

Tackling a Single Invasive Species: Perspective from the Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group

Ryan Gibson and John Johnston
Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group

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Breaking Down Borders Conference

Overview

- Catalyst for the development of the LSSG and structure
- Influence of LSSG on policy, practice and research
- Lessons Learned from focusing on single species

Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group

- Created in 1998
 - Manitoba Weed Supervisors Association spearheaded initiative
 - Coordinated by RDI (Brandon University)
- Broad coalition
 - agricultural and conservation organizations
 - all 3 levels of government

LSSG Members

- Agricultural Crown Lands
- Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
- Association of Manitoba Municipalities
- Canadian Forces Base Shilo
- Canadian Wildlife Service
- Critical Wildlife Habitat
- Dow AgriSciences, Range & Pasture
- Ducks Unlimited
- Invasive Species Council of MB
- Keystone Agricultural Producers
- Manitoba Agriculture & Food
- Manitoba Cattle Producers Association
- Manitoba Conservation
- Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation
- Manitoba Transportation & Government Services
- Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs
- Manitoba Sheep Association
- Manitoba Weed Supervisors Association
- Mid-Assiniboine River Conservation District
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Agency
- Rural Development Institute

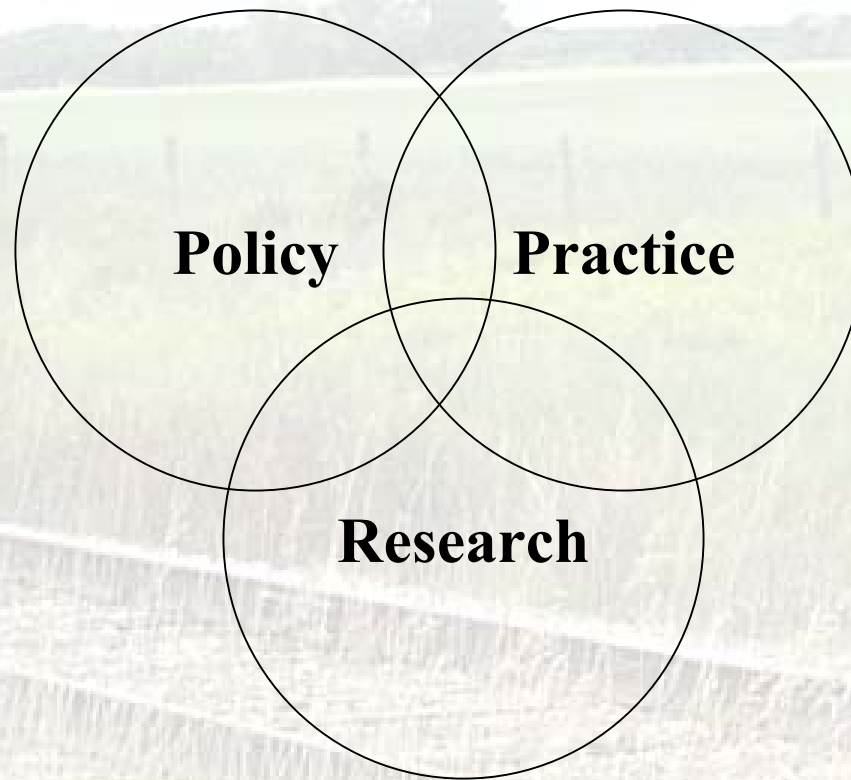
Purpose and Objectives

- Increase awareness of leafy spurge
- Examine the issues and impacts of leafy spurge
- Transfer the knowledge of leafy spurge research
- Coordinate communications among agencies

Structure

- Chair
- Steering Committee
- Ad hoc committees (as required)
 - Research Committee
- LSSG is coordinated by RDI

Influence on Policy, Practice and Research



Influence on Practice

- Development of knowledge resources and tools
- Training and capacity building
- Communication tools
- Partnerships and relationships

Influence on Policy

- Participated in CFIA discussions on developing an Canadian Invasive Plant framework
- Asked to make presentations and comment on policy documents
- Invited to make presentations to MAFRI
- Developed relationships with Association of Manitoba Municipalities

Influence on Research

- Field research / demonstration plots
- Hosted leafy spurge forums
- Relationships with Ag Canada research stations in Brandon and Lethbridge

Economic Impact Study (1998)

Total Direct and Indirect Economic Impacts

	Grazing Land	Public Land	Rights of Way
Direct Annual Impacts	> \$5 M	\$0.8 M	\$0.4 M
Secondary Annual Impacts	> \$11 M	\$1.7 M	N/A
Total Annual Impacts	> \$16 M	\$2.5 M	\$0.4 M

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Over \$19 M
per year

Moving Forward and Lessons Learned

- Single species focus has allowed:
 - Coordinated effort focused on leafy spurge
 - Build necessary relationships with key stakeholders
- Funding opportunities have influenced the direction of the group
- Leafy spurge is not the sole responsibility of a single provincial government department

- Need to attract the right people from organizations to participate in collaboration
- Need for inter-provincial efforts
- Changing priorities
- Capacity
- Need strong champion

www.brandonu.ca/rdi/leafyspurge.html