

County mapping out weed-spraying strategy

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
County officials reviewed battle plans for the fight against noxious and obnoxious weeds at a recent commissioners’ meeting.

Daryl West, county noxious weed director, said he is prepared to start spraying bridges, overpasses, around the county landfill and fairgrounds with chemicals to knock out early growing weeds.

The next step will be to spray roadsides for broadleaf weeds, West said at a meeting Friday, March 30, adding that he plans to start spraying in June with a new chemical, an “overdrive” combination for broadleaf control and Palmer Amaranth.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas said West should get a map and work with Darrel Schrader, the contractor who does the county weed mowing. He said it would be good to spray the worst areas for amaranth.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he thought Schrader was going to start mowing in June, but may start earlier.

The commissioners budgeted \$60,000 for weed control along the ditches in addition to the money for controlling noxious weeds on the state list.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede asked if the big spray truck can be set up for spraying ditches, noting that West needs to find somebody to drive it. Thomas said he knew of an

older farmer who was interested in helping.

Commissioner Mitch said he thought the county should advertise the position asking for seasonal part-time help. West said there was \$10,000 in the weed budget for part-time help.

“We need to be careful about who it is,” West said, “because they will be working under my license.”

“My idea is you work together so you can keep an eye on him,” Tiede said.

Rasure said the labor cost for spraying the ditches should come out of money set aside in the road and bridge fund.

Thomas said he thought West needs to be more flexible on the work hours.

“You may have to start earlier to be out there before the wind kicks up,” he said.

West asked how wide the commissioners want to spray the ditches, adding that he sprayed a six-foot strip last year.

“What do we need to spray, 12 feet?” Tiede asked.

West said the most he could spray is 19 feet. He estimated it is 5.2 acres in a mile for the ditches on both sides and the he cost is \$12 to \$13 an acre for most of the weeds. He said spraying the amaranth is more expensive, \$45 to \$50 an acre.

Thomas asked if West was planning to spray twice during the weed season.

“I will spray the early stuff,” West

said, “and then come back with the overdrive to enhance the chemicals.”

Thomas asked what it would cost to do all the county roads.

“I figure it would cost \$56,000 for 10 oot on all 1,200 miles of county roads,” West replied.

Rasure said West should spray the main roads and use his judgment on the others.

“We can’t do all the roads,” Thomas said. “We need to find out where the worst sections are.”

Thomas asked if the chemicals will get rid of the stickers. West said it will do the goat heads, but he has to use a different chemical for the grassy sand burr.

Thomas asked if West is checking around for the best prices on chemicals. West said he checks with the local chemical suppliers and with one in McCook, Neb., that has had some good prices on some of the chemicals. Thomas suggested West check with a supplier in Osborne also.

West said he thought the work would be from sometime in May to at least the end of July, but it could be longer.

Rumpel said it would be good to say spraying season and set a pay range of \$9 to \$10 an hour, depending on qualifications.

The commissioners said the ad should be put in *The Goodland Star-News*, *The Country Advocate* and on S&T and Eagle Communications’ cable roll-around listings.

Man wants to buy right of way

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

Snow drifts made a rural property tough to get to this winter, and the owner wants the county to sell him some land for a new access road about six miles east of Goodland on the south side of old U.S. 24.

Fred Stasser ask commissioners if they would consider selling him enough right of way to build an access road into the place where he keeps horses.

Commissioners listened to the request at their meeting Friday, March 30, and said they thought it could be done if County Attorney Bonnie Selby approves and can figure out the process.

“We have been unable to get to our property because of the snow drifts,” Stasser said. “The old place does have a well, corrals and a shed. We would like to make more improvements on the land, but our problem is access to this site.”

Stasser said Curt Way, county public works manager, and Butch Vandiver of the road and bridge department have been out to look at the access, but told him said the county could not build a road on it’s right of way because of the expense.

“We brainstormed a little,” Stasser said. “What we proposed is to come from old U.S. 24, but the fence line is different and is deeper. The cutout area is owned by the county, and we would propose to buy some so we could build our own road out to where the county could build their access.”

Stasser said he thought they would have to buy

about an acre to build the road, adding that he would pay for the culverts.

Way said the county got the right of way when the state gave it old U.S. 24 years ago. He said the cut-out area is probably a place where the state took dirt to build the road.

The cutout is east of Merna Dautel’s place on County Road 25, Way said. The right of way there is probably about 200 feet wider than the rest of the right of way along the sides of the road. There are several similar blocks of land between Edson and Brewster.

Way said the access would take a sizable tube or two because the ditch along old U.S. 24 drains two sections.

“I do not know what the policy is about selling right of way,” Way said. “This is deeper than most of what we have, but it is right of way.”

“I do not have a problem with selling the property,” said Commissioner Kevin Rasure. “I think we should check with Bonnie.”

Commissioners asked Stasser where he would get the dirt to build his road. He said he and Way agreed he could get some of the dirt by defining the channel south of old U.S. 24 a little better.

Later in the meeting, Selby was present for another agenda item and Thomas asked about selling county right of way. The county attorney said she did not see a problem, but would check the procedure and let him know.

Library Week celebration includes contests for all ages

The Goodland Public Library has a reading project and two discussions planned for National Library Week next week, along with contests for all ages to encourage everyone to check out the library.

It’s a good time to see what the library has to offer, said Director Karen Gillihan, and meet the staff. The library is participating in Kansas Reads ... “The Learning Tree” by Gordon Parks, a “one-book, one state” reading project for adults, she said.

Book discussions are planned for noon next Tuesday, and at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 19. Bring a lunch for the noon discussion.

The book begins with a Kansas tornado and combines a coming-of-age story with a description of what life is like for a black man growing

up in a white man’s world.

Tuesday is National Library Workers Day, Gillihan said, and a good day to stop in and thank the library staff: Renita Freeman, Pam Hardy, Laura McClung, Marcy Melia and Lea Shores.

Gillihan encourages everyone to check out the library’s website at www.goodlandlibrary.org. The card catalog is online, she said, and people can access their own accounts as well.

Library Week is the perfect time to find out how the library can transform your life, she said, and to think of the contribution libraries, librarians and library workers make to their communities.

Everyone, regardless of age, race or income, can come together at the library, she said, for entertainment,

self-help or to find their place in the community.

Students come to the library to learn research skills, she said, and to find a place to study with friends. Parents and guardians introduce children to their first books and videos, she said, and senior citizens keep in touch with family across the country using free Internet access.

Job seekers get connected with resources to help them land their next interview, she said, and researchers and medical professionals tap into the databases, journals and other.

Everyone has access to trained library professionals, Gillihan said, to help them find and interpret the information they need to make a difference in their lives.

At-large election bill stalls in Senate

BILL, from Page 1

The county submitted language to set up the at-large election option that will be decided by the Sherman County voters. Ostmeyer said the bill should be the first thing the committee takes up when the Legislature reconvenes in January.

“We have plenty of time,” Ostmeyer said. “The delay does not hurt

because it would not be voted on until the general election in November next year.”

Thomas said Ostmeyer told him the language the county submitted had cleared up the questions senators had, and he did not see a problem in getting the bill out of committee next year.

Ostmeyer said things were wild in the committees the last couple of

days, and Chairman Tim Huleskamp (R-Fowler) was not at the last meeting.

The Legislature will go back into session on Wednesday, April 25, to handle finance bills and to pass conference reports on bills passed by both houses, but won’t take up bills which didn’t clear committee like the one for Sherman County.

It’s time for spring irrigation system maintenance

With this beautiful weather that we have been having, everyone is getting planters ready to roll. There is another piece of equipment that also needs to be checked over — your irrigation system.

Apresaison checkup is an important part of regular maintenance to prevent untimely breakdowns, irregular water application and increased energy use.

Growers should look at their records to identify and replace worn parts prior to the irrigation season, said Bill Kranz, University of Nebraska Extension irrigation specialist.

Monthly records of outlet, flow rate and energy use are a good way of evaluating pump and motor performance. Remember to record this information when the pivot is in the same place in the field to reduce differences because of slope.

Before the first irrigation, grease moving parts and replace those that may need it. The following list can be used as a guide:

- Change engine oil and filter.
- Replace air and fuel filters.
- Grease drive shafts on pump and motor.
- Check spark plugs on gasoline, propane or natural-gas motors.
- Drain, flush and refill cooling system.
- Refill drip oil reservoir and allow about one gallon of oil to drain

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- Walk along system to look for malfunctioning sprinklers.
- Check chemigation pump and safety equipment operation.

- Check and replace cracked hoses.

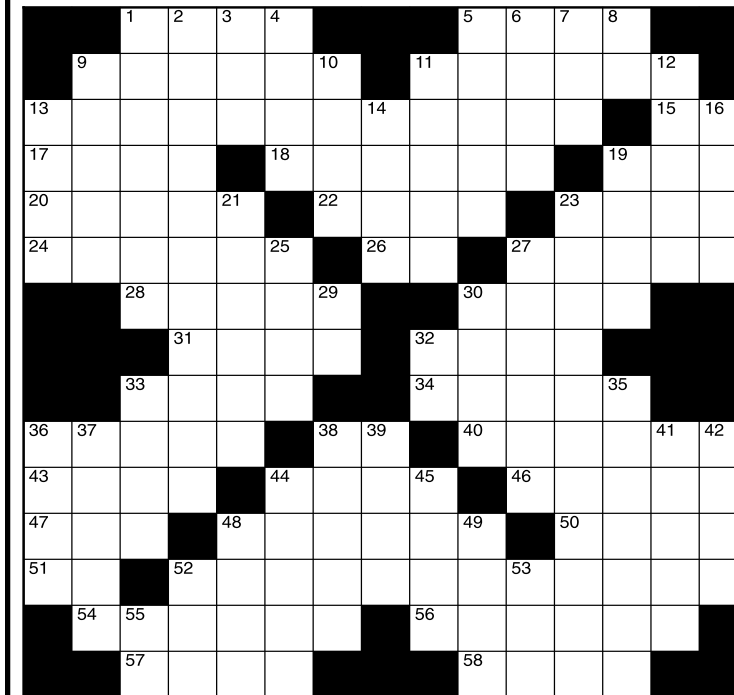
Sprinkler wear depends on the quality of the water and system operating pressure. As a rule of thumb, sprinkler replacement should be

considered after 10,000 to 12,000 hours.

If it is time to replace sprinklers or nozzles, be sure to obtain a new sprinkler system design or replace them with the ones listed on the original sprinkler package computer print-out.

Jeanne Falk is an area crop production and economics specialist for Sherman, Cheyenne and Wallace counties with Kansas State University Research and Extension.

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

1. Thick piece of something
5. African cereal grass
9. Chinese island
11. Most wise
13. Short distance
15. Exclamation of surprise
17. Abel's brother (Bible)
18. Closes in
19. CO plateau tribe
20. The gem state
22. C C C
23. Grouch
24. Averts
26. - ___, denotes past
27. African country
28. 55120 - 55123
30. A collection of facts
31. Make angry
32. Du Monde, New Orleans
33. Editing notation
34. Money paid out
36. Double-reed instruments
38. Initials of ET hostess
40. Examination of tissue
43. Traditional pie crust fat
44. Conveyance that is rowed
46. El ___, painter
47. Before
48. Fine white clay used in ceramics
50. Self-funded retirement plans
51. Public promotion of a product
52. Just barely
54. Facial expressions
56. Make sparkling
57. Vestments
58. Linear unit

CLUES DOWN

1. Satisfied to excess
2. Fearless
3. ___ing: patio cover
4. Joan ___, folk singer
5. Counterweights
6. Consciousnesses
7. Not many
8. Old Blue eyes' initials
9. Hebrew letter
10. Nanosecond (abbr.)
11. Wearing footgear
12. Mongolian
13. Sour
14. Plane figure
16. Greek goddess of youth
19. Murres genus
21. Roman degradations
23. Without exception or qualification
25. Sodium chloride
27. Chubby
29. Northeast
30. Plaster
32. Cobalt
33. Muscle ache
35. Run a business
36. Evergreen having oily one-seeded fruits
37. Shakespeare and Marlowe
38. Conquerors of Spain
39. Ring
41. A view
42. ___mite National Park
44. Uncovers
45. Pueblo people of New Mexico
48. Marvin ___, journalist
49. Margosa tree, tropical asia
52. A quantity of no importance
53. California think tank (abbr.)
55. One thousandth of an ampere

The crossword puzzle brought to you by:



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dine-in
carry-out
delivery