

## **DEVELOPING A WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### **-Fremont County Weed and Pest Control District-**



This guide is intended to assist growers in implementing an integrated weed management program to produce weed-free forage in compliance with [NAWMA](#) standards. A written weed management plan is now required for all growers wishing to participate in the Weed-Free Forage program through the [Fremont County Weed and Pest Control District](#).

### **Awareness, Education, and Training**

- Awareness is when people responsible for supporting, implementing, or taking part in a weed management program realize there is a weed problem. When people recognize Russian knapweed, perennial pepperweed, and other undesirable plants as problems, they have weed awareness.
- Education about the impacts noxious weeds have on natural resources, wildlife, and the economy occurs after people are made aware of weeds.
- Training takes place after people become aware and realize that noxious weeds are detrimental to natural resources, but need assistance in how to manage weeds effectively.

### **Funding and Program Justification**

To increase funding and justify your management plan you need to:

1. Demonstrate impacts of weeds on the economy, recreation, wildlife, transportation safety, and human health.
2. Establish an operating budget for the entire management program.
3. Designate who performs which parts of the program.

## **Inventory (Soil and Weed Mapping)**

Mapping may be the single most useful part of any noxious weed control plan. You must know “what’s out there” if you expect to manage your land successfully. A map can be an aerial photograph, drawing, topography map, road map, section or township map, or property map.

A good inventory and mapping system:

1. Defines the problems.
2. Brings awareness.
3. Helps develop prevention and Integrated Weed Management action plans.
4. Helps monitor program effectiveness.
5. Provides specific information about your land and the weeds on it.
6. Provides historical weed infestation records.
7. Provides data to evaluate weed management options.

## **Prevention and Early Detection**

Prevention, early detection, and eradication of early detected noxious weed species are the most practical means of weed management. Prevention is best accomplished by ensuring that new weed species’ seed or vegetative reproductive plant parts are not introduced into an area.

## **Planning and Plan Implementation**

There are at least seven reasons why weed management planning works:

1. It improves your weed control knowledge.
2. It saves you time and money.
3. It helps you to evaluate all factors of weed control.
4. It helps you visualize your total weed problem.
5. It prioritizes control efforts.
6. It creates a historical record-keeping system.
7. It enables you to participate in state, county, or local weed projects.

Keeping accurate records of the details of each treatment in your prioritized units insures your planning is accurately translated into action.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Monitoring means repeated, systematic observation. Monitoring is “determining the truth” about how the program is working. For building awareness, continuing education, implementing training, funding and justifying your program, and being able to plan and modify your plan, you must know how you are doing. Evaluation is relating information obtained through monitoring to a set goal.

The purpose of evaluation is to answer the questions:

1. Does my weed management program come as close to accomplishing my goal as is possible with the resources at hand?
2. Is my goal still desirable and realistic?

## **Record System**

A record system will help you identify factors that influence control success such as:

1. Herbicide applied
2. Application rate
3. Air temperature
4. Soil moisture
5. Humidity
6. Growth stage of the weeds
7. Wind velocity and direction.

You are extremely busy most of the year and no one can be expected to remember all the critical details involved in a successful noxious weed control effort. But your records can. They can make the difference between success and failure.