

Scotts Bluff County, 2026

### **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.**

### **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 Control Authority has given authority to the County Weed Superintendent and its employees to inspect lands within the County, and to issue notices if needed. The Weed office controls noxious weeds on our ROW, we also inspect lands and do follow up inspections on previous notices. With our notices we begin with a informal letter stating what noxious weeds were found and possible control measures for them to use. This County has never issued a 10- or 15-day notice, the Weed Authority is passing resolutions to help us enforce the 10 and 15 day notices. We record the inspections as well as any notices in the Weed mapper software, as well as our own County map.

Currently, how many infestations are reported by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) as open files in this county? 9

*(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: SE ¼-33 Township: 22N Range: 57W Open file #1420**

**Section: NE ¼ -27 Township: 22N Range: 57W Open file #1422**

**Section: N ½ -28 Township: 22N Range: 57W Open file #2225**

**Section NW ¼ - 9 Township: 22N Range: 57W Open file #2226**

**Section: S ½- 22 Township: 22N Range: 57W Open file #2228**

**Section: ALL - 4 Township: 22N Range: 57W Open file #2230**

**Section: S 1/2 -12 Township: 21N Range: 56W Open file # 4059**

**Section: NE ¼- 16 Township: 21N Range: 53W Open file #5240**

**Section: ALL- 34 Township: 22N Range: 54W Open file #6224**

Open file numbers 5240, 4059, 1422, 6224 were all sprayed in the fall of 2024 or during the summer of 2025. We will inspect in the spring and notify landowners if more control is needed, if properties are good we will notify the NDA inspector for a follow up.

Open file numbers 2230, 2226, 1420, 2228, 2225, will all be inspected in the spring with either a 10 or 15- day notice issued to them. Several notices have been issued to these landowners with little or no response.

### **Communication**

How many times each year does the County Weed Control Superintendent meet with the Control Authority Board? 2 or as needed

Is there a set schedule to meet with the Control Authority Board? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If **yes**, explain:

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

If **no**, explain:

At this time, we meet as needed to approve reports and budget time. The 2026 year we may meet more with the implementation of forced controls or if any other issues arise.

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

Farm and Ranch show along with any other noxious weed related events. Along with County Government Day.

*Continued on next page.*

### **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.*)

I believe currently our equipment is satisfactory. Being able to find and hire more seasonal spray operators would be helpful to do more spraying for property owners. Currently, we spray our right of ways only.

What is one thing that makes your program stand out?

Good communication with the landowners, letting them know we are here to work with them not against them. The public is seeing our spray technicians out addressing the noxious weeds on the County ROW.

Is the County Weed Control Superintendent given adequate time to address all noxious weed infestations within the county? Explain.

Yes, the County Weed Control Superintendent is given adequate time to address infestations, often I believe the problem is how the growing season progresses.

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

☒ Full-time ☐ Part-time

### **Funding**

Is your County Noxious Weed Program adequately funded to ensure that noxious weeds are controlled in a timely manner? Explain.

Scotts Bluff County has been adequately funded to control noxious weeds on property controlled by the County, although this budget year we did have to decrease our budget around \$43,000. We will see how this impacts us as we go through the year.

### **Noxious Weed Enforcement**

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

☐ 10 day      ☐ 15 day      ☒ 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.**

As outlined in the State of Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act and Noxious Weed Regulations. This year we will pass a couple resolutions giving the superintendent the authority to issue these notices, as well as a fees schedule for services rendered. The County Attorney believed these steps were needed to enable the County to enforce the Noxious Weed Control Act effectively. We will be using this approach on at least five of our open files in 2026.

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:

As outlined in The State of Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act and Noxious Weed Regulations. Contact with the County Attorney will be made to get input on whether a 10- or 15-day notice should be issued. After deciding on the length of notice we will send out the notice with the control measures they can use, and the information regarding the fees and spraying charges that will be implemented if they choose not to control the weeds. The notice will also explain the penalties or fines issued if they choose not to control the weeds. If available a list of contractors that spray will be sent as well. If no action is taken, we will spray ourselves or hire a contractor to proceed.

### **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): 3615	(Current Year): 4431
Plumeless thistle total acres infested	(Previous Year): 0	(Current Year): 233
Canada thistle total acres infested	(Previous Year): 26,800	(Current Year): 28,900
Leafy spurge total acres infested	(Previous Year): 0	(Current Year): 0
Knapweed (Spotted & Diffuse)		
total acres infested	(Previous Year): 0	(Current Year): 0
Purple Loosestrife total acres infested	(Previous Year): 0	(Current Year): 0
Saltcedar total acres infested	(Previous Year): 342	(Current Year): 276
Phragmites total acres infested	(Previous Year): 189	(Current Year): 157
Knotweed total acres infested	(Previous Year): 0	(Current Year): 0
Sericea lespedeza total acres infested	(Previous Year): 0	(Current Year): 0

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

Dated: Click or tap to enter a date.

---

Date

---

County Weed Superintendent

---

Date

---

Control Authority Chairperson