

**A LITTLE BIT COUNTRY
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Weed Resistance a Growing Concern

Most crop producers are aware that some weeds are developing resistance to very popular herbicides. For example, wild oat resistance to Group 1 class of grassy herbicides has been documented in nearly every North Dakota County. For over two decades this herbicide group has been one of the most important weed control tools available to small grain, canola, sunflower, flax, pea and bean growers.

Herbicides in Group 1 include Puma, Select Max, Fusilade DX, Poast, Achieve, Discover NG and Axial XL. So, applying Puma one year to a wheat crop, then applying Select Max the next year on field pea is not rotating herbicide groups. Granted, there are three categories in Group 1. Within each of these categories there are herbicides with different active ingredients and different levels of selectivity for grass species.

One method for small grain growers to consider is the inclusion of an ALS Enzyme Inhibiting, or Group 2, grass herbicide in their herbicide rotation on small grain crops. Options for Group 2 grass control would include GoldSky and Orion of the TPS category and Everest and Rimfire Max of the SACT category. These products all provide good to excellent control of wild oat, but do not typically control green and yellow foxtail as well as the Group 1 grass products. A benefit of the Group 2 grass products, however, is they provide better control of the brome species such as Japanese brome and Downy brome given they are applied early in the season. Doing this will then allow use of Group 1 herbicides for grassy weed control when canola, flax, peas or sunflowers are planted. A third option during the year of a broadleaf crop rotation is to plant herbicide resistant crops such as glyphosate-resistant canola, Clearfield canola, sunflowers or glufosinate-resistant canola where the herbicide Ignite 280 is applied.

Herbicide resistance should not be taken lightly. Repeated use of even the most effective products have eventually contributed to their demise. The first step in combating resistance is to scout fields for surviving plants. If Group 1 herbicides are still providing control of wild oat and

foxtail then rotation to a Group 2 grassy weed control product may be beneficial to help prolong the effectiveness of the Group 1 products.

Knox Elected to Council

Last week I had the privilege of conducting the District 1 election to choose one representative from Burke, Divide, McKenzie, Mountrail and Williams Counties to the North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council. The group of county representatives elected Jeff Knox, Ray for a three year term that began April 1. Jeff will join representatives from four other districts. As created in 1997 by the North Dakota Legislature, their role is to disperse funds collected through a one-percent net value assessment on pulse crops in a manner which will facilitate the growth and success of the pulse industry. This is to be done by providing domestic and foreign marketing, producer education, government education and research coordination.

The North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council provide funding to the Northern Pulse Grower Association to carry out activities described above.

Jeff's previous experience as a director of the Association made him a great choice to serve in his new role as a council member.