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C-FAR

THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR
FOOD & AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Program:

Invasion Persuasion

*“A Review of a Successful USDA Program
For Defeating a Wide-Spread Invader:
TEAM Leafy Spurge”*

February 27, 2012

PROGRAM

Welcome and Introduction

ANGUS KELLY
NATIONAL C-FAR REPRESENTATIVE

Distinguished Speaker

DR. RODNEY LYM
NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Open Forum

Closing

ANGUS KELLY

NATIONAL C-FAR IS a nonprofit, nonpartisan, consensus-based and customer-led coalition that brings food, agriculture, nutrition, conservation and natural resource stakeholders together with the food and agriculture research and extension community, serving as a forum and a unified voice in support of sustaining and increasing public investment at the national level in food and agricultural research, extension, and education. For additional information, go to www.ncfar.org; or contact Tom Van Arsdall, Executive Director, at tom@vanarsdall.com.

ABSTRACT

Managing a wide spread invasive weed like leafy spurge in a cost effective manner was a hopeless situation for most land managers prior to 2000. In MT, ND, SD, and WY, leafy spurge caused over \$37 million in losses each year in grazing, \$3.4 million on wildlands, and combined with secondary impacts, the total loss was over \$130 million each year. In 1997 under leadership from USDA, The Ecological Area-wide Management (TEAM) Leafy Spurge project was initiated to research and demonstrate IPM strategies to effectively manage leafy spurge. TEAM Leafy Spurge was managed and funded by the USDA-ARS in cooperation with APHIS, BLM, Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Reclamation, USGS, USDA Cooperative Extension Services, land grant universities, state agencies, county weed managers, and landowners. A non-partisan ad hoc committee consisting of state and federal researchers, land managers, representatives from local, state and federal entities, and private landowners/ranchers provided management and direction. TEAM Leafy Spurge ran for five years. About 90% of the public land managers and decision makers in MT, ND, SD, and WY attended at least one TEAM Leafy Spurge event. Focus groups found previously “frustrated” ranchers and land managers were optimistic leafy spurge could be managed. By 2011, it was estimated that the TEAM Leafy Spurge program helped reduce the size of the leafy spurge infestation by 75% of what it would have been today (an area larger than Rhode Island and Delaware combined). Controlling the invasive leafy spurge also helped the recovery of endangered species such as the Western prairie fringed orchid. Leafy spurge is no longer the most feared weed in the West. Multiple agencies working together to provide research and extension coordination met the goal of implementing long lasting control programs. It would have been difficult if not impossible to have done this in four states without the USDA Area-wide Pest Management Program.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Rodney Lym, Ph.D., is Professor of Weed Science and Associate Chair in the Department of Plant Sciences at North Dakota State University. His principal responsibilities for research are control of invasive weeds on both private and public lands such as Forest Service and in National Parks. Currently the targeted weeds include leafy spurge, Canada thistle, and yellow toadflax. His program has emphasized integration of herbicide treatments with other control methods including tillage and reseeding, biological control with insects, and incorporation with grazing animals. Dr. Lym currently serves as President of the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA). He is a Fellow of the WSSA and the Western Society of Weed Science. Rod is a native of Wyoming and holds a B.S. in Microbiology and Biochemistry and a Ph.D. in Agronomy and Weed Science from the University of Wyoming.

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