



## NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Media Advisory

### INVASION PERSUASION

*A Review of a Successful USDA Program For Defeating a Wide-Spread Invader:*

*TEAM Leafy Spurge*

**Washington, DC** – February 22, 2012, For Immediate Release – Leafy spurge is no longer the most feared plant invader in the West thanks to a successful USDA area-wide pest management research and demonstration program initiated in 1997. Dr. Rodney Lym, Professor of Weed Science and Associate Chair in the Department of Plant Sciences at North Dakota State University will discuss the TEAM Leafy Spurge project during National C-FAR's 'Lunch~N~Learn' Research Hill Seminar at noon in 1302 Longworth House Office Building, to help launch National Invasive Species Awareness Week.

"TEAM Leafy Spurge was a USDA-ARS area-wide pest management program that was highly effective at researching and demonstrating integrated pest management (IPM) strategies that land managers could use to achieve affordable and sustainable leafy spurge control," says Lym.

"This presentation provides an excellent example of the value of federally funded food and agricultural research in producing the scientific outcomes and outreach needed to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges and opportunities," says Chuck Conner, President of the National Coalition for Food & Agricultural Research (National C-FAR).

**Summary:** 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 \$130 million in losses 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. By 2011, it was estimated that the five year research and demonstration program helped reduce the size of the leafy spurge infestation by 75% of what it would have been today. About 90% of the public land managers and decision makers attended at least one TEAM Leafy Spurge research and demonstration event. Controlling the invasive weed also helped the recovery of endangered species such as the Western prairie fringed orchid. Multiple agencies working together to provide research and extension coordination met the goal of implementing long lasting invasive weed 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.

Seminar presentations are available at [http://www.ncfar.org/Hill\\_Seminar\\_Series.asp](http://www.ncfar.org/Hill_Seminar_Series.asp). The seminar is open to the public and the media.

\*\*\*\*\*

**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. National C-FAR's Hill Seminar Series, now in its sixth year, regularly presents leading-edge researchers working to provide answers to pressing issues confronting the public and Congress. The Hill Seminar Series helps demonstrate the value of public investment in food and agricultural research—investment that returns 45 percent per year on average, and \$20 in economic benefit from every \$1 investment in food and ag research.

Go to [http://www.ncfar.org/Hill\\_Seminar\\_Series.asp](http://www.ncfar.org/Hill_Seminar_Series.asp) for more information about the seminar series and past topics. Interviews with National C-FAR President Chuck Conner are available by request. For additional information, go to [www.ncfar.org](http://www.ncfar.org); or contact Tom Van Arsdall, Executive Director, at [tom@vanarsdall.com](mailto:tom@vanarsdall.com) or (703) 509-4746.