



**LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
STAFF MEETING  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024 COUNTY CITY BUILDING  
ROOM 112 - CITY COUNTY CHAMBERS  
8:30 A.M.**

*Location Announcement of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act: A copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is located on the wall at the back of the room.*

**AGENDA ITEM**

**1. APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES FOR JANUARY 11, 2024**

Staff Meeting Minutes for January 11, 2024

**2. 8:30 A.M. – LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Joe Kohout, Brennen Miller, and Sarah Wagelie, Kissel, Kohout, ES Associates LLC

**3. 9:00 A.M. – SEMI-ANNUAL CHAMBER UPDATE**

Jason Ball, President and Chief Executive Officer, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce

**4. 9:15 A.M. – NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (“NDA”) NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL ANNUAL REPORTS**

Brent Meyer, Superintendent, Weed Authority

*See Corresponding Action Item A below*

Documents:

[ITEM 4\\_\\_2024 Weed Control Authority Board Roster.pdf](#)

[ITEM 4\\_\\_2023 Activity Report.pdf](#)

[ITEM 4\\_\\_2023 Infestation Report.pdf](#)

[ITEM 4\\_\\_2024 Budget Report.pdf](#)

[ITEM 4\\_\\_2024 Noxious Weed Control Plan.pdf](#)

**5. 9:30 A.M – BUDGET REQUEST FOR ELECTIONS**

Todd Wiltgen, Election Commissioner

**6. 9:45 A.M. – EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- A. Real Estate Purchase; and
- B. Legal Advice

**7. ACTION ITEM**

- A. NDA Noxious Weed Control Annual Reports

**8. DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

- A. Appreciation Award(s)

**9. DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS ATTENDED**

- A. Assemble Lincoln  
Thursday, January 11, 2024 @ 12:00 p.m.  
Flowerday
- B. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Thursday, January 11, 2024 @ 4:00 p.m.  
Schulte
- C. Realtors Association Government Affairs Committee  
Friday, January 12, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m.  
Amundson
- D. Mutual Aid  
Monday, January 15, 2024 @ 8:00 p.m.  
Flowerday

**10. SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS**

- A. NACO Board of Directors  
Thursday, January 18, 2024 @ 1:00 p.m.  
Vest
- B. Tri County Breakfast  
Friday, January 19, 2024 @ 7:30 a.m.  
All
- C. NACO Legislative Committee Meeting  
Friday, January 19, 2024 @ 8:30 a.m.  
Vest

- D. New Americans Task Force  
Friday, January 19, 2024 @ 12:00 p.m.  
Yoakum
  
- E. EMSOA  
Monday, January 22, 2024 @ 8:00 a.m.  
Flowerday
  
- F. LIBA  
Monday, January 22, 2024 @ 11:45 a.m.  
Flowerday / Schulte
  
- G. DEC Board of Directors  
Tuesday, January 23, 2024 @ 12:00 p.m.  
Flowerday / Vest
  
- H. Steering Committee  
Tuesday, January 23, 2024 @ 12:00 p.m.  
Roma

**11. EMERGENCY ITEMS**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**



NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH PROTECTION  
 P.O. BOX 94756  
 LINCOLN, NE 68509-4756  
 PHONE: (402) 471-2351  
 FAX: (402) 471-6892  
 EMAIL: trevor.t.johnson@nebraska.gov  
 WEBSITE: www.nda.nebraska.gov

**WEED CONTROL AUTHORITY BOARD ROSTER**  
 (DUE January 31 of each year)

**Lancaster County, 2024**

**NOTE:** (1) Roster should reflect current or upcoming members only; and (2) Ex-officio or weed liaison commissioners or supervisors designated to receive correspondence in lieu of the chairperson should be indicated as such.

Section 2-953 of the Noxious Weed Control Act defines the control authority as the county weed district board, or the county board.

This control authority is:             County board     Weed board

Name	Mailing Address	City/State/Zip	Telephone <i>(including area code)</i>	Board Type*	Date Current Term Ends	Years of Service
Sean Flowerday District 1 - Chair	555 S. 10 <sup>TH</sup> ST	Lincoln, NE. 68508	402-441-6861	B	12/31/2026	5
Rick Vest District 5 – Vice Chair	555 S. 10 <sup>TH</sup> ST	Lincoln, NE. 68508	402-441-6862	B	12/31/2026	5
Christa Yoakum District 2	555 S. 10 <sup>TH</sup> ST	Lincoln, NE. 68508	402-441-6863	B	12/31/2024	4
Matt Schulte District 3	555 S. 10 <sup>TH</sup> ST	Lincoln, NE. 68508	402-441-6860	B	12/31/2026	1
Roma Amundson District 4	555 S. 10 <sup>TH</sup> ST	Lincoln, NE. 68508	402-441-6864	B	12/31/2024	11
Brent Meyer Superintendent	444 Cherrycreek Rd., Bldg B	Lincoln, NE. 68528	402-441-7817			13
*Board types:    C    =    City representative, weed board R    =    Rural representative, weed board B    =    Board member, county commissioner/supervisor						

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Brent Meyer, County Weed Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
 January 18, 2024  
 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Sean Flowerday, Control Authority Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
 January 18, 2024  
 Date

**ACTIVITY REPORT**  
 (DUE January 31 of each year)

\_\_\_\_\_ County, 20\_\_.

Month and year weed superintendent started in this position: \_\_\_\_\_

For the **preceding** year, indicate the following:

**1. Control authority employees:**

- a. Number of weeks weed superintendent was employed full-time as a weed superintendent. ....
- b. Number of part-time or seasonal personnel employed annually. ....
- c. Number of full-time personnel. ....
- d. Percent of time weed superintendent spent on required noxious weed activities..... %

**2. County noxious weed budget:**

- a. Actual total weed budget spent for the previous fiscal year. .... \$
- b. Total weed budget most recently adopted and approved (*total requirements*)..... \$
- c. Tax dollars required for weed control for last fiscal year ..... \$

**3. Public relations and education:**

- a. Number of public education and informational meetings presented by the control authority.....
- b. Number of noxious weed articles published based on information provided by the control authority.....
- c. Number of radio interviews conducted by the control authority regarding noxious weeds.....
- d. Number of informational letters or brochures distributed by the control authority regarding noxious weeds.....
- e. Number of events that informational noxious weed displays were presented by the control authority.....

**4. Number of inspections completed and documented with appropriate inspection reports (Spring) (Fall)**

- a. Annual noxious weed inspection.....
- b. Special noxious weed inspection.....
- c. Complaint noxious weed inspection.....
- d. Follow-up noxious weed inspection.....
- e. Crop inspections.....
- f. Article inspections.....

**5. Noxious weed notification and enforcement:**

- a. Number of reports received concerning uncontrolled noxious weed infestations (**includes landowner complaints and Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) reports**).....
- b. Number of requests made to individuals or other entities to control noxious weeds (**excluding official notices**). .....

6. **Official 15-day notice results:**

- a. Number of 15-day notices issued.....
- b. Number of 15-day notices which achieved acceptable compliance prior to notice expiration. ....
- c. Number of notices prosecuted. ....
- d. Dollar value of fine notices collected. ....
- e. Number of 15-day notice disposition reports completed. ....

7. **Official 10-day notice results:**

- a. Number of 10-day notices issued.....
- b. Number of 10-day notices which achieved acceptable compliance prior to expiration.....
- c. Number of parcels force controlled by the county. ....
- d. Number of parcels force controlled by contractors. ....
- e. Total number of acres force controlled.....
- f. Total number of liens filed for nonpayment. ....
- g. Total number of 10-day notice disposition reports completed. ....

8. **Weed Superintendent Education and Training:**

- a. Number of regional Nebraska Weed Control Association (NWCA) meetings attended.....
- b. Number of state NWCA meetings, workshops, or seminars attended.....
- c. Number of university, state, or federal information or training sessions attended. ....
- d. Number of private industry training sessions attended.....
- e. Other (list number of sessions attended). ....

9. **Number of meetings weed superintendent held or attended with (other than those listed above):**

- a. Control authority.....
- b. County attorney.....
- c. District NDA inspector. ....
- d. Railroad officials.....
- e. Road departments.....
- f. Municipalities.....
- g. Federal officials.....
- h. Other or miscellaneous \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Weed Superintendent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Control Authority Chairperson/President Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



Good Life. Great Roots.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**NOXIOUS WEED INFESTATION REPORT**

(DUE January 31 of each year)

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH PROTECTION  
 P.O. BOX 94756  
 LINCOLN, NE 68509-4756  
 PHONE: (402) 471-2351  
 FAX: (402) 471-6892  
 EMAIL: trevor.t.johnson@nebraska.gov  
 WEBSITE: www.nda.nebraska.gov

Lancaster County, 2023

		Musk Thistle Acres	Plumeless Thistle Acres	Canada Thistle Acres	Leafy Spurge Acres	Spotted/ Diffuse Knapweed Acres	Purple Loosestrife Acres	Saltcedar Acres	Phragmites Acres	Knotweed Acres	Sericea Lespedeza Acres
<b>RAILROAD</b>	None	2419	2445	2438	2420	2445	2445	2445	2426	2445	2437
	Trace	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
	Light	5	0	1	3	0	0	0	5	0	4
	Moderate	14	0	1	11	0	0	0	6	0	0
	Severe	3	0	1	11	0	0	0	4	0	0
	<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>2445</b>	<b>2445</b>	<b>2445</b>	<b>2445</b>	<b>2445</b>	<b>2445</b>	<b>2445</b>	<b>2445</b>	<b>2445</b>	<b>2445</b>
<b>ROADS</b>	None	28657	28695	28693	28645	28694	28695	28695	28672	28695	28669
	Trace	20	0	0	10	1	0	0	5	0	12
	Light	5	0	1	36	0	0	0	14	0	7
	Moderate	11	0	0	4	0	0	0	2	0	3
	Severe	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	4
	<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>28695</b>	<b>28695</b>	<b>28695</b>	<b>28695</b>	<b>28695</b>	<b>28695</b>	<b>28695</b>	<b>28695</b>	<b>28695</b>	<b>28695</b>
<b>NONAGRI-CULTURAL</b>	None	93646	93869	93830	93600	93869	93855	93868	93070	93861	93783
	Trace	21	0	3	26	0	4	1	68	3	5
	Light	39	0	19	78	0	4	0	196	3	23
	Moderate	93	0	7	98	0	3	0	247	1	38
	Severe	70	0	10	67	0	3	0	288	1	20
	<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>93869</b>	<b>93869</b>	<b>93869</b>	<b>93869</b>	<b>93869</b>	<b>93869</b>	<b>93869</b>	<b>93869</b>	<b>93869</b>	<b>93869</b>
<b>PASTURE/RANGE/IDLE</b>	None	123504	123732	123688	123555	123721	123732	123732	123681	123732	123633
	Trace	5	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	4
	Light	124	0	1	45	11	0	0	6	0	14
	Moderate	68	0	43	50	0	0	0	5	0	29
	Severe	31	0	0	69	0	0	0	40	0	52
	<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>123732</b>	<b>123732</b>	<b>123732</b>	<b>123732</b>	<b>123732</b>	<b>123732</b>	<b>123732</b>	<b>123732</b>	<b>123732</b>	<b>123732</b>
<b>CROPLAND</b>	None	292995	293005	293004	292996	293005	293005	293005	292990	293005	293005
	Trace	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	Light	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
	Moderate	6	0	0	4	0	0	0	2	0	0
	Severe	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	10	0	0
	<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>293005</b>	<b>293005</b>	<b>293005</b>	<b>293005</b>	<b>293005</b>	<b>293005</b>	<b>293005</b>	<b>293005</b>	<b>293005</b>	<b>293005</b>
<b>COUNTY TOTAL</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>541221</b>	<b>541746</b>	<b>541653</b>	<b>541216</b>	<b>541734</b>	<b>541732</b>	<b>541745</b>	<b>540839</b>	<b>541738</b>	<b>541527</b>
	<b>Trace</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>25</b>
	<b>Light</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>48</b>
	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>70</b>
	<b>Severe</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>76</b>
	<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>541746</b>	<b>541746</b>	<b>541746</b>	<b>541746</b>	<b>541746</b>	<b>541746</b>	<b>541746</b>	<b>541746</b>	<b>541746</b>	<b>541746</b>
<b>Total Acres Infested</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>219</b>	

Noxious weed(s) petitioned by county: Cutleaf & Common Teasel

Total Acres: 25

County Weed Superintendent - Brent Meyer

Date January 18, 2024

Control Authority Chairperson - Sean Flowerday

Date January 18, 2024



NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH PROTECTION  
P.O. BOX 94756  
LINCOLN, NE 68509-4756  
PHONE: (402) 471-2351  
FAX: (402) 471-6892  
EMAIL: trevor.t.johnson@nebraska.gov  
WEBSITE: www.nda.nebraska.gov

**BUDGET REPORT**  
(DUE January 31 of each year)

Lancaster County, 2023/2024.

**Current Year Budget:**

Available Funds: 531,696

Expenses: 211,070 (Lancaster County funding – 50/50 with City of Lincoln)

**Prior Year Actual:**

Revenues: 292,125

Expenses: 517,127

**Superintendent Salary:** 87,720

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brent Meyer, County Weed Superintendent

January 18, 2024  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sean Flowerday, Control Authority Chairperson

January 18, 2024  
Date



**NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL PLAN**  
(DUE January 31 of each year)

**Lancaster County, 2024**

**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 their county.**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Lancaster County Noxious Weed Management Plan is to protect effectively against designated noxious weeds which constitute a present threat to the continued economic and environmental value of lands in the County. This Plan implements the mandates of the State of Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act by setting forth management objectives and plans, methods or practices which utilize a variety of techniques for the integrated management of noxious weeds. In establishing a coordinated program for the integrated management of noxious weeds, it is the County's intent to encourage and require all appropriate and available management methods, while promoting those methods which are the most environmentally benign and which are practical and economically feasible.

**INSPECTIONS**

Under the direction of the County Noxious Weed Control Authority, it shall be the duty of every County Weed Control Superintendent to examine all lands under the jurisdiction of the Control Authority.

**Explain the process established by the Control Authority to examine all lands and compile such data on infested areas and controlled areas.**

The Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act 2-954 (3)(b) provides the procedure required for the Control Authority to follow when examining land in the County as well as compiling data on infested areas and controlled areas. Lancaster County Weed Authority adopts the following procedures.

Under the direction of the control authority, it shall be the duty of every weed control superintendent to examine all land under the jurisdiction of the control authority for the purpose of determining whether the Noxious Weed Control Act and the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the director have been complied with. The weed control superintendent shall: (i) Compile such data on infested areas and controlled areas and such other reports as the director or the control authority may require; (ii) consult and advise upon matters pertaining to the best and most practical methods of noxious weed control and render assistance and direction for the most effective control; (iii) investigate or aid in the investigation and prosecution of any violation of the act; and (iv) perform such other duties as required by the control authority in the performance of its duties. Weed control superintendents shall cooperate and assist one another to the extent practicable and shall supervise the carrying out of the coordinated control program within the county.

Lancaster County is divided into four quadrants with an inspector assigned to each quadrant to complete on-site inspections of all Advanced Work Orders (AWO's), scout for new infestations, and respond to all complaints.

Process established by Lancaster Weed Control Authority to examine all lands and compile such data on infested areas and controlled areas.

- Create Advanced Work Orders (AWO's) on all uncontrolled infestations from the previous year.
- Inspect all lands within Lancaster County to determine if the Noxious Weed Control Act and its regulations have been complied with.
- Execute an inspection report in conjunction with the performance of any inspection of land found to be infested with noxious weeds. *Nebraska Administrative Code Title 25 Chapter 10-003.01C*
- Document the annual inspection using our Weed Eradication Electronic Database System. (W.E.E.D.S)
- All information is entered on-site, into our database along with gps, time stamped photos. This information is live synced back to the office into our Weed Eradication Electronic Database System. (W.E.E.D.S)
- Using Lancaster Counties Parcel ID system, our database is linked to the Register of Deeds database and all landowner information, legal description, etc are up to date and accurate.
- Notify the landowner by letter requesting compliance. This letter contains specific information regarding the infestation and the recommended method of control. A response form is included for the landowner to report the type of control action taken.
- If no infestation is found, the inspection report will indicate that the infestation has been controlled.
- When the control authority determines the noxious weeds have not been controlled, the control authority shall cause additional inspections to be made at least once during the time noxious weeds are actively growing. Until such a time as the noxious weeds on said land have been controlled.
- Our W.E.E.D.S. database tracks all infested and controlled areas in Lancaster County.

**Currently, how many infestations are reported by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) as open files in this county? 1**

(By December 31, your NDA inspector will provide a list of your open files.)

**List each open file by Section, Township and Range separately and outline in detail how each open file will be addressed in the upcoming growing season.**

**Section 9 Township 11 Range 7**

By following the guidelines adopted by the Lancaster Weed Control Authority, the Weed Department will continue to work with all landowners to manage the infestations found on this section of land. The leafy spurge on the roadside has been chemically treated by Weed Department staff in the fall of 2021, 2022 and again in 2023. We will continue to monitor and treat the area for any regrowth. The phragmites were first identified by Lancaster County inspectors in 2009 and the landowner continues to work to manage this infestation. This is a very large infestation and was treated by helicopter in the fall of 2020. Some areas were not treated due to tree canopy cover. A ground application was made by a private contractor in 2022 and again in 2023 using Imazapyr herbicide. Our staff will continue to work with this landowner to manage the infested areas. NDA inspector notes when opening this file in 2021 "*spraying has been done, continued control recommended*" confirms that the owner is willing to work on the infestation. As with so many phragmites infestations in Lancaster County the patches are bordered by crops making the treatment even more challenging. Phragmites is a deep-rooted perennial plant and may never be completely eradicated. Ongoing treatments will be necessary. Weed Department staff will make the necessary inspections in the coming year and continue to work with the owner to manage.

## **COMMUNICATION**

**How many times each year does the County Weed Control Superintendent meet with the Control Authority Board?** Approximately 6 per year, or as necessary.

**Is there a set schedule to meet with the Control Authority Board?** **NO**

**If yes, explain.**

**If no, explain.** The Weed Superintendent will meet with the County Board of Commissioners as needed. The Board is very supportive, and we have a very good working relationship and will meet as situations arise.

**What type and how many public awareness events do you plan to participate in the upcoming year?**

The public is generally not aware of the economic and environmental impacts caused by noxious weeds. There is a need to improve awareness about noxious and invasive weeds, providing educational information to cooperators, land managers, and the public. As people become more aware of noxious and invasive weeds, the probability of detecting them is greatly increased, which allows for more effective and timely control. Education and awareness assist with weed identification, reporting new infestations, prevention and control, and fosters cooperation and partnerships.

Public relations events and publications planned for the coming year.

- Weed Awareness Special insert to the April Lancaster County Cooperative Extension Service NEBLINE with a circulation of around 12,000. Also available on the UNL website.
- Insert the Weed Watch in the Hickman Voice two times per year. Circulation of approximately 3,000.
- Play-Clean-Go education and outreach campaign.
- Weed ID training and workshops for landowners, agencies, and specialty groups.
- Display the Nebraska Weed Control Association's booth at various locations including UNL-Extension, County courthouse, State Capitol, and the Nebraska Ag Expo.
- Maintaining and updating the internet homepage at <https://www.lancaster.ne.gov/320/Weed-Control-Authority>  
Our website continues to be a valuable source of information to the public.
- Weed ID videos to help educate the public about how to identify noxious weeds.
- Presentation about noxious weeds at Private Applicator trainings hosted by UNL Extension.
- Special mailings:
  - ✓ Pre-season letters to owners with multiple violations
  - ✓ Letters to landowners of problem infestations
  - ✓ Homeowner Associations
  - ✓ Neighborhood Associations
  - ✓ Public land managers, Natural Resource District's, Nebraska Game & Parks

## **PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT**

What would you like to see change to help make your job more efficient and improve your county noxious weed program?

**(Equipment, technology, tools, etc.)**

The Lancaster Weed Control Authority annually reviews our program and addresses changes to be more efficient, as well as being more effective in how we perform our duties. We will continue to look for innovative ways to become more efficient and still be effective.

Our staff performs between 10,000 to 13,000 noxious weed and weed abatement inspections annually. By using the latest technology, we have been able to keep up with the increased workload while maintaining a high level of service for our landowners. We continue to evaluate the opportunity of going to a paperless system. Our requirement to notify landowners creates a challenge in this process.

### **What is the one thing that makes your program stand out?**

Lancaster County Weed Authority has several areas that make our program stand out. I'll share a couple areas of our program that are unique.

Lancaster County is the only county in Nebraska requiring weed-free gravel on county roads. Our weed-free gravel inspection program is preventing new weed infestations along our county right of ways. This helps eliminate new infestations from occurring by identifying the pathway and preventing seed introduction.

Along with managing the Noxious Weed Program our office also manages the Weed Abatement program for the City of Lincoln. This is another program unique only to Lancaster County in Nebraska. Providing weed abatement inspections inside city limits helps us to inspect and track noxious weed infestations in the city while performing the weed abatement inspections. This interlocal agreement began in 1996 and works well for the citizens of Lancaster County, giving them one location to call for all weed problems.

### **Is the County Weed Control Superintendent given adequate time to address all noxious weed infestations within the county? (EXPLAIN)**

Lancaster Weed Control Superintendent is given adequate time to address all noxious weed infestations and has full discretion of the Noxious Weed Program in Lancaster County.

Is the County Weed Control Superintendent a full-time or part-time employee? **Full-time**

## **FUNDING**

### **Is your County Noxious Weed Program adequately funded to ensure that noxious weeds are controlled in a timely manner? (EXPLAIN)**

Lancaster County continues to adequately fund the Noxious Weed Control program. While additional work could always be done if funding was increased, the current level of funding assures the noxious program has the resources necessary to ensure landowners comply with the Noxious Weed Control Act.

## NOXIOUS WEED ENFORCEMENT

Which individual notice(s) will be utilized by the county weed control authority?

\_\_\_\_\_ 10 day \_\_\_\_\_ 15 day       X       Both

When a control authority finds it necessary to secure more prompt or definite control of noxious weeds on particular land than is accomplished by the general published notice, it shall cause to be served individual notice upon the owner of record of such land at his or her last-known address, giving specific instructions and methods when and how certain named noxious weeds are to be controlled. Outline the procedure adopted by your county noxious weed control authority when issuing an individual notice.

Lancaster County Weed Authority adopts the following procedure when issuing individual notices.

- Prior to the issuance of an individual notice, the control authority shall inspect such lands. *Nebraska Administrative Code Title 25 Chapter 10-003.01B*
- Individual notice may be issued any time after non-compliance, determined during the follow-up inspection.
- Control Authority shall issue the Individual notice in writing using the forms prescribed in the Noxious Weed Control Act.
- Control Authority shall cause to be served individual notice upon the owner of record of such land at his or her last-known address, *Noxious Weed Control Act 2-955 (1)(b)*
- Service of such notices shall be in the same manner as service of a summons in a civil action in the district court or by certified mail to the last-known address to be ascertained, if necessary, from the last tax list. *Noxious Weed Control Act 2-962*
- Individual notice shall include specific instructions and methods when and how certain named weeds are to be controlled. Such methods may include definite systems of tillage, cropping, management, and use of livestock. *Noxious Weed Control Act 2-955 (1)(b)*
- Other appropriate control methods such as specific herbicide recommendations are acceptable if approved by the County Weed Control Superintendent.
- Prepare a report indicating the disposition of each individual notice issued by the control authority. *(Keep current during the entire process) Nebraska Administrative Code Title 25 Chapter 10 - 003.01F*
- At the request of any owner served with an individual notice, the control authority shall hold an informal public hearing to allow such landowner an opportunity to be heard on the question of the existence of an uncontrolled noxious weed infestation on such landowner's property. *Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act 2-955 (2)*

**When the owner of the land on which noxious weeds are present has neglected or failed to control them as required pursuant to the act and any notice given, the control authority having jurisdiction shall proceed as follows:**

Lancaster Weed Control Authority adopts the procedures required when a landowner has neglected or failed to control the noxious weeds as defined in Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act 2-955 (3)(a)&(b)

**15-day Individual notice procedure:**

Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act 2-955 (3)(a) If, within fifteen days from the date specified on the notice required, the owner has not taken action to control the noxious weeds on the specified property and has not requested a hearing, the control authority shall notify the county attorney who shall proceed against such owner.

Lancaster County's plan includes:

- Inspect the property throughout the notice period and document completely and accurately all inspections. Including time stamped, gps photos.
- If the owner has not taken action to control the noxious weeds by the specified date, the Weed Authority shall notify the County Attorney who shall proceed against such landowner. Lancaster County Attorney's office will send a follow up notice to the landowner.
- Continue to work closely with the County Attorney's office throughout the 15-day notice until the infestation is controlled or prosecution.
- Complete a report indicating the final disposition of each individual notice. *Nebraska Administrative Code Title 25 Chapter 10 - 003.01F*

**10-day Individual notice procedure:**

Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act 2-955 (3)(b) If, within ten days from the date specified in the notice, the owner has not taken action to control the noxious weeds on the specified property and the stage of growth of such noxious weeds warrants immediate control to prevent spread of the infestation to neighboring property, the control authority may cause proper control methods to be used on such infested land, including necessary destruction of growing crops, and shall advise the record owner of the cost incurred in connection with such operation. The cost of any such control shall be at the expense of the owner. In addition, the control authority shall immediately cause notice to be filed of possible unpaid weed control assessments against the property upon which the control measures were used in the register of deeds office in the county where the property is located. If unpaid for two months, the control authority shall certify to the county treasurer the amount of such expense and such expense shall become a lien on the property upon which the control measures were taken as a special assessment levied on the date of control.

In addition to the requirements in the Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act, Lancaster County's plan includes:

- Perform follow-up inspections on the property to determine compliance when notice expires.
- Document all control work accurately and completely. Including time stamped, gps photos.
- Conduct a final inspection to ensure the contracted force control is satisfactory.
- Complete a report indicating the final disposition of each individual notice. *Nebraska Administrative Code Title 25 Chapter 10 - 003.01F*

## **NOXIOUS WEED INFESTATIONS INCREASED OR DECREASED**

**List the number of infested acres using previous year and current year infestations Report.**

### **Musk thistle total acres infested.**

(Previous Year) 561 (Current Year) 525

Musk thistle infested acres were down this year. There will always be musk thistle and the level of infestations will vary depending on weather conditions and management techniques. Landowners are aware of this noxious weed and do a good job of managing it.

### **Plumeless thistle total acres infested.**

(Previous Year) 0 (Current Year) 0

It has been several years since we have had a confirmed infestation of plumeless thistle.

### **Canada thistle total acres infested.**

(Previous Year) 167 (Current Year) 93

Canada thistle infestation levels decreased. Canada thistle can be moved by root segments brought in with nursery stock. Most of our Canada thistle infestations are located inside Lincoln city limits. Biocontrol, using a rust fungus on Canada thistle has been released in northern Lancaster County to help reduce infestations. Early indications indicate using biocontrol is showing success in reducing the size of the infestations.

### **Leafy spurge total acres infested.**

(Previous Year) 651 (Current Year) 530

This year's infested acres were down in Lancaster County. Leafy spurge infestations on our county roadsides are seeing a significant decrease due to the use of Method herbicide. This herbicide has proven to be safe to use around adjacent crops and has a lasting residual on leafy spurge. Leafy spurge is very difficult to control, and landowners understand it will be a long-term battle.

### **Knapweed (Spotted & Diffuse) total acres infested.**

(Previous Year) 8 (Current Year) 12

An area was found infested with knapweed by the NDA Inspector during a 2022 survey and the landowners are working to control the infestations on private property. Weed Department staff are managing the infestations in the right of way.

### **Purple Loosestrife total acres infested.**

(Previous Year) 26 (Current Year) 14

Purple loosestrife was originally sold as an ornamental, so most of our infestations are inside Lincoln city limits. Lancaster County does have several infestations located in rural areas in the County and landowners are working to manage them. This year's infested acres were down in Lancaster County.

### **Saltcedar total acres infested.**

(Previous Year) 0 (Current Year) 1

Early Detection/Rapid Response (EDRR) has been effective with saltcedar. There was 1 infestation of saltcedar found this year. It was eradicated by Lower Platte South NRD staff.

### **Phragmites total acres infested.**

(Previous Year) 1131 (Current Year) 907

We continue to work hard to find new infestations of phragmites and educate the landowners how to identify this plant and the destruction it causes. We continue to notice more landowners controlling their infestations prior to being notified by our office, indicating the education is making a difference. Since phragmites are easier to identify during the winter than during the growing season, our staff scouts aggressively in the fall and winter to find new infestations. Control efforts on our roadsides have been very successful with our aggressive herbicide treatments. Phragmites is by far the most serious threat we face.

**Knotweed(s) total acres infested.**

(Previous Year) 20 (Current Year) 8

Knotweeds were originally sold as an ornamental, so most of our infestations are found in landscaped areas. Several infestations exist in non-agricultural sites in Lincoln.

**Sericea lespedeza total acres infested.**

(Previous Year) 309 (Current Year) 219

Sericea lespedeza is often found on private property adjoining wildlife management areas. There are good treatment options available for sericea lespedeza. However, due to the longevity of the seed viability, landowners will need to continue to manage the infestation. We are seeing a slight decline in total acres infested.

**LANCASTER COUNTY ADDED NOXIOUS WEED:**

**Teasel (Common & Cutleaf) total acres infested.**

(Previous Year) 30 (Current Year) 25

**Teasel** – There are good treatment options available for teasel. An aggressive eradication plan is working, and our infested acres continue to decline.

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

Dated January 18, 2024

January 18, 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brent Meyer, County Weed Superintendent

January 18, 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sean Flowerday, Control Authority Chairperson