

# CONNECTIVITY™

NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN ProVM MARKET



## AWSA AND THE INDUSTRY: LEADERS IN WAREHOUSE SAFETY

As the Environmental Health & Safety [EHS] representative for Univar Canada, Darrell Vesa works hard to ensure that Univar’s 11 warehouses in Western Canada and Ontario meet and exceed the standards set out by the Agricultural Warehousing Standards Association [AWSA].

With compliance audits conducted every two years, as well as provincial and federal regulators recognizing the standards, AWSA has been the leader in best practices for warehousing of agricultural and commercial labelled chemicals since its inception in the early 1990s. Univar Canada signed on with AWSA and has followed their standards since day one.

AWSA offers many resources: the Transportation of Dangerous Goods [TDG] and the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System [WHMIS] courses are must-dos and were developed with the industry in mind. AWSA also offers an Emergency Response CD which includes material on how to develop an Emergency Response Plan and working with first responders.

All of the above courses and resources can be found on the AWSA website at [www.awsa.ca/courses](http://www.awsa.ca/courses) and [www.awsa.ca/resources](http://www.awsa.ca/resources).

At Univar, Vesa ensures that all staff are trained and aware of these courses. The TDG course should be renewed every three years to keep pace with changing regulations and procedures. The Emergency Response course is a must for anyone in an EHS role in the industry. The course provides

details on how to set up Emergency Response protocols – just as Vesa has done on Univar’s behalf with local fire departments.

“We have an open door policy with our local fire departments,” says Vesa. “We do an annual drill and they visit our facilities on a regular basis.”

Vesa notes that one of the most valuable resources from AWSA is the Monthly Warehouse Inspection Checklist. Everyone in the industry who follows this checklist properly will most likely be in compliance with AWSA’s rigorous standards. AWSA will conduct spot audits to ensure compliance. The checklist, complete with monthly boxes to track progress, can be found here.

This is good advice from one of Canada’s recognized experts. That’s because Vesa has earned a strong reputation in the industry for his warehousing knowledge and expertise since joining the CropLife board in 2000.

Univar Agriculture and Environmental Sciences distribution network includes 11 facilities in five provinces with more than 1.2 million square feet of AWSA warehouse space – the most in Canada.



**Agrichemical Warehousing Standards Association**



**Check out the ProTraining Online Brochure**

**to learn everything you need to know.**





## IVM EXPERTS VEGETATION MANAGEMENT MATTERS. HERE'S WHY.

In lean times, cutting the vegetation management budget seems easy. But the increased risks long-term outweigh the short-term savings, industry experts agree.



Keeping the vegetation management program on track – even in lean times – is important, says Geoff Gordon, vegetation management specialist with CP Rail. Gordon has taken a close look at the benefits and costs of budget cuts.

“In vegetation management, what we do is manage risk. The best we can do is manage it cost effectively. It's not like we can choose not to do it,” Gordon says.

That's because the purpose of vegetation management is often linked to public and worker safety. Train derailments, highway collisions, power outages and fires on industrial sites are all costly outcomes that can be prevented through effective vegetation management.

Jon Froese, business manager with Univar Environmental Sciences, references three types of risks: safety, economics and the environment. From an economic standpoint, the risk of not managing vegetation on power lines is costly outages. In terms of safety, overgrown vegetation at railway crossings may cause collisions.

“Fact is, one lawsuit may cost more than my entire budget if there is an incident at a crossing and it's related to vegetation,” Gordon points out.

In terms of environmental risk, Froese says, “People don't think of plants as being threatening to our environment, but invasive species can be.”

In all three areas, budget cuts inherently increase risk, because saving money is usually short-term focused. “Herbicide is often more effective than mechanical cutting. It costs more in the short-term, but results in long-term savings,” Froese says.

Chris Johnson, regional manager with Davey Tree, says, “The more you mow the more you promote new growth. With the addition of herbicides to our program, we see up to a three times cost savings over continuous mowing.”

Johnson manages contracts for Manitoba Hydro and Sask Power, using an integrated program of mechanical and chemical control. “Following a management program consistently over time results in smaller problems that need to be managed less often, requiring less people and smaller equipment,” he says.

In other words, choosing effective options now that reduce retreatment needs long-term is a better choice, Gordon says: “Managing vegetation three or four times per year with manpower versus once per year with a herbicide, the herbicide is more cost effective.”

Johnson adds, “Continued mowing creates a monoculture on the right of way. Herbicides allow us to selectively spray which supports biodiversity and lets native species take over.”

Bottom line? Planning an effective vegetation management cycle and sticking to it produces both cost savings and reduced risks long-term.

“I think our role as industry is to explain why we do what we do. When people understand why it's necessary, our budgets shouldn't need defending,” says Froese.

Dow AgroSciences IVM products provide long-term control for cost-effective vegetation management. To learn more, talk to a Dow AgroSciences IVM Expert or visit [ivmexperts.ca](http://ivmexperts.ca).



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## Pests in the News

### [New WSSA Factsheet Explores Weed Seeds And Their Longevity](#)

Did you know some weed seeds can lie dormant in the soil for more than a century and then sprout when conditions are right? A new factsheet available for free download from the [Weed Science Society of America \[WSSA\]...](#)

MBFI collaboration draws accolades from visiting graziers

Graziers from across Canada visited the Manitoba Beef and Forage Initiative recently. Around 40 delegates to the Canadian Forage and Grasslands Association annual conference...

### [Dog-strangling Vine a concern](#)

Turk Road resident and organic farmer, Bob Garthson, has volunteered to be a resource to Alnwick/Haldimand Township about the invasive species Dog-strangling Vine...

### [Training cattle to eat leafy spurge](#)

Areas affected by leafy spurge will double in size every 10 years. There's a reason why "spurge" rhymes with "scourge." The last economic impact analysis of the noxious weed in Manitoba, which came out in 2010, concluded that leafy spurge costs the province \$40.2 million every year due to lost grazing capacity...

### [Invasive species: A battle worth fighting](#)

Invasive species have developed a bad reputation, and for good reason: these nasty organisms wreak havoc on natural ecosystems, outcompete native species, threaten human health and cost us billions of dollars every year...

### [Lanark approves multifaceted approach to weed control](#)

Lanark County has approved a plan that would permit the spraying of the herbicide Clearview on county roadsides to combat the spread of wild parsnip...

### [Jekyll or Hyde? The Many Faces of Phragmites](#)

It's easy to dislike Phragmites. The invasive brown reed can grow over 15 feet tall and tends to crowd out anything in its shadow...

### [Understanding The Three Key Principles Of Glyphosate Resistance](#)

A weed's potential for developing glyphosate resistance is primarily guided by three factors: weed biology, intensity of glyphosate use, and glyphosate rate...

### [Environmental Fears](#)

Chemophobia, gnosphobia, and most recently chemonoia are terms that have been used to describe this irrational fear of chemicals...

## Industry News

### [BASF & Engage Agro Relationship Announcement](#)

#### [BASF introduces more convenient 8 hectare Overdrive® jug](#)

Big-Time Performance. Now in a Smaller Jug. BASF introduces more convenient 8 hectare Overdrive® jug...

#### [Syngenta, DuPont patent new herbicide chemistry class](#)

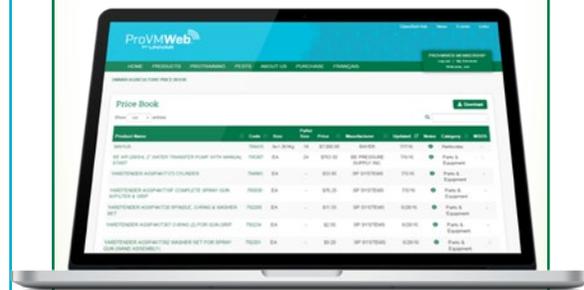
Joint products about seven years away, in 'pre-development'...

#### [Summerside pesticide bylaw on track for spring launch](#)

City plans to introduce third-party pest management program, in addition to restricting products...

# Did You Know?

You can access the [ProVMWeb Price Book](#) anytime, anywhere, for up to date price listings on products from Univar Environmental Sciences.



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## Upcoming Events

### [3rd National Invasive Species Forum](#)

Ottawa ON

February 28 – March 2, 2017

### [PVMA 2017 Spring Conference and Tradeshow](#)

Edmonton AB

February 28 – March 2, 2017