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(S.D.)-Farmers Urged To Redistribute Leafy Spurge Beetles



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 07/15/2013 08:08 AM

BROOKINGS, S.D. (ASSOCIATED PRESS) - South Dakota agricultural officials are urging farmers and ranchers to collect and redistribute leafy spurge beetles in pastures so the insects can do a better job of controlling leafy spurge plants.

Pete Bauman, South Dakota State University range field specialist, says beetles can reasonably be collected and moved through the middle of July. He says if beetles are moved to new patches of leafy spurge plants, landowners can keep their beetle populations going indefinitely.

Bauman says beetles should be released toward the edge of a leafy spurge patch. Nets to collect beetles can be borrowed from county weed offices in some counties.