

NDDTL RESPONDS TO DROUGHT CONDITIONS

Trust Land Lessees Encouraged to Consider Cost-Share Programs



Cost-share programs available through the North Dakota Department of Trust Lands Surface Division may be especially important to surface lessees during the current drought situation.

“Our staff is closely monitoring drought conditions across the state,” said Jodi Smith, Commissioner of University and School Lands. “We are committed to providing all available resources to ranchers and farmers who lease our lands. We realize they are doing their very best to maintain ag operations during these extreme conditions.”

Three NDDTL Surface Division cost-share programs are available to help mitigate the impact of the drought. Lessees are encouraged to apply for funding through the programs as needed.

LIVESTOCK WATER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Developing reliable water sources will reap benefits in a dry year and well into the future. In response to the statewide drought, NDDTL recently increased to 100% the possible cost share for permanent improvements to livestock water developments, including the following maximum payments:

- Dugouts: \$4,900
- Dugout Cleanouts: \$4,900
- Wells and Spring Developments: \$11,100

- Livestock Water Pipelines: \$5,600
- Dams: \$5,740
- Rural Water Pasture Drops: \$1,575

To learn more about the Livestock Water Development Program, go to land.nd.gov/livestockwaterdevelopment

An [online application](#) is available on the site.

Additional questions may be directed to Jacob Lardy by phone at 701.328.1919 or email at jlardy@nd.gov.

PEST CONTROL PROGRAM

Drought conditions typically bring additional threats to the agriculture community, including infestation by grasshoppers that feed on weeds, grasses and crops. As the drought worsens in many states, grasshopper populations also are on the rise.

In addition to pests, such as prairie dogs, that cause problems in a normal year, NDDTL lessees are encouraged to take advantage of the department's Pest Control Program if grasshoppers pose a threat to trust lands.

CHEMICAL CONTROL

Up to 100% of the cost of chemicals to eliminate pests is available as well as 50% of the labor expense. Cost estimates must be approved in advance.

WEED CONTROL PROGRAM

NDDTL land leases require the lessee to control noxious weeds. Fortunately, the department provides chemical and biological cost-share programs to help defray these expenses.

While county weed boards may provide local noxious weed lists, those considered harmful to the environment or animals by NDDTL include:

- Absinth Wormwood
- Canada Thistle
- Dalmatian Toadflax
- Diffuse Knapweed
- Houndstongue
- Leafy Spurge
- Musk Thistle
- Palmer Amaranth
- Purple Loosestrife

- Russian Knapweed
- Saltcedar
- Spotted Knapweed
- Yellow Toadflax

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

Insects are used to control leafy spurge on School Trust Lands. With prior approval, lessees may request a cost share of up to 100% for the purchase of biocontrol agents. The cost share may not exceed \$500 per lessee per year.

CHEMICAL CONTROL

Cost estimates for new control projects must be approved before spraying unless the estimated cost is \$200 or less. Lessees may be eligible for a 100% cost share for the chemicals and 50% of the labor expense.

To be eligible for payment, pest control and noxious weed control cost-share request forms must be submitted or postmarked by the last business day in October.

To learn more about the Pest Control and Weed Control Programs, go to land.nd.gov/weedandpest.

This webpage includes a frequently asked question (FAQ) section and the NDDTL responses. [Printable](#) and [online applications](#) are available for cost-share requests less than \$200, and a [printable form](#) is available for larger amounts.

Additional questions may be directed to Derek Lowstuter by phone at 701.328.1926 or email at dlowstuter@nd.gov.