

# *Ag. Advantage Monthly*

## Combining Agricultural Production with Environmental Stewardship

### What is an Invasive Weed?



**Dames Rocket**

Invasive weeds are non-native plants which have a highly aggressive growth habit that can outcompete native and crop species therefor destroying natural ecosystems or agricultural crops. Some species are unpalatable or even poisonous to livestock and sometimes humans.

In order to regain control and regulate the spread of certain invasive weeds the Alberta Government created the Alberta Weed Act in 1907. Since then this act has been revised to include 75 weeds under two classifications: noxious and prohibited noxious. Under the act noxious weeds are to be controlled while prohibited noxious weeds are to be destroyed. Visit [www.abinvasives.ca](http://www.abinvasives.ca) for more information.



**Common Tansy**

### Reverse Fenceline Spraying

A common place for regulated invasive weeds and other weed species to establish is within the “headlands” of field crops, the one meter buffer strip along the fenceline which is often left unsprayed. To help with this issue the Kneehill County ASB is offering to spray regulated weed species in the headlands along the county rights of way. This will be done by spraying from the field back into the ditch to gain maximum weed control. This FREE service includes the UTV spray equipment, residual broadleaf herbicide and an experienced agriculture services staff applicator.



### Annual Roadside Spraying Program

Each year Agriculture Services staff sprays one third of the counties roadsides with a residual broadleaf herbicide to control invasive weeds. In 2016 staff

will be spraying all county road allowances from township road 32-4 north to the county boundary. The two Ag Services spray trucks comply with Kneehill County policy by leaving a one meter buffer strip between the road allowance and the adjacent landowners property. In addition to this all roadside spraying will stop 30 meters upon and resume 30 meters after a farmstead or residence, where buildings and trees are within 30 meters of the road allowance. This area is the responsibility of the adjacent landowner and in the situation where regulated weeds are present; Ag Services staff will collaborate with the landowner to gain control.

