

**ADAIR  
COUNTY  
IRVM**

**Plan update 2015**

**By Jake Decker & Rick Mikkelsen**

# **Table of Contents**

- 1) Definition of IRVM**
- 2) Legislative Language**
- 3) Purpose Statement**
- 4) History/Vision Statement**
- 5) Primary Objectives**
- 6) Organization**
- 7) Outreach, Education and Alliances**
- 8) Equipment**

## **Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management General Plan**

The Adair County Roadside Vegetation Management Plan is based on the program philosophy that roadside vegetation performs many functions on the landscape. It is important to look not only at controlling erosion and sediment delivery, but also at keeping safety and an aesthetic environment as priorities along the county roadsides. This plan is a comprehensive approach to the integration of establishing the correct vegetation throughout the

roadsides in Adair County. It involves the dedication and collaboration of our local IRVM Steering Committee in creating a sustainable effort to keep the roadways in Adair County attractive, safe, and manageable.

## **1) Definition of IRVM**

The definition of Adair County's IRVM Plan is based on keeping safety as a priority. It involves the following areas of focus:

- Serve a variety of public services including erosion control, wildlife habitat, weed control, utility easements, scenic qualities, and sustainability of water quality
- Establish practices that will encourage, enhance, and reestablish native plant species that are matched to the unique environment found in and adjacent to the Adair County roadside
- Systematically assess roadside conditions and adopt a comprehensive plan for cost-effective maintenance of right-a-ways and vegetation planting.
- Incorporate integrated management practices for the long-term control of weeds, brush, invasive plants and damaging insect population.
- Utilize the most beneficial, cost-effective method to prevent soil erosion caused by the disturbance of less than optimum ground cover
- Welcome input from adjacent land owners and the general public
- Encourage cooperation and planning with other public agencies and entities

## **2) Legislative Language**

Adair County is consistent with the plan and goals established by the Department of Transportation in following the Iowa Codes IRVM and Noxious Weeds.

Section 314.22 of the Iowa Code, Integrated Vegetation Management, which states: It is declared to be in the general public welfare of Iowa and a highway purpose for the vegetation of Iowa's roadsides to be preserved, planted, and maintained to be safe, visually interesting, ecologically integrated, and useful for many purposes.

Section 317.1A of Iowa Code, Noxious Weeds, which states: The following weeds are hereby declared to be noxious and shall be divided into two classes, namely:

1. Primary noxious weeds, which shall include Quack grass, perennial sow thistle, Canada thistle, bull thistle, European morning glory or field bindweed, horse nettle, leafy spurge, perennial pepper-grass, Russian knapweed, buckthorn, and all other species of thistles belonging in genera of *Cirsium* and *carduus*.
2. Secondary noxious weeds, which shall include butterprint annual, cocklebur annual, wild mustard annual, wild carrot biennial, buckthorn perennial, sheep sorrel perennial, sour dock perennial, smooth dock perennial, poison hemlock, multiflora rose, wild sunflower annual, puncture vine annual, teasel biennial, and shattercane annual.
3. The multiflora rose shall not be considered a secondary noxious weed when cultivated for or used as understock for cultivated roses or as ornamental shrubs in gardens, or in any county whose board of supervisors has by resolution declared it not to be a noxious weed. Shattercane shall not be considered a secondary noxious weed when cultivated or in any county whose board of supervisors has by resolution declared it not to be a noxious weed.

### **3) Purpose Statement**

The primary purpose of the Adair County IRVM Plan is to preserve and provide a safe, functional, environmentally approved corridor of travel throughout the county. In addition, this plan is designed to provide a long term roadside program that promotes a desirable, self-sustained plant community that is native to Iowa and is free of brush and invasive plants. The vegetation management goals must meet certain safety and functional requirements before aesthetic, recreational, or economic considerations can be addressed. These areas include maintaining a clear zone recovery area, meeting minimal sight distance requirements, and providing erosion control. Iowa law also dictates that each county control noxious weeds. This is the purpose of Adair County's IRVM Plan.

### **4) History/Vision Statement**

Adair county IRVM started in the spring of 1998, with the same vision we carry on today. To enhance the scenic qualities of Adair County roadsides and their value as roadside habitat while using native plantings as a way of controlling weeds and preventing erosion, our chemical, fuel, parts and equipment is mostly purchased local. This ensures that we do our part to help local businesses.

## 5) Primary Objectives

The primary objectives of the Adair County IRVM require certain strategies for implementation to make it an integrated and successful plan. These strategies are presented below in nine areas:

### 1. Seeding Plans

- a. Site preparation is needed to ensure proper planting conditions, which includes walking the site for hazards
- b. Equipment such as disks or chain harrows may be used to level and break up heavily compacted soil
- c. Oats, annual rye and winter wheat are excellent cover crops that are necessary to help hold the soil in place
- d. Several methods of seeding are available: drilling, broadcast seeding, and hand seeding-each method has many advantages
- e. Native and cool season sites must be monitored for weeds and mowed when necessary

### 2. Chemical Application

- a. Selection of chemicals based on their label constraints and residual effects on the environment
- b. Spot spraying of roadsides for invasives and brush in spring, summer and early fall
- c. Fall basal bark treatment is necessary for brush
- d. Stump treatment must be cut in the winter

### 3. Brush Control

- a. Provide safe roads for travelers
- b. Spraying of small trees and brush in late spring through summer is scheduled
- c. Basal bark spraying in the fall
- d. Secondary road personnel use tractors, excavator cutters, and chain saws in the winter to control brush

### 4. Fire Management

- a. Controlled burning during optimal conditions by enhancing and maintaining native prairie grasses while eliminating the growth of weeds, brush, and trees
- b. Only prescribed burn equipment is used; which includes ATV sprayers, slide in sprayers, protective clothing and signage
- c. Local fire departments will be involved when necessary

### 5. Erosion and Sediment Control

- a. Soil preparation: strike a balance when preparing a seed bed. Loosen rough soil surfaces to provide better infiltration
  - b. Use cover crops when seeding
  - c. Silt fence in appropriate areas
  - d. Use check dams that are constructed of clean rock and will allow water to pass through, in order to slow the velocity
6. Encroachment, Disturbance & Land Owner Relations
- a. Discouraging spraying and mowing by landowners of roadsides
  - b. Written correspondence with landowners regarding violations of encroachment on right-of-ways, including spray overlap and right-of-way disturbances
  - c. Meet with local agribusiness applicators
7. Coordination with Other County Departments
- a. Periodic meetings with Adair County colleagues
  - b. Attend annual Adair County Board of Supervisors meetings
  - c. Inter department collaboration with Secondary Road Department, including employees
8. Public Awareness & Outreach
- a. Public notices published in local newspapers
  - b. Meets personally with area farmers regarding right of way planting decisions
  - c. Collaborates with local schools and educates students about the virtues of IRVM
9. Budgeting and Staffing
- a. Review the Roadside Manager job description annually
  - b. Address staffing needs by having adequate roadside personnel available
  - c. Annual presentation of budget to Board of Supervisors

## 6) **Organization**

The IRVM manager and weed commissioner are attached organizationally to the Secondary Road Department, under the direct supervision of the County Engineer and board of supervisors. There is one other full time employee, which helps with the day to day work.

The Steering Committee includes the following: Roadside Manager, one member of the County Board of Supervisors, Chairperson of the County Conservation Board, County Engineer, County Weed Commissioner, and

Secondary Road Department's Road Superintendent, one Adair County Vocational Agriculture Instructor, one Adair County High School student.

The local Steering Committee serves as the rule and policy-making body for ongoing activities.

## **7) Outreach, Education and Alliances**

As part of the County's IRVM plan, outreach, education, and alliances include:

- 1)** Develop a public awareness campaign to gain support for integrated management through media, established organizations, seminars and brochures
- 2)** Obtain educational and informational material on IRVM to be presented in seminars and distributed to adjacent landowners, the general public, consultants and contractors
- 3)** Provide guidelines and directives for contractors and others who seed, plant and maintain roadsides
- 4)** Prepare and distribute instructions on preservation of desirable areas and treatment of areas that need improvement
- 5)** Gather, develop and distribute information with other jurisdictions; seek and share information with other counties
- 6)** Encourage research in all aspects of IRVM, such as: road design for improving IRVM, planting methods, management practices, seed sources, seeding rates, seed mixes, and planting materials
- 7)** Encourage use of native seeds and plant materials native to Iowa

## **8) Equipment**

- 1) Johndeere 7210 tractor**
- 2) Johndeere 5205 tractor**
- 3) Truax native grass drill**
- 4) Truax pull type drop seeder**
- 5) Vicon three point seeder**
- 6) Polaris 4wheeler**
- 7) Johndeere offset brush mower**
- 8) Kuhn disc mower**
- 9) Landpride three point disc**

- 7) Johndeere offset brush mower
- 8) Kuhn disc mower
- 9) Landpride three point disc
- 10) Rhino three point mower
- 11) 2 Ford f-250 pickups with flatbeds
- 12) 2 Sprayer skids
- 13) Native Prairie seed stripper
- 14) 2 Pro Mac brush cutters
- 15) Tiger side mounted brush mower
- 16) Silt fence plow
- 17) Rowse mower

The plan outlined in this application is flexible, in that, it requires common sense interpretations with changes as necessary to fit the ever-changing complex circumstances realized in roadside vegetation management. It is a comprehensive approach to sustaining the roadways in Adair County and making the county a safe, attractive, and manageable environment.

ADAIR COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



5-27-15

~~Steve Shelley~~, Chairperson

Date

*Matt Wedemeyer*

ADAIR COUNTY ENGINEER



POSITION: ROADSIDE VEGETATION  
MANAGER /LABORER

REPORTS TO:  
ENGINEER

Receives job-site direction from a Crew Leader when assigned to a crew.

DEPARTMENT: SECONDARY ROADS      REVISION DATE: 05-07-2014

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### GENERAL SUMMARY

Works under the direction of the County Engineer to manage the vegetation growing in the UN-traveled portions of the county's right-of-way and to implement the Adair County Roadside Management Plan.

### A. QUALIFICATIONS - MUST:

1. Have graduated from high school or have a GED.
2. Have knowledge of and ability to recognize and identify native prairie plant species and all vegetation defined as noxious by the State of Iowa. Must be able to differentiate between closely related plant species.
3. Speak and write the English language clearly and fluently.
4. Be able to give, receive, understand and carry out written and oral instructions.
5. Be able to use a computer for record keeping, inventory control, and electronic communications including the internet and other online networking systems.
6. Be able to make and keep detailed records using longhand and computer methods.
7. Have the ability to meet and effectively interact with the Advisory Board and public.
8. Have the experience and ability to seek out funding sources and write effective grant applications.
9. Have experience operating equipment normally used to prepare seedbeds and plant, mulch, mow and harvest grasses, forbs and prairie species.
10. Hold, or obtain, and maintain a Class A CDL and have and maintain a driving record satisfactory to the county's insurance carrier.
11. Be able to lift and carry loads to 70 pounds.
12. Be able to perform duties requiring shoveling, bending, stooping, twisting, repeatedly climbing steep banks, operating chain saws, brush cutters, weed trimmers and other hand and power tools.
13. Be able to repeatedly climb in and out of equipment, trucks and truck boxes.

### B. ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

1. Direct the initial inventory of native prairie plants already established on county road rights-of-way and develop plans, strategies and actions needed to preserve them and cause them to flourish and spread.

2. Develop public awareness and support for integrated roadside management by creating and using media opportunities. Make presentations to service clubs, garden clubs, school groups, farm groups and other organizations to educate them and enlist their support for the program. Present seminars and informational meetings. Use newspapers and radio stations to inform and educate the general public of the program and its benefits.
3. Work with landowners. Inform them of the need for the IRVM program and the benefits to be derived from it. Enlist their participation in this program.
4. Instruct Secondary Road Department employees concerning the IRVM program and instruct them concerning methods and procedures to be used to establish and maintain the growth of desirable vegetation.
5. Specify seed mixtures to be used by contractors and others when reseeding or replanting disturbed areas within the county roads rights-of-way. Supervise and direct the Secondary Road Department's seeding and replanting operations.
6. Be responsible for the active pursuance of all available funding sources.
7. Write and submit effective grant applications.
8. Follow the policies established by the Adair County Engineer and Board.
9. Direct all workers involved in roadside vegetation management practices. Take an active roll in all phases of these activities.
10. Keep accurate records of all IRVM activities. Keep track of and track expenditures. Monitor budgetary comparisons. Work with County Engineer to prepare IRVM budget.
11. Make the best use of all available resources to obtain seeds, materials, equipment and labor using available grants, gifts or other resources.
12. Prepare both long range and short range plans for the implementation of the IRVM program. Follow policies established by the IRVM Advisory Board.
13. Participate in IRVM State and regional meetings and seminars. Keep abreast of state of the art concepts and development in this field. Encourage innovative ideas from workers and the public sector. Adapt as needed to fit the ever changing and complex situations that arise.
14. Perform all other duties that are assigned by the County Engineer.

**C. DRIVING**

Must have or obtain a Class A CDL. Driving is an integral part of this position. Any loss of driver's license or loss of insurability may result in termination.

**D. COGNITIVE DEMANDS**

Must work safely near highway traffic and erect proper signs and barricades. Must safely operate machinery in close proximity to other workers and traffic in a safe and efficient.

E. WORK ENVIRONMENT AND EQUIPMENT

Work is outdoors on and next to roadways or on construction sites. Work may be required during all kinds of weather conditions. May operate a variety of equipment in a variety of sites and conditions.

F. SUPERVISION OF OTHERS

Occasionally

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1. Marginal functions of the positions that are incidental to the performance of fundamental job duties have been excluded from our job descriptions.
2. All requirements are subject to possible modification to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities.
3. Some requirements may exclude individuals who pose a threat or significant risk to the health and safety of themselves and others.
4. Job descriptions in no way state or imply that the description includes every duty to be performed by the employee occupying the position. Employees will be required to follow any other job-related instructions and to perform any other job-related duties requested by their supervisor.
5. HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability Act of 1996) training and compliance with confidentiality is mandatory.
6. The County encourages, supports and expects all employees to take part in ongoing training and skill development opportunities that apply to their primary job.

## Adair County LRTF Funding History through FY 2015

DOTProjectNumber	Applicant	Award	FiscalYear Description	Type
90-01-LRTF-901	Adair County	\$ 4,280.00	1999 Inventory	County
90-01-LRTF-902	Adair County	\$ 10,000.00	1999 Equipment - Hydro and blower	County
90-01-LRTF-001	Adair County	\$ 10,000.00	2000 Equipment - Drill	County
90-01-LRTF-101	Adair County	\$ 4,500.00	2001 Inventory	County
90-01-LRTF-801	Adair County	\$ 2,641.00	2008 Equipment - Vicon seeder	County
90-01-LRTF-001	Adair County	\$ 6,000.00	2010 Equipment - GPS	County
90-01-LRTF-201	Adair County	\$ 2,924.00	2012 Equipment - Disc harrow	County

Total LRTF Funding Awarded FY1990 - FY2015	\$ 40,345.00
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# ADAIR COUNTY IOWA



Prepared By  
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In Cooperation With  
**United States  
Department of Transportation**

JANUARY 1, 2014



### LEGEND

- INTERSTATE HIGHWAY
- PRIMARY HIGHWAY-DIVIDED
- PRIMARY HIGHWAY
- PORTLAND CEMENT CONCRETE ROAD
- ASPHALT ROAD
- BITUMINOUS ROAD
- GRAVEL ROAD
- EARTHEN ROAD
- INTERSTATE HIGHWAY
- UNITED STATES HIGHWAY
- STATE HIGHWAY
- COUNTY HIGHWAY
- RAILROAD
- PIPELINE
- AIRPORT
- HYDROLOGY
- BRIDGE
- STATE BOUNDARY
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- CORPORATE BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP LINE
- SECTION LINE
- ROAD NAMES
- UNINCORPORATED PLACE
- STATE PARKS
- STATE INSTITUTIONS
- FEDERAL LAND

