators.

In Nebraska, only the Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska has a written agreement with the State of Nebraska to accept state certification.

See [Federal Certification to Apply Restricted Use Pesticides in Indian Country | US EPA](#) for more information on how to apply for federal certification, or contact Mike Daniels (913-551-7983, daniels.michael@epa.gov) if you have further questions.

Tank and Spray Equipment Cleaning

Cleaning pesticide application equipment is necessary and worthwhile. The risk from not cleaning your spray equipment is reason enough to take the time to do it right. Please understand your pesticide's chemistry and know that small amounts of herbicides can do great damage to sensitive crops if tanks aren't cleaned out between loads. Always read and follow the label directions of the product(s) you are using for cleaning equipment between loads, and refer to the NebGuide, [Cleaning Pesticide Application Equipment](#) and/or listen to the podcast, [Pesticide Tank Cleanout](#).

Bulk Pesticide Rules

[This page](#) includes a free series of five training modules/webinars, a glossary of terms, and a host of resources for bulk pesticide management and complying with the EPA's Container and Containment Rule. Webinars include:

- Documentation for Pesticide Repackaging Establishments
- Labeling Requirements Applicable to Repackaging Pesticides
- Proper Containment for Bulk Pesticide Tanks at Repackaging Locations
- Design, Managing and Cleaning Bulk Tanks
- Pesticide Transfer Requirements and Managing Portable Refillable Containers

Also, see Nebraska-specific requirements on these topics at [NDEE's Fertilizer and Pesticide Containment in Nebraska](#).

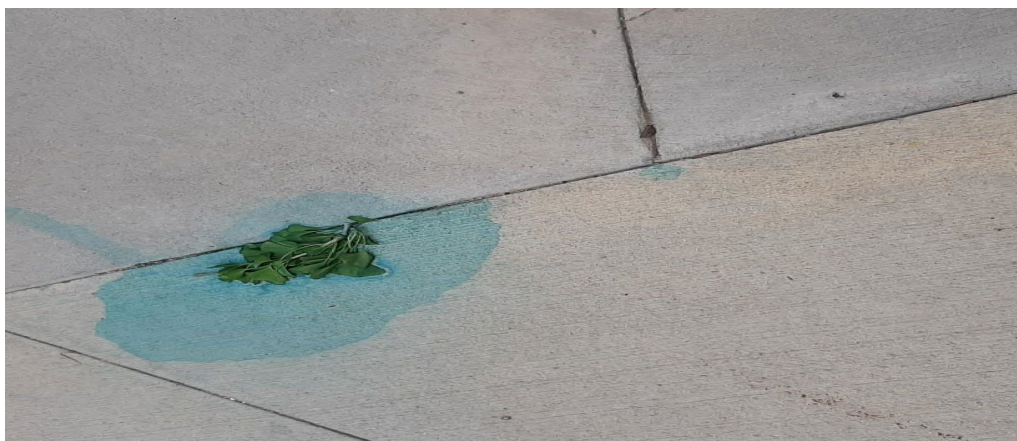
Links of Interest

[Nebraska "Weed Guide" User Survey](#) Please provide your feedback on this annual publication!

[The Dangers of Homemade Pest Control Remedies](#) - Pesticide mixtures of household ingredients like dish soap, garlic, and vinegar may seem innocuous and safer than store-bought formulated pesticides, but they can actually pose unrealized risks.

[EPA Extends Respiratory Protection Flexibilities for Ag Pesticide Handlers During COVID-19](#)

[North American Invasive Species Management Association \(NAISMA\) Free Monthly Webinars](#)



If it's green, should I spray it?

Like lawn applications broadcast onto sidewalks, this is a waste of product, poor stewardship, and an unnecessary environmental load. Green doesn't always mean a weed; in this case, it was newly fallen ginkgo leaves...











Take Care When Washing Applicator Work Clothes

Pesticide applicators and handlers need to wear, at a minimum, the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) specified on pesticide product labels. Most pesticide labels require a long-sleeved shirt and long pants. Proper laundering of work clothes is essential to reduce pesticide handlers' short- and long-term exposure to pesticides and prevent the potential of residue cross-contamination onto other clothing – and other people.

Many pesticide labels provide limited instructions for cleaning work clothes. In situations where no instructions are provided, the following are guidelines for caring for and laundering pesticide-contaminated clothing. [Laundering Pesticide-contaminated Work Clothes](#) (NDSU), provides additional, more detailed information.

WORK CLOTHES

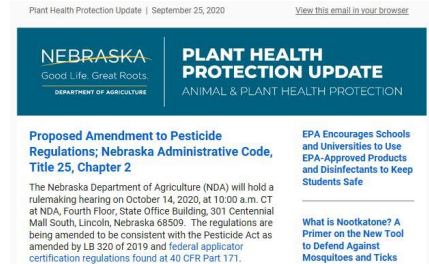
Clothes used when working with or around pesticides

-  Wash separately from all other laundry
-  Wear gloves and long sleeves when washing pesticide-contaminated clothing
-  Load only a few items at a time
-  Use maximum amount of detergent recommended for machine
-  Use highest water setting
-  Use hot water
-  Use pre-rinse/soak setting before starting wash cycle
-  Use an aggressive wash cycle that lasts at least 20 minutes
-  Use a high-speed spin
-  Line dry or use dryer
-  Run empty wash cycle with detergent and hot water before using washer for household laundry

[Article and graphic from ISU Extension.](#)

Get timely updates on [NDA Plant Health Protection area programs](#) by subscribing to this periodic e-letter. See the archive for example news, and subscribe today!

- ◆ Entomology & Apiary
- ◆ European Corn Borer
- ◆ Export Certification
- ◆ Fertilizer & Ag Lime
- ◆ FieldCheck-DriftWatch-BeeCheck
- ◆ Hemp
- ◆ Nebraska Buffer Strip Program
- ◆ Noxious Weeds
- ◆ Nursery Certification & Licensing
- ◆ Pest, Survey & Detection
- ◆ Pesticide
- ◆ Seed



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/

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)