

# Sprayer Calibration Clinic

## The Situation

There are over 90,000 acres in McHenry County infested with noxious weeds. Many rely on 4-wheelers to conduct their spray applications in pasture and rangeland. With the uneven terrain, variance in equipment and conditions, many times a proper calibration is not conducted. Producers often request their respective County Agent to tell them how much chemical to put in the tank. Pesticides must be applied uniformly at the labeled rate to achieve consistent results. Taking the time to properly calibrate the sprayer can improve the performance of the product, diminish the possibility of injury, and reduce pest control costs.

## Extension Response

Each year two separate Private Applicator Trainings are conducted in McHenry County. The first training is developed with a crop focused agenda. The second training is exclusively on noxious weed control and management. A team consisting of Andrew Thostenson, Vern Hofman, John Nowatzki, and Raquel Dugan-Dibble developed a program to turn a traditional Private Applicator Training into a hands-on calibration clinic with boom and boomless sprayers. A Sprayer Calibration Clinic was held on March 28<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. with 35 producers in attendance.

## Impacts

Prior to the training **48%** did not understand how to calibrate a handgun. After the training, **97%** understand the steps to properly calibrate a Handgun.

Prior to the training **52%** did not understand the difference in Spray Applications with Boom vs. Boomless Sprayers. After the training, **100%** were able to understand the difference in spray applications.

Prior to the training **55%** were not confident in calibrating a sprayer. After the training, **95%** were confident in calibrating a Sprayer.

## Feedback

“This was way better than just classroom”

“Very informative clinic – Good Job!”

“I feel like I learned a lot today – it was a good clinic”

“I liked the clinic – going through the actual calibration helped to understand more clearly”

“Learned the most with the hands on part of the clinic”

## Contact

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