

# Federal Government Participation in Rangeland Grasshopper Control

Through the Plant Protection Division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the federal government participates in cooperative grasshopper control programs on rangelands. This program does not generally apply on cropland. Federal participation on privately owned rangelands provides one-third of the total program costs, providing the landowners—whether they be ranchers, farmers, or county or state government—have arranged in advance for payment of the other two-thirds share of costs. The Plant Protection Division will pay the full cost of treating infested federal lands and one-third of state or county lands. Personnel from plant protection programs, USDA, will take the lead in providing insecticide and applicator for cooperative programs. They will further provide supervision of the overall effort.

Eight fluid ounces of ultra low volume (ULV) malathion, 95% technical, will be applied per acre by aircraft in cooperative control programs.

### Criteria for Control

Criteria that must be met to qualify for federal participation are as follows:

1. The USDA will join in grasshopper control programs *only* if substantial acreages of rangeland (10,000 acres or more) are involved. Smaller acreage units can be handled effectively on a local basis.
2. The two-thirds share of the program costs to be paid by ranchers or by state or county sources must be on deposit with the rancher committee before the federal government will submit contract bids for application. In the past, state funds have been available for control programs, so ranchers have had to pay only one-third of the cost.
3. Grasshopper control areas must take in all of the seriously economically infested lands (usually where 8 or more grasshoppers are found per square

yard) in any district. Solid-block control acreages normally are required within the infested area. All landowners must participate in treating the total infested area. This ruling was developed to eliminate reinfestation from untreated areas within the block.

4. Cropland within the control block may be treated. Costs will be shared on the usual basis. A poor kill can be expected in heavy cover, such as alfalfa.

### Estimating Application Costs

Cost examples of control operations with aircraft are *estimates* only. The final cost of each program depends mainly on charges for aircraft application.

Insecticide, malathion (8 oz/acre)	\$ .66
Aerial application (per acre)	.35
Overhead (government travel and expenses)	.05
	\$1.06
Total cost per acre	

We strongly suggest that \$.05 per acre more than the estimated costs be collected in order to be protected on cost contingencies that may arise. Any overage in payments will be refunded to ranchers at the completion of the program.

### Organizing a Control Program

Swift action by Extension agents and ranchers when grasshopper outbreaks occur is the key to organizing cooperative control programs. It is preferable to plan control for the following season, but this is not always possible. In any case, when grasshopper buildups are noted or anticipated, meetings should be called immediately to determine whether there is interest in a cooperative control program. If a cooperative effort is desired, the following steps should be followed in developing the program:



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1. Federal entomologists delimit the infested territory and advise the Extension Service of recommendations for control.

2. Form a landowner (rancher) committee of five or more with chairman, secretary, and treasurer.

3. Committee canvasses all landowners in estimated infested area to secure finances based on rangeland acreages.

4. Determine possible (monetary) participation of county and state. They would be kept advised of all future developments.

5. The final determination for undertaking a cooperative control program is made with the full agreement of all parties concerned.

After the entire landowner share of costs is on deposit in a bank, the USDA will request bids of aerial applicators and accept the most advantageous one.

Further information may be obtained by contacting your county agent and by obtaining OSU Fact Sheet No. 210, *Grasshopper Control in Oregon*.

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