



Noxious Weed Control in USDA Conservation Programs Position Statement 07-PS5B-02

North American Weed Management Association

Situation

There are several proposed conservation provisions of the 2001 farm bill including Conservation of Private Grazing Land. Several of these programs have required the landowner to enter into a long-term contracts requiring actions be taken to protect and improve the natural resources. This has included the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP). Local Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service staff meets with local weed control authorities on noxious weed control efforts on these contracts.

Position

Managing noxious weeds is an important aspect of implementing a long-term plan for sustaining and improving natural resources. Noxious weed management needs to be a part of each of these program's long term contracts. While there is ongoing cooperation between USDA agencies and local weed management authorities, provisions should be made to further enhance the cooperation between NRCS, FSA and the local weed control offices. This should include sharing of information such as location of noxious weeds, location of contracts and jointly working on problem weed situations with landowners.

NAWMA supports the conservation programs with long-term contracts for the protection of our natural resources that include requirements for noxious weed management, [that are uniformly implemented] and that have provisions for cooperation with the local weed control authorities. WE WOULD LIKE A BRIEFING AT THE NATIONAL INVASIVE WEEDS AWARENESS WEEK ON NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL IN CONSERVATION PROGRAMS INCLUDING COOPERATION WITH LOCAL WEED CONTROL AUTHORITIES.

Distribution:

Department of Agriculture – Mike Johanns, Secretary
Natural Resources Conservation Service -- Chief Bruce I. Knight
USDA Invasive Species Liaison – Hilda Diaz-Soltero
FICMNEW Co-Chairs – Peter Egan and Mike Ielmini

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