



# Weed Abatement Program Lancaster County / City of Lincoln

January 2012

[www.lancaster.ne.gov/weeds](http://www.lancaster.ne.gov/weeds)

## *The Weed Abatement Process*

### **What happens when a complaint is filed for overgrown grass / weeds?**

Our office receives complaints in four different ways. Phone calls are still the number one way the public turns in complaints. The cities Interline Action Center site and our own websites complaint form are increasing in popularity with those that like using the internet or smart phones. We continue to get complaints in person to the inspectors while they are out doing inspections, as well as people coming by the office.

In most cases when we receive a complaint it is inspected the following work day. Each inspection is entered into our database by the inspector and then reviewed by the superintendent to determine what type of notification to send.

Early in the season I will tend to send a letter explaining that they are in violation and the property in question needs to be cleared of all weeds and worthless vegetation. It is then filed to be re-inspected in 10 days. If a property has been a problem property in prior years a legal notice is usually sent right away instead of the letter. If the follow up inspection indicates the property has been cut we will close the file. If it is still uncut we will issue the legal notice. Once the legal notice expires if it is still uncut a contractor is hired to complete the enforcement

### **Why not just send the legal notice every time?**

The main reason for not sending the legal notice every time is simply cost. We figure it cost us around \$3.50 more to send a certified legal notice than it does to send the letter. In 2011 we made 4,788 initial and follow up inspections on just the weed abatement

side of our program, not including the noxious weed inspections in Lincoln. We sent 1,128



legal notices and had to force cut 261 properties. We figure by using this system it saved us around \$3,600 by not sending the legal notice every time.

***With tight budgets we are always evaluating our process. Our goal is to be the most efficient we can be and still be effective.***

### **February Planned Activities**

- 1 FSA Annual Meeting on Weed Control
- 6 Commons Meeting Annual Report & Plan
- 6-9 NWCA Conference @ North Platte
- 9 Management Team Meeting
- 10 NE Invasive Species Council
- 16 UNL Extension Private Applicator Training
- 20 Holiday
- 21 LPWMA
- 23 Problem Resolution Team
- 25 Monthly activity report
- 28 Invoice to City of Lincoln