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 FEB 24 2022
 Plant Protection

2022 Management Plan

Sedgwick County

SCANNED
 FEB 15 2022

Mark Furry, Noxious Weeds Director

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

Our annual goals include:

- Inspect, and if necessary treat, all private and public properties known to have musk thistle and sericea lespedeza. As new properties with infestations are discovered, we record and inspect the property, educate owners of options, and set them up on an annual treatment plan with their permission.
- Inspect and treat all county owned properties and right of ways for all noxious weeds. Selective herbicides will be applied as a chemical mowing to county right of ways to control field bindweed and musk thistle, while reducing the need for mowing by 2 months.
- After all private and county properties are inspected, we inspect and treat KDOT right of ways for noxious weeds.

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

- Reduce the number of acres of sericea lespedeza treated by 50%.
- Sustain or reduce number of musk thistle acres treated.

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	County wide, in pastures, hay meadows, roadsides, waterways, CRP, government properties, commercial properties, residential properties, industrial and undeveloped sites.
Musk thistle	County wide, almost every township has some. Areas of concentration seem to be in the southern and northwest townships. Risk of spreading is highest to adjacent properties, but seed potentially can be carried several miles.
Sericea lespedeza	Mostly found on CRP or former CRP properties; risk of spreading to other properties is low unless cut for hay late in the season and moved to other sites.
Johnsongrass	County wide, in pastures, hay meadows, roadsides, waterways, CRP, government properties, commercial properties, residential properties, industrial and undeveloped sites.
Bur ragweed	N/A
Canada thistle	N/A
Hoary cress	N/A
Leafy spurge	N/A
Quack grass	N/A
Kudzu	N/A
Russian knapweed	N/A

List any non-noxious invasive weed species you plan to control and the types of integrated weed control methods you plan to use on them:

- Poison ivy: We treat as requested for KDOT along bridges, fence lines and overpasses. County yards and bridge crews occasionally request treatment in areas they are planning maintenance such as bridges and ditch work. We use a directed spray to target only the ivy, mostly with triclopyr.
- Bush honeysuckle: We treat along the Sunset Trail to keep the population from taking over the wooded areas. Treatment is with glyphosate in the late fall after most other plants have gone dormant. Education about the identification, invasive nature and control is becoming a higher priority among counties in eastern Kansas as this plant continues to take over many native habitats.

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:

- Currently biological control is not recommended as it has been found to be largely ineffective. We have observed large infestations of musk thistle that had both weevils, but the plants still bloomed and released viable seed and the population still spread, albeit at a slower rate. There seems to be a critical mass of thistles needed to support a weevil population, and we are unwilling to let infestations get that large.

Chemical Controls:

- This method is most effective in areas that have established plantings, such as roadsides, ditches, pastures, etc. Selective chemical control can be very safe and effective if applied in a timely manner on these sites. It is also effective when used in combination with crop rotations; rarely is bindweed or Johnsongrass present in crops that utilize no-till practices with glyphosate as a burn down pre-plant.
- Trained staff apply selective herbicides. Application methods include broadcast and spot treatments with ground and hand held equipment. Herbicide selection is based on product safety, site type, historical effectiveness, cost, and availability. Occasionally new products are developed and available; such products may be utilized in trial areas to determine usefulness. These products tend to be pricey, so the effectiveness and safety need to outweigh cost concerns.

Cultural Controls

- In areas with sericea lespedeza infestations, taking the area out of CRP and put into a crop rotation has greatly reduced if not eradicated the weed.
- Plowing and planting fallow fields into a crop has greatly reduced musk thistle and recommended to land owners as a potential control.

Mechanical Controls:

- Digging musk thistle by hand can be effective if there are few plants and done before setting seed. This must continue throughout the season as plants can mature at different rates.
- Mowing musk thistle and Johnsongrass several times a season help keep seed from developing and spreading to other properties, but is not a considered a control measure over the long term.

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

Personnel costs	\$360,000
Operations costs	\$176,000
Equipment costs	\$66,000

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

Our role as a government entity is "we are here to help". As such, we provide services such as:

- Custom spraying for land owners with 20 acres or less
- Free site inspections
- Cost share herbicides to landowners to encourage control of noxious weeds on private property
- Education for any public or private entity regarding control of noxious weeds, including printed material, chemical and other control options, short lectures, PSA's, etc.
- Upon request, we inspect properties reported to be in violation of the Noxious Weed Law, and determine a course of action if the owner is negligent in their responsibilities. This includes informing the owner/tenant of the violation via letter or personal contact, offer a proposed solution and date for compliance. If re-inspection shows no efforts toward compliance, a legal notice will be sent via certified mail stating the violation, date inspected, compliance date and control options. It is up to the landowner to inform our department of their intent to comply. Failure to comply may result in our department force treating the property and charging the landowner all associated costs at full price plus 10% as stated in the Noxious Weed Law. If the invoice is not paid, the costs could be added to the land's property tax roles as stated in the Noxious Weed Law.

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

Currently we contract with the Kansas Department of Transportation to inspect and treat noxious weeds on all state owned right of ways in Sedgwick County. Upon request, we will treat other properties owned by the state at contract rates.

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?)

Training:

- Every year the County Weed Director's Association of Kansas hosts an annual conference where several hours of recertification training is offered. The staff will attend this training either live or via Zoom this year.
- Also offered by the CWDAK and Kansas Department of Agriculture is a week of intensive training for new employees and Weed Directors; we hope to send 2 employees that were not able to attend last year due to COVID. This training is not offered via Zoom due to testing protocols required by the KDA.
- If necessary, recertification hours may be completed by attending training events sponsored by other organizations in the state.

Outreach:

- The CWDAK sponsors a booth at the Kansas State Fair as well as various farm shows throughout the year, and we regularly participate by setting up and hosting the booths with our staff. These allow interaction with citizens that might not be aware of our services and help us educate the public about our organization, the Noxious Weed Law, and the services that are provided by the each county to their citizens.

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.

The county owns a building in Wichita at 901 Stillwell that houses the Noxious Weed Department. The facility has five garage bays, including one bay built to safely store pesticides, utilizing floor drains that lead to a 1200-gallon storage tank to catch rinsate and contain spills, explosion proof lighting and ventilation. There is also a bay for filling and mixing chemicals and washing the vehicles. Equipment the department uses to manage noxious weeds includes:

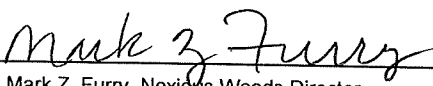
- 4 1.5 ton 4x4 trucks equipped with 300 gallon John Bean sprayers and Raven controllers
- 2 Utility side-by-side vehicles with integrated spray tanks, controllers, boomless nozzles and handguns
- 1 ATV with a sprayer tank, boomless nozzles and handgun
- 1 Trailer mounted 300 gallon John Bean sprayer with handgun for Highway Department and Township use.

We do not rent any equipment to the public.

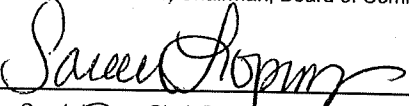
Noxious Weed Department Employees

Name	Title	Years of service in the Nx Wd Dept.	# Jobs within the county
Mark Furry	Director	8	3000
Christopher Loveless	Sr. Herbicide Applicator	18	
Heddie Page	Administrative Specialist	2	
James Springer	Herbicide Applicator	4	
Robert Fuqua	Herbicide Applicator	2	
Open Position	Herbicide Applicator		

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

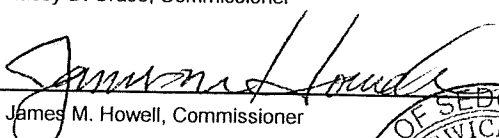

 Mark Z. Furry, Noxious Weeds Director, County Weed Director, 1/31/2022 Date


 David T. Dennis, Chairman, Board of Commissioners, County Commissioner, 2/9/22 Date



 Sarah Lopez, Chair Pro Tem, Board of Commissioners, County Commissioner, 2/11/22 Date


 Peter F. Meitzner, Commissioner, County Commissioner, 2/9/22 Date


 Lacey D. Cruse, Commissioner, County Commissioner, 2/9/22 Date


 James M. Howell, Commissioner, County Commissioner, 2/14/22 Date

ATTEST:


 Kelly B. Arnold, County Clerk

