Mike Naig, Secretary of Agriculture
www.IowaAgriculture.gov

Ankeny Laboratory Facility
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County Weed Commissioner Minimum Standards

The Iowa Weed Law specifies that County Weed Commissioners must meet minimum standards set by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS).

Iowa Code, chapter 317, states:

317.3 Weed commissioner — standards for noxious weed control.
The board of supervisors of each county may annually appoint a county weed commissioner who may be a person otherwise employed by the county and who passes minimum standards established by the department of agriculture and land stewardship for noxious weed identification and the recognized methods for noxious weed control and elimination. The county weed commissioner's appointment shall be effective as of March 1 and shall continue for a term at the discretion of the board of supervisors unless the commissioner is removed from office as provided for by law.

The minimum standards established by IDALS for County Weed Commissioners are passing the following exams:

(1) Iowa Certified Commercial Pesticide Applicator Core exam, and one of the following:
   a) Category 1A; Agricultural Weed Control, ***or***
   b) Category 6; Right of Way Pest Control.

These minimum standards were updated, and implemented on March 1, 2016. As per Iowa Code chapter 317, each March, the name and address of the person appointed as County Weed Commissioner shall be certified to the County Auditor and to the Secretary of Agriculture within ten days of the appointment. A copy of the County Weed Commissioner's current commercial pesticide applicators license including proof of proficiency in the Core and either Categories 1A or 6, shall be included.

Explanation
Under Iowa Code 317.3 The Iowa Noxious Weed Law, IDALS is to set the minimum standards for Iowa County Weed Commissioners. Currently, the majority of the County Weed Commissioners are also roadside managers. They manage the right of way (ROW) mowing, planting, and weed control activities. Therefore, most County Weed Commissioners must be able to identify many plants in the landscape, not just noxious weeds. County Weed Commissioners need to understand plant biology to determine the best method for control of weeds. And, County Weed Commissioners need to understand and apply herbicide label requirements and restrictions. The Iowa Certified Commercial Pesticide Applicator Exam requires proficiency in all the subjects listed above, making the Commercial Pesticide Applicator Exam a sound assessment of a County Weed Commissioner.

For information about commercial pesticide testing and manuals contact Iowa State University Extension http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pme/Index.html.

For any questions related to the Noxious Weed Law, please Contact Lane Kozel or Robin Pruisner, State Weed Commissioners, 515-725-1470, Lane.Kozel@IowaAgriculture.gov or Robin.Pruisner@IowaAgriculture.gov.