

Story County Conservation Board Annual Report

February 9th, 2026

Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Department

Ty Hamiel- Vegetation Management Biologist

2025 Weed Commissioner Report

- No weed notices were sent to private individuals
- Six verbal contacts were made with private landowners/public land managers regarding noxious weeds. Trending down the last few years from double digit notices sent
 - One city, Two county Right-of-Way (ROW), Three on private property

FY 2025 Operations July-Present

- Roadside Contract Brush Spraying was completed last August. B&W Control Specialists sprayed brush <12 feet brush in most roadsides in South ½ of Story County (North ½ next year, and so on) (*Direction 1-Outcome 2*)
- Staff sprayed 16 miles of Roadside in hot spot areas around sensitive crop producers and follow-up from Secondary Roads brush mowing (*Direction 1-Outcome 2*)
- B&W Control Specialists will treat Drainage Districts: Richland #20, Boone-Story #3, and Richland #20 in the Spring of '26 for the maintenance brush spray program

FY 2025 Seed Harvest- (*Direction 2-Outcome 1; Funding-Outcome 1*)

- Staff harvested seed from two seed nurseries
 - 1,242 bulk pounds were harvested by IRVM and Natural Resource Staff (up 110# from '24)
 - Grant Ridge seed nursery-24% purity, High content of Purple Prairie Clover, Little/Big Bluestem, and Indiangrass
 - Star Grass seed nursery-23% purity, High content of Round-Headed Bush Clover, Purple Prairie Clover, Little Bluestem, and Indiangrass
 - Harvested seed is split 60/40 with the total value of \$5,126(\$2,050 for Story County)
 - Analysis reports show grass species trending up so nurseries will be on Rx fire radar
- Story County Conservation and IRVM hosted two public seed harvests at Doolittle Prairie and Jennett Heritage Area as well as harvests by conservation staff and local volunteers throughout Story County
 - Fifty one different species were harvested and processed
 - This is a value of approximately \$3,923
 - We also donated seed to the Ames Library, Nevada Library, Prairie Rivers of IA, and Project Wingspan for “seed displays” for the public

ROW Seeding (*Direction 1-Outcome 2; Funding-Outcome 1*)

- Thirty-eight work orders (WO) were completed this Fall
 - Native species seeding: 26 WO for 4.8 acres
 - Cover crop/temporary seeding: 12 WO for 6.2 acres

Private Lands (*Direction 1-Outcome 1&2*)

- Nineteen landowners rented equipment to plant 117.8 acres(268 in '24)
 - Native seeding: 49.3 acres
 - Cool season seeding: 68.5 acres

Kestrel Nestbox Program (*Direction 1-Outcome 1; Direction 2-Outcomes 1 &2; Funding-Outcomes 1&2*)

- Thirty-six boxes were installed throughout the county with help from Conservation Staff and Secondary Roads(2024)
- 24 were used last year by various birds- 1 box was a “strong candidate” for a Kestrel nest
 - Nesting material was just refreshed for next season, CCB staff will monitor nesting success again next season

Drainage District Work – (*Direction 1-Outcome 2*)

- We are currently seeking quotes for Drainage District contract spraying for Summer/Fall 2026 for the following districts: Hamilton-Story #1, Milford #32, Richland #81, Lincoln #9, Grant #5, and Grant #13
- Current DD balances should cover costs this round. Letters will go out in May for upcoming work

Maintenance and Repairs

- The vehicle and equipment fleet is currently being serviced by staff
- Coinciding with inventory, outdated equipment will be earmarked for replacement in upcoming years

Administrative Work (*Direction 1-Outcome 2*)

- We are currently working with SCC Outreach Coordinator to update IRVM sections of the 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, and long-range planning

Spring Operations

- Staff plan to conduct prescribed fire in the roadsides, IRVM shop, and both harvest sites
- There are fourteen open work orders for spring planting
- Staff is preparing for spring spraying
 - The County Engineer is pleased with the results of the bridge & guard-rail sites we have been treating. We are likely to add another handful of sites to our list of bare-ground spray treatment

Ongoing/ Future Goals

- Combine all seeding file types (paper, geoTree, ArcGIS) to one main ArcGIS file(in process)
 - Create inventory system of quality native prairie plantings- “Prairie Bible”(2025)
 - Focus now will be on condition, management moving forward of each site
 - Met with ESRI reps regarding customizing ArcGIS for IRVM/SCC
- Streamline/Improving efficiency of spray logs/tracking
 - Revamped daily Spray log sheets, same-day reporting, fine-tune herbicide usage
- Update/improve aging equipment to improve efficiency as well as safety
- Continue to overlap labor/resources with other Story County Conservation staff
 - Striving to really fill work experience baskets of seasonal employees
- Increase awareness of IRVM and its benefits to Story County
- Increase communication with County Engineer/Secondary Roads to improve workflow

IRVM Field Operations Year 2025 Review	
Work Orders Completed	112
Roadside Plantings (sites)	89
Roadside Plantings (acres)	28.75
Conservation/Other Plantings(sites)	5
Conservation/Other Plantings(acres)	21
Roadside Burns (sites)	10
Roadside Burns (acres)	21.9
Roadside Weeds Sprayed (miles)	350
Foliar Brush Sprayed (miles)	16
Equipment Rentals (landowners)	19
Equipment Rentals (acres)	118
Pounds of Seed Harvested	266
Volunteer Hours	94