

Reprinted with author's permission from: 1983 Leafy Spurge Symposium Proceedings. Sundance, WY. June 21-22, 1983. p. 28.

Published by: Wyoming Department of Agriculture.

Leafy Spurge Awareness Program in Montana, part II

CELESTINE LACEY and P. K. FAY

Montana State University, Bozeman, MT

A statewide Extension program was reinitiated through the Plant and Soil Science Department at Montana State University in the spring of 1983. The purpose of the program is to increase public awareness of leafy spurge and knapweed, Montana's two most important range weeds.

The objectives of the program are to disseminate current information on the spread and control of these weeds. Mass media techniques, a newsletter on leafy spurge and knapweed, herbicide demonstration plots, and tours and meetings will be utilized to reach as wide an audience as possible. Road signs, bumper stickers, and postcards will also be used to increase weed awareness.

An integrated approach will be utilized to attack Montana's leafy spurge and knapweed problem. This will involve close cooperation between research scientists, chemical companies, and county, state, and federal entities. The use of farm flocks for control of leafy spurge will be promoted by working closely with the sheep industry, sheep extension specialist, and Montana Wool Growers Association.

A leafy spurge and knapweed ransom program will be initiated on a county basis through the county Extension agents, vocational agriculture instructors, and weed supervisors. The purpose of this program will be to increase weed awareness among youth groups and help map county weed infestations.

A program evaluation will be conducted using a questionnaire developed in the summer of 1983. Two populations will be sampled; those attending the weed tours and those who have not attended the tours. Two counties will be sampled for both spurge and knapweed. The results should indicate the effectiveness of our Extension program.