

PROTECT

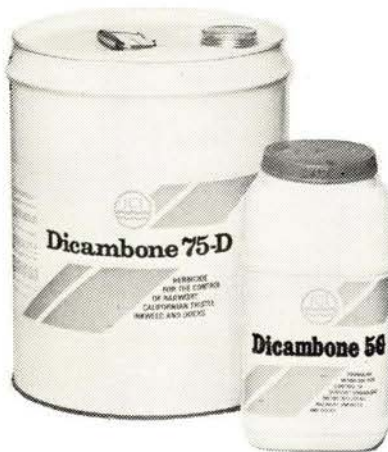
No. 1



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE NOXIOUS WEEDS INSPECTORS INSTITUTE INCORPORATED

Double trouble for Ragwort

CALIFORNIAN THISTLE, NODDING THISTLE, DOCK...all Pasture-Degrading Weeds...



DICAMBONE 75D SPRAY for boom or spot spraying.
DICAMBONE 5G GRANULES for hand sprinkling on hard-to-get-at weed patches.
Dicambone is now established as the first choice herbicide for killing both foliage and roots of hormone-resistant weeds. Apply now during the active growth period.

THE HIGHLY EFFECTIVE, LOW COST ANSWER FOR CLEAN, PRODUCTIVE PASTURES

**DICAMBONE 75D
and 5G Granules.**



ICI New Zealand Limited

Agricultural Division



PROTECT

The Official Magazine
of
The Noxious Weeds Inspectors Institute Inc.

No. 1



INSTITUTE OFFICERS

President: D.I. Finlayson
Immediate Past President: E.N. Daniel
Vice Presidents: H.C. Morris
I.E. Frizzell
National Secretary: W.M. Forbes
National Treasurer: I.H. Williams

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

G.D. Manson A.G. Zrinyi F.J. Marsh
T.J. Regan R.G. Blair P.T.J. Gould
D.J. Brown R. Mosen S.R. Dulieu
P. Klaricich

SPECIAL NOTE

The views expressed in this magazine are those of the individual and not necessarily the views of the Noxious Weeds Inspectors Institute Incorporated, unless otherwise stated. The contents of this magazine are not for republication or distribution without prior written authority of this Institute.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THIS MAGAZINE SHOULD
BE SENT TO:

NATIONAL EDITOR

P.O. BOX 431

TAUPO

December...1976

CONTENTS

National Secretary's Comment	2
Editor's Desk	3
Subsidy Expenditure	4
The Functions and Role of Noxious Weeds Inspectors	5
Ragwort Poisoning	10
Chairman's Annual Report South Auckland Branch	11
Hyacinth- a pollution control answer?	12
The Group Approach to Nodding Thistle Control	13
Branch Report Northern South Island	17
How Do You Rate?	18
It's a Girl!	19
Background Paper on Noxious Weeds Inspectors' Training	21
Would He Be?	26
Motorcycle Report	27
Jest for Kicks	28

NATIONAL SECRETARY'S COMMENT

☆☆☆☆

Dear Members,

Seven months have elapsed since the Hamilton Conference and no doubt to those of you who are not office-bearers this will appear to be a long period of time. To those of us actively involved in Institute affairs the months have sped past and on analysis little appears to have been achieved. Certainly, any progress has been slow.

Two items of considerable importance to the Institute and all members have been the subject for negotiation since the closure of last conference. Such items are Vocational Training and the proposed new Noxious Plants Scheme.

Vocational Training

It is over 5½ years since conference approved a resolution calling for the setting up of an in-service training scheme. This has evolved from a do-it-yourself concept to a National Advisory Committee sponsored scheme involving our employers, Vocational Training Council, M.A.F., Trade Unions and somewhere at the bottom of the pile, the N.W.I.I.

Every avenue has been explored in an endeavour to facilitate the progress of this Educational programme. Progress made thus far:-

1. The National Advisory Committee has accorded this matter urgency. An Educational Committee, of which our President is a member, has been set up to further this objective. A Working Party was convened and met in Hamilton to draw up the basic job training requirements, and submissions have been made to the National Committee as published in the previous copy of the "Magazine".

A meeting of the Educational Sub-Committee was set down for the 9th of December. The president has been assured that more rapid progress will follow this meeting.

Membership of Committees

Considerable discussion and correspondence regarding Institute representation on both the National Advisory Council and Regional Co-ordinating Committees has taken place. Contradictory views have been expressed, and indeed within our own Institute we don't appear to be of a like mind on this issue.

The Minister advised that no change will be made at present to the Membership of the National Committee. However, an opportunity will be given to the Institute to make representation in this regard to the Select Committee which will be set up.

Likewise with the Regional Co-ordinating Committees, membership on a non-voting basis may be approved and each region can co-opt a representative of the N.W.I.I. if it so wishes. As you are aware, this is the case in the Waikato-South Auckland area. This question has been taken as far as is currently expedient to do. (Please turn to page 24)

EDITOR'S DESK...

If, as Editor, I wanted to write an Editorial that was thought-provoking, perhaps a little controversial, I'd have to go a long way to beat you-know-who next-door on your left, bless his little scottish heart. Nevertheless, what Bill says is food for thought and may even bring about some Letters to the Editor. (Wishful thinking)

Hopefully all will find the newly designed cover and the name of our magazine acceptable. Believe me, I gave this much thought and in doing so tried to keep away from any ideas which could have given the suggestion that we are chemical applicators etc. Fred Marsh, in his paper delivered to those attending the Chemical Applicators Course in August of this year, said that we are in a profession, (I like that word), which has the ability to motivate others in ensuring that our agricultural environment is protected for future generations of New Zealanders.

Hence the name "Protect". Protect our agricultural environment. (With apologies to our Urban Members.)

The hands in the cover-design are really symbolical of all the means we have at our disposal for the control or eradication of noxious plants, which means are certainly not confined solely to advocating the application of certain herbicides. After all, are not herbicides only a tool to be used in conjunction with other methods of control?

Due to the lay-out of the magazine I find it much more convenient to do the typing myself. This way I can fit in illustrations and headings as I go along. Hence, any spelling mistakes must be blamed on yours truly and kwite franclie, I coodent giv a dam.

A Motorcycle Report appears on page 27 concerning the Honda CT125 and if you too employ a motorcycle in the carrying out of your duties, drop us a line as to what you think of it, how it performs, any disadvantages, how you transport it around etc. If I receive more than one report on the same machine, (more wishful thinking), I'll incorporate them into one.

To those who have taken the time to contribute something for this issue go my thanks. They include Fred Marsh, Bill Forbes, Terry Regan who sent in the item on Hyacinth, Arnold Feierabend, George Loudon and various Branches for their reports. I wont thank myself in public. How about the other 140 of you keeping your eyes open for something to contribute? Even experiences encountered in the performance of your duties are acceptable, like T.J.R.'s at a lookout-point.

May I wish you all the best for the coming year and trust that we will have a summer this time.

Regards,

STAN DULIEU

SUBSIDY EXPENDITURE

NOXIOUS PLANTS CONTROL SCHEME(TO 31.7)

		HAMILTON	AUCKLAND	PALMERSTON NTH	¹ CHRISTCHURCH	² DUNEDIN	HASTINGS	TOTAL
COST OF CHEMICAL	GORSE	157,690	222,998	179,681	195,195	115,307	76,919	947,790
	NODDING THISTLE	80,279	1,246	9,799	68,127	8,066	32,987	200,504
	RAGWORT	68,786	5,047	32,845	9,496	-	25,813	141,990
	BROOM	-	-	-	74,792	31,840	-	106,632
	VARIEGATED THISTLE	-	-	15,506	-	-	7,207	22,713
ITEM TOTALS		306,755	229,291	237,834	347,610	155,213	142,926	1,419,629
COST OF FARMER APPLICATION	GORSE	158,345	260,129	150,704	91,249	44,375	30,064	729,866
	NODDING THISTLE	76,048	855	3,999	16,650	3,816	14,820	116,188
	RAGWORT	185,349	7,147	65,583	14,525	-	41,821	314,425
	BROOM	-	-	-	26,908	13,542	-	40,450
	VARIEGATED THISTLE	-	-	6,420	-	-	2,493	8,913
ITEM TOTALS		414,712	268,131	226,706	149,332	61,033	89,198	1,209,842
COST OF CONTRACTOR APPLICATION	GORSE	131,310	190,165	158,418	95,660	50,239	74,014	699,806
	NODDING THISTLE	53,905	1,217	11,390	27,209	4,416	21,507	119,644
	RAGWORT	16,448	3,060	7,230	2,505	-	13,333	42,576
	BROOM	-	-	-	36,927	11,553	-	48,480
	VARIEGATED THISTLE	-	-	12,479	-	-	7,764	20,243
ITEM TOTALS		201,663	194,442	189,517	162,301	66,208	116,618	930,749
ADMIN AND OTHER COSTS	GORSE	512	73	2,354	861	188	1,931	5,919
	NODDING THISTLE	203	-	26	384	10	23	646
	RAGWORT	468	-	394	-	-	382	1,244
	BROOM	-	-	-	692	-	-	692
	VARIEGATED THISTLE	-	-	285	-	-	11	296
ITEM TOTALS		1,183	73	3,059	1,937	198	2,347	3,797
TOTAL		924,343	691,937	657,116	661,180	283,352	351,089	3,569,017

¹ Includes Nelson Region

² Includes Invercargill Region

THE FUNCTIONS & ROLE of NOXIOUS WEEDS INSPECTORS

A PAPER DELIVERED AT THE CHEMICAL APPLICATORS' COURSE
MASSEY UNIVERSITY - 19 AUGUST, 1976

BY
FRED J. MARSH
CHIEF INSPECTOR
WELLINGTON REGIONAL NOXIOUS WEEDS COMMITTEE

Today I am going to talk to you on the functions and role of a Noxious Weeds Inspector who is appointed under Section 17 of the Noxious Weeds Act 1950. Inspectors can be appointed for the purposes of this Act in the following classes:

- (A) Government Inspectors who shall be appointed as officers of employers of the Public Service.
- (B) Local Authority Inspectors who shall be appointed by a Borough Council, Town Council, County Council or Road Board as provided in Sections 21, 22 and 23 of the Act.

However, no person shall be both a Government Inspector and a Local Authority Inspector at the same time. The greater majority of Inspectors are appointed by Local Authorities, who under Section 3 of the Act may at any time and from time to time declare that all or any or more of the plants mentioned or included in the First Schedule are noxious weeds within the district of that Local Authority, or, for that matter, within any specified portion of that district whereupon all the plants to which the declaration relates shall be deemed to be noxious weeds within the area specified in that declaration.

To briefly give you a history of the control measures in New Zealand in relation to noxious weeds legislation - this stretches back to 1854 when it appears that the first enactment concerning weeds in New Zealand was passed by the Wellington Provincial Council in that year entitled The Thistle Act 1854. This Act was to prevent the propagation of certain plants known as thistles. This was followed by various enactments from other provincial Councils until 1875, covering both terrestrial and aquatic weeds. A significant feature of the Acts and Ordinances of this period is that they were directed against individual species of weeds, for example, watercress or gorse, or against a specific group of weeds such as thistles.

We then moved on to the abolition of the Provinces Act in 1875 which abolished Provincial Government and it appears that for the following quarter of a century weeds were able to thrive without any legal checks. Eradication was over to good husbandry. Weeds apparently did increase as is evident from statements in Annual Reports of the Department of Agriculture during the period

1893 to 1900 when Central Government took their first step.

In 1900 Central Government legislated the Noxious Weeds Act 1900. This was the first formal enactment of Central Government and it established a number of principles which have been followed in subsequent measures to a greater or lesser degree. This Act defined terms such as Clean, Inspector etc. and also made the following points:

- (A) Occupier to clear and be responsible for half the road in contrast to certain Provincial Government Acts or Ordinances which made the Superintendent responsible for roads and road reserves.
- (B) Established the principle of three schedules -
 - Schedule 1 : Obligatory or Compulsory Weeds
 - Schedule 2 : Optional Weeds
 - Schedule 3 : Noxious Seeds
- (C) They authorised Local Authorities to declare weeds from the Second Schedule.
- (D) That the Second and Third Schedules should be extended by the Governor General or recommendations of the Joint Agricultural, Pastoral and Stock Committee.

There were then a number of amendments from 1908 right through to 1927. Government then brought down the Noxious Weeds Act 1928, a consolidating Act relating to noxious weeds and the trimming of hedges. This was the last Act in which mention was made of Gorse being sown for fodder. Then in 1943 Central Government brought down the Nassella Tussock Legislation which amended the Counties Act and three years later, in 1946, they brought down the Nassella Tussock Act. These measures specifically promulgated eradication of Nassella Tussock. This second Act established two Nassella Tussock Boards, defined their functions and powers and defined the powers of the County Councils in relation to Nassella Tussock. In 1950 Government brought down the present day Act, the Noxious Weeds Act 1950. This further and latest consolidating Act, though retaining many of the features of its predecessors, did bring down new principles. For example:

1. The Governor General may extend the First Schedule. No mention is made of the Joint Agricultural, Pastoral and Stock Committee.
2. It introduced a sub-section relating to two weeds- Bermuda Buttercup and Nut Grass in registered nurseries, neither of which are in the Schedules.
3. Blanket prohibition of Water Hyacinth by subsequent amendment.

So, gentlemen, over the last century many enactments have been brought down for the control of Noxious Weeds, and this has not stopped. In 1973 a Special Committee of Inquiry brought down a Report to the then Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries on Noxious Weeds Administration which is to form the basis of a new Bill that is to be presented before the house, we hope next year, and will be called the Noxious Plants Bill.

In the meantime, since the Minister received the 1973 Report, he has implemented two recommendations of the Committee. One was that the control of Noxious Weeds Administration be taken out of the hands of the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and transferred to the Farm Advisory Division. This has been done. In fact this was a very strong recommendation of the Noxious Weeds Inspectors Institute who felt for many years that the Farm Advisory Division were the logical Division to administer the functions of the Act in relation to farm management. The other recommendation which was adopted by the previous Government was the subsidy on noxious plants control. I presume that you are aware that this has been changed slightly and I will deal with this later on.

So, gentlemen, this is briefly the history of noxious weeds administration in New Zealand from the middle of the last century up to the present day.

As regards the functions and role of a Noxious Weeds Inspector, these have changed greatly over the last few years. By this I mean that in 1950 the emphasis was on coercion, instructing an occupier to clear his land and if he failed to do so, proceeding with a legal prosecution. Today, mainly because of the role that the Noxious Weeds Inspectors Institute has taken, the Inspector's approach to noxious weeds control is very much an advisory one and legislation is only used as a last resort when an occupier fails to clear his land of weeds which are infesting or could possibly infest his neighbouring properties.

The Institute submitted detailed Submissions to the Committee of Inquiry and the majority of the Institute's recommendations were adopted by this Committee. Weed control today has become very varied and very technical in many aspects. Today we have many problems which economically affect our farmers in New Zealand and especially the hill-country farmer. Noxious Plants would come very high in this category and I would venture to say that unless we have clean pastoral land to grow grass, then the simple fact is you cannot produce and that is what pastoral farming is all about.

Grass is the product of the New Zealand farmer. Without it he cannot produce the basic by-products such as meat, wool, butter, cheese, milk etc. I don't need to tell you, gentlemen, that these by-products are the economic life-blood of all New Zealanders.

Chemical control is a tool in the overall control of noxious plants. Management plays a very big part in getting or achieving worthwhile control measures and this is one thing that must be born in mind. Unless proper follow-up action is taken, then the initial chemical control or the expenditure of it can be lost. As I pointed out previously, grass is our number one product which we have to get our overseas earnings from and only by good sound management techniques and the use of all the available resources to help the farmer such as the chemical applicator, the Noxious Weeds Inspector, the private Farm Consultant, the Farm Advisory Officer of the Advisory Division and the farmer himself, working as a team on the land, will the answer to good, sound noxious weeds control be reached.

Basically, an Inspector's job is to administer the Noxious Weeds Act 1950 in relation to those weeds which have been declared in his area. His function

is to be involved with all occupiers in that area, ensuring that worthwhile programmes of control are being undertaken. He works in close liaison with contractors and other people in this field. Today his role is very much an administrative one in relation to noxious plants control under the present subsidy scheme, announced on Budget Night, where the Minister brought down regulations under the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Act and established District Noxious Plants Authorities which will be Counties or combined Counties or Noxious Weeds Committees. The Ministry's Farm Advisory Officer in a District is now an ex-officio member of that District Authority and will be involved in the planning of chemical application programmes and follow-up work. This will ensure a very close liaison being maintained between the Ministry and the District Authority.

Under the terms of reference of a District Authority, they have to establish guidelines for the control of eligible species of noxious plants within their district. The guidelines are to cover the chemical application and subsequent follow-up work. These guidelines are to be referred to a Regional Co-ordinating Committee for approval. Once these guidelines are approved, the procedure will be as follows:

1. Individual farmers or groups of farmers submit their proposed control programmes to the District Authority through the Noxious Weeds Inspector.
2. The Inspector is to be available to advise farmers in the drawing up of these programmes.
3. The District Authority or the Inspector, if authority has been delegated to him, approves the plan if it is within the agreed guidelines as have been set down by the Authority. Where there is doubt about the programme or follow-up management practices, the local Farm Advisory Officer is available for advice.
4. On completion of the control operation the farmer then submits a claim for subsidy to the Noxious Weeds Inspector.
5. The District Authority formally approves the claim which is then passed to the Ministry. Claims must be supported by receipted invoices for chemicals purchased.
6. Such claims must record the Authority's approval for payment which is to be signed by the Chairman or the Noxious Weeds Inspector or other authorised officer.

As I mentioned previously, the District Authority does have to refer its guidelines to a regional body. This is a Regional Co-ordinating Committee which is set out under M.A.F. regions, of which there are eight in New Zealand. The Minister has also set up a National Plants Advisory Board comprising six members and the broad functions of the Committee would be to initiate and promote an overall policy on noxious plants administration, to maintain direct oversight of the progress being made in noxious plants control and the co-ordination of regional and national programmes, reporting to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries on these aspects. The national body is also to recommend from time to time which noxious plants should be classified as being Class A. To recommend what procedures should be implemented, by whom, and at whose expense, to

eradicate or control Class A noxious plants as well as to recommend legislative actions considered necessary. Also to recommend from time to time which noxious plants should be classified as Class B on a regional, inter-regional or national basis. To recommend to the Minister whatever forms of procedures for financial assistance the Committee considers warranted to assist regional or national eradication control programmes involving noxious plants classified as B.

With regards this classification, the weeds which at present qualify for subsidy, are in the classification of B.

The National Plants Advisory Committee would also have the function of establishing specialist committees where necessary to assist the Council in its operations, for example when dealing with aquatic weeds. From time to time the Committee will recommend to the Minister on all matters of priorities and organisation in the field of noxious plants research. This, gentlemen, will be the forerunner of the future administrative set-up for noxious plants control within New Zealand. Again, this administrative set-up was recommended in the 1973 Report on Noxious Weeds Administration and whether local authorities like it or not, Noxious Weeds Inspectors now will become more of an advisory officer than a policing officer. For 25 years it has been proved that coercion does not get rid of noxious weeds. Unless local authorities and the Inspectors gain the confidence of the occupier worthwhile measures of control will not be achieved and I think it is fair to say that the vast majority of local authorities and Inspectors are working in very close liaison with the occupiers and the people that service these farms in noxious weeds control.

It would be my recommendation to every one of you to get to know your local Noxious Weeds Inspector or Inspectors and discuss the programmes of control which you are responsible for.

One thing I would like to say is that the effect of the subsidy scheme which was introduced last year has been a tremendous one in that it has given a stimulus to the New Zealand farmer, a stimulus which has not been seen with us in the past as far as noxious plants control is concerned. I sincerely hope that Government will continue to stimulate the farming industry, not only in the realm of noxious plants control, but in other spheres as well. Especially so our hill-country farmers as they are the backbone of the farming industry in New Zealand. Without the hill-country farmer, the fattening farmer cannot exist because this is where our store stock comes from to produce our high quality primary produce to earn our overseas exchange. As I have mentioned, the role of the Noxious Weeds Inspector has changed greatly over the last few years. It is very much a role of motivation in helping the New Zealand farmer rather than coercing him. What is required is good advice and practical help. That is our role today, which is the principle adopted by many Local Authorities within New Zealand. You might ask how we are achieving such a massive task in motivation and education.

Firstly, the Noxious Weeds Inspectors Institute has taken a forward step and is far ahead of any other section of local Government in the education of its members. We have been trying for a number of years now to implement an in-service and vocational training scheme. This is now on the drawing boards and is getting under way. Many Inspectors have taken the pesticide course through the Technical Correspondence Institute. In fact, for the number of members the Institute has, it would have far the greatest number that have either sat or completed this course. We are not chemical applicators but are specialists in

the field of noxious weeds control in relation to control measures being undertaken on the land. As I said, chemical control is only one tool in the overall control of noxious plants.

Our job is to co-ordinate all the experts in this field. The technical people with their advice, the chemical applicator with his practical knowledge and ability to undertake the necessary control measures on a property. Unless we have a co-ordinated effort of all those involved, then worthwhile programmes of control are not going to be achieved. You will notice that I have only talked about noxious weeds in relation to rural farmland which is the basis of the Noxious Weeds Act 1950. It was implemented to protect our pastural farmland from the encroachment of unwanted weed species which could affect our production. The same principle applies today and I feel quite confident that future administration will assure that positive and sound approaches are undertaken.

It is very pleasing to note within the ranks of the Noxious Weeds Inspectors Institute, that some very fine and intelligent young men are taking on this profession, and gentlemen, I would call it a profession, with the ability to motivate others in ensuring that our agricultural environment is protected for future generations of New Zealanders.

-oOo-



Ragwort Poisoning



Ragwort poisoning causes losses among cattle and sheep in Great Britain, Canada and New Zealand. It is the cause of the "Pictou Cattle Disease" of Canada, and of "Molteno Cattle Disease" in South Africa.

The plant (*Senecio Jacobaea*, or sp.) is very often fed off by sheep when it becomes too plentiful in grass land. In the United Kingdom, fatal poisoning has followed the giving of hay contaminated with Ragwort; death occurring many weeks after the last mouthful. The death of 28 head of cattle was caused 2-4 months after feeding Ragwort contaminated silage.

The effects of Ragwort poisoning are: Cirrhosis of the liver, inflammation of the 4th stomach, and other lesions. The symptoms are: Severe and strained purging; faeces yellowish to dark brown; cows cease to give milk; abdominal pain, groaning; animal may go mad and charge anyone approaching, or lie with outstretched head, drooping ears, staring coat and dull glaring eyes; death usually occurs within three days from the commencement of purging. Acute Ragwort poisoning may also occur, causing death in 5-10 days.

Milk from a cow which has eaten Ragwort may be dangerous to children, causing liver damage.

SOUTH AUCKLAND BRANCH

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

Gentlemen,

During the past year, eight meetings which included one special meeting were held, with attendance being very good.

In commenting on this successful year, I direct your attention to the fact that Darby Finlayson is now National President, Bill Forbes National Secretary and Stan Dullieu National Editor, giving this Branch a particularly strong and able representation at National level.

On reflection, I think we have experienced a noteworthy year which included the Annual Conference of the Institute held at Hamilton. Opinions, both solicited and otherwise, as to the quality of the Conference have invariably been most favourable, so I consider that we can congratulate ourselves on a job well done.

Of no less importance, have been the initial moves towards implementation of the much discussed "Fitzharris Report" with the formation of the Waikato Regional Noxious Plants Co-Ordinating Committee of which I am a co-opted member representing this Branch of our Institute.

Noxious Plants Officers, as we are now designated, will undoubtedly experience changes in status and function as implementation continues.

The passing of the old 50-50 weed control subsidy and the implementation of the current subsidy scheme was marked by vigorous and constructive discussion. Happily, farmer groups are no longer necessary.

Guest speakers at our meetings have represented the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Neill, Cropper & Co. Ltd., Brookside Farms Laboratory Association, Ivon Watkins-Dow Ltd. and the Contractors' Federation. Many interesting Field Days were held observing various successful and unsuccessful methods of weed control. Members, therefore, were afforded the opportunity to consider technical information and inspect practical demonstrations enabling more effective execution of duties.

In conclusion, I must congratulate all members on their keen participation in all the meetings. This increased interest has been most apparent.

Special thanks to Secretary, Terry Regan, who has given outstanding service.

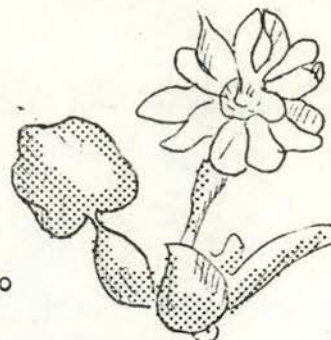
Yours faithfully,

J.S.E. Holden
CHAIRMAN

HYACINTH

— a pollution control answer?

SOIL & WATER OCTOBER 1976



THE REMARKABLE water hyacinth may be nature's answer to man's sewage pollution problems.

Recent experiments by the National Aeronautical and Space Administration showed the hyacinth is able to absorb pollutants from sewage in a lagoon and literally clean the water.

Hyacinths thrive on raw sewage, NASA found. They thrived so well in an agency test that they outgrew the plot where they were planted.

Such fast growth could be a problem if the hyacinths themselves turned into a waste problem. But the agency reported it may be possible to harvest excess hyacinths, dry them out, and turn them into methane gas— a fuel cited as a possible supplement to natural gas— and into fertilizer.

Bill Wolverton, a biochemist at NASA's national space technology laboratories in Mississippi, warned in the agency's report that the economics of harvesting hyacinths have not been worked out and the potential of the plant's use has not been fully explored. (Continued on page 20)

-oOo-

IF IT'S WEEDSPRAYING YOU WANT DONE...

CONTACT THE EXPERTS



HELICOPTERS (N.Z.) LTD.

NEW ZEALAND'S LARGEST ROTORCRAFT COMPANY

BASES					BASES			
TIMARU BOX 125 PHONE 86065		Telephone: 79 816, Nelson Telegrams: 'Copters'.			Head Office, Private Bag, Nelson Airport.		INVERCARGILL BOX 230 PH. 83.174	
NELSON PB NELSON AIRPORT PHONE 79816	NEW PLYMOUTH BOX 282 PH. BELL BLOCK 394	WANGANUI BOX 614 PH. 30859	GISBORNE BOX 332 PHONE 6199	TAUPO BOX 555 PHONE 988	S. CANTERBURY 19 HUFLEY ST GERALDINE PHONE 242			

KROVAR[®]



**The ideal solution for difficult
weed problems on highways,
railways, drainage ditch banks,
around plant sites and
on non-cropland areas.**



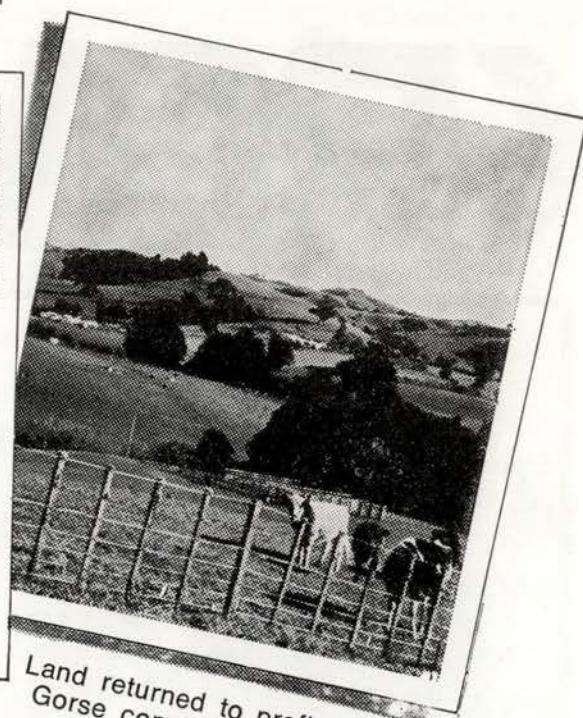
NEILL, CROPPER & CO. LTD

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS DEPARTMENT

AUCKLAND/WELLINGTON/CHRISTCHURCH

®Registered Trade Mark E.I. Du Pont de Nemours & Co. Inc. Wilmington, Delaware, U.S.A.

Heavy gorse—Loss of profits! Spraying with Tordon 250 Brushkiller obvious answer.



Land returned to profitable production.
Gorse completely cleared!

PROBLEM: GORSE. SOLUTION: TORDON* 520 BRUSHKILLER.

You're wasting money if you're trying to eradicate gorse by only killing the stems and leaves.

You must also get to the roots or the plant grows again and again.

Ideally just one complete cover spray of Tordon 520 Brushkiller should be enough.

Tordon 520 Brushkiller penetrates into the intricate root system.

Then the persistent characteristics of Tordon come into action.

It stays there in the roots and remains free to move to any part of the plant attempting to regenerate. And that really is cost efficiency.

Tordon 520 Brushkiller is the result of considerable research and development by IWD to find a fully effective, efficient and reliable gorse killer.



IVON WATKINS-DOW LTD
P.O. Box 144,
New Plymouth.

**ALONGSIDE THE FARMER
FOR THE FUTURE OF NEW ZEALAND**

THE GROUP APPROACH TO NODDING THISTLE

by

STAN DULIEU - TAUPO

CONTROL

The first attempts, in Taupo, toward controlling nodding thistle by means of a group were made early in 1971 when the County brought six farmers together to participate in an experiment which would show just what advantages there could be in employing such a scheme.

Circulars, prepared by the County, were sent to the six farmers whose properties were contiguous, explaining what was involved and requesting, should they wish to take part, that they mark on an enclosed map of their farm the approximate areas they want sprayed. Later they were to be called on by officers of the Taupo Pest Destruction Board, who were assisting in the experiment, and be supplied with marking paper which they would put out in the paddocks as an indication to the pilot where to spray.

The whole idea of the trial was to get everything organised beforehand, cutting down flying-time and consequently cost. Russ Nairn of Helicopters N.Z. Ltd. did the actual spraying on the 25th of March, 1971.

Although the Taupo Times reported the experiment to be a complete success, in actual fact it left a lot to be desired.

Each farmer was charged for flying time rather than a per acre basis. Where a farmer's thistles were scattered all over his property and the helicopter had to spend some time looking for markers, a greater cost was involved than with a farmer who more or less blanket sprayed an area. For example: one farmer sprayed 16 acres, practically a blanket coverage, and the cost was 28.65 or 1.79 per acre; another farmer did 8 acres, mainly spotting, and the cost to him was 37.06 or 4.63 an acre. Obviously, a better method had to be used.

Later on in 1971 a further circular was sent out, this time to the farming community in general, inviting them to participate in a similar scheme only on a larger scale. For some reason or other it never went any further than that circular although I was told a councillor thought that under the workings of such a scheme the County were being dictatorial regarding which contractor the farmers should use and hence the idea was dropped, to lay dormant for almost three years.

In early 1974 I was approached by the F.A.O. for Taupo, Robin Gordon, who had been involved in the 1971 operation. He asked me if I'd be interested in encouraging group spraying along the lines being used by two other areas, namely: Okere Falls, outside of Rotorua; and Atiamuri, set between Taupo and Rotorua. I'd only been in the Taupo district since the preceeding year so I wasn't too clued up as to what was involved.

After a bit of investigation I found that the significant difference in how these guys were running the group system was that it had the farmers themselves in control and not the local authority. Also charges by contractors were being made on a per acre basis. It looked good and so Robin and I decided to bring the idea up for discussion at the next meeting of the Taupo District Federated Farmers.

To say they were skeptical would be an understatement but they did think the scheme had merit and decided to hold a public meeting about a week later which they would advertise in the local newspaper.

In preparation for this I ran off some forms on the Rank-Xerox which explained the workings of the Group Scheme, outlining what a committee of farmers would be required to do and what the benefits would be to those participating. I printed enough forms so that everyone attending could have one and at the top of the form I had in bold letters, Taupo Farmers Noxious Weeds Committee. They say that seeing is believing and that if something's written down it has to be true.

All it needed was for some-one to propose that a committee be formed, a second order and a majority of ayes and we had our Group. Seven executive members were elected and eventually we were to see that about 50 farmers in all would participate, all on sheep units.

At the first meeting of the executive committee we divided the area the Group covered into sections and assigned a section to each member meaning they had about six farmers each to look after. What they now had to do was contact those in their care and find out the approximate acreage that was to be sprayed and how much chemical would be required for the contractor and their own use.

Once this information came in I placed advertisements in several National Dailies calling tenders from applicators for the spraying of 7,000 acres, more or less, for the control of nodding thistle and for the supplying of so many hundred gallons of M.C.P.A. At this time, virtually the same thing was happening with another district in Taupo, namely Tirohanga. The district of Whakamaru, near Mangakino were just too skeptical and preferred to wait a year and see how Taupo and Tirohanga got on. Meanwhile, as we waited for the Tenders to close we went mad buying wind gauges and hygrometers.

Following the closing of Tenders a successful contractor was decided upon by the exec. and with the price per acre known, everybody in the Group could again be contacted and a more firm order regarding acreage be obtained. I'd prepared an Agreement Form upon which the farmer agreed to do several things, for example: provide a map or diagram identifying the affected areas, plus any lucerne stands, wires etc.; be present at the time of spraying, or if this wasn't possible to appoint a representative; make payment for work done within ten days from the receipt of an account from the Committee; in the event of any dissatisfaction to complain to the Committee, in writing, as soon as possible but no later than six weeks following the time of application. On a Schedule at the bottom of the form, the farmer wrote the time of application he preferred, the rate of application for his chemical and the acreage to be done.

When we first started off we were dead keen about supervision and we work-

ed out a pretty good roster where a member of the exec. would be present to supervise each spraying operation. Work was to start on the 20th of May, 1974 and continue through until the 20th of October.

When the starting day arrived, as we had decided on a fixed-wing, we were all assembled on an airstrip overlooking Accacia Bay. I nearly died of a coronary when I first saw the aircraft. It was a Piper Cub and reminded me of something I'd made out of balsa when I was a kid. How was he going to get through the spraying of 7,000 acres with THAT? Well, that first morning we were blown out. Big deal. We all went home disgusted.

Eventually the scheme got off the ground and except for things like frozen aeroplanes, broken tail-struts, blocked nozzles, blocked nozzles and blocked nozzles, everything went fairly smoothly. About a third of the way through, due to the broken tail struts I mentioned, we had a change of aircraft and started using a Piper Pawnee which proved itself capable of getting through the acres with a bit more speed. However when Taupo used the same operator in 1975 things didn't go quite the same as on one frosty morning the surfaces of the Pawnee refused to work on take off and about two hundred yards from the end of the strip she sat herself down in a copse of trees, almost like they did in the old silent movies, with the fuselage going between the trees and the wings being sheared back. There she sat, like a roosting hen, about 15 feet up off the ground. She'd gone so cleanly between the tree-trunks that the propellor wasn't even bent. I asked the pilot how he got down to the ground and he answered, "Quick!" With aviation fuel all over the place at the time, I guess that's a fair enough comment. He suffered minor chest injuries and not before too long was back on the job with an Airtruck, a plane that reminded me of a flying-egg.

In 1975 Whakamaru took the plunge, forming themselves into a Group and spraying around 10,000 acres for nodding thistle control. They had accepted a tender from a Contractor who was prepared to provide both a helicopter and a fixed-wing at the same rate of 1.93 per acre. At the time the schedule rates for a chopper were about 4.50 an acre and for a fixed-wing, 3.60. The company had apparently made a miscalculation and in the course of the contract discovered that it had tendered too low for the job to be of any real profit to them. The following year their price was 4.50 per acre for both forms of aircraft. They were not successful and a company from the South Island gained the contract with a tender of 2.50 per acre using a fixed wing capable of carrying 250 gallons of water which meant that at our rate he did 25 acres a load. Ten hectares if you want to be modern.

This year, Taupo swapped over to a helicopter, using the same operator who had carried out the spraying in 1971, Russ Nairn. He feels that the present way of operating the Groups is far superior to that which was used in 1971 and going by the comments at what we call our "B...h Session" or "Grizzle Meeting", held at the end of each spraying season, most of the farmers participating agree. Infact, you could say that everybody is happy with the results being achieved. Sure, we get our misses and there are some areas where it appears they never were sprayed, but on the whole, results are excellent and the total number of acres sprayed is slowly decreasing, as it should do. The other thing that is changing is the Groups' attitude toward supervision. As they get to know the contractors and whether or not they can

rely on them, their supervision becomes less and less. Whether they can afford to do this remains to be seen. Their main thought is that the farmer whose property is being treated is the only one who needs to be present when spraying is carried out, but how many farmers are prepared to stay on the airstrip or heli-pad for the duration of the spraying operation. If a Group has 10,000 acres for a contractor to spray, could it say to the contractor, "There you are, go to it and we'll see you in 4 months time". Maybe they could. I prepare a schedule for each group which has on it the months and under each month the name of each farmer, his telephone number, acreage to be done and rates of application. Each committee member gets one of these and so does the contractor along with a map of the district with the relevant properties marked on it. But if things started going wrong, if there were differences in what the contractor says he did and what the farmer thinks he did etc., without a supervisor having been present, who's to say who is right and who is wrong. But time will tell.

Chemical, mainly M.C.P.A., is being brought direct from a chemical manufacturer at a saving of around \$80.00 per 200 litre drum. This means that the farmer who is spraying his thistles with 3 pints M.C.P.A. per acre in ten gallons of water (4.2 litres in 112 litres water) is saving approximately 4.00 an acre overall due to being in a group. In addition to this they receive 75% of the cost of their chemical back.

Contract rates for aircraft this year were 2.50 for a fixed-wing and 2.75 for a chopper, this being per acre.

Advantages to me as a Noxious Plants Officer are that early in the year, around March, I know those who are intending to spray, how much they are going to do, the rates they are going to employ and better still, I know those who apparently are not going to spray. You can be fairly certain that if someone's not in the group, he's not getting another contractor to do his property when it will cost him an extra 4.00 an acre. Groups don't make the job easier but they do make it more effective. By means of the groups I get 20,000 acres sprayed for nodding thistle control without the issueing of one Notice to Clear. It certainly makes for better relationships with the farmer-community. It means a lot more work in attending evening meetings, particularly around March when the groups start getting into gear for the coming season. There are forms to prepare, schedules to make up, Conditions of Tender to be worked out and various other jobs.

However, I feel that groups can only thrive where there is a need for a contractor in the district to carry out a reasonable amount of spraying over a reasonable period of time. Thistle spraying seems to suit this situation admirably.

If there is anything else you would like to know about the Group Concept as it operates in Taupo drop me a line and I'll try to help.

-ooo-

HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET?

CONFERENCE

1977

WESTPORT



Northern SOUTH ISLAND

BRANCH ----- REPORT

A meeting of the above Branch was held in the Waimea Council Chambers on the 8th of November, 1976.

Those attending were Messers G. Strickett, Chairman; E. Jackson, Secretary; R. Broadhurst; B. Menzies; R. Feron; A. Roberts; C. Grieg; D. Brown; H. Morris; I. Frizzell; F. Marsh and W. Forbes. Apologies were received from Messers W. Nicholls, L. Menzies, J. Gameson and G. Richards.

Following the reading and confirming of the minutes, the Chairman spoke of discussions he had had with Mr. Baungast. It appears as though some Counties were under a misunderstanding as to correct classification of Class A & B weeds. Members were concerned about the apparent lack of action by the Regional Office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Mr. Menzies talked about the Field Day conducted by the Inspectors of Waimea County. It was thought by all who attended, that the Day was a success and achieved its goal of getting through to farmers the techniques of weed control.

Mr. Feron spoke regarding the programme for the 1977 Conference and asked whether Mr. Les Mathews and Mr. Willis Burns had been written to re: attending Conference. It was agreed that both these men be invited. Mr. Forbes confirmed his approach to the Minister.

Mr. Marsh spoke on the time that speakers could be allowed, including the opening address as well as during Conference. It was agreed that 20 minutes was a reasonable time plus 20 minutes for questions.

Mr. Feron read letters he had received from Chemical Companies regarding the herbicide panel and also regarding financial assistance that would be available. (Neill, Cropper, Shell, I.C.I.-Tasman Vaccine, I.W.D.)

Mr. Forbes stated that he was against the herbicide panel, pointing out that all research information would, in the near future, be available from Government Departments.

Mr. Morris thought it was essential that any information on research which was available, be passed on to the Institute members.

Discussion took place on Mr. Healy's part in the Conference. It was generally thought that he be invited to attend as a guest. His knowledge of weeds was better passed to members as he moved around during Conference.

The visit to the Pakihi Farm took some time to discuss and it was felt that any surplus time in the morning could be used by including a visit to a local industry.

Mr. Marsh asked as to whether any chemical firms could give new information on their products. He felt that the Conference must very definitely look

into new developments rather than what has been said for some years. This also applied to helicopter firms.

A lengthy discussion took place on the timing of the A.G.M.. All members present spoke and in conclusion it was resolved that the A.G.M. be held on Thursday morning from 8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Members agreed that Conference closing be delayed to 5 p.m. as they could not accept an earlier closing time on Thursday as well as having the A.G.M. It was thought that the Counties Association would frown upon how the Institute use Conference time.

Mr. Marsh moved that the Secretary write to the National Editor, advising him of what is available in Westport for Day Trips. He could then publish this in the Magazine, thereby advising all before Conference.

Mr. Feron spoke on the recording system. Radio Buller had written saying they could not see their way clear to handle this part of Conference. After discussion on the P.A. System in the hotel, it was left to Mr. Roberts to explore this in Greymouth. He is to contact Mr. Marsh as soon as he has information, as given time, this equipment can be hired in Wellington.

Mr. Forbes told the meeting that he did not see any need to invite Mr. Burns to Conference. However, this was unanimously over-ruled and Mr. Feron moved, seconded Mr. Broadhurst, "That a letter be sent to Mr. Willis Burns inviting him to Conference."

With no further discussion on Conference, the meeting closed at 3.30 p.m.

★★★★★

HOW DO YOU RATE ?

Performance Factors	DEGREES OF PERFORMANCE				
	FAR EXCEEDS JOB REQUIREMENTS	EXCEEDS JOB REQUIREMENTS	MEETS JOB REQUIREMENTS	NEEDS SOME IMPROVEMENT	DOES NOT MEET MIN. REQUIREMENT
Quality	Leaps tall buildings with a single bound	Must take running start to leap over tall buildings	Can only leap over a short building or medium one with no spires	Crashes into buildings when attempting to jump over them	Cannot recognize buildings at all, much less jump over them
Timeliness	Is faster than a speeding bullet	Is as fast as a speeding bullet	Not quite as fast as a speeding bullet	Would you believe a slow bullet?	Wounds self with bullet when attempting to shoot gun
Initiative	Is stronger than a locomotive	Is stronger than a bull elephant	Is stronger than a bull	Shoots the bull	Smells like a bull
Adaptability	Walks on water consistently	Walks on water in emergencies	Washes with water	Drinks water	Passes water in emergencies
Communication	Talks with God	Talks with the angels	Talks to himself	Argues with himself	Loses those arguments

☆☆☆☆☆☆

IT'S A GIRL!

by
GEORGE LOUDEN
THAMES - COROMANDEL

(The article, that is)

In September 1972, I reported to our Newsletter, an item of interest regarding "women's lib". Most of you will recall the young lady, Mrs. Vaughan Atkinson, becoming the first woman in New Zealand to receive the Chemical Applicators Registration.

Since that time she has applied several hundred thousand litres of chemical spray-mix to many hundreds of hectares of gorse, ragwort, thistles etc., including 66,240 gallons (298,080 litres) of gorse spray-mix to their own property at Whenuakite.

WOMEN'S LIBERATION:

George Louden from Coromandel advises that some months ago a farmer's wife who has done all the spraying on their 900 acre farm, contacted the Ministry of Works and was given a contract for roadside spraying.

"This young lady has applied, over the past four years, six 46 gallon drums of 2,4,5-T, over 49,000 gallons of spray for gorse control. This will give you some idea of the extent of work that she has done. The farm is a credit to both of them, and where once stood tall thick gorse, there is now good hill pasture.

"The Ministry of Works is very pleased with Mrs. Atkinson's efforts and have offered her more work, thus giving her a few extra dollars for Xmas. I brought the question of registration to her notice in case of further contracts, and two months ago her application went forward and I am pleased to say she received her Chemical Applicator's Licence last week.

"It could very well be that the Women's Liberation Movement might take over in this field - maybe someone should advise Alf King that his staff troubles might be at an end with co-od teams in the hills!

"Does anyone else know if there are any other Women Chemical Applicators? Maybe we should encourage female Inspectors!!!"

"According to the examiners she is the first one to apply. The Shell Oil Company's Agricultural Chemicals Department are doing a story on this achievement which will be circulated in one of their magazines."

We have all heard, read and listened to reports of the precautions women must take when they become pregnant e.g. don't have your husband's aircraft spraying over the house if you use the water off the roof for drinking purposes. I wholeheartedly agree with these precautions, but to have the threat of losing such a valuable chemical, special considerations must first be given.

Members, it is with great pleasure that I inform you of Steve and Vaughan Atkinson now having a beautiful 7lb 10oz baby daughter named Fairlie. Vaughan tells me she was 3 weeks pregnant at the time she completed her last contract and had no complications during or after the pregnancy.

I know you will all join with me in congratulating Steve and Vaughan and wishing them all the best in the future.

-oOo-

Once, woman wore bathing suits down to their ankles,
Then down to their knees,
Then down to their hips.
These days, no one is even sure they'll wear
them down to the beach!



HYACINTHcontinued

In an experiment, NASA researchers planted hyacinths in a 40-acre sewage lagoon containing wastes from 6,000 households. The hyacinths cleaned the water but they grew at a terrific rate and the planted area was enlarged by seven acres.

A smaller experiment was conducted at Orange Grove, Mississippi. Seven-tenths of an acres planted with water hyacinths purified a sewage flow that ranged up to 500,000 gallons a day.

Vascular plants such as the hyacinth have a network of ducts which conduct nourishment through their root system. The plants have a built in filtering system that has been shown to remove cadmium, mercury, nickel, lead, and silver from industrial and chemical waste.

In one experiment, a zig-zag, canal-like waste treatment lagoon (12 metres wide, 1 metre deep and 250 metres long) was used to detoxify liquid wastes from the chemical and photographic laboratories of the national space technological laboratories.

Result: the filtration of 25,000 gallons a day by the water hyacinths met or exceeded required purification standards.

At the Mississippi State University's agricultural experiment station, farm harvested hyacinths have been converted into cattle feed.

The plants were dried and ground into a meal rich in minerals and protein. Added to corn silage, it produced a weight gain in the cattle comparable to that produced by corn fortified with cotton seed and soyabean meals.

Water hyacinths used to clean up chemical wastes cannot be used to produce cattle feed. But such plants can be turned into methane gas and fertilizer.

Experiments conducted in laboratories demonstrate that 0.5kg of plant refuse can produce about 5 cubic feet of methane gas. At that rate, researchers say, an acre of water hyacinths could produce two million cubic feet of gas.

The residue from the methane production process makes an efficient fertilizer and soil conditioner. NASA estimated one acre of sewage-enriched hyacinths would produce half-a-ton of fertilizer a day. (NZPA)

-oOo-

☆☆

AT LAST!

The father of 10 daughters took his wife to hospital for her latest confinement and stood by for the expected announcement: "It's a girl."

He was wrong. "It's a boy," they told him, and the man went crazy with joy. A son. A SON! After all this time.....!

When the baby was a week old a friend congratulating the still delirious father said, "Who does he look like. You? Or your wife?"

"How would I know?" drooled the father, "I haven't looked at his face yet!"

BACKGROUND PAPER ON NOXIOUS WEEDS INSPECTORS' TRAINING

As amended by the Working Party on
November 4, 1976

A. JOB SPECIFICATIONS

- (1) A Noxious Plants Officer is appointed to administer the Noxious Weeds Act 1950 and/or any subsequent legislation and all Regulations in relation to Noxious Plants Control within such an area of jurisdiction of that Officer covered by his appointment.
- (2) To be able to identify noxious plants and those of agronomic significance and in particular to:
 - a. identify those plants declared to be noxious plants under the Noxious Weeds Act 1950 and/or and subsequent legislation.
 - b. advise on control measures for those declared to be Class B.
 - c. control those declared to be Class A.
 - d. recognise potentially dangerous plants.
- (3) To be able to carry out all administrative duties so that he can operate technically, legally and efficiently to administer sound noxious plant control.
- (4) To have a sound public relations approach with all occupiers of land, agencies and services related to noxious plant control.
- (5) To be aware of the need for research and frame recommendations for areas of research.

B. FUNCTIONS OF A NOXIOUS PLANTS OFFICER

The following functions are defined from the broad job specification as previously outlined -

- (1) a. To be fully conversant with all aspects of the Noxious Weeds Act 1950 and/or any subsequent legislation on noxious plants control, including the Nassella Tussock Act 1946 if necessary and to have a full knowledge of the Agricultural Chemical Regulations and other subsequent legislation pertaining to use or handling of agricultural herbicides.
- b. To advise Council on policy for noxious plant control and implementation of this policy.
- c. To be able to carry out all the legal functions of the Act, such as the service of notices, preparation of information and affidavits, if required by the employing Council.
- d. To have a thorough knowledge of all case law in relation to the efficient administration of the legislation in respect to Noxious Plant Control.
- e. To be able to conduct and/or defend a case, if necessary, in a court of law and/or before an Appeal Authority Hearing.
- (2) a. To have a full knowledge of identification of noxious plants and those of agronomic significance.
- b. To be conversant with the ecology and biology of the noxious

plants concerned and associated agronomic species and their environmental behaviour.

- (i) To have a sound basic knowledge of agriculture. An appreciation of the significance of the various types of farming, soil differences, stock management and grazing techniques, farm finance and budget controls is desired, plus an overall awareness of the importance of sound farm management in the development of effective noxious plant control.
 - (ii) To be able to develop noxious plants control programmes with farmers.
- c. To have a full knowledge of and be able to give advice on the methods of control of noxious plants such as chemical, biological, mechanical, managerial and integrated.
- In particular to have knowledge of:
- (i) equipment and techniques used.
 - (ii) application of chemicals.
 - (iii) side effects of chemical and biological control.
 - (iv) awareness of research requirements.
- d. To be aware of the functions of and be able to advise occupiers of other agencies and services related to sound noxious plant control, in particular to maintain close contact with Ministry Farm Advisory Officers on matters relating to farm management.
- (3) a. To have a basic understanding of local Government administration especially in relation to noxious plant control.
- b. To be able to produce concise and detailed reports and correspondence.
 - c. To be able to keep good and accurate office records.
 - d. To have a sound knowledge of the administration of Government grants and subsidies.
 - e. To have a sound knowledge of land identification relating to the occupiers under his jurisdiction, such as valuation records and land titles.
 - f. To be able to prepare an annual review of progress in noxious plant control.
- (4) a. To have a good public relations image.
- (i) to be able to motivate occupiers in the preparation of programmes for noxious plant control.
 - (ii) to be able to motivate and co-ordinate programmes of control such as group control schemes.
 - (iii) to be able, if necessary, to co-ordinate related services or agencies on noxious plants control.
 - (iv) to be able to educate the public at large of the nec-

essity and importance of noxious plant control.

C. TRAINING

From Function 1 to 4 listed above the following broad training needs have been identified.

Function 1

- a. Legislation
- b. Policy - Formation and Implementation
- c. Legal Action

Function 2

- a. Identification
- b. Biology and Ecology
- c. Control
- d. Advisory (Technical Aspects)

Function 3

- a. Administration - general
 - specific (land tenure, maps etc)
- b. Clerical
- c. Staff

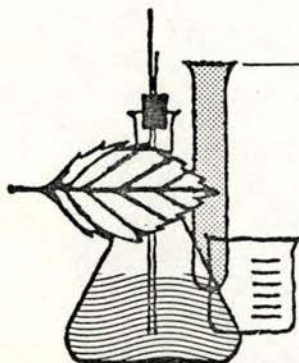
Function 4

- a. Public Relations



No Tender is Complete

Without A Quote From



BAY CHEMICALS

AGRICULTURAL & HORTICULTURAL SUPPLIES

**We Would Appreciate An Opportunity To Tender
For Your Chemical Requirements
Anytime Anywhere**

PHONE 88-534

HASTINGS

Box 1305

NATIONAL SECRETARY'S COMMENT (continued from page 2)

Subsidy Scheme

Little information has come to hand apart from a circular letter from the M.A.F. and also a similar circular letter from our representative on the National Advisory Council.

A copy of the letter from our representative agency on the National Committee is published in full, starting on page 21 of this issue.

Where such a scheme may operate reasonably well in some areas, particularly those counties with a limited number of larger holdings, problems can be envisaged in other counties with a large number of smaller holdings. To inspect, approve programmes and further inspect to assess the quality or success of the completed work could require a considerable increase in inspectorial services.

To approve claims without inspection would be contrary to the requirements of responsible administration. A number of our members have expressed misgivings regarding this and also mentioned instances of abuse. I have just received a letter from a highly respected and long serving member of our Institute and I am sure he will not object to me quoting the following paragraph from his letter:

'With this Farmers' Noxious Plants Subsidy Scheme we now have no time for anything other than to run after these farmers to make sure they are being reasonably honest.'

Is this what we really aspire to?

Our Northland Branch members are also greatly concerned at the inference that there is no need to inspect all properties, as farmers are honest. Instances of alleged false claims have been cited from this area. Of concern also is the fact that no indication has been given as to the level of control required to obtain subsidy approval.

In actual fact, very little is determined as to the practical aspects of the scheme and those D.N.P.A.'s and Inspectors who are implementing the scheme could run into problems.

Conference

I am very pleased to advise that the agenda has been more or less finalised. With some adjustments to the timetable, earlier commencement times, shorter tea breaks, etc. and an extension of time on Thursday afternoon (there is no transport out of Westport except by private car) we have been able to leave Wednesday evening free as a social evening. No weakening or curtailment of the programme has been necessitated.

If you have not already done so, complete the Registration Form in this issue of the Magazine and post to:

D.J. Brown
C/- P.O. Box 27,
BLenheim

(continued on next page)

Criticism

If Executive, Branches, or individual members have misgivings or criticism regarding the way Institute business is being managed then surely it is good practise to forward such to your Secretary. However, do be constructive. If you consider something is not quite correct then let's have some constructive criticism.

The amount of correspondence received which relates to important issues totals four letters. One deals with implementation of the subsidy scheme, of which it is critical. Two deal with conference agenda and infer that it is the responsibility of the host branch to prepare the Conference Agenda. The fourth letter touches upon both Conference Agenda and representation on the Committees. With regards to the latter, inference is made that we have upset a Mr Willis Burns and put our Institute back 15 years.

For heaven's sake, if making statements like this, let's have some facts to back them up.

I can assure you that we have good relationships with all- the Minister, Mr Fitzharris and I am almost certain that, apart from the fact that Mr Burns has discovered that we do not intend to allow matter of importance to the Institute to be put aside indefinitely, he, also, has a good relationship with the Institute.

As stated previously, the Institute is facing a critical period. We must achieve proper recognition now or be relegated to the status of everyone's dogs body. After 28 years we surely must have some idea of our place in the scheme of things. With due respect to members of the various Committees, their scheme for Noxious Plants Control will not function successfully without the full support of our members.

Remits

As yet no notice of Remits have come to hand. There is plenty of time yet, but do endeavour to submit as early as possible.

New Members

Application for membership has been received from the following:

Mr H.P. Hoskin	Pahiatua County
Mr D.K. Herbison	Waikohu County
Mr J. Barlow	Masterton Borough
Mr P.C. Cosgrove	Wellington Region, N.W.C.

I am sure all our members will join me in wishing you well in your new appointments. You can be assured of all the help and guidance we can give you and we look forward to meeting up with you at Westport Conference. Branch Secretaries, don't forget to include our new chums in you mailing lists.

Clarification

It is the responsibility of the Host Branch to organise the running of Conference. It is the responsibility of the Executive to assist in the selection of conference subjects. This brings into focus a much wider view of subjects.

P.T.O.

I would suggest that all Branches discuss this at their next Branch meeting, with a view to bringing forward a list of topics to the Executive from which list a balanced selection can be made for future conference.

Uniformity

A major criticism of Counties administration of the Noxious Weeds Act has been the lack of any uniformity of approach. To what extent are we also, as an Institute guilty of the same lack of uniformity?

Let us use our Branches as a base for planning our regional weed control policies at field level. From this base we can assess how, or to what extent, Branch programmes can be extended into a National Programme. If we leave this to Regional Co-ordinating Committees on which largely we have no representation at the present time, little by way of effective planning will develop, and we will eventually be held responsible for implementing a programme with which we have had no influence in preparing.

May I wish one and all the very best for Christmas and the New Year. If I have inadvertently (perhaps occasionally deliberately) ruffled a few feathers I am sure they will settle down again. As our Rob has stated, any publicity is good publicity and it is better than being ignored. Speaking of that, I feel a rather cool breeze from the direction of Wellington at the present time.

Regards,

Bill Forbes
NATIONAL SECRETARY



N.Z. FARMER - Letter to the Editor

Sir, Could some M.A.F. officer or other qualified person who has no vested interest in the results, research the spraying of nodding thistles?

WOULD HE BE?

We need to know the actual position regarding costs of spraying and loss of feed following spraying in relation to the profits to be gained.

There is growing opinion among farmers that the only disadvantage of noddors is the harassment of the noxious weeds inspector.

The feeling is that, at their worst, they are a humbug in the January-February period when most farms have plenty of feed anyway; except in times of drought when the thistles are an advantage because the last place the grass dries out is under them, and sheep eat them.

On the other hand, if the thistles are sprayed, as advised, in June to September when most farmers are coping with their shortest supply of feed, the loss of one blade of grass is more costly than the loss of 10 blades in February.

So what is the taxpayer getting for his subsidy? Beekeepers would have some thoughts on this point. I am sure that if I put the money spent on thistle spraying into extra super I would be far better off.

Store Sheep Farmer,
Atiamuri

JEST FOR KICKS ☆ ☆ ☆

★THE NEWS was brought to a man in the waiting room at the maternity hospital. A daughter. Fine baby. Mother and child both well.

"That's great," said the man reaching for his hat and preparing to leave.

"You don't have to rush away," said the nursing sister. "Your wife is fine. Wait a few moments and you can go in and see her."

"Forget it," said the man, "we're not speaking. We haven't spoken to each other for more than two years."

The sister gaped at him and demanded, "Are you or are you not this child's father?"

"Of course I'm its father," snarled the man, "we're not THAT mad at each other!"

oOo

★A MAN went to see a doctor about his mother-in-law. "She blows smoke rings out of her nostrils when she talks to me. Scares me stiff."

"Nothing to worry about," said the doctor. "Lots of people blow rings when they're smoking."

"My mother-in-law," said the man, "doesn't smoke."

oOo

★THERE was this fellow who won a live duck in a hotel raffle. He had to take it on the train and by bad luck he had to stand next to a drunk in the train.

The drunk tried to borrow a cigarette and got nasty when the other fellow said he didn't smoke.

After a while the drunk burst out: "That's a great big fat greasy pig you've got there." The other fellow said, "It's not, it's a duck."

"You shut your face!" roared the drunk, "I was talking to the duck!"

★A YOUNG WOMAN who freely admitted to being the world's worst housekeeper was fortunate in having a husband who forgave her untidiness and never grumbled at its effects.

One day she summoned the interest and energy to give the house a thorough cleaning. Everything was immaculate and shining when her husband arrived home that evening.

But his initial surprise quickly became dismay.

"Darling!" he shouted urgently. "What became of the dust that was on this table? I had a telephone number written on it!"

oOo

★A POSTMAN arriving back from his delivery round limped into the office. A dog bit him, he said.

The postmaster was told and hurried from his office.

"Where did the dog bite you?" he asked.

"On the leg."

"Did you put anything on it?"

"No. He just liked it the way it was."

oOo

★THE TEACHER asked her pupils to supply antonyms for certain words. "What is the opposite for sorrow?" she asked.

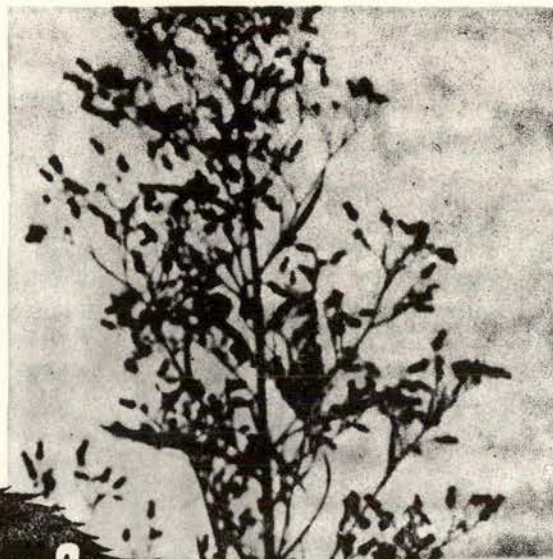
"Joy." came the quick response.

"That's correct. Now what is the opposite to misery?"

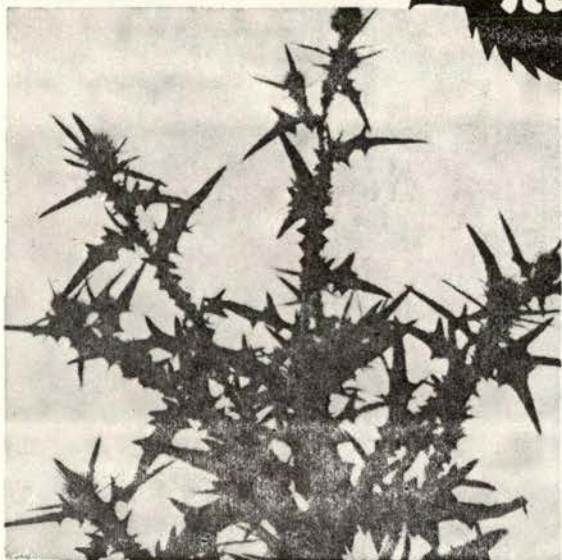
"Happiness." called out a student.

"Right. Now I'd like someone to give me the opposite to woe."

"Giddy-up!" came a voice from the rear.



Rural



Rural Brand Products ~ weed-killers that give you positive control

of weeds, roadside grasses, gorse, thistles and ragwort.

So when you need to make a stand, fall back on Rural Brand Products, we have the weed-killers and specialist products to positively back you on the job — for positive control look to Rural Brand Products.



ARI the protectors

FOR ALL AERIAL SPRAYING REQUIREMENTS

INCLUDING

CO-ORDINATED SCHEMES



50
FIXED WING
AIRCRAFT

•
SPECIALISTS
IN
AGRICULTURAL
AVIATION

JAMES AVIATION LTD.

INCORPORATING

ALEXANDER HELICOPTERS LTD.

11
HELICOPTERS

•
PIONEERS
OF THE
HELICOPTER
INDUSTRY
IN N.Z.



HEAD OFFICE: HAMILTON AIRPORT

Phone 36-136

and

36 BASES THROUGHOUT NEW ZEALAND