

Weed Department Report

Weed Board Meeting

June 5th, 2025

- The UDAF ISM Noxious weed grant program has regretfully denied our application for the continuing grant for our spray days program. They noted in the rejection letter that they received \$3,243,257.00 in grant requests and ended up only getting \$1,600,000.00 from the legislature for this program. So approximately half of all grants submitted this year did not receive funding. I believe it is unlikely that the UDAF will ever fund our spray days program again as it falls outside of their long-term noxious weed mitigation goals and priorities. For next year we will need to find a new project that is more likely to receive funding given the guidelines outlined in the states newly released strategic plan.
- We have sprayed multiple county properties since the seasonal crew started. The fairgrounds will be essentially weed free for the rodeo coming up soon. We have sprayed the hideout golf course for the first time this season and each year we have seen significantly less weed growth every year. This year it did not take us anywhere near as long to treat the weeds present. I believe that country properties have never had their weeds controlled as well as they are being controlled now.
- We treated the county property directly behind the fairgrounds for a dense bindweed infestation. This year there is absolutely no signs of regrowth as of June. This field was treated exclusively with milestone applied by a boom sprayer. This has reinforced my belief in the abilities of Milestone to effectively treat a large range of broad leaf noxious weeds.
- The Monticello airport shows clear signs of the spray applications we did late last season. This means that the airport does have a small perimeter of treated ground on each side of the property. If we can get Monticello city to find funding to cover our costs we would like to finish the treatment of the property and provide ongoing maintenance. With the loss of our spray days grant we are going to need to seek some level of funding from the cities in order to continue the support services we previously have.
- I have identified 13 properties that will receive our first enforcement letter for the first round of enforcement this year. The second round will include the properties that do not have as large of problem as the first thirteen. The second round will also include properties around Blanding. Some farms in Blanding have fully engulfed fields of bindweed. When we drove by on field last week we noticed that a landowner was actually irrigating a field that was covered in dense bindweed.