2022 Management Plan

For McPherson County,
Daniel D. Schrag, County Weed Director

Specify the goals and priorities of the program for the coming year.

See attachment

Specify the goals and priorities of the program for the next five years.

Continue 2022 goals.
Expand guardrail and brush treatment.
Expand sponsorship of grower meetings with the help of chemical dealers.
Explore new chemistries to achieve long term effective weed control particularly utilizing fall application for results continuing into the following growing season.

Describe the areas which noxious weed species are known to occur within the county and specific locations of new infestations and areas particularly susceptible to new infestations.

Field bindweed	Widespread areas throughout the county including cropland, roadsides, CRP, lawns, waste areas. Most any area would be susceptible due to adaptable nature.
Musk thistle	Seen in rangeland, waste areas, CRP, forage crops, heavily grazed cool season pastures. Disturbed soils are particularly susceptible.
Sericea lespedeza	CRP & rangeland. Newly seeded areas are particularly susceptible as seed is often infested with sericea lespedeza seed.
Johnsongrass	Row crops, roadsides, and waste areas are most susceptible.
Bur ragweed	Found in cropland, particularly row crops such as grain sorghum and waste areas. Low lying areas seem most susceptible.
Canada thistle	Canada thistle could show up most anywhere. Three areas in the county have been eradicated. One in pasture, one in row crop and one on a roadside.
Hoary cress	None seen but could show up in cropland, waste area or most anywhere. One small area was eradicated on wheat stubble.
Leafy spurge	None seen but could show up most anywhere.
Quackgrass	None seen. Possibly could show up most anywhere. Often found in nursery stock.
Kudzu	None seen. Could possibly be seen in the future where vines would be climbing and encroaching on trees or buildings.
Russian knapweed	None seen but could possibly show up about anywhere.

List any non-noxious invasive weed species you plan to control and the types of integrated weed control methods you plan on using on them.
Treat roadsides for general weed control. Develop bare ground program for guardrails. Treat buck brush ONLY as a benefit when treating musk thistle by aircraft and ONLY within timely application for musk thistle. Treat problem areas of brush along roadsides utilizing basal bark treatment and dormant stem treatment. Treat limited areas of brush with foliar application. Work with Public Works on roadside mowing schedules for timely herbicide application of noxious and general weed control.

List your planned integrated weed management goals and procedures, including but not limited to biological control agent selection and distribution, pesticide selection and application and cultural and mechanical controls.
Biological Controls Possibly initiate a musk thistle head weavel biological control plan in two problem areas. Possibly initiate the release of more field bindweed mites.
Chemical Controls Treat musk thistle with Milestone, Tordon 22K, Escort XP, Method, or Telar. Treat field bindweed with 2, 4-D Amine, Tordon 22K or Method. Treat johnson grass with Plateau. Treat sericea lespedeza with Remedy or Escort XP. Treat bur ragweed with Tordon 22K or Milestone.
Cultural Controls Encourage establishment of native grass in waste areas to compete with noxious weeds such as musk thistle and field bindweed. Encourage effective grazing rates in rangeland (take half, leave half) to reduce weed due to native grass competition.
Mechanical Controls Encourage mowing of musk thistle if not treated with herbicides. Remove mature musk thistle plants and remove, confine and dispose of all flowers. Cultivate field bindweed and bur ragweed. Frequent mowing of accessible johnson grass areas. Possibly encourage late summer burning in CRP or rangeland to control sericea lespedeza.

Estimate the projected personnel, operations, and equipment costs of the proposed program.	
Personnel costs	Approximately $130,000.00
Operations costs	Approximately $200,000.00
Equipment costs	Capital outlay reserve fund for equipment of $24,000.00 yearly ($48,000.00 in 2021) 2022 Capital Outlay balance is $159,557.71

List the methods you plan to use to encourage compliance and the enforcement actions you will take if necessary.

Plan to do whatever we can to work with landowners to control noxious weeds. Offer chemical at cost share to encourage control of noxious weeds. Inform landowners and tenants of any known reported areas of musk thistle and request compliance. Work with aerial applicator services to treat noxious weeds. Offer custom application with super duty spray truck in areas unable to be treated aerially. Offer custom application to townships to treat musk thistle and johnson grass. Use legal notices as a last resort.

List your plans for working with state and/or federal agencies to control the noxious weeds on state and/or federal lands.

Monitor state roadsides for noxious weeds and inform agency personnel of any noxious weed sightings and request removal. Work with personnel as in the past to control noxious weeds at the State Wildlife and Parks Maxwell game Refuge and the McPherson Valley Wetlands.

Describe your education and outreach plans for the coming year. Include training and professional development for yourself and your staff. (Attend District meetings? Annual Conference? Recertification?)

Participate in the township meeting by presenting a power point relating to the noxious weed program. Send postcards to landowners and tenants with a history of musk thistle as a reminder to control musk thistle. Attend district meetings and the annual conference. Maintain Category 6 and 9A certifications of the director and applicator. Although staff has been employed for some time, any new employees are encouraged to attend basic training and director is required to attend basic training and obtain required certifications. Possibly develop demonstration areas.

List the facilities and equipment available for use in managing the noxious weeds in your county, including a list of the equipment available for rent to the public and the rent you charge.

100' x 50' building with a separate office area and completely enclosed chemical storage room. 1990 1/2 ton GMC 4x4 pickup truck (for inspections and errands); 2001 ¾ ton Ford F250 4x4 pick up (for inspections, hauling ATV and towing 50 gallon pull sprayer); 1995 1.5 ton Ford F450 GVM Hydra Spray with 510 gallon stainless tank and 45 foot boom, directa-spray nozzle, Cibolo spray head for treating pastures, waste areas, CRP, and roadsides; 2016 Ford 2 ton F750 super duty Cibolo roadside spray truck with 1650 gallon poly tank and chemical injection; 2020 Yamaha Kodiak 450 EPS with 24 gallon fiberglass tank with boom buster nozzles, hand gun, and snow plow attachment; 50 gallon pull sprayer with hand gun; and 10 gallon 12 volt lawn rental sprayer (Rents for $5.00/day)

Noxious Weed Department Employees

Name	Title	Years of service in the Nx Wd Dept.	# Jobs within the county
Daniel D. Schrag	McPherson County Weed Director	40	1
Mike Tolbert	Weed Control Specialist	23	2
Paula Davis	Administrative Secretary	4	1

I certify that this is the official 2022 Management Plan of McPherson County

Daniel D Schrag, County Weed Director 2-28-2022
Date

Keith V Buck, County Commissioner 2-28-2022
Date

Daniel O'Dell, County Commissioner 2-28-2022
Date

Thomas L Kinn, County Commissioner 2-28-2022
Date

2022 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Treat all noxious weeds along county roads, including extensive fall treatment on county roads.
2. Treat all musk thistle infestations on private and public land as requested, including extensive fall treatment.
3. Provide custom application services for treating musk thistle and johnsongrass on township roads, CKC (Rails to Trails), and railroad rights-of-way.
4. Inspect musk thistle infestations to determine compliance with state laws.
5. Inspect random areas of rangeland, as time permits, for any new musk thistle infestations.
6. Complete the mandated annual state noxious weed survey on all assigned areas including fall crops which require November and December inspections after fall harvest.
7. Complete and submit the state annual report and the annual weed management plan on schedule.
8. Treat the 4-H grounds for lawn weeds and treat fences and grandstands for bare ground.
9. Treat the public works storage yard for bare ground weed control.
10. Develop educational material/programs for noxious weed control.
11. Develop a bare ground guardrail treatment program.
12. Develop herbicide demonstration plots for field bindweed, johnsongrass, sericea lespedeza, musk thistle and/or brush.
13. Record locations of musk thistle and johnsongrass areas in the portable G.P.S. waypoint memory (especially hard to find areas) for later treatment or inspection. Mark problem areas of brush on county roads.
14. Provide consultation and advice on general weed control and weed identification.
15. Treat various brush species on county rights-of-way.
16. Continue educational programs such as participation in vo-ag classroom presentations, etc.

17. Participate in assisting Kansas Weed Directors Association with state fair booth, farm shows, etc., and hosting meetings as well as giving presentations.
18. Continue to complete winter projects including equipment, shop and building improvements and maintenance as well as develop township meeting and educational power point presentations. Assist the Kansas County Weed Director's Association by hosting meetings.