

SBARE Input Form:

1/2/2024

[randyc@westriv.com](mailto:randyc@westriv.com)

Randy Christmann

Please describe your Agriculture and/or Extension needs and potential solution:

North Dakota should take the opportunity to step up our battle with leafy spurge. We are losing this battle, and sadly, a lot of our people are giving up. There are two reasons I believe the state needs to do more.

First, it is in our best interest to protect our grazing industry and if we do not do a better job against leafy spurge the productivity of our grazing lands will be greatly diminished. Second, times are changing and we cannot rely on landowners and operators to do this. The wealth of our society has more people not selling their land upon retirement. Many hold onto their land and pass it down to generations that do not understand the problem, and some of them are even very opposed to the use of chemicals.

Renters are in a bind with landlords with varying expectations of what chemical mix should be used, if any at all, and landlords who will not help with the costs of spraying. Combined, we have increasing amounts of land not being sprayed which makes the battle nearly impossible for those of us still trying. I think that the laws on noxious weed control, Chapter 4.1-47, give the Agriculture Commissioner and County Weed Control Boards authority to intervene. If not, perhaps legislation is needed.

Either way, I believe we need to fund them adequately so a real statewide effort to control this horrible weed can be brought forth. Failing to do so will mean future generations will have far less productive grazing opportunities on areas of ND that are not best used for tillage.