

**Department of Agriculture, Plant Protection and Weed Control
Notice of Hearing on Proposed
Administrative Regulations (Revised), Statewide**

(Editor's Note: The following notice of hearing on proposed administrative regulations, which was originally published in the January 29, 2026, Kansas Register, is being republished to clarify the regulation summary for K.A.R. 4-8-44. Canada thistle was on the Category B noxious weeds list before the updates, and it will remain on this list if the proposed amendments are adopted.)

A public hearing will be conducted at 1:00 p.m. on April 7, 2026, in the 1st floor meeting room 124 of the Kansas Department of Agriculture, 1320 Research Park Dr., Manhattan, Kansas, to consider the adoption of the proposed regulations. The public hearing will be conducted in person and via video conferencing system. Members of the public who wish to attend the public hearing virtually must pre-register at

<https://kansasag.zoom.us/j/87390624852?pwd=ab8KmR9F4qDoTmZRe57cyrbwiD5aKc.1&jst=1>.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

This 60-day notice of the public hearing shall constitute a public comment period for the purpose of receiving written public comments regarding the proposed regulations. All interested parties may submit written comments prior to the hearing by mail or email to Kansas Department of Agriculture, Attn: Ronda Hutton, 1320 Research Park Dr., Manhattan, Kansas 66502, or ronda.hutton@ks.gov. Comments may also be made via the Kansas Department of Agriculture's website at <https://www.agriculture.ks.gov/public-resources/public-comments>.

All interested parties will also be given a reasonable opportunity to orally present their views regarding the adoption of the proposed regulations during the hearing. To give all parties an opportunity to present their views, it may be necessary to request that each participant limit any oral presentation to five minutes. These regulations are proposed for adoption on a permanent basis.

A summary of each proposed regulation, their economic impact, and their environmental benefit follows:

K.A.R. 4-8-27 has been amended to consolidate all control methods for the Noxious Weed Act into one regulation to enhance clarity and ease of reference for stakeholders.

K.A.R. 4-8-28 through K.A.R. 4-8-37 and K.A.R. 4-8-40 are proposed for revocation because all control methods are now consolidated into K.A.R. 4-8-27 rather than spread across multiple regulations.

K.A.R. 4-8-44 is the designation list of noxious weeds. It is amended to remove pignut and add spotted knapweed and diffuse knapweed to Category A noxious weeds. It also adds common teasel and cutleaf teasel to Category B noxious weeds and Amur honeysuckle to

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Category C noxious weeds.

The proposed regulations are not mandated by federal law, nor do they exceed the requirements of any federal law because there are no federal programs available.

Some businesses, local county governments and private landowners will be affected if they own or manage large parcels of land in the eastern and central portions of the state since they will be required to control the proposed new noxious weeds.

The removal of noxious and invasive weed infestations from real property has been shown to greatly increase the ecological value of the land through increased biodiversity, habitat availability and decreased competition for resources and allowing native and desirable species to flourish. The economic benefits are reflected in increased property values as well as increased yield for crops. Not all landowners will bear the cost, and prudent landowners will already be engaged in noxious weed management. Landowners may also benefit from participating in the pesticide cost-share program in their county to help manage noxious weeds.

Individual landowners may be impacted by costs associated with the purchase of herbicides or professional pest control companies to manage noxious weeds on private property. Small employers and the public are unlikely to be affected, unless they own or supervise land infested with the proposed noxious weeds. Effective weed management is expected to provide economic benefits to the public and landowners, such as increased crop and grass yield, reducing long-term management costs after weed populations are controlled or eradicated, and increased property values of land previously degraded by noxious weed infestation.

Most of the implementation and compliance costs will affect local county governments and private landowners. The extent of some noxious weed infestations is difficult to calculate. An estimation of existing infestations was made by determining the extent of the species known habitats. Common teasel and cutleaf teasel primarily infest highway rights-of-way, with approximately 10% of major roadway rights-of-way in affected counties known to be infested, which equates to around 12,841 acres for each species, based on data provided by the Kansas Department of Transportation. Amur honeysuckle, widely planted as an ornamental shrub in residential yards, is predominantly found near metropolitan areas, but may also be found along streams and wooded rural areas. The current infestation for Amur honeysuckle was calculated to be 0.5% of the acreage of the metropolitan counties, or 42,131 acres. This data came from the Institute for Policy & Social Research at The University of Kansas. The infestation of spotted knapweed and diffuse knapweed is not as pervasive; however, it is a noxious weed that is at a stage where efforts could eradicate the species. The 60 acres of spotted knapweed is a known number determined by survey, and there have been no reports of diffuse knapweed in Kansas at this time.

Based on county weed departments in annual reports, it was estimated that 11% of the spotted knapweed, and 10% of the teasels and honeysuckle would be treated annually based on the weed category they are listed under. The cost per acre of control of all the proposed new noxious weeds was calculated using the cost of the herbicides available for controlling these

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weeds, and the rates of application provided by the labels of those herbicides. A 25% wholesale discount on pesticides was included as that is commonly offered to counties by the chemical distributors. The costs of controlling each proposed new noxious weed species vary due to the various types of herbicide prices and control methods, which can be tailored to the specific needs and budgets of counties or landowners.

To minimize the cost and impact of the proposed regulations, Amur honeysuckle was proposed as a Category B noxious weed, which requires more intensive containment efforts. Following feedback from the counties regarding the practical challenges of managing Amur honeysuckle, the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) revised its initial proposal and downgraded Amur honeysuckle to Category C, which imposes less stringent management and containment requirements. This adjustment reduces the regulatory and financial burden on counties and landowners. Further, KDA provides a range of options in control methods for managing designated species. These options include mechanical, chemical, and biological control methods. This enables counties and private landowners to select methods that align with their budgetary constraints, equipment availability, and environmental considerations. This flexibility minimizes compliance costs by allowing stakeholders to choose cost-effective methods suited to their specific circumstances.

An estimated total annual implementation and compliance costs reasonably expected to be incurred by or passed along to affected businesses, local governments, or individuals is \$7,489.93. Because the cost of control and management of noxious weeds lies with the counties and landowners, there should be little to no changes in state revenues or expenditures.

The proposed regulations will increase the costs and impose additional responsibilities on the counties with added responsibilities for managing additional regulated plant species. KDA hosted a stakeholder meeting to discuss the proposed regulation changes on December 12, 2024. Many stakeholders were in attendance to provide their feedback, including weed management personnel from Butler, Douglas, Riley, Shawnee, and Sedgwick counties, as well as representatives from Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Farmers Union, The Nature Conservancy, Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association, Audubon of Kansas, Kansas Association of Counties, and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. On April 16, 2025, KDA sent letters to the League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM), Kansas Association of Counties (KAC), and the Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB) requesting input as to the economic impact of the proposed rules and regulations on those entities. KDA received a response from the KASB, informing KDA that the proposed regulations would not have any economic impact on KASB. KDA did not receive any response from LKM or KAC.

Any individual with a disability may request accommodation to participate in the public hearing and may request the proposed regulations, their economic impact statement, and their environmental benefit statement in an accessible format. Requests for accommodation should be made at least five business days in advance of the hearing by contacting Ronda Hutton, via telephone at (785) 564-6715 or via fax at (785) 564-6777. Handicapped parking and accessibility for individuals with disabilities is located on the west side of the building at 1320

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Research Park Dr., Manhattan.

Copies of the regulations, their economic impact statement, and their environmental benefit statement may be obtained by contacting the Department via mail at Kansas Department of Agriculture, Attn: Ronda Hutton, 1320 Research Park Dr., Manhattan, KS 66502, via telephone at (785) 564-6715, or via the Department's website at agriculture.ks.gov.

Michael M. Beam
Secretary
Kansas Department of Agriculture

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K.A.R. 4-8-27. Adoption of control methods for ~~musk thistle~~ noxious weeds. The Kansas department of agriculture's official control methods for noxious weeds are hereby adopted by reference and shall apply to the control of noxious weeds in Kansas, as follows:

(a) The Kansas department of agriculture's document titled "official control methods for musk thistle," dated ~~May 20, 2020~~ April 2025, is hereby adopted by reference and shall apply to the control of musk thistle in Kansas. (b) If a county, city, township, or district weed supervisor determines that musk thistles in the weed supervisor's county, city, township, or district have reached a stage of maturity that will render the weed control methods currently being used in that county, city, township, or district ineffective, the weed supervisor may give notice requiring the effective control methods to be implemented within 10 business days of the date the notice was issued.

(b) The Kansas department of agriculture's document titled "official control methods for Johnsongrass," dated April 2025, is hereby adopted by reference and shall apply to the control of Johnsongrass in Kansas.

(c) The Kansas department of agriculture's document titled "official control methods for field bindweed," dated April 2025, is hereby adopted by reference and shall apply to the control of field bindweed in Kansas.

(d) The Kansas department of agriculture's document titled "official control methods for hoary cress," dated April 2025, is hereby adopted by reference and shall apply to the control of hoary cress in Kansas.

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(e) The Kansas department of agriculture's document titled "official control methods for Russian knapweed," dated April 2025, is hereby adopted by reference and shall apply to the control of Russian knapweed in Kansas.

(f) The Kansas department of agriculture's document titled "official control methods for bur ragweed," dated April 2025, is hereby adopted by reference and shall apply to the control of bur ragweed in Kansas.

(g) The Kansas department of agriculture's document titled "official control methods for Canada thistle," dated April 2025, is hereby adopted by reference and shall apply to the control of Canada thistle in Kansas.

(h) The Kansas department of agriculture's document titled "official control methods for leafy spurge," dated April 2025, is hereby adopted by reference and shall apply to the control of leafy spurge in Kansas.

(i) The Kansas department of agriculture's document titled "official control methods for quackgrass," dated April 2025, is hereby adopted by reference and shall apply to the control of quackgrass in Kansas.

(j) The Kansas department of agriculture's document titled "official control methods for kudzu," dated April 2025, is hereby adopted by reference and shall apply to the control of kudzu in Kansas.

(k) The Kansas department of agriculture's document titled "official control methods for sericea lespedeza," dated April 2025, is hereby adopted by reference and shall apply to the control of sericea lespedeza in Kansas.

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(l) The Kansas department of agriculture's document titled "official control methods for spotted knapweed," April 2025, is hereby adopted by reference and shall apply to the control of spotted knapweed in Kansas.

(m) The Kansas department of agriculture's document titled "official control methods for diffuse knapweed," April 2025, is hereby adopted by reference and shall apply to the control of diffuse knapweed in Kansas.

(n) The Kansas department of agriculture's document titled "official control methods for Amur honeysuckle," April 2025, is hereby adopted by reference and shall apply to the control of Amur honeysuckle in Kansas.

(o) The Kansas department of agriculture's document titled "official control methods for common teasel," April 2025, is hereby adopted by reference and shall apply to the control of common teasel in Kansas.

(p) The Kansas department of agriculture's document titled "official control methods for cutleaf teasel," April 2025, is hereby adopted by reference and shall apply to the control of cutleaf teasel in Kansas. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 2019-Supp. 2-1315; effective May 1, 1988; amended Jan. 22, 1990; amended June 1, 1992; amended Oct. 27, 2000; amended Aug. 6, 2004; amended, T-4-5-20-05, May 20, 2005; amended, T-4-3-29-06, March 29, 2006; amended April 27, 2007; amended March 26, 2021; amended P-_____.)

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K.A.R. 4-8-28. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 2-1315; effective May 1, 1988; amended Jan. 25, 1993; amended Sept. 27, 1993; amended Oct. 27, 2000; amended Aug. 6, 2004; amended April 27, 2007; amended March 26, 2021; revoked P-_____.)

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K.A.R. 4-8-29. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 2-1315; effective May 1, 1988; amended Oct. 27, 2000; amended Aug. 6, 2004; amended April 27, 2007; amended March 26, 2021; revoked P-_____.)

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K.A.R. 4-8-30. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 2-1315; effective May 1, 1988; amended Oct. 21, 1991; amended Aug. 6, 2004; amended April 27, 2007; amended March 26, 2021; revoked P-_____.)

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K.A.R. 4-8-31. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 2-1315; effective May 1, 1988; amended Aug. 6, 2004; amended April 27, 2007; amended March 26, 2021; revoked P-_____.)

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K.A.R. 4-8-32. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 2-1315; effective May 1, 1988; amended Sept. 27, 1993; amended Oct. 27, 2000; amended Aug. 6, 2004; amended March 26, 2021; revoked P-_____.)

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K.A.R. 4-8-33. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 2-1315; effective May 1, 1988; amended Jan. 25, 1993; amended Aug. 6, 2004; amended, T-4-3-29-06, March 29, 2006; amended April 27, 2007; amended March 26, 2021; revoked P-_____.)

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K.A.R. 4-8-34. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 2-1315; effective May 1, 1988; amended Oct. 29, 1990; amended Oct. 27, 2000; amended Aug. 6, 2004; amended, T-4-5-20-05, May 20, 2005; amended, T-4-3-29-06, March 29, 2006; amended April 27, 2007; amended March 26, 2021; revoked P-_____.)

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K.A.R. 4-8-35. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 2-1315; effective May 1, 1988; amended Aug. 6, 2004; amended April 27, 2007; amended March 26, 2021; revoked P-_____.)

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K.A.R. 4-8-36. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 2-1315; effective May 1, 1988; amended Aug. 6, 2004; amended March 26, 2021; revoked P-_____.)

K.A.R. 4-8-37. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 2-1315; effective May 1, 1988; amended Aug. 6, 2004; amended March 26, 2021; revoked P-_____.)

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K.A.R. 4-8-40. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 2-1315; effective May 1, 1988; amended Jan. 1, 1989; amended Oct. 29, 1990; amended Oct. 21, 1991; amended Jan. 25, 1993; amended, T-4-5-27-04, May 27, 2004; amended Aug. 6, 2004; amended March 26, 2021; revoked P-_____.)

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K.A.R. 4-8-44. Designation of noxious weeds. (a) Pursuant to K.S.A. 2-1314 and amendments thereto, the weeds designated noxious by the secretary shall be placed in the following categories:

(1) Category A noxious weeds, which are weed species that are generally not found in the state or that are found limited in distribution throughout the state;

(2) category B noxious weeds, which are weed species with discrete distributions throughout the state; and

(3) category C noxious weeds, which are weed species that are well established within the state and known to exist in larger or more extensive populations in the state.

(b) Category A noxious weeds shall be subject to control efforts directed at excluding the noxious weeds from the state or eradicating the population of noxious weeds wherever detected statewide, in order to protect neighboring lands and the state as a whole. Category A noxious weeds shall include the following:

(1) Hoary cress, *Lepidium draba*;

(2) leafy spurge, *Euphorbia virgata*;

(3) quackgrass, *Elymus repens*;

(4) Russian knapweed, *Rhaponticum repens*;

(5) kudzu, *Pueraria montana* variety *lobata*; and

(6) ~~pignut, *Hoffmannseggia glauca*~~; spotted knapweed, *Centaurea stoebe*; and

(7) diffuse knapweed, *Centaurea diffusa*.

(c) Category B noxious weeds shall be subject to control wherever populations have become established within the state and subject to control efforts directed at eradication wherever

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populations are not established. Category B noxious weeds shall include ~~Canada thistle, *Cirsium arvense*~~; the following:

- (1) Canada thistle, *Cirsium arvense*;
- (2) common teasel, *Dipsacus fullonum*; and
- (3) cutleaf teasel, *Dipsacus laciniatus*.

(d) New populations of category C noxious weeds shall be subject to control efforts directed at reducing or eradicating those populations. Known and established populations of category C noxious weeds shall be managed by any approved control method. Category C noxious weeds shall include the following:

- (1) Field bindweed, *Convolvulus arvensis*;
- (2) musk thistle, *Carduus nutans*;
- (3) sericea lespedeza, *Lespedeza cuneata*;
- (4) Johnsongrass, *Sorghum halepense*; and
- (5) bur ragweed, *Ambrosia grayii*; and
- (6) amur honeysuckle, *Lonicera maackii*.

(e) Any county, city, township, or district weed supervisor or any official of another government agency may require the most stringent control measures specified in this regulation for any noxious weed, regardless of the category in which this regulation places that noxious weed, if the county, city, township, or district weed supervisor or government agency official determines that it is necessary to do so based on the results of the survey provided pursuant to K.S.A. 2-1316, and amendments thereto. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 2-1314 and 2-1315; effective March 26, 2021; amended P-_____.)

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Kansas Administrative Regulations Economic Impact Statement (EIS)

Kansas Department of Agriculture
Agency

Ronda Hutton
Agency Contact

785-564-6715
Contact Phone Number

K.A.R. 4-8-27, K.A.R. 4-8-28 through K.A.R. 4-8-37 (Revoked), K.A.R. 4-8-40 (Revoked), K.A.R. 4-8-

44.

K.A.R. Number(s)

☒ Permanent ☐ Temporary

Is/Are the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) mandated by the federal government as a requirement for participating in or implementing a federally subsidized or assisted program?

☐ Yes If yes, continue to fill out the remaining form to be included with the regulation packet submitted in the review process to the Department of Administration and the Attorney General. Budget approval is not required; however, the Division of the Budget will require submission of a copy of the EIS at the end of the review process.

☒ No If no, do the total annual implementation and compliance costs for the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s), calculated from the effective date of the rule(s) and regulation(s), exceed \$1.0 million or more in implementation and compliance costs that are reasonably expected to be incurred by or passed along to businesses, local governmental units and individuals as a result of the proposed rule and regulation over the initial five-year period following adoption of such rule(s) and regulation(s) (as calculated in Section III, F)?

☐ Yes If "Yes," then the agency shall not adopt the rule(s) and regulation(s) until the rule(s) and regulation(s) has been ratified by the Legislature with a bill, unless the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) are: 1) mandated by the federal government as a requirement for participating in or implementing a federally subsidized or assisted program, as described in K.S.A. 77-416(b)(1)(B), and amendments thereto; 2) temporary rule(s) and regulation(s) adopted pursuant to K.S.A. 77-722, and amendments thereto; or 3) rules and regulations adopted pursuant to K.S.A. 2-3710 (Kansas Agricultural Remediation Board). Continue to fill out the remaining EIS form to be included with the regulation packet in the review process to the Department of Administration and the Attorney General. The submitted EIS will be independently analyzed by the Division of the Budget for approval.

☒ No If no, continue to fill out the remaining form to be included with the regulation packet submitted in the review process to the Department of Administration and the Attorney General. The submitted EIS will be analyzed by the Division of the Budget for approval.

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Section I

Analysis, brief description, and cost and benefit quantification of the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s). If the approach chosen by the Kansas agency to address the policy issue is different from that utilized by agencies of contiguous states or of the federal government, the economic impact statement shall include an explanation of why the Kansas agency's rule and regulation differs.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) proposed amendments to the Kansas Administrative Regulations (K.A.R.) under the Noxious Weed Act, K.S.A. 2-1313a *et seq.*, to update the list of designated noxious weeds in Kansas, streamline regulatory structure, revise existing control methods for effective weed management, and add the control methods associated with the weed species being added to the list.

K.A.R. 4-8-27 has been reformatted to consolidate all the control methods for the noxious weeds into one section. Previously, control methods were spread across multiple regulations (K.A.R. 4-8-28 through 4-8-37 and K.A.R. 4-8-40), creating a fragmented and non-sequential structure that hinders accessibility. By combining these into K.A.R. 4-8-27, the KDA aims to enhance clarity and ease of reference for stakeholders. As a result, the following regulations will be revoked, as their content has been incorporated into K.A.R. 4-8-27:

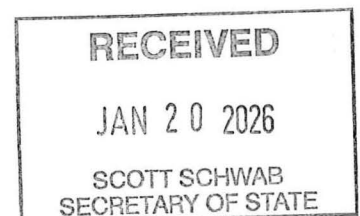
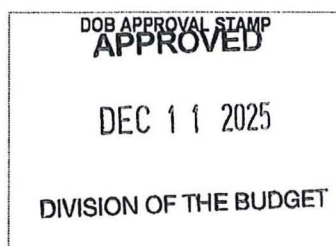
K.A.R. 4-8-28;
K.A.R. 4-8-29;
K.A.R. 4-8-30;
K.A.R. 4-8-31;
K.A.R. 4-8-32;
K.A.R. 4-8-33;
K.A.R. 4-8-34;
K.A.R. 4-8-35;
K.A.R. 4-8-36;
K.A.R. 4-8-37; and
K.A.R. 4-8-40.

This consolidation ensures a cohesive framework, eliminating gaps in regulation numbers for control methods, and simplifying future updates to control methods.

K.A.R. 4-8-44 is the list of designated noxious weeds. The proposed regulations intend to amend this regulation by adding the following weeds to the Noxious Weed list:

- Category A:
 - Spotted knapweed
 - Diffuse knapweed
- Category B:
 - Common teasel
 - Cutleaf teasel
- Category C
 - Amur honeysuckle

The proposed regulation also removes pignut from the Noxious Weed list, as well as the control method associated with pignut.



Neighboring states have included some of these weeds on their noxious weed list, as follows: Missouri has listed common teasel, cutleaf teasel and spotted knapweed; Nebraska has listed diffuse knapweed and spotted knapweed; and Colorado has listed common teasel, cutleaf teasel, diffuse knapweed, and spotted knapweed.

Section II

Explain whether the proposed rule and regulation is mandated by federal law as a requirement for participating in or implementing a federally subsidized or assisted program and whether the proposed rules and regulations exceed the requirements of applicable federal law.

The proposed rules and regulations are not mandated by federal law, and there are no federal programs available. The proposed regulations do not exceed the requirements of any federal law.

Section III

Agency analysis specifically addressing the following:

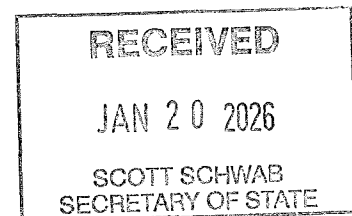
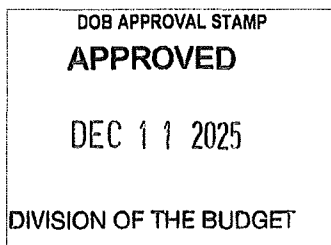
- A. The extent to which the rule(s) and regulation(s) will enhance or restrict business activities and growth;

Most businesses will not be affected by the proposed rules and regulations. Those that will be affected will be required to control the proposed new noxious weeds, which can result in an increase in property values and the possibility of an increase in the abundance of native and desirable species.

- B. The economic effect, including a detailed quantification of implementation and compliance costs, on the specific businesses, sectors, public utility ratepayers, individuals, and local governments that will be affected by the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) and on the state economy as a whole;

It was determined that the majority of the costs of implementation and compliance for the proposed regulations will fall to the county governments and private landowners, with the counties likely taking the majority of the share in the costs.

Although the extent of infestations for some of the proposed noxious weed species are not fully known, an estimation of the existing infestations was made by determining the extent of the species known habitats. Common teasel and cutleaf teasel primarily infest highway rights-of-way, with approximately 10% of major roadway rights-of-way in affected counties known to be infested, which equates to around 12,841 acres for each species, based on data provided by the Kansas Department of Transportation. Amur honeysuckle, widely planted as an ornamental shrub in residential yards, is predominantly found near metropolitan areas, but may also be found along streams and wooded rural areas. The current infestation for Amur honeysuckle was calculated to be 0.5% of the acreage of the metropolitan counties, or 42,131 acres. This data came from the Institute for Policy & Social Research at The University of Kansas. The infestation of spotted knapweed and diffuse knapweed is not as pervasive; however, it is a noxious weed that is at a stage where efforts could eradicate the species. The 60 acres of spotted knapweed is a known number determined by survey, and there have been no reports of diffuse knapweed in Kansas at this time.



Based on county weed departments in annual reports, it was estimated that 11% of the spotted knapweed, and 10% of the teasels and honeysuckle would be treated annually based on the weed category they are listed under. The cost per acre of control of all of the proposed new noxious weeds was calculated using the cost of the herbicides available for controlling these weeds, and the rates of application provided by the labels of those herbicides. A 25% wholesale discount on the pesticides were included as that is commonly offered to counties by the chemical distributors. The costs of controlling each noxious weed species vary due to the various types of herbicide prices and control methods, which can be tailored to the specific needs and budgets of counties or landowners.

The annual cost to control Amur honeysuckle was determined to start at \$7,116.79. For the teasel species, the annual cost of control was determined to start at \$181.05, and the spotted knapweed costs start at \$11.03. Together these costs add up to \$7,489.93 annually.

C. Businesses that would be directly affected by the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s);

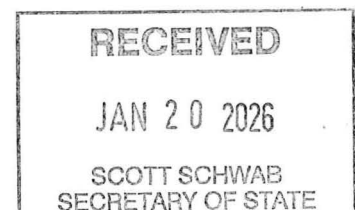
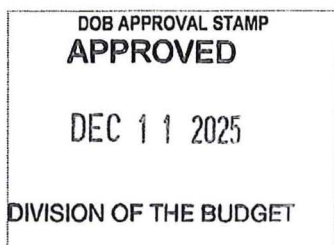
While there is no one specific type of business that will be most directly affected, those businesses that own or manage larger parcels of land, especially in the eastern and central portions of the state will have an increased possibility of having infestations of one or more of these proposed weed species, that they will be required to control.

D. Benefits of the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) compared to the costs;

The removal of noxious and invasive weed infestations from real property has been shown to greatly increase the ecological value of the land through increased biodiversity, habitat availability and decreased competition for resources. The economic benefits are reflected in increased property values when noxious and invasive species are controlled, as well as increased yield for crops. Not all landowners will bear the cost, and prudent landowners will already be engaged in noxious weed management. Landowners may also benefit from participating in the pesticide cost-share program in their county to help manage noxious weeds.

E. Measures taken by the agency to minimize the cost and impact of the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) on business and economic development within the State of Kansas, local government, and individuals;

Initially, Amur honeysuckle was proposed as a Category B noxious weed, which requires more intensive containment efforts. Following feedback from the counties regarding the practical challenges of managing Amur honeysuckle, the KDA revised its initial proposal and downgraded Amur honeysuckle to Category C, which imposes less stringent management and containment requirements. This adjustment reduces the regulatory and financial burden on counties and landowners. Further, KDA provides a range of options in the control methods for managing designated species. These options include mechanical, chemical, and biological control methods. This enables counties and private landowners to select approaches that align with their budgetary constraints, equipment availability, and environmental considerations. This flexibility minimizes compliance costs by allowing stakeholders to chose cost-effective methods suited to their specific circumstances.



F. An estimate of the total annual implementation and compliance costs that are reasonably expected to be incurred by or passed along to businesses, local governments, or individuals. *Note: Do not account for any actual or estimated cost savings that may be realized. Implementation and compliance costs determined shall be those additional costs reasonably expected to be incurred and shall be separately identified for the affected businesses, local governmental units, and individuals.*

Costs to Affected Businesses – \$0

Costs to Local Governmental Units – \$5,991.94

Costs to Individuals – \$1,497.99

Total Annual Costs – \$7,489.93
(sum of above amounts)

Give a detailed statement of the data and methodology used in estimating the above cost estimate.

See above.

- ☐ Yes If the total implementation and compliance costs exceed \$1.0 million or more in implementation and compliance costs over the initial five-year period following adoption of such rule(s) and regulation(s) that are reasonably expected to be incurred by or passed along to businesses, local governmental units and individuals as a result of the proposed rule and regulation, did the agency hold a public hearing to find that the estimated costs have been accurately determined and are necessary for achieving legislative intent? If applicable, document when the public hearing was held, those in attendance, and any pertinent information from the hearing.
- ☐ No
- ☒ Not Applicable

If applicable, click here to enter public hearing information.

Provide an estimate to any changes in aggregate state revenues and expenditures for the implementation of the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s), for both the current fiscal year and next fiscal year.

Since the cost of control and management of noxious weeds lies with the counties and landowners, there should be little to no changes in state revenues or expenditures.

Provide an estimate of any immediate or long-range economic impact of the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) on any individual(s), small employers, and the general public. If no dollar estimate can be given for any individual(s), small employers, and the general public, give specific reasons why no estimate is possible.

Individual landowners may be impacted by this regulation, including costs associated with the purchase of herbicides or professional pest control companies to manage noxious weeds on private property. Small employers and the general public are unlikely to be affected, unless they own or supervise land infested with the proposed noxious weeds. Effective weed management is expected to provide economic benefits to the general public and landowners, such as increased crop and grass yield, reduce long-term management costs after weed populations are controlled or eradicated, and increased property values of land previously degraded by noxious weed infestation.

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- G. If the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) increases or decreases revenues of cities, counties or school districts, or imposes functions or responsibilities on cities, counties or school districts that will increase expenditures or fiscal liability, describe how the state agency consulted with the League of Kansas Municipalities, Kansas Association of Counties, and/or the Kansas Association of School Boards.

The proposed regulations will increase the costs and impose additional responsibilities on the counties with added responsibilities for managing additional regulated plant species. KDA hosted a stakeholder meeting to discuss the proposed regulation changes on December 12, 2024. Many stakeholders were in attendance to provide their feedback, including weed management personnel from Butler County, Douglas County, Riley County, Shawnee County, and Sedgwick County, as well as representatives from Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Farmers Union, The Nature Conservancy, Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association, Audubon of Kansas, Kansas Association of Counties, and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. On April 16, 2025, KDA sent letters to the League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM), Kansas Association of Counties (KAC), and the Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB) requesting input as to the effect of the proposed rules and regulations on those entities. The letters contained a copy of the proposed regulations and stated that the entities could contact KDA if they wished to review the proposed Noxious Weed regulations in full. To date KDA has received a response from the KASB, informing KDA that the proposed regulations would not have any economic impact on KASB. No responses from LKM or KAC have been received.

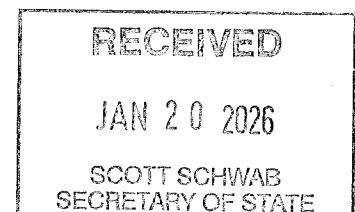
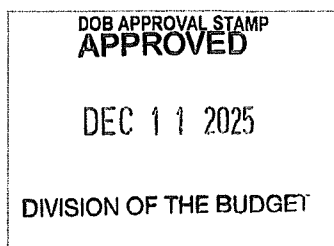
- H. Describe how the agency consulted and solicited information from businesses, business associations, local governmental units, state agencies, or institutions and members of the public that may be affected by the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) or may provide relevant information.

KDA circulated information regarding the proposed updates to counties and other stakeholders. On December 12, 2024, KDA hosted a stakeholder meeting to discuss the proposed regulation changes before finalizing the proposed regulations. Many county personnel were in attendance to provide their feedback, as were several groups and individuals from both the agricultural and natural resources fields. Based on the feedback, KDA revised these regulations before formally submitting the regulations to the Department of Administration.

Section IV

Does the Economic Impact Statement involve any environmental rule(s) and regulation(s)?

- ☒ Yes If yes, complete the remainder of Section IV.
☐ No If no, skip the remainder of Section IV.



- A. Describe the capital and annual costs of compliance with the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s), and the individuals or entities who would bear the costs.

The proposed regulations will increase annual compliance costs for counties and private landowners, primarily due to the need for purchasing additional chemicals to control new weed species, especially for Amur honeysuckle, diffuse knapweed, and spotted knapweed. However, the increase costs for managing both common teasel and cutleaf teasel will be minimal, as existing control measures for other noxious weed species already address both teasel species. Thus, current applications will target multiple species simultaneously, with only a slight increase in areas where teasels are the sole noxious species present. This analysis is similar to the analysis completed above.

- B. Describe the initial and annual costs of implementing and enforcing the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s), including the estimated amount of paperwork, and the state agencies, other governmental agencies, or other individuals who will bear the costs.

The initial and annual costs of implementing and enforcing the proposed regulations will likely increase due to the addition of noxious weed species; however, similar efforts are already being implemented by the counties for existing noxious weeds. The inclusion of the new species will cause nominal increases in reporting, implementation and enforcement, as the new species will be integrated into existing noxious weed management and reporting processes, requiring only minor adjustments to current documentation.

- C. Describe the costs that would likely accrue if the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) are not adopted, the individuals or entities who will bear the costs and who will be affected by the failure to adopt the rule(s) and regulation(s).

Without the proposed regulations, private landowners would bear the cost of progressively spreading noxious weeds infesting pastures, fields, yards, green spaces, and natural habitats. Farmers would likely experience reduced yields and increased management costs to manage the increasing pressure of unmanaged noxious weeds. Similarly, ranchers would likely experience greater noxious weed infestation their pasture, reducing available grazing land and increasing management expenses for increased pressures from unmanaged noxious weeds. General property owners would also incur increased costs to control noxious weeds on their property, as increased pressure from unmanaged weeds would increasingly burden landowners.

These noxious weeds will also negatively impact the natural environment of Kansas. Many of these noxious weeds grow faster or earlier than native species. This negatively affects the growth and germination of many native plants including trees, diminishing native populations.

Using data from the United States Geological Survey, and the calculations above, it is estimated that the cost of not controlling these weeds until the state was fully infested would range from \$168,690,086.72 to \$2,919,160,808.86 in costs of control and economic losses caused by widespread infestation.

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D. Provide a detailed statement of the data and methodology used in estimating the costs used.

This analysis was based on the prior methodology used in the economic impact statement, incorporating government data, academic studies, and stakeholder input. The information gathered indicated that without intervention, noxious weeds will continue growing at exponential rates. As these weeds spread, it will displace native vegetation critical for livestock and wildlife forage, as well as erosion control and habitat health. The resulting loss of arable land, grazing areas, and natural habitats will adversely affect Kansas landowners and ecosystems. Although these impacts are difficult to quantify, increased noxious weed infestations are well-documented to cause significant environmental and economic harm.

