

Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Department

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Quarterly Report 2/10/2026
Last Report Given 11/18/2025

Seeding

- Early onset of Winter this Fall closed the window for late-season seedings
- Seed is on-hand for the Roland debris site. Waiting for a descent snowfall to plant

Prairie Seed Harvest

- Combined a bulk total of 1,251 pounds. Purity still averaging 24%(+/-) which is good
 - Harvested seed is split with landowner 50/50
- Hand harvested throughout the year, 54(+15) species from high quality plantings and remnants
- This seed will be used to supplement our seed mixes used in roadsides and natural areas
 - Estimated value of 2025 Conservation harvested seed is roughly \$11,936(+\$1,100)
- Seed as also donated to Ames Library, Nevada Library, Prairie Rivers of IA, Project Wingspan
- Seed analysis shows grass species are trending higher so harvest sites will be on radar for Rx fire.

Private Lands

- 2 landowners rented equipment to plant 8 acres of Natives
- 3 landowners on the books for Spring 2026 so far

American Kestrel Program

- 36 boxes were built/repainted/painted in 2025
 - 24 were used last year by various birds- 1 box was a "strong candidate" for a Kestrel nest
 - Nesting material was placed in each box recently, SCCB staff will monitor nesting success this season

Winter Equipment Maintenance

- The vehicle and equipment fleet is currently being serviced by staff prior to spring operations
- Coinciding with inventory, outdated equipment will be earmarked for replacement in upcoming years
- A new vehicle and some equipment has been added to our fleet.

DD Work this Spring

- We are currently seeking quotes for Drainage District contract spraying for Summer/Fall 2026 for the following districts: Hamilton-Story #1, Grant #5, Grant #13, Milford #32, Richland #81, and Lincoln #91
- Current DD balances should cover costs this round. Letters will go out in May for upcoming work

Contract Spraying FY 2026

- Proposed ROW brush spray (After July 1 2026)
 - North half County Townships(La Fayette, Howard, Warren, Lincoln, Franklin, Milford, Richland, and Sherman). RFQ's will go out at the end of April/May for that work
 - Prior to spraying a press release/social media of timing, methods and spray area will be sent out

Spring Operations

- Prescribed Fire in roadsides, IRVM shop, and both harvest sites
- Spring Planting
 - 14 open work orders
- Spring Spraying
 - Prepare spray equipment -weed season is around the corner
 - 46 guard rail/bridge approaches being sprayed by staff
 - Working with Secondary Roads to add additional sites: Safety

Administrative Duties

- Currently working with SCC Outreach Coordinator to update IRVM sections of website
- Staff completed the annual update of sensitive crop maps for contractors and IRVM personnel
- IRVM staff is(still) in the process of cleaning up file system and folders
- Budgets, grant work, long-range planning

Other

- Commercial Pesticide Applicator refresher trainings, December
- IACCBE Winterfest Conference January 27-29th
- Invasive Species Conference, February 18-20th
- Staffing: 2 seasonal positions, both start May 18th