

2022 Management Plan

For _____ Ellis _____ County

Gary Haas _____, County Weed Director

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

1. To continue to provide top level weed control on county right of ways and properties in a time of low availability of preferred herbicides and high prices due to shortages.
2. To provide herbicides to landowners and producers in Ellis County for noxious weeds with cost/share assistance within budget. Closely examine all herbicide purchases and sales.
3. Ellis County is currently exploring the possibility of a new facility for Public Works and the Noxious Weed Department. If this proceeds my goal would be to help plan a facility with consideration for future needs by studying requirements and researching other quality herbicide facilities.

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

1. To continue best possible weed control for the state, county, and city lands within Ellis County.
2. To target right of ways in cropland areas in county with early herbicide treatments and follow up treatments to reduce kochia and palmer amaranth which are prolific seed producers.
3. To continue to provide the most effective herbicides for musk thistle and field bindweed control with cost share in times of availability and price issues.

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	Our most treated noxious weed found in all land types across all areas in county.
Musk thistle	2nd most treated weed found in pastures, CRP, waste areas, creeks, and ROW's.
Sericea lespedeza	Found one small area in CRP acres. Prioritize to prevent spread.
Johnsongrass	Some in entire county but mostly SE & N. ROW's, rangeland, CRP, and cropland.
Bur ragweed	Small patch in eastern Ellis County.
Canada thistle	Twelve small patches in all parts of county. ROW, rangeland
Hoary cress	Three small patches north of Catharine and north of Yocemento.
Leafy spurge	Two patches north of Catharine.
Quackgrass	None found in county.
Kudzu	None found in county.
Russian knapweed	None found in county.

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.

1. Phragmites - We are seeing increased weed pressure of phragmites in right of ways, rivers, creeks, and draws throughout fields and pastures. We have built a new UTV sprayer to provide accessibility with increased spray range and more mobility to treat this invasive weed. An aquatic glyphosate and/or an imazapyr herbicide treatment will be done on more acres in Ellis County.
2. Eastern Red Cedars - will continue to be cut out of right of ways. Four feet tall or less will be foliar treated with metsulfuron methyl and picloram.
3. Small deciduous trees such as locust, elm, and cottonwoods will be chemically treated with triclopyr products and/or cut depending on size.
4. Other problem weeds in county right-of-ways which are becoming a high priority; palmer amaranth, kochia, wild hemp (ditchweed), and maxamillian sunflower.

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

None practiced currently.

Chemical Controls

Continually study current and alternative herbicides effectiveness. Use treatments with multiple modes of action for improved results and to limit herbicide resistance.

Cultural Controls

Promote improved grass stands in right of ways to decrease weed pressure of herbicide resistant kochia and palmer amaranth.

Mechanical Controls

Musk Thistle control on smaller acreages can be achieved by digging out plant before seed production. If seed has been produced but not yet dispersed flowered seed heads can be picked and buried properly.

Estimate the projected personnel, operations, and equipment costs of the proposed program.

Personnel costs	\$171,000 - For all wages and benefits.
Operations costs	\$190,000 - For all contractual services & commodities less reimbursements.
Equipment costs	\$48,600 - Public Works job-costing program equipment rates and hours used.

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

To encourage compliance continue cost-share herbicide sales and guidance to use them correctly at the best time. Will assist producers to calibrate spray equipment for accuracy. For landowners with a minor noxious weed infestation in very small areas we may offer assistance by spraying for hire. Larger areas of infestations we will help arrange treatment with local aerial applicators. For enforcement in March we publish General Notice to Control Noxious Weeds. The General Notice replaces requirement to send official notice prior to legal notice. After inspection and finding noxious weeds prior to issuing any legal notice the weed supervisor shall notify the owner, operator or supervising agent by telephone call, personal contact, mail or by electronic means of the noxious weed infestation. With this contact I will try to assist if needed, and issue a completion date to get property back in compliance. If an inspection after the completion date reveals satisfactory treatment progress has not been made we may send by certified mail a legal notice. This legal notice for a musk thistle infestation will include weed supervisor treatment options. If determined the weeds are too mature for satisfactory treatment results, the legal notice may require a fall treatment to be performed in current year.

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

The Noxious Weed Department is under contract annually to perform all spray operations for Kansas Department of Transportation on state right-of-ways and treatment of any noxious weed infestations.

Fort Hays University Farm may purchase herbicides at full cost to be applied for control of noxious weeds on their state owned property.

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?)

Education

1. Continue training for commercial pesticide applicator recertification by attending district meetings.
2. Attend annual conference training.
3. Keep up memberships.
 - A. County Weed Director's Association of Kansas
 - B. District Directors Association
4. Hold safety meetings and training with staff.
5. Attend weed identification training and field tours.

Outreach

1. Pesticide Container Recycle Program.
2. Variety of informational literature available in office.
3. Annual test plots using different products.
4. Offer sprayer calibration.

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.

Facilities include office with sales counter, shop with storage for 4 spray trucks and 2 utility spray vehicles, and warehouse for chemical storage.

Spray equipment includes:

1. 2001 IHC 1000 gallon roadside spray truck
2. 2008 Ford 300 gallon spray truck
3. 2016 Ford 300 gallon spray truck
4. 2019 Ford 925 gallon roadside spray truck
5. 2009 Artic Cat ATV with 20 gallon sprayer
6. 2021 Polaris UTV with 75 gallon sprayer

Noxious Weed Department Employees			
Name	Title	Years of service in the Nx Wd Dept.	# Jobs within the county
Gary Haas	Weed Contr Supervisor	9	1
Michaela Dreiling	Office Coordinator	29	2
Craig Frimmel	Spray Technician	5	1

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

Gary Haas, County Weed Director 2/8/22
Date

Robert Foley, County Commissioner 2-7-22
Date

Neal Younger, County Commissioner 2-7-22
Date

_____, County Commissioner _____
Date