

Weed Department Report
Weed Board Meeting
April 3rd, 2025

- We are currently in the process of switching the 400 gallon spray system currently on our old Dodge Ram 3500 truck to a 1995 Heavy Duty Chevy Fire truck which only has just over 80,000 miles on it. It is my plan to put a 60 gallon tank on the Dodge and use it as my staff truck and a backup is either of the other trucks need maintenance or repair. The benefits of this move are first that the Chevy is an automatic which is much better for the stop and go of roadside spraying. Also by lightening the load on the high mileage Dodge it should not require as much maintenance as it has required over the last 2 seasons.
- We intend to hire Don Andrews again for the 2025 season. The goal is for him to work 6 months. We will also hire 2 additional employees to work for 3 months which is what's allotted by the 2025 budget.
- I recently ordered \$40,000 worth of herbicides and adjuvants. This includes a large amount of glyphosate, Milestone and Opensight. We still have \$10,000 in reserve for any needs later in the season. We have had very good response using glyphosate to kill kochia and Russian thistle on county property. I am concerned that eventually the kochia on the county property can form a tolerance for glyphosate after several years of treatment. We do have other suitable herbicides in stock if this ever happens. I believe the weed department has done a particularly good job at keeping the weeds controlled on all of the counties property.
- I will begin spending a few days a week in April spraying Jointed Goat Grass. I do not believe it will ever be possible to address all the issues with jointed goat grass but we will continue to do what we can especially early in the season. I encourage farmers to spray all they can on the right of ways bordering their fields.
- I intend to research the possibility of applying for a grant to purchase a quality drone and get licensed so that I can have an idea of where the hard to find noxious weeds are. Perhaps, with a farmers permission, we could fly private draws and report the weed issues to the land owners as a service. A drone would be invaluable along the river to really do a survey of where we may still have camelthorn even on waterlocked riparian areas.