South Dakota Correctional Facility Supports Captive-Rearing Efforts for Biological Control Agent of Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria* L.)

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*Lythrum salicaria*, an exotic wetland dependent plant, is listed as a noxious weed under several South Dakota and Nebraska weed laws. Originally from Eurasia, *L. salicaria* invades disturbed wetland sites, displacing native vegetation. *Lythrum salicaria* is currently found along most major river systems in Nebraska and South Dakota. Two species of leaf-eating beetles, *Galerucella calmariensis* (L.) and *Galerucella pusilla* (Duftschmidt) have been approved in the United States as biological control agents for the control of *L. salicaria*. Following established protocol, weed control personnel from Nebraska and South Dakota began a pilot project in 1996 to captive-rear both *Galerucella* spp. in a nursery setting. Project success led federal, state and local government agencies in 1998 to apply for and receive a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant to expand and improve the nursery. The Springfield State Prison became a cooperator in 1998, providing nursery space and inmate labor to rear beetles. Prison efforts also supported additional nurseries in Nebraska. Nursery efforts dramatically increased the number of beetles released at control sites and reduced overall noxious weed control expenditures. Project success, support, and professional interest for this project has led to 3 independent research projects, 6 additional nurseries in 1999, and continued cooperation with the Springfield State Prison.

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Controlling Leafy Spurge Using *Aphthona* Flea Beetles: One Year After Mass Release

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Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula* L.) is one of the most important exotic weeds in the Western United States and it continues to expand its range. Many states, such as New Mexico, are at the edge of the leafy spurge expansion. Scattered populations of leafy spurge now occur in the state. Although it is commonly accepted that biological control agents acting alone cannot eradicate a host population, they can reduce a host population to very low levels, especially in the case of inundative strategies. The objective of this study was to determine the potential of using *Aphthona nigriscutis*, and *A. czwalinae/lacertosa* flea beetles to control isolated patches of leafy spurge. **Two study sites** (Barker and Tusas) were established in northern New Mexico in May 1997. At each site, twenty-four