

10/06/2004 Moran Announces Noxious Weed Assistance Available

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Congress Approves Legislation to Combat Noxious Weeds

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced that Congress has passed legislation that authorizes assistance for farmers and ranchers to battle noxious weeds. The program, operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), will distribute assistance through the states.

"The Flint Hills have been hit hard by noxious weeds, especially sericea lespedeza," Moran said. "During my conservation tour last year in Chase County, I was able to see firsthand the trouble that this weed causes and have been working in Congress to get assistance for this problem. I am pleased to see that these efforts are paying off and that farmers and ranchers may soon have help in battling noxious weeds."

The bill authorized up to \$15 million in grants and emergency funds, per year, for noxious weed control. Currently, the state of Kansas classifies 14 different species of weeds as noxious and, under this legislation, each would be eligible for eradication assistance. Noxious weeds in Kansas include sericea lespedeza, musk thistle and bindweed.

"Noxious weeds can have a tremendous effect on natural habitat and on production agriculture," Moran said. "It is important to contain these outbreaks in order to decrease damage."

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