

BARNYARDS & BACKYARDS

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UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING



UW EXTENSION | AGRICULTURE & HORTICULTURE | USDA | RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Forage insurance options, other reminders for producers

Winter wheat producers can utilize Yield Protection (YP) and Revenue Protection (RP) insurance, based on a specific APH yield.

YP policies cover against losses in yield, while RP policies can cover against losses due to changes in price or yield based on a revenue guarantee.

RP policies can be purchased with or without the Harvest Price Exclusion. Producers who do not plant by the final planting date may still purchase coverage when the request for coverage is made by March 15 and there is verified adequate stand.

Several other coverage options are available, depending on the specific county (check for availability).

These options include the ability to drop exceptionally low yields from an APH yield; the

Supplemental Coverage option (SCO), available in some areas, that adds up to 86 percent coverage based on yields for the area; a trend-adjusted yield option, available in some areas, that allows producers to increase the yields used to determine their production guarantee based on area yield trends; and a winter coverage endorsement option, available to some producers, that covers against winter-kill losses on at least 20 acres or 20 percent of the total acreage if the stand fails to produce 90 percent of the production guarantee.

Pasture, Forage Insurance Available

Pasture, Rangeland, Forage (PRF) insurance provides coverage against production risks on pasture or hay land. This coverage has been

offered previously as a Vegetation Index in Wyoming. Beginning in 2016, this coverage will be offered as Rainfall Index (RI-PRF), along with expanded coverage to all counties in the contiguous 48 states.

RI-PRF uses National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Climate Prediction Center gridded and interpolated precipitation data as a precipitation risk management tool to provide coverage against a decline in the Grid Index below a selected coverage level.

The selected coverage level (70 to 90 percent) and the selected protection factor (60-150 percent) determine coverage. The protection factor represents a percentage of the county base value per acre.

Indemnities are paid when the actual Rainfall Index drops below the coverage level and Expected Index for a selected grid area. All acres covered under RI-PRF must be reported and insured with the intended use of either haying or grazing, as selected by the insured.

Forage Insurance is available for alfalfa and alfalfa-grass producers. Stand populations must meet minimum requirements, and coverage is available from 50 to 75 percent of established yield at

the determined price, based on the existing stand.

Coverage begins May 22 for spring-planted forage and October 16 for fall plantings. Catastrophic protection (CAT) coverage is also available under this policy; for a \$300 premium fee, a producer may select coverage at 50 percent of the established yield and at 55 percent of the approved price.

NAP Coverage Still Available

Forage crop (native hay and rangeland) loss protection remains available from the Farm Service Agency (FSA) in the form of the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). Sign-up dates for NAP coverage in Wyoming will be shifted to April 1 for the 2016 crop year on all NAP coverage, other than honey.

Beginning in 2016, producers will be required to choose between NAP and RI-PRF benefits. The NAP coverage administrative fee remains \$250/crop, no more than \$750 per producer per administrative county, and not to exceed \$1,875 for a producer with interests in multiple counties. Contact a local FSA office for more details.

IMPORTANT SIGN-UP DATES AND INFORMATION

RP and YP Insurance Wheat/other fall-planted crops:

- Sales closing: September 30
- Final acreage reporting: November 15
- Final planting dates are county specific (10/5/15 to 10/31/15)
- Check with your local agent for specifics

Forage Insurance

- Sales closing: September 30
- Acreage reporting: November 15

RI-PRF Insurance

- WY PRF coverage as Rainfall Index starting with 2016
- Sales closing and reporting deadline: November 15

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Several crop insurance options are available for wheat and other fall-planted crops. Producers can also insure livestock forages this fall. Several forage insurance options are available, designed to help manage production risks.

Visit a local crop insurance agent to learn more about policies that may fit your operations. Remember to check for fall sign-up deadlines specific to your area. For more information on crop insurance programs, producer profiles, online risk analytics, or other risk management strategies on the Web, visit RightRisk.org.

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Fall weed control: Getting a step ahead before spring

Bountiful moisture this spring was a blessing but also increased weeds, including Scotch and musk thistle, across Wyoming.

Many are perennials or biennials, and fall is a good time to control these persistent weeds. Use their biology against them. Time spent today will pay big dividends next spring.

PERENNIAL WEEDS

Perennial weeds begin storing carbohydrates in roots as the weather cools. Herbicides applied at this time will be taken into the root stores. Some perennials are more sensitive to frost than others, making timing important. Check labels carefully to determine the best application time for each species and location.

Canada thistle

Good control of Canada thistle can only be achieved by depleting its extensive root stores. Mowing or mechanical removal can help prevent seed production and deplete root stores. Tillage is less effective, as each root or rhizome can regenerate a new plant. Good control can also be achieved by using herbicides with the active ingredient glyphosate at the bud to bloom stage. Canada thistle is able to withstand light frosts, so a late fall application of picloram can also provide good control, ensuring the herbicide gets into the roots.

Field bindweed

Field bindweed is a very persistent weed. Incorporate a combination of cultivation, selective herbicides, and competitive crops for best results. Field bindweed also stores food reserves in its roots. Cultivation can break up these root stores, but root pieces can grow new plants, so cultivation must continue.

In South Dakota, over 95 percent control was achieved by cultivating at two-week intervals in June/July and three-week intervals in August/September. But, due to cost, loss of production, and soil erosion concerns, continuous tillage is often impractical.

Effective herbicides include 2,4-D, dicamba, picloram, and glyphosate. A successful herbicide program will also require multiple applications to get enough into the

root stores. Apply herbicides when stems are at least 12 inches long and the plant is actively growing.

Bindweed does not tolerate shading. Crops such as forage sorghum, sorghum-sudangrass hybrid, and alfalfa can suppress it and are effective when combined with tillage. Cool season perennial grasses also compete well, as they begin growth earlier in the spring.

BIENNIAL WEEDS

Biennial weeds have a two-year growth cycle, spending the first year in a vegetative growth stage and the second year bolting and flowering. They are most susceptible in the vegetative growth stage.

Musk thistle

Seed germination increases with increased soil moisture, which led to an increase in musk thistle this year. Herbicide options include dicamba, 2,4-D, picloram, or aminopyralid, with the last proving most effective. Treatments are best applied in the fall in the rosette stage, although finding the rosettes hidden in tall grass can be difficult. Spring applications can also be effective if done early, up to the early flower growth stage.

Scotch thistle

Herbicides effective in controlling Scotch thistle are similar for musk thistle, with dicamba and aminopyralid the most effective.

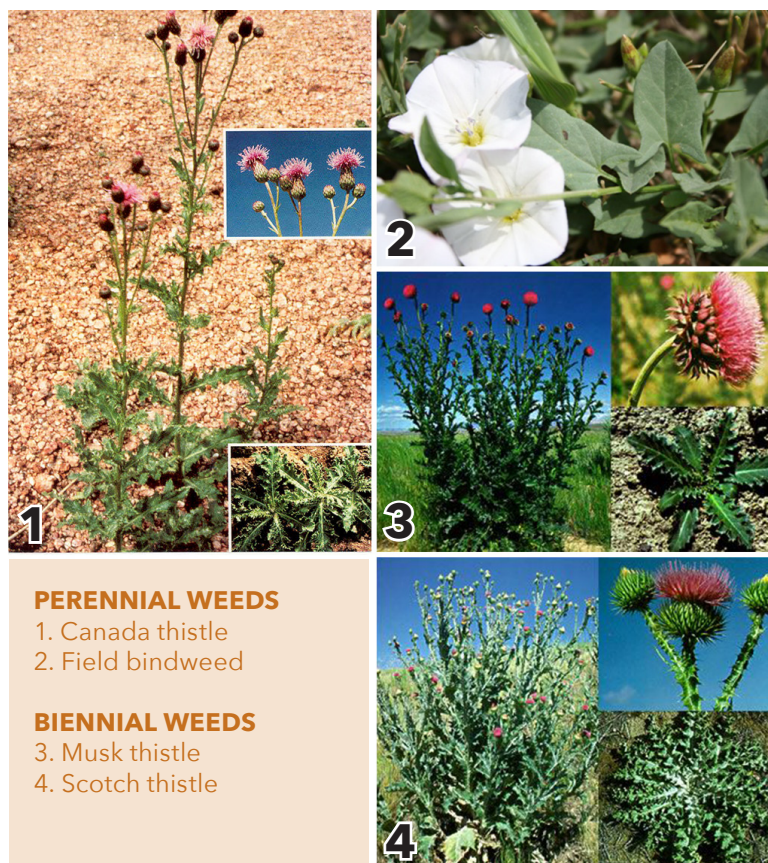
Mechanical control can also be effective for musk and Scotch thistle. Removing top growth below the soil level will kill either species. Be sure to collect and burn any removed growth to prevent seed spread. Maintaining or planting healthy, thick stands of grass will also help outcompete these invasive species.

Final Thoughts

Other important considerations are seed production and the effects of water stress. Weeds are prolific seed producers, and preventing seed production by mowing, hand removal, or other means can go a long way in control. Drought or extreme heat may lead to water stress, possibly leading to decreased leaf size, increased waxy coverings, or interruption of the plant's translocation (movement of materials from leaf throughout a plant) ability, thus decreasing the effectiveness of herbicides.

(Inclusion of a common chemical name does not imply endorsement of that particular product or brand of herbicide, and exclusion does not imply nonapproval.)

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PERENNIAL WEEDS

1. Canada thistle
2. Field bindweed

BIENNIAL WEEDS

3. Musk thistle
4. Scotch thistle