Fayette County Conservation



IRVM Plan Version 3.0 May 2015

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Roadside Manager/Deputy Director

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Retired Roadside Manager

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Summary:

This document is intended to be a guideline for the Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) program in Fayette County. IRVM is generally accepted and regarded as the most economical and environmentally sound manner in which to manage our roadsides. The key word in the title is, Integrated. Integrated means utilizing different and varied methods of management. IRVM looks to use many techniques and tools to diversify and maintain our roadsides. The sections that follow are intended to be used for reference, policy development, and long term planning the IRVM program in Fayette County, Iowa.

Executive Program:

Goals

There are approximately 1,135 mile of secondary roads in Fayette County; this equates to 2,270 miles of roadsides. Management of the vegetation over such an expanse is a daunting venture at best. Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management is the most effective and economically sound manner in which to do so at the present time and in the foreseeable future.

The goals of the Fayette County Conservation Roadside program are to;

Minimize noxious weeds and brush and establish and maintain native vegetation in the roadsides and all other areas of transportation (trails, easements, etc) throughout Fayette County using innovative techniques and the latest science and technology.

Maintain a safe and effective road system that is diverse in habitat and pleasing to the citizens and visitors of Fayette County.

Make the most of the county's 15,000 acre roadside resource.

Educate the citizens and visitors to Fayette County in the importance of IRVM through programs and press releases.

History

Fayette County began its IRVM program in 1989 under the management of Jon Steege. Previous to 1989 the county had used a variety of methods to control weeds and brush in the roadsides. No liquid spraying was done in the county from the period of 1978 through 1982, and the weed problem was very

apparent. All of the secondary road rights-of-way were blanket sprayed for noxious weeds and brush during 1983 and 1984 using a mixture of Garlon 4 and 2,4-D. The county then split the application of blanket spraying, spraying one third of the townships each year on rotation.

The purpose of these attempted practices was to eliminate noxious weeds in the roadsides. The results were, however, short term and contributed to extensive off-site damage. Spraying killed most of the broadleaf weeds with the exception of Canada thistle which was and remains one of the priority weeds most desired to control. The blanket spraying applications were not species specific and also killed legumes and flowers that we know to be vital to the long term health of our plant communities. The result of blanket spraying was exposed soil zones which were pioneered by new vegetation. Unfortunately, the new vegetation was Canada thistle and other weeds not eliminated by the blanket spraying.

In 1988 the Fayette County Conservation Board presented the initial idea and plan for implementing an IRVM program to the Fayette County Board of Supervisors. The supervisors directed the Conservation Director and the County Engineer to design a plan and a budget for implementing the program. In 1989 the supervisors implemented the plan and placed the program under the auspices of the Conservation Board because of the interest, expertise and desire to manage the program. Today, in the state of Iowa 50% of counties with IRVM programs are under the County Engineer, 36% under the County Conservation Board, and 14% independent department (reporting directly to the Board of Supervisors).

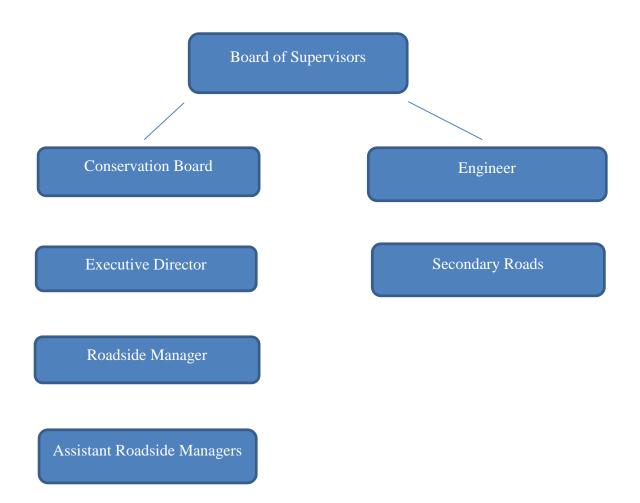
The IRVM program grew and diversified from 1989 to 2003. Staff and equipment were added to the program. Brush and weed control plans were developed and implemented. The latest techniques were utilized to develop Fayette county's roadsides into safe, diverse ecosystems. In 2004, in an effort to balance the Rural Services Fund, the IRVM program was reduced in staff and in budget by the Fayette County Board of Supervisors. The IRVM staff was reduced to a Roadside Manager, two Assistant Roadside Managers, and 1-2 seasonal staff. The remaining staff were absorbed into the secondary road department. The program continued with modern IRVM equipment but not adequate staff to operate it. This situation required cooperation with the Secondary Road department over the last 10 years to make progress in the control of brush and weeds.

In September of 2014 Jon Steege retired with 25 years of service as Fayette County Conservation Roadside Manager. Blake Gamm was hired as the new Roadside Manager, and is currently reassessing the program and resources.

Jurisdictional Recognition and Approval:

Management and Staffing

The Fayette County Conservation IRVM department is managed by the Roadside Manager/Deputy Director. This position is responsible for the day to day operations, as well as the budget, staff, records, and the general direction of the program. The position reports directly to the Conservation Executive Director, who reports to the Conservation Board. The assistant roadside managers are responsible for carrying out daily tasks, managing equipment, and keeping updates on roadside vegetation conditions. Much of the work that is done by IRVM is directly affected by the Engineer and Secondary Road departments. Seeding, brush removal, public complaints, and other work orders are coordinated with these departments. The IRVM staff is limited and the continued cooperation with the Secondary Roads department is essential to the success of IRVM in Fayette County.



Laws and Regulations

The IRVM department operates under several principles and laws cited in the Code of Iowa, and within local policies, agreements, and resolutions. Examples include but are not limited to:

- 1. Chapter 314.22 Integrated Roadside Management
- 2. Chapter 317 Iowa Noxious Weed Law
- 3. Chapter 318 Obstructions of the Right-of-Way
- 4. Fayette County: A Policy Concerning the Removal and Disposal of Soil from County Roadside Ditches
- 5. Fayette County Right-of-Way Mowing Policy
- 6. Fayette County Burn Policies and Procedures

Public Involvement:

Partners

The Fayette County Conservation IRVM department partners with multiple groups, organizations, government agencies and individuals. These partnerships allow the program to grow, and accomplish conservation and education efforts that otherwise would not be available. Our partnerships include but are not limited to:

Fayette County Pheasants Forever - Habitat seeding and fundraising

Turkey River Recreation Corridor - Education, funding, and marketing

Northeast Iowa RC&D – Grant writing, marketing,

Echo Valley Ducks Unlimited – Potential funding

NRCS/ASCS - Habitat establishment and maintenance

Private Individual – Technical support, habitat establishment and maintenance, and donations

River Bluffs Scenic Byway - Native vegetation establishment

Turkey River Watershed Authority – Water quality

Education and Outreach

Public support is an important tool in roadside management. Fayette County Conservation IRVM uses the local newspapers and the Mycountyparks.com website to inform the public of our ongoing and upcoming conservation efforts. Seasonal articles and or official notifications are used to let the citizens and visitors to Fayette County know what to expect to see happening in the roadsides.

Inventory and Analysis:

Natural Resources

The periodic inventory of our roadsides is an important tool in planning management strategies for on IRVM program. All of the roadsides in Fayette County were inventoried in 1989 to establish a baseline of existing vegetation. This information gave at least an overall sketch of problems and opportunities within the system. Vegetative stands of brush, traditional grasses, weed problems, and existing prairie areas were recorded. This information has been invaluable to the overall program.

One of the most valuable management tools an inventory can give is information to assist in preserving prairie remnants which may be impacted by road maintenance, construction, or spraying. All parties involved in the Fayette County roadway system agree that native prairie is advantageous to the roadside. Native vegetation gives beauty to the road, erosion control, ground water filtration, and biological weed control. This lead to the development of "A Policy Concerning Removal and Disposal of Soil from County Ditches" (appendix). Under Policy Administrative Rules, section 1 and subsection A the policy states as follows:

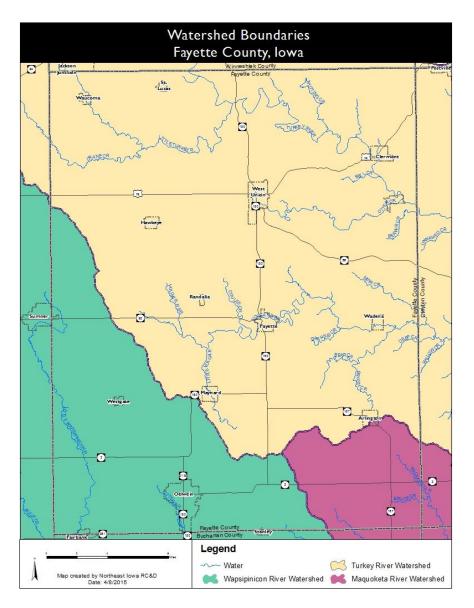
1. Ditches to be considered include but are not limited to the following: Native plants material that may be impacted and off-site land practices that may have contributed to the situation of the ditch.

Having an inventory gives the county the ability to know or suspect that a ditch should be looked at for native prairie species before an activity such as ditch cleaning or other construction activities occur. The IRVM program received grant dollars from the Living Roadway Trust Fund to re-inventory the Fayette County roadsides in 2006. This inventory showed an increase of 25% in native vegetation. This newest inventory is in digital format, but is not mapped. Highlights from that inventory include areas that are near old railroad right-of – ways in and around Donnan, adjacent to remnant prairies that are owned by the County Conservation Board like the Rush and Thelman wildlife areas, and near other easements like the Fritz Prairie. A future inventory would include digital mapping of past and current native vegetation.

Watersheds

Fayette County is drained by the watersheds of the Turkey, Maquoketa, and Wapsipinicon rivers. A recent conservation effort has been emphasized on the Turkey River watershed. This watershed contains 1,083,520 acres and drains

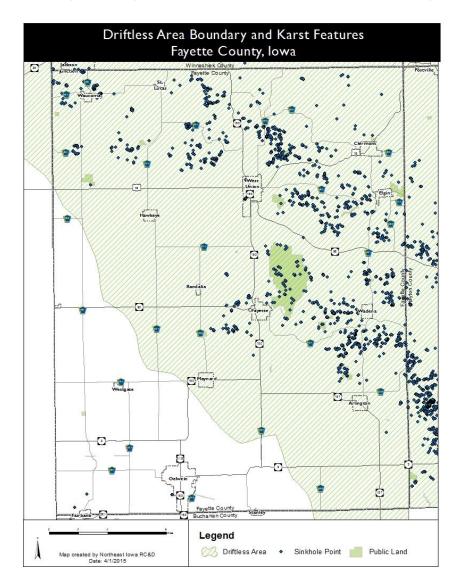
69% of Fayette County. The Turkey River Watershed Authority was established following the 2008 flood which heavily affected the towns of Elgin and Clermont in Fayette County and others in Clayton County. This Authority has placed special emphasis on slowing the movement of water in the sub watershed of Otter creek. This has led to the construction of on-road structures in Fayette county right-of-ways which have and will be seeded with native vegetation to help control erosion and increase filtration in the watershed.



Geomorphological Considerations

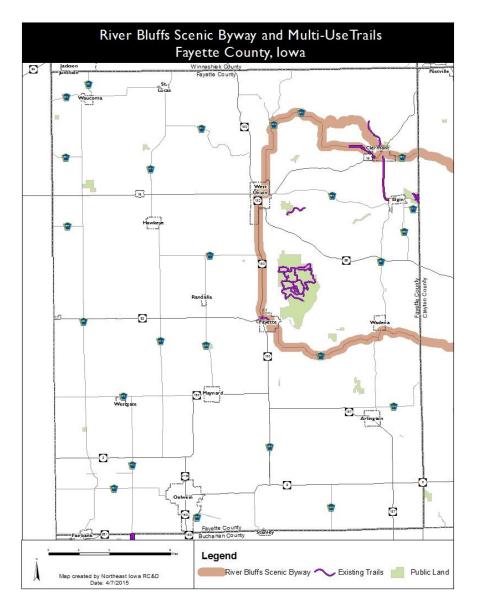
Fayette County is most unique in its geological and topographical design. The southern portion of the county is glaciated and reasonably flat. The land use in this portion of the county is primarily row-crop. The northern portion of the county is unglaciated and heavily timbered. This area is denoted as the Driftless

Area. The land use in this portion of the county is a mix of row-crop production, livestock, and recreation. Both of these land types present unique challenges in regards to brush and weed control, seeding, and maintenance.



Special Road Designations

The River Bluffs Scenic Byway traverses through Fayette County. The landscape surrounding the byway was shaped by water and is known as karst topography. Visible karst features along this drive include limestone bluffs, caves, sinkholes, springs and streams. The distinctive landscape and dynamic visual impact of karst topography has resulted in this route being recognized as one the most scenic state byways in Iowa. The Iowa Byways Sustainability Project will focus on, among other things, roadside vegetation development and maintenance. This task will ensure that byway native vegetation resources are appropriately identified and preserved. This will provide an opportunity for Fayette County Conservation IRVM department to collaborate with Northeast Iowa RC&D in establishing, maintaining, and educating the public about native vegetation.



Program Operations:

Annual Operations

Fayette County Conservation IRVM is assigned a multitude of tasks throughout a year. The program is assigned to complete everything from building and vehicle maintenance, equipment operation, habitat establishment and maintenance, record keeping and everything and anything else that comes along. This requires a variety of skills and a team effort. The following is only a fraction of what might have to be accomplished in a given year.

January

- Brush Cutting
- Weed Commissioner Report to BOS and IDALS
- Weed Commissioner appointment form to IDALS
- Prepare final budget and narrative
- IACCBE Winterfest
- Equipment maintenance/inspections
- Spring tree order

February

- Brush cutting
- Finalize spring seeding plans
- Equipment maintenance/inspections
- Budget hearings

March

- Iowa Invasive Species Conference
- AFIRM meeting
- Order chemical and seed
- Prep burn equipment and begin burning
- Advertise for seasonal staff

April

- Seed outstanding fall projects
- Perform prescribed burns
- Begin tree plantings

May

- Spring Seeding
- Complete tree planting
- Perform bareground applications on guardrails, trails, parking lots etc,
- Begin weed and brush spraying

June

- LRTF grant applications due JUNE 1
- Continue weed spraying
- Mow seedings
- Spring Seeding
- TAP seed report

July

- Weed and brush spraying
- Complete Spring seedings early to mid July
- Mow seedings

August

- Weed and brush spraying
- Attend cowboy poetry convention in Montana(as per old plan written by Steege)
- Stabilization seedings

September

- Special projects
- Roadside conference
- IACCB fall conference
- Begin fall seeding(winter wheat cover crop)
- Brush spraying

October

- Complete brush spraying
- Begin brush cutting after leaves are off
- Seed Harvest
- Winterize and store sprayers

November

- Brush cutting
- Winterize/store seasonal equipment

December

- Brush cutting
- TAP seed report
- Begin budget preperations
- Chemical inventory
- Equipment maintenance/inspections
- Frost seeding when possible

Equipment

The euipment used to operate an IRVM operation is not that much different than what is used to operate a small farming operation. Fayette County Conservation IRVM's equipment inventory includes trucks, tractors, trailers, mowers, seed drills, a hydroseeder, chippers, chainsaws, sprayers, a UTV, and others(appendix). Some of the equipment has been updated recently and others are very delinquent. All of the equipment requires regular maintenance and inpsections which is an expensive and an almost overwhelming task. An equipment replacement schedule is currently being developed for use in the budgeting process. Additions that are being considered that would improve efficiency to the program are a skid loader and dump trailer.

Work Area Types

The program also performs work in a variety of environments.

- Rural adjacent to row-crop
- Rural adjacent to timber
- Rural adjacent to residence
- Urban/Rural

These various environments require staff to use techniques condusive to these areas, and may require special public relations skills. Contracts with adjacent landowners must be negotiated and signed when brush removal, seeding, or other maintenance activities will occur outside the right-of-way (Appendix). Special precautions must be taken when spraying or cutting near a residence.

Vegetation Types for Specific Uses

For simplicity roadside seedings have been broken down into 4 types. These types are for general use and can be adjusted for the specific seeding site.

Incidental Erosion Control Mix

- Used in disturbed areas where erosion control is needed but there will be reoccurring disturbance and planting a native mix would not be practical.
- Includes a mix of Perenial Rye, Annual Rye, Switchgrass, Indiangrass, and Canada Wild Rye with a cover crop

Turf/Lawn Mix

• Used in lawns and yards

Shoulder Mix

- Used on shoulders and intersections or where regular mowing will occur.
- Includes a mix of fescue, perenial rye and clover with a cover crop.

Native Mix

- Used for disturbed areas where continued disturbance is not expected and there is access for maintenance.
- Primarily use the LRTF TAP seed or a CP-25 mix

Methods:

Vegetation Establishment and Maintenance

One of the primary responsibilities of the Fayette County Conservation IRVM department is seeding disturbed areas in the county roadsides. These include ditch cleans, utility installation, landowner encroachment, and construction projects etc. Left alone these areas will be allowed to go through a process referred to as succession. The early species of succession are primarily weedy or invasive species. The objective of IRVM is to accelerate past the early species to more desirable, diverse native species of vegetation. Disturbed sites must be evaluated for a suitable seed mix and planting method based on the time of year and weather. The preferred seeding mix for our roadsides is native grasses and forbes. These were our native flora and should be restored when and where feasible. One of the primary concerns during vegetation establishment and maintenance shall be erosion.

I. Hydroseeding

Hydroseeding is primarily used in areas of bare ground where slopes are to steep or soils are too wet to operate other equipment. A single pass method is usually used applying 1,000 lbs/acre on fairly level areas and 1,500 lbs/acre on slopes. Applications are timed after rainfall when soils are softer when possible.

II. Drill Seeding

Seeding with a native grass drill is prefered in more level areas. Drilling is quicker and cheaper and more successful than hydroseeding. If steep slopes are a concern straw is blown over the seeded area and crimped into the ground.

III. Broadcast and Hand Seeding

When areas are difficult to access with a drill, seed is broadcast on to the site. The site must be worked prior and the seed is then dragged in or cultipacked.

IV. Establishment Mowing

New seedings are mowed before weeds are allowed to seed during the first growing season. Seedings are evaluated for future mowings dependent on establishment of desired vegetation.

V. Cover and Stabilizer Plantings

Disturbances in the ROW occur often outside of the seeding window of the preferred vegetation and/or on slopes. Cover and stabilizer plantings are used to hold soil while slower growing permanent vegetation gets established. Erosive sites that cannot be immediately seeded to permanent vegetation shall be planted to a stabilizer planting. Cover plantings shall be planted along with permanent seedings to help reduce weeds

Month	Cover planting	Stabilizer planting
March-July	Oats 1-2 bu/acre	NA
Aug-Oct 15th	Oats 1-2 bu/acre	Oats 1 bu/acre
	OR Annual rye	Annual rye 10 lbs/acre
	5-10 lbs/ acre	Sorghum 20 lbs/acre
Oct 15 th -Dec	Winter wheat	Winter wheat
	30 lbs/ acre	60 lbs/acre

Sites seeded to stabilizer planting will be seeded to permanent cover as soon as practical.

VI. Native Seeding Conversions

Many of the ditches in Fayette County are a mono culture of brome grass. This single species does not provide the diversity needed to be good habitat and is susceptable to invasion by weeds. As an opportunity to increase diversity and provide better habitat, Fayette County Conservation IRVM converts some of

these ditches to a native grass and forb mix. The ditch must meet minimal requirements to be considered.

- 1) Terrain of the ditch must be accessible to a native seed drill and mower.
- 2) Ditch must be accessible for prescribed burns
- 3) Seeding must be maintained for 20 years
- 4) West sides of roads are not preferred due to the difficulty having an east wind for burning.

Conversion sites can be recommended by staff or the public. Once a site has been approved it is typically burned in the spring and allowed to green up. It is then sprayed with a non-selective herbicide. Following herbicide application it is seeded with a native seed drill, and signed as a native seed planting. Follow up maintenance of mowing and burning is required for the conversions success.

VII. Mowing

Mowing shall be performed under the Fayette County Right-of-Way Mowing Policy. IRVM staff will mow native plantings to control weeds as needed. Currently there is no policy in place regarding landowners mowing the right-ofway. Future plans are to make contact and educate landowners on the state mowing laws.

VIII. Chemical Control of Noxious Weeds and Invasives

The spray program equipment consists of 2 trucks with 300 gallon tanks equipped with handguns and a UTV with a 60 gallon tank, handgun and 12 foot spray bar. There is not enough manpower or equipment to cover the entire county in one season. Spraying is prioritized as follows:

- 1) Sight distance complaints(public or county staff)
- 2) General public complaints
- 3) Paved roads and problem areas
- 4) Gravel roads

Staff shall attempt to spray the south half of the county in odd years and the north half in even years. Due to the unique geomorphological structure of Fayette County on windy days it is possible to find isolated areas in the hilly northern portion of the county where staff can spray outside of the normal priority area.

As agriculture and land use practices change so do our challenges. Round-Up ready crops have caused increases in overspray in to ROW areas, creating dead zones. These areas are occupied be pioneering weed species like giant ragweed. Although ragweed is not a primary noxious weed and it is not feasible to control it, some control is necessary in areas where snow drifting or sight distance

issues could be a problem. Another expanding weed is japanese bamboo. IRVM staff has identified several patches and will continue to make a serious effort to control its expansion.

Staff will continue to attend meetings and work shops to stay updated on the latest technology in chemical control of weeds, and invasive species that are introduced into Fayette County.

IX. Bare Ground Treatment

For reasons of public safety and aesthetics certain areas of the roadside must remain vegetatively baren. Guardrails, bridge abutments, shoulders and parking lots are some of these areas. During May or early June these areas are treated with a combination of non selective herbicide, preemergent herbicide, and or a soil sterilant.

X. Tree and Brush Control

Tree and brush control has been and likely always will be the most challenging problem for Fayette County Conservation IRVM. Due to the unique geological and topographical features, brush and tree control is seperated into 2 zones. A north zone which is hilly and heavily timbered and a south zone which is primarily row crop. Brush and tree cutting is prioritized as follow:

- 1) Emergencies
 - a. Tree on the road, building etc
 - b. Respond immediately
- 2) Sight Distance
 - a. Tree or brush reduces sight distance at intersection or driveway
 - b. Respond within 24 hours
- 3) Sign obstruction
 - a. Tree or brush obscures sign
 - b. Respond within 24 hours
- 4) Complaint
 - a. Not any of above
 - b. Branches hitting combine, causing drainage issue, etc
 - c. Work into schedule as soon as possible
- 5) Regular brush and tree cutting
 - a. Cut all brush and trees in ROW
 - b. Paved roads are highest priority
 - c. Performed on a rotation of townships Oct. to March

Regular brush and tree cutting involves cooperation between Fayette County Secondary Roads Department and IRVM. The Roadside Manger is in charge of brush and tree cutting operations and coordinates with the road superintendent. Brush and tree cutting operations begin in the southern portion of the county in October. Townships are selected in a rotation based on severity of brush and tree infestation. Crews of 4-8 cut areas with light trees and brush utilizing chainsaws, a chipper, and hauling chips away in a dumptruck. In areas of heavy brush and trees crews use chainsaws, and brush is loaded in trucks or piled with an excavator. Piles are burned on site when appropriate. If large trees cut during this operation the Fayette County Road Department Log Disposal Policy is followed (appendix). If it is in the best interest of Fayette County that trees or brush be cut on private property a written agreement must be signed with the landowner prior to work being performed (appendix). When snow accumulation in the R.O.W. makes tree and brush cutting impractical crews move to the northern portion of the county where areas are protected by timber and snow drifting is reduced.

Tree and brush spraying is one of the highest priorities for IRVM. There are many variables that effect the success of the tree and brush spraying program. This operation is heavily dependent on weather. Wind, rainfall, and temperature make everyday a challenge. Tree and brush spraying occurs from May to October and is prioritized similar to cutting. Townships that are sprayed for trees and brush are NOT cut or mowed that year allowing time for chemicals to completely kill the trees and brush. Townships where cutting operations occurred SHALL BE sprayed 2 years later to control resprouts. Once follow up spraying on the townships has been completed additional townships will be sprayed on a rotation.

XI. Prescribed Burning

Prescribed burns are a vital tool in establishing native vegetation. Fayette County Conservation IRVM performs burns on roadsides containing native vegetation, county conservation areas, and areas which conservation holds easement or management agreements. Burns are performed following the Policies and Procedures on Burning(appendix). Areas to be burned are evaluated the fall prior to the burn. A rotation of 3-5 years is used. A burn plan is written for each individual burn and a map is created each year to log the burns.

XII. Erosion Control

Erosion control is a primary concern for Fayette County during all roadside operations. Erosion control measures such as hydomulch, cover and stabilizer plantings, straw mulch etc were covered in seeding operations. In addition, when steep slopes are present and these options seem innsufficient, rolled erosion control products are installed. Water check dams are also installed in roadsides. Mulch tubes are not currently in use, but are being considered as a future tool in erosion control.

Material Procurement:

Fayette County Conservation has a purchase policy requiring purchases to be made from vendors located in Fayette County whenever possible. IRVM follows this policy.

I. Seed

The primary source of native grass and forb seed is through LRTF TAP seed program. Supplements to this seed are purchased from Iowa Pheasants Forever, one of the IRVM partners. Seed for other roadside mixes is purchased from Hall Roberts, a local seed distributor. Seed storage consists of an 8 ft by 16 ft room inside the roadside cold storage shed. It is constructed of steel siding and insulated. It is not climate controlled.

II. Chemicals

The current budget has \$20,000 for chemicals. Bids are taken from several vendors (Van Diest, CPS, Vegetation Management Supply, Viafield, and AgVantage), and purchases are made 3 - 4 times annually. Chemical storage consists of a concrete slab inside the roadside cold storage shed with a warning sign. This location is acceptable to IDALS, but chemicals must be brought into the shop to prevent freezing in the winter.

III. Erosion Control Materials

Hydro mulch is purchased by the semi load when supplies are depleted. No local distributor is available and bids are sent out to 3 vendors. Cooperation with the county recycling center allows IRVM to store excess inventory at their location.

Conclusion:

The Fayette County Conservation IRVM program was established in 1989 to manage the roadsides of Fayette County. For over 25 years the program has used the latest IRVM methods to economically maintain and diversify roadside vegetation. Using this plan as a guideline we will continue to increase the efficiency and productivity of the IRVM program as it affects all modes of transportation.

Statement of Support:

The Fayette County Board of Supervisors, the Fayette County Engineer, the Fayette County Conservation Board and the Fayette County Conservation Roadside Department realize the benefits of Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management. We realize the economic and biological benefits of IRVM and hereby agree to manage Fayette County roadsides according to the provisions described in this management plan.

Fayette County Board of Supervisors

By Jeannie Jellen Date: 5/18/15

Jeanine Tellin, Chair

Fayette County Engineer By:

Alan Miller, Engineer

Fayette County Conservation Board

By: Deb Dessel

Date: 5/19/15

_____ Date: 5/18/15

Deb Dessel, Chair

Fayette County Conservation Roadside Department

_____ Date: 5/18/15 By: Black W Ba

Blake Gamm, Roadside Manager

FY 2015/2016 Roadside Management Budget Narrative

100 Salary-Regular Employees

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
111200	115400	111200	0%

The re-estimate is due to the roadside manager retiring and a pay out of accrued vacation hours. There was only a one week gap between the retirement and starting of the new roadside manager. There are 3 regular employees included in this line item, roadside manager and 2 assistants. Budgeted at 0% increase due to the reduced salary of the new manager. The roadside manager's salary was estimated at a 2% increase. The assistant's salaries are set under union contract and also estimated at a 2% increase.

101 Wages-Temporary part-time employees

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
15500	15500	15500	0%

This line funds seasonal employees primarily for noxious weed spraying, and brush cutting. Budgeted at 0% increase

110 FICA

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
9700	10025	9700	0%

The re-estimate is due to roadside manager retirement pay out. Budgeted at 0% increase

111 IPERS

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
11400	11700	11400	0%

The re-estimate is due to roadside manager retirement pay out. Budgeted at 0% increase

113 Employee Insurance

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
27000	27000	32400	+20%

Budgeted an estimated 20% increase in insurance premiums. This amount may be effected by union contract negotiations.

118 Employee Life Insurance

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
250	250	250	0%

Employee life insurance has been holding steady. Budgeted 0% increase.

202 Chemicals and Herbicides

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
17000	20000	20000	+18%

Re-estimate is due to increasing pressure to spray and treat cut brush. Moved \$3000 from 203 Fertilizer and Seed. Budgeted 18% increase to cover re-estimate for FY 2015/2016

203 Fertilizer and Seed

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
7000	4000	7000	0%

Re-estimate reflects \$3000 moved to 202 Chemicals and Herbicides. Budgeted 0% increase

250 Fuels

14000 14000 0%	2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
11000 11000	14000	14000	14000	0%

Fuel prices have been steady or falling. Budgeted 0% increase

251 Lubricants

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
700	700	700	0%

Budgeted 0% increase

251 Tires and Tubes

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
1200	1200	1200	0%

Roadside department has many pieces of mobile equipment, and tire prices are high. Budgeted at 0% increase and hoping to get lucky

254 Minor Motor Vehicle Parts

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
500	500	500	0%

Planning to keep vehicle costs down by doing more repairs in house. Budgeted at 0 % increase.

265 Supplies

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
7500	6500	7500	0%

Re-estimate is applied to roadside manager retirement pay out. This line is a catch all and is budgeted at 0% increase.

290 Minor Equipment and Hand Tools

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
500	500	500	0%

This line is used to replace or acquire new tools. Budgeted at 0% increase

293 Safety and Protective Supplies

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
700	1000	1000	+43%

Re-estimate is due to new employee safety gear. Safety gear requirements for 3 regular employees and several seasonal employees are NOT optional. Budgeted 43% increase to cover increasing requirements

294 Wearing Apparel and Uniform

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
900	900	900	0%

Amount is set by union contract and State of Iowa code. Budgeted at 0% increase, \$300 per employee

373 Public Education

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
200	200	200	0%

Line is for the occasional public program supplies. Budgeted at 0% increase

400 Official Publications

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
100	150	150	50%

Re-estimate due to roadside manager position advertisement. Newspaper ads and notices are increasing. Some notices are required by law. Budgeted at 50% increase

413 Employee Mileage and Subsistence

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
700	700	700	0%

Line is used for employee travel to conferences and continuing education. Budgeted at 0% increase

414 Telephone and Internet Service

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
0	163	200	NA

Re-estimate is due to the addition of the tablet used for work order tracking. Roadside plans to continue using the tablet and has added this line item

422 Education and Training

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
600	930	600	0%

Re-estimate is due to hosting/attending state wide roadside conference.

424 Labor Relations

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
2200	2200	2200	0%

Fee charged by the county's union contract negotiator. Budgeted at 0% increase

428 Medical and Health Services

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
100	100	100	0%

Used for new employee physicals, etc.

430 Natural Gas, LP Gas

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
1000	1000	1000	0%

Line used to heat roadside building. Budgeted at 0% increase

431 Electric Light and Power

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
700	700	700	0%

Electricity for roadside building.

440 Motor Vehicle Repair/Maintenance

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
5000	5000	5000	0%

This category funds mobile equipment repair and maintenance. Equipment must be inspected annually and maintained in a safe working condition. We intend to keep costs down by doing as much repair and maintenance in house or with secondary roads assistance as possible.

443 Operating and Construction Equipment

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
15000	7800	15000	0%

Re-estimate is due to roadside manager retirement pay out. 0% increase is an attempt to do more with the same. Equipment is in good shape, but the truck fleet is aging more quickly than it can be replaced/upgraded.

460 Tort Liability Insurance

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
2100	2212	2225	+6%

Re-estimate is to cover actual cost of insurance. 6% increase next year to cover increasing costs.

462 Real Property Insurance

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
700	151	200	-29%

Re-estimate is to cover actual cost of insurance. 29% decrease in budget is assuming premium stays reasonably the same.

463 Equipment Insurance

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
7500	7302	7500	0%

Re-estimate is to cover actual cost of insurance. 0% increase is assuming no change in premiums.

464 Workmen's Comp Insurance

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
7300	8588	9000	+23%

Re-estimate is to cover actual premium. 23% increase is to cover expected rising cost of premium.

498 Testing and Inspection

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
100	100	100	0%

Costs for inspecting mobile equipment as required by conservation board policy. Some are included is repair bills and covered by 440.

610 Buildings

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
1500	1000	1500	0%

Funding for minor building maintenance and improvements. Re-estimate is due to retiring roadside manager pay out.

637 Shop Equipment

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
200	200	200	0%

Small category for buying or replacing equipment for use in the roadside building

Totals

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
270050	263171	280325	+4%

Re-estimate is due to lower than expected revenues. Expected grants were not received. 2015/2016 increase is primarily due to an expected increase in health care and other insurance premiums.

Revenue Summary

294 Roadside Grant Reimbursement

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
7000	0	5000	-29%

Re-estimate is due to no grants received. Roadside department expects to apply for LRTF grants for a Truax hand seeder, 2 leaf blowers for prescribed burning, and a tree planter FY2015/2016

298 Fuel Tax Refund

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
1500	900	900	-40%

Re-estimate is due to decreased fuel use. Expect little change next year

290 Sale of Wood Chips

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
3500	13000	4000	+14%

Re-estimate is due to FEMA flood money and CRP contract drilling.

295 Misc

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
2000	100	100	-95%

Estimated revenue was deposited into 290 Sale of Wood Chips

Revenue Totals

2014/2015 original	Re-estimate	2015/2016 Budget	Percent +/-
14000	14000	10000	-29%

Expect decreased grant revenue

Budget Summary

FY 2015/2016 budget of \$280,325 less the expected revenue of \$10,000 is a total tax asking of \$270,325. This is a 5% increase from FY 2014/2015 tax asking of \$256,050. Most of the increase is due to increased insurance costs.

Fayette County Right-of-Way Mowing Policy

Fayette County Board of Supervisors adopts by resolution the following mowing policy for all county road rights-of-way:

Definitions:

Shoulder mowing refers to making a one-mower width pass along the side of a road with a maximum cutting width of fifteen feet.

Off-road mowing refers to any other mowing that is done in a ditch or right-of-way.

The following rules will apply:

- 1. Shoulder mowing will be done periodically throughout the year to prevent sight distance problems on roads, residential driveways, and field driveways. The time and frequency will be determined by the County Engineer and Secondary Road employees.
- 2. Off-road mowing will be allowed on the entire right-of-way of 20% of the blacktop roads on a five-year rotational basis. No off-road mowing will commence until after July 4 of each year and will cease September 1 of each year. The area to be mowed will be agreed upon mutually by Secondary Roads and Roadside Management. No off-road mowing of any kind will be allowed where native or planted prairie vegetation is present and marked by Roadside Management signs.
- 3. Any other mowing to be done for reasons of brush control, snow concerns, weed problems, or any other reason for mowing will be agreed upon mutually by Secondary Roads and Roadside Management.

Fayette County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management

Policies and Procedures on Burning

Disclaimer: These rules apply to all prescribed fire projects conducted by Fayette County Roadsides. These are minimum standards for every event. Realize that adjustments may need to be made in relation to size, weather conditions, and other factors that may crop up before or during a prescribed fire event.

- 1. A map of the area to be burned needs to be on file and available on site before ignition takes place.
- 2. A weather report from NOAA LaCrosse for Fayette County will be printed each proposed burn day and kept in the burn notebook.
- Every event will be evaluated for the best wind direction, speed, and other conditions to achieve maximum success and safety. The "Prescribed Burn Checklist" will be filled out to make sure everything is in order for a prescribed fire event.
- 4. For every burn, a backfire will be used to establish a minimum 30 feet of "blackline" before any flank, head, or strip-head fire may be lit.
- 5. Before the ignition sequence begins, a small test burn will help determine fire and smoke behaviour, and whether the burn will continue. This test burn will be done at the point of ignition for the backfire. Unfavorable conditions will cancel the burn, and the test burn will be extinguished.
- 6. There will be one Burn Boss whose decision will be final as to conducting or continuing, or extinguishing any fire event. The Burn Boss will discuss the proposed fire sequence, pointing out potential hazards and areas to protect or other concerns relevant to the burn event. He will coordinate with the crew members to achieve the best success with the utmost safety in mind.
- 7. NO ONE will cross or attempt to cross, an active fire line.
- 8. Crew members should be aware of conditions around them, and report concerns or difficulties to the Burn Boss. Special care must be given to the possibility of "flash-overs" behind the burn line.
- 9. When a safe "black line" has been established and conditions are right, the Burn Boss can signal a flank or head fire to be ignited.
- 10.When the prescribed fire event has been completed, the Burn Boss and/or crew members will check for "smokers," and hot spots in the burned area. All traces of fire will be extinguished before the crew leaves the site. The Burn Boss will complete the "Post Burn Evaluation," receiving input from crew members as needed. This record will remain in the burn notebook, and a copy will be sent to the landowner along with the corresponding billing.
- 11. Every effort will be made to complete the prescribed fire plans scheduled, but no guarantee can be made due to weather fluctuations.

Fayette County Road Department Log Disposal Policy

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for handling and disposal of logs in the secondary road right of way (ROW).

During road clearing operations the Fayette County Road Department (FCRD) encounters brush and trees, including large trees, in the ROW. Additionally, the FCRD negotiates with local landowners for tree felling permission when trees on the private side of the ROW fence could fall onto the roadway, creating a safety hazard to the traveling public. Large trees sometimes contain logs of some value, and a suitable, uniform method of disposing of such is required. Two basic scenarios exist in these operations and each has guidelines tailored to the situation, with subcategories under the basic scenario.

- 1) Large Trees in the ROW:
 - a. Logs will cut out and hauled to central location near the project site(s). FCRD will cut logs out and haul to central location near the project site(s) and sell log pile(s) to interested logger or other individuals at a later date through publicly advertised sealed bid or auction. Documentation of ownership will be provided by County Engineer's Office.
 - b. If landowner wants the tops for firewood, tops are hauled onto landowner property. FCRD assumes no cleanup responsibility for pile.
 - c. If landowner does not want the tops for firewood, they will be hauled to a central location for further disposal. County Conservation Department will have access to tops pile for firewood cutting in a timely manner prior to disposal.
- 2) Large Trees outside the ROW
 - a. If landowner wants the logs: Landowner to provide location to pile logs off ROW. FCRD assumes no cleanup responsibility for pile. Tops handled same as above scenario.
 - b. If landowner does not want the logs: Log disposal will be same as part 1a. Tops handled same as above scenario.
 - c. Fayette County Road Department maintenance foremen will write contracts with the landowners specifying the details of tree cutting and log disposal.

Adopted 22 oct 07

A Policy Concerning the Removal and Disposal of Soil from County Roadside Ditches

Statement of Policy

It shall be the policy of Fayette County to remove soil and other matter from the ditches along the Secondary Road system as required to maintain the roads and provide adequate drainage.

Implementation of Policy

Soil in the county roadside ditches shall be removed and disposed of according to the following criteria:

- 1. The County Engineer shall determine which ditches are to be cleaned and to what extent (Iowa Code Section 309.67: The county board of supervisors is charged with the duty of establishing policies and providing adequate funds to properly maintain the secondary road system. The county engineer, pursuant to section 309.21 and board policy, shall adopt such methods and recommend such personnel and equipment necessary to maintain continuously, in the best condition practicable, the entire mileage of said system. Section 309.21: All construction and maintenance work shall be performed under the direct and immediate supervision of the county engineer who shall be deemed responsible for the efficient, economical and good-faith performance of said work.)
- 2. The County shall have first option for the use of said soil in its maintenance of the Secondary Road system.
- 3. The owner or tenant of land adjoining a roadside ditch shall have second option for the use of said soil.
- 4. The County may enter and operate its equipment on private land for the purpose of maintaining roadside ditches provided permission is granted by the owner or tenant and in conjunction with No. 3 above may deposit said soil directly on that land.
- 5. In the event neither the county nor the adjoining property owner or tenant have use of said soil, the county may provide it to another governmental agency.
- 6. The owner and tenant of land adjoining a roadside ditch may, upon request and in conjunction with No. 1 and 2 above, be permitted to remove soil from said ditch in a manner approved by the Engineer and deposit same on that adjoining land.

Policy Administrative Rules

- 1. Ditches being considered for cleaning may be discussed and looked at with the Roadside Management Division of the Fayette County Conservation Board.
 - A. Things to be considered include but are not limited to the following: Native plant material that may be impacted and off-site land practices that may have contributed to the siltation of the ditch.
- 2. In the case that ditch cleaning is needed and is deemed that the siltation has occurred as a result of adjoining off-site land use practices the following policy will be implemented: Soil from the cleaning will only be returned to the adjoining landowner by agreeing to provide enough right-of-way to grade the slope to a minimum 3:1 (3 horizontal to 1 vertical) slope.
- 3. In the case that ditch cleaning is needed and is deemed not to be the result of adjoining land use practices the following policy will be implemented: The county, provided adequate right-of-way is present, will grade the backslope to a minimum 3:1. If adequate right-of-way is not present, the county will try to negotiate a sufficient amount of right-of-way as to establish a 3:1 backslope.

The reasoning behind these policies include the following:

A. To eliminate the possibility of leaving vertical backslopes which will slump and resilt the ditch, which was just cleaned.

- B. To eliminate the possibility of leaving vertical slopes that will erode off-site onto adjoining private land.
- C. To provide an adequate and proper backslope that can be seeded and vegetation established in an efficient and permanent manner.
- 4. Ditches to be cleaned may be surveyed for drainage and shots taken during the cleaning process to ensure the ditch drains in the manner for which it was designed.
- 5. Ditch cleaning will also be done in coordination with road construction projects that may require fill. Attempts will be made to utilize required ditch cleaning in close proximity to those projects.
- 6. In the case of road projects which require fill, but ditch cleaning fill is not readily available, the conservation and road department will work together to find fill in coordination with close landowners who may want to sell or give up fill in return for establishment of better field layout or conservation type practices.

- 7. In the event that off-site land practices are deemed to be the cause of ditch siltation, ponding or other undesirable problems, the county will pursue solutions in the following manner:
 - A. A team of professionals including NRCS personnel, Roadside manager, and the county engineer's office will attempt to meet with the landowner to encourage conservation practices that will correct or improve the situation.
 - B. If these attempts are not successful or cooperation from the landowner is not adequate, the county may file a soil loss complaint with the Fayette County Soil and water Conservation District in order to initiate a legal investigation as prescribed in section 161A.47 of the Code of Iowa.
- 8. In the event that a landowner or tenant has encroached upon county right-of-way either for agricultural purposes or drainage purposes without permission from the county, the county will pursue correction of the encroachment. These corrections include but are not limited to the following:
 - A. Survey and staking of the right-of-way line.
 - B. Destruction of any crops that may be growing in the right-of-way.
 - C. Letters to the landowner explaining the problem and asking that the encroachment not reoccur.

These Administrative rules are not intended to cover every situation and are subject to change and addition depending on situations that may be unforeseen

This Policy approved this _____ day of August, _____.

Fayette County Board of Supervisors:

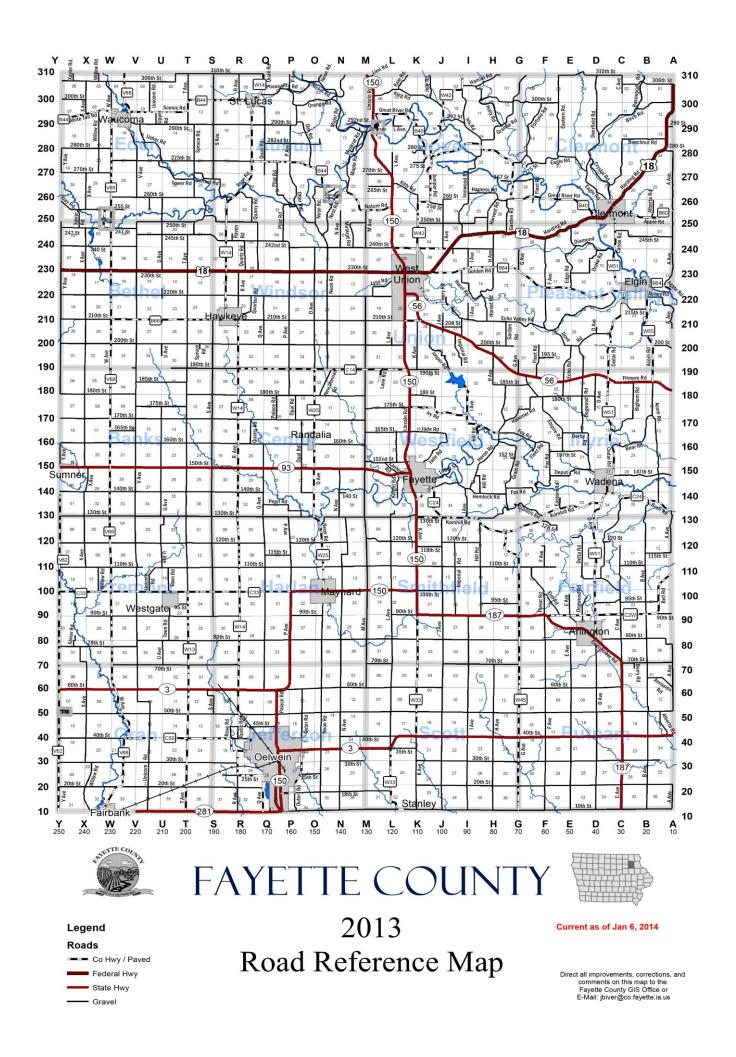
John Bunn, Chairman

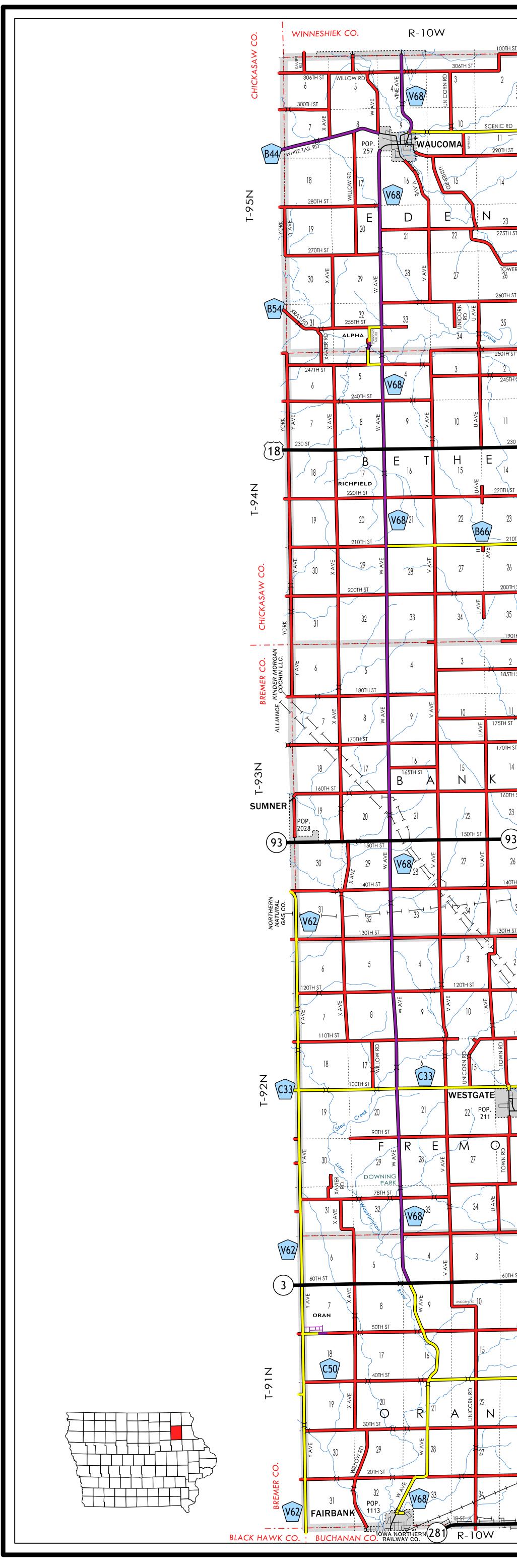
Richard Jensen

Michael Kennedy

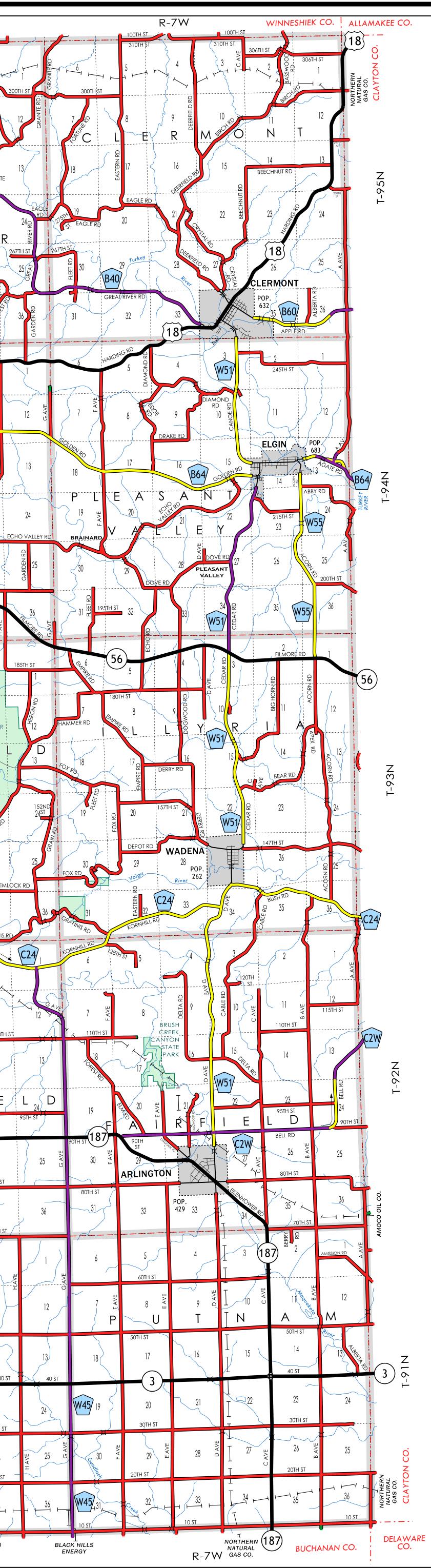
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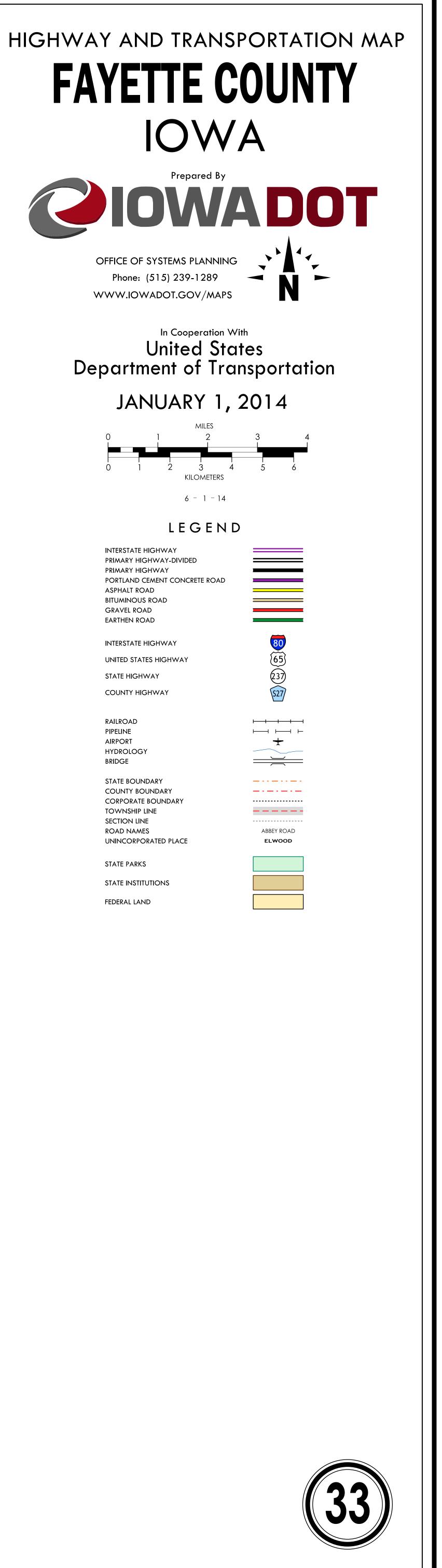
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Fayette County Conservation IRVM Vehicle and Equipment Inventory

December 2014

Year	Make	Model	Hours/ Mileage	Condition	Hrs/Miles per year	Value	Notes
2007	Ford	F150	119500	G	3000	\$6000	Has 300 gal sprayer
2005	Chevy	1500	135693	G	5000	\$4500	
2003	Chevy	1500	138054	G	4000	\$4500	Tommy gate
2001	Chevy	3500	27370	F	3000	\$9,000	Box has severe rust
1999	Ford	F350	128500	F	3000	\$3500	Has 300 gal sprayer
1993	Ford	F150	Na	OS			
2000	Dodge	Dakota	149000	OS	6000	\$1500	
1991	Dodge	250	136578	Р	3000	\$2500	Gooseneck hitch
	John Deere	5410	3177	G	150		
	New Holland	T4.75	227	E	100		
	Case IH	856	7400	F	50		
	White		5621	Р	50		
	Case IH	544	1004	OS			
1998	Vermeer	1250A	1444	F	150		Chipper
	Vermeer	1250	NA	F	150		Older Chipper
	Tuax	10 ft No-Till		F			
	Truax	10 ft Conventional	3444	Р			
	Truax	6 ft No-Till		F			
	Truax	6 ft Conventional		F			
	Truax	6 ft 2 box		G			
	Finn	Hydroseeder	441	G	50		
	Schulte	15 ft mower		G			
	Bushhog	6 ft Mower		E			
	Red Devil	Snowblower		G			
	Warner	Emulsion Sprayer		G			

		Foil Vac		OS			
2001	Kawasaki	Mule 550	13	E			
2013	Frontier	3 pt Blade		E			
2014	Brillion	Cultipacker		E			
2013		Tiller		E			
2014		3 pt Disc		E			
	Keifer	24'Goosenec k Trailer		G	2000		
	Aluma	8' Trailer		E			
	Honda	5000 watt generator		E			
	Honda	2" Trash Pump		E			

Fayette County LRTF Funding History through FY 2015

DOTProjectNumber	Applicant	Award	ł	FiscalYear Description	Туре
90-33-LRTF-101	Fayette County	\$	1,315.00	1991 Roadside burn	County
90-33-LRTF-102	Fayette County	\$	2,250.00	1991 Inventory	County
90-33-LRTF-103	Fayette County	\$	316.00	1991 Wildlife enhancement	County
90-33-LRTF-104	Fayette County	\$	1,573.00	1991 Research; Demonstration	County
90-33-LRTF-105	Fayette County	\$	528.00	1991 Special Equipment; Seed	County
90-00-LRTF-120	Fayette County Conservation Board	\$	1,631.58	1991 Roadside maintenance - Hwy. 24	State
90-00-LRTF-122	Fayette County Conservation Board	\$	2,053.00	1991 Seed	State
90-00-LRTF-303	Fayette County Conservation Board	\$	9,951.14	1993 Seed	State
90-33-LRTF-402	Fayette County	\$	1,720.00	1994 Native seed	County
90-33-LRTF-501	Fayette County	\$	3,395.35	1995 Brush control evaluation	County
90-33-LRTF-502	Fayette County	\$	25,938.90	1995 Special Equipment	County
90-33-LRTF-503	Fayette County	\$	545.40	1995 Vegetation transplant	County
90-00-LRTF-521	Fayette County	\$	1,996.94	1995 Mgmt. of specialized veg. on Hwys. 150 & 18	State
90-00-LRTF-535	Fayette County Conservation Board	\$	3,705.08	1995 Plantings - IDOT shop & hwy.	State
90-00-LRTF-538	Fayette County Conservation Board	\$	141.32	1995 Seed	State
90-33-LRTF-901	Fayette County	\$	15,000.00	1999 Equipment - Hydro mulcher	County
90-33-LRTF-902	Fayette County	\$	5,000.00	1999 Equipment - Tractor	County
90-00-LRTF-921	Fayette County	\$	595.64	1999 Demonstration planting	State
90-33-LRTF-401	Fayette County Conservation Board	\$	14,300.00	2004 Equipment - Invert emulsion sprayer, pumper sprayer, 12-volt sp	ray County
90-33-LRTF-501	Fayette County Roadsides	\$	1,000.00	2005 Pasque flower protection along Hwy. 150	County
90-33-LRTF-502	Fayette County Roadsides	\$	5,500.00	2005 Gateway plantings	County
90-33-LRTF-503	Fayette County Roadsides	\$	3,000.00	2005 Inventory	County
90-33-LRTF-801	Fayette County Roadsides	\$	2,000.00	2008 Inventory	County
90-33-LRTF-802	Fayette County Roadsides	\$	1,300.00	2008 Inventory - Data entry	County
90-33-LRTF-901	Fayette County Roadsides	\$	1,000.00	2009 Equipment - Media	County
90-33-LRTF-902	Fayette County Roadsides	\$	6,435.50	2009 Equipment - Seed drill	County
90-33-LRTF-301	Fayette County Roads	\$	300.00	2013 Cooperative planting with Clayton County	County
90-33-LRTF-302	Fayette County Roads	\$	1,800.00	2013 Seasonal labor	County
90-33-LRTF-303	Fayette County Roads	\$	7,500.00	2013 Equipment - Front-wheel assist and roll-over structure	County
90-33-LR14-(307)	Fayette County Roadsides	\$	3,025.00	2014 Equipment - Sprayer and pump	County
			10101005		

Total LRTF Funding Awarded FY1990 - FY2015 \$ 124,816.85