

Noxious Weed Control Plan
(Due January 31 of each year)
Revised November, 2004

Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Animal & Plant Health Protection
P.O. Box 94756
Lincoln, NE 68509-4756
(402) 471-2394

For: **Lancaster County**

For the year **2012**

Statement of Finding

The failure to control noxious weeds on lands in this state is a serious problem which is detrimental to the production of crops and livestock and to the welfare of residents of this state and which may devalue land and reduce tax revenue (Neb. Rev. Stat. 2-945.02(1)).

Section 2-954 of the Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act requires each weed control authority to establish a coordinated program for the control of noxious weeds within the county.

Goals

List three goals outlining how your county plans to reduce the number of noxious weed infested acres in your county. Also, explain how your county plans on achieving each goal. Be specific and provide as much detail as possible. If more space is needed, you may attach additional sheets. (You may use a computer generated plan that follows the same format.)

Goal 1: Prevent the development of new weed infestations

Prevention is the least expensive and most effective way to halt the spread of noxious and invasive weeds. Integrated weed management includes preventing encroachment into land that is not infested, detecting and eradicating new weed introductions, containing large-scale infestations using an integrated approach and often re-vegetation.

The elements of new weed prevention include:

- Limit the introduction of weed seeds into an area.
- Early detection and eradication of small patches of noxious weeds or plant species with noxious weed potential. *Examples: Japanese and Bohemian knotweed, Sericea lespedeza, and Spotted and Diffuse Knapweeds.*
- Minimize disturbance of desirable vegetation along roadsides, trails, and waterways.
- Educate landowners on how to manage land to build and maintain healthy communities of native and desirable plants to compete with weeds.
- Train inspectors to identify and monitor presence of these weeds.
- Alert and encourage others to report any findings of these weeds.
- Careful monitoring of high-risk areas such as human and animal transportation corridors and disturbed or bare ground.
- Spread the word not the weed! Clean equipment prevents the spread of noxious weeds.
- Re-vegetate disturbed sites with desirable plants.
- Use of article inspection and quarantines as needed to control dissemination.
- Provide weed free forage inspections.
- Annual evaluations of the effectiveness of the prevention plan so appropriate actions can be implemented the following year.

Goal 2: Provide education and public outreach on noxious and invasive weed control.

The public is generally not aware of the economic and environmental impacts of noxious weeds. There is a need to improve awareness of noxious weeds and to provide educational information to cooperators, land managers, and the public. Pamphlets, bulletins, and brochures are useful at meetings, for follow-up consultations, and educational purposes. As people become more aware of noxious weeds, the probability of detecting them is greatly increased, which allows for more effective and timely control. Education and awareness assist weed identification, reporting new infestations, prevention and control, and fosters cooperation and partnerships.

The elements of education and awareness include:

- Develop and introduce a new **Weed Watcher** program in 2012.
- Weed Awareness special insert to the Lancaster County Cooperative Extension Service NEBl ine in February. This insert has a circulation of around 12,000.
- Maintaining and updating the Weed Control Authority Web site at www.lancaster.ne.gov/weeds
- Special mailings:
 - Pre-season letters to multiple violators
 - Musk thistle fall control mailers
 - Leafy spurge control mailers
 - Homeowner Associations
 - Public land managers
 - Adopt-a-clean road volunteers

Goal 3: Provide for ongoing management of State of Nebraska mandated noxious weeds and City of Lincoln weed abatement

Noxious weed management is the systematic approach to minimize noxious weed impacts and optimize intended land use. It is very important for all infested areas to be treated with effective methods. Integrated management is a program of noxious weed control that properly implements a variety of coordinated control methods. Types of control methods include mechanical, cultural, chemical, and biological. Integrated management greatly improves the success rate for your weed control plan. All noxious weed management must be applied and evaluated over an extended period of time to be successful.

The elements of noxious weed management include:

- Prepare advance work orders on sites that are deemed to require inspection and notification to obtain control.
- Work orders prepared for 2012
 - Musk thistle – 337
 - Leafy spurge – 347
 - Phragmites – 332
 - Purple loosestrife – 13
 - Saltcedar - 3
 - Canada thistle – 5
 - Knotweeds – 22
- Follow up on 83 inspections of Union Pacific and BNSF railroads and prepare map for contractors.
- Follow up on 28 inspections of the Bluff Road and 48th Street landfills and prepare map for control contractors.
- Follow up on 222 violations of the City Weed Abatement program and make an anticipated 4,500 to 5,500 inspections.
- Issue contracts in a timely manner to provide control of uncontrolled noxious weed violations.
- Issue contracts in a timely manner for control of noxious weeds at both landfills
- Issue 10-day legal notices on uncontrolled noxious weed violations.
- Issue mowing contracts on City weed abatement violations.

Public Awareness

Explain the type of public relations activities that your county will use in the upcoming year to increase public awareness (newspaper articles, interviews, presentations given, weed tours, landowner contacts, etc.). **Do not include the required general notice in this section.**

- Weed Awareness Special insert to the February Lancaster County Cooperative Extension Service Neblin with a circulation of around 12,000.
- Over 70,000 inserts with Knotweed information sent along with the June / July water bill for the residents of Lincoln
- Maintaining and updating Internet Homepage at www.lancaster.ne.gov/weeds with 44,696 hits in 2011.
 - 2011 noxious weed locations
 - Current Weed Violation Search
 - 2012 work order information
- Special mailings to
 - Pre-season letters to multiple violators
 - Owners of problem infestations
 - Homeowner associations
 - Public land managers
 - Adopt-a-Clean Road volunteers
 - Introduction of the Weed Watcher program

Cooperative Efforts

Does your county actively support and participate in a weed management cooperative group?

NO _____ YES XXX Explain

Lancaster County is a partner in the Lower Platte Weed Management Area. This organization brings together all parties that have an interest in noxious weed management and thereby strengthens the resulting effort.

How does being part of a weed management cooperative group benefit your county?

As a result of belonging to the PVWMA the group has been able to bring in grants to help fund the cost of controlling noxious weeds within the area.

- Lancaster County received grant money in 2011 to survey Salt Creek by helicopter from Hickman to the eastern county line. (Approximately 1,900)
- We are currently working on remote sensing for Phragmites in Lancaster County with grant money provided by Ducks Unlimited. (Approximately 2,000)

Contact List

Agency	Contact Person	Phone Number
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Patrick D. Molini	402-471-5434
Nebraska Department of Roads	Roger Kalkwarf	402-471-0850
BELF	Robert Schwartzkopf	308-346-5057
LPSNRD	Jeff Hegy or Rich Wagner	402-476-2729
UNL-Extension, Lincoln	Tom Dorn	402-441-7180
FSA	Gregory D. Chewakin	402-423-9683
NRCS	Dennis Schroeder	402-423-0800
Lincoln Public Works	Andrew Edwards	402-441-7088
Nebraska Dept of Agriculture	Mitch Coffin	402-471-6844
Railroads Union Pacific	Jonathan Parker	402-544-8007
Railroads BNSF	Gary Nyberg	817-740-2644
UNL East Campus	T. J. McAndrew	402-450-6360
Parks and Recreation	Jerry Shorney	402-441-8259
Sanitary Landfill	Karla Welding	402-441-7867
Lincoln Electric System	Ken Rittgarn	402-467-7561
Lincoln Airport Authority	Bob McNalley	402-458-2423

If more space is needed, you may attach additional sheets.

1. How many total hours does the control authority anticipate will be dedicated to the county noxious weed program? For the coming year? (Hours per quarter)

1560 January - March
4000 April - June
2100 July - September
1560 October - December

2. Has your county's noxious weed infestations increased or decreased in the past year?
Increased Explain.

The noxious weed infestations have increased within the county. With the addition of 22 newly found infestations of Knotweed and over 50 additional new infestations of Phragmites found in 2011 our inspection numbers indicate that overall noxious weeds increased in 2011. While Musk thistle, Purple loosestrife and Saltcedar all saw decreases our overall work order load for 2012 has increased from 994 to 1,059 advanced work orders.

Landowners continue to be very cooperative with their voluntary compliance. Annual inspections are made on all properties that have had problems in the past. Lancaster County uses an aggressive inspection program to gain compliance followed by using contractors to do the control work of violations of the Noxious Weed Act.

3. Provide any other information or policy that the control authority has determined to be relevant to the noxious weed control program.

Lancaster County along with managing the Noxious Weed Program also manages the Weed Abatement program for the City of Lincoln.

4. Does your county have a resolution giving your county weed superintendent the authority to issue individual notices?
NO XX YES _____

How often is this resolution presented and approved by the County Weed Control Authority?

No resolution, therefore it is not presented.

Lancaster has never had a problem with the superintendent issuing the notices and only uses 10-day notices therefore avoiding going to court and relying on a Judges decision.

Submitted, reviewed, and approved by the county noxious weed control authority at a regular board meeting

Dated January 12, 2012

January 12, 2012
Date

County Weed Superintendent

January 12, 2012
Date

Control Authority Chairperson

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