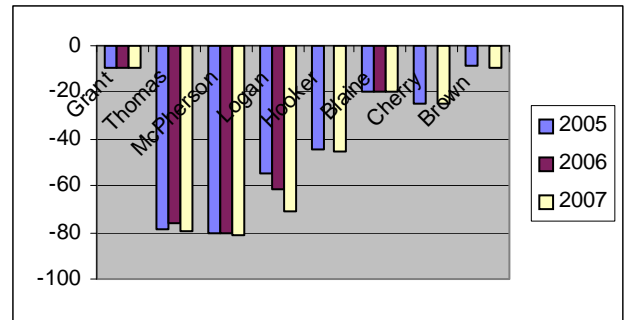




07 Spring Water Level Results

The 0 on the map indicates ground level. As you look at the graph you will notice that once again spring groundwater levels across the district have dropped. Hard to imagine that water is an issue with the rains we have received lately. Unfortunately one good year of spring rains does not make up for the 6+ years of drought.



BOATING SAFETY COURSE

The Upper Loup NRD hosted a 6 hour boating safety course on Friday, June 1. Scott Eveland, Boating Safety Officer for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, was the class instructor.

According to Eveland, the Nebraska Boating Safety course is required of all power boat operators under the age of 18, which includes operators

of personal watercraft and all other motorboats. The minimum age to operate a boat in Nebraska is 14.

The class covered everything from equipment requirements to safe boat operation and accident prevention. Boat owners who completed the class qualify for insurance discounts.



Arbor Day Celebrated

The Upper Loup NRD celebrated this holiday by providing upper grade school students throughout the district with "Norway Spruce" seedlings. Upper Loup General Manger Anna Baum along with local Extension Associate Sue Pearman visited all the grade schools within the Natural Resources District except for the Raven School. 193 students from Hyannis, Whitman, Vinton, Brownlee, Goosecreek, Sandhills, Thedford, Peaceful Plains, Stapleton and Mullen joined in several activities which included filling out a questionnaire on products made from trees, an Arbor Day quiz and a scavenger hunt.

Test your own knowledge on Arbor Day: Who is the father of Arbor Day? Was the Arbor Day founder originally from Nebraska? Name one other country other than the US that celebrates Arbor Day: How many trees were planted the very first Arbor Day? What is the Nebraska state tree? When is Arbor Day celebrated in Nebraska? Nebraska was once described as the "Great ____ ____".



Answers: J. Sterling Morton; No; Japan, Canada, Puerto Rico, Israel, Australia, etc; Over a million trees planted; Cottonwood; Last Friday in the month of April; Great American Dessert.

Upper Loup NRD Staff

Anna Baum	General Manager
Jack Brummet	Resources Technician
Kyle Yrkoski	Resources Technician
Angie Jensen	Administrative Secretary
Cleo Jacobs	Thedford Field Office Clerk

Upper Loup Board of Directors

- Subdistrict 1 *Ginger Fouse & Eric Storer*
- Subdistrict 2 *Steve Boyer & Judy Ridenour*
- Subdistrict 3 *Gary Schaeffer & Wayne Eatinger*
- Subdistrict 4 *Byron Cox & Gordon Simonson*
- Subdistrict 5 *Louis Jacobson & Travis Hansen*
- At Large: *Wynn Wiens*

Problems with gophers



Pocket gophers are burrowing rodents so named because they have fur-lined pouches on each side of the mouth used to carry food. They have small ears, small eyes, large incisor teeth, a robust upper body and range from 6-12 inches long at maturity. Signs of gopher presence are fan-shaped mounds of excavated earth with plugged entrances. Pocket gophers can create up to 15 mounds per day in light soils. Gopher tunnels are usually not visible on the ground surface because of their deep location they can be as deep as 5-6 feet. Gophers are an important food source for many wild animals including owls, hawks, foxes, badgers, coyotes, weasels and snakes.

Much of a gopher's life is spent alone underground, however there may be between 6-8 gophers per acre. The exception to their solitary existence is when they are mating and raising a brood during winter and early spring. They may live up to 12

years and are most active and cause the most severe damage in spring and fall. Although they are less active during the winter, they do not hibernate.

Gophers eat a variety of plants. They may go to the surface to feed on above-ground vegetation, they feed on roots they encounter when digging and they pull vegetation in their tunnel from below. In addition, they eat approximately 60% of their body weight per day. Gophers can also chew on underground irrigation pipe and utility cables.

There are several options for controlling gophers such as putting in barriers, trapping, biological and chemical. The Upper Loup does carry gopher bait which is a strychnine based product and may only be sold to licensed applicators. There are several ways for land owners to become licensed. For a resident of Nebraska to obtain a commercial or non-commercial pesti-

cide applicator license, a person needs to do the following: Pass a General Standards exam (60 multiple choice questions, 70% passing), pass at least one category exam, tied to the sites or pests you will be controlling, complete a license request form and pay the appropriate license fee (\$35 for a non-commercial license and \$90 for a commercial license). For more information on obtaining a license visit your local extension office or the following website: <http://pested.unl.edu>.

Should I Test My Well Water?

Testing your private well's water quality on a regular basis is an important part of maintaining a safe and reliable source. The test results allow you to properly address the specific problems of a water supply. Regular testing is important to identify existing problems to ensure water is suitable for the intended use, especially if used for drinking by humans and animals. To track changes over time to determine the effectiveness of a treatment system. The quality of a water source may change over time, even suddenly. Changes can go unnoticed as the water may look, smell and taste the same.

Is My Water Safe to Drink? The only way to tell if your drinking water is safe is by having it tested. Harmful bacteria, parasites and viruses are invisible to the naked eye, so water which looks and tastes good may not necessarily be safe to drink. These microbes can exist in surface and groundwater supplies and can cause immediate sickness in humans if not properly treated. Certain chemical contaminants that are sometimes found in a water source can cause long term health

problems that take years to develop. Frequent water testing will identify unsafe water and ensure that the treatment system is treating the water to a satisfactory level.

What Tests Should I Have Done? There are several useful tests available to help determine the health and safety of a water supply and the performance of a water treatment system. A visit with your local health department could help you to determine which tests would be appropriate in your particular situation. Two of the most common tests performed are for bacteria and nitrates. Coliform bacteria tests indicate the presence of microorganisms in the water that are potentially harmful to human health. Nitrate is a common contaminant found mainly in groundwater. High nitrate concentrations can be particularly dangerous for babies under six months, since nitrate interferes with the ability of blood to carry oxygen.

How Often Should I Test My Well Water? Private well water should be tested a minimum of once per year. Drinking water supplies obtained from shallow wells and surface water sources should be tested more

frequently (i.e. seasonally), as they are more susceptible to contamination. It is important to test your drinking water at the tap and at the source. Testing both will help you determine if your treatment system is performing correctly and if the quality of your source water has changed.

Where Can I Get My Well Water Tested? Your local or state Health and Human Services Department can refer you to a certified laboratory in your area. **The Upper Loup NRD in Thedford has the ability to test for nitrates and bacteria at no charge to the customer.** If you are interested in having the NRD perform water tests on your well you can contact our office at 308-645-2250.



Lets get Acquainted: meet the ULNRD directors from the 3rd & 4th Sub-Districts

The Upper Loup Board is made up of 11 Directors, two elected from each of the five subdistricts that make up the NRD, and one At-Large. You can find a map of the subdistricts on the back page of this newsletter.

The Board is responsible for establishing District policies, programs, rules and regulations and adopting the necessary budget in order to fulfill the responsibilities of the District as authorized and required by law. The Board is also responsible for overseeing management to insure that the policies, programs, regulations and budget are carried out as intended and approving District expenditures. The day-to-day management is the General Manager's responsibility. In general, the Board sets policy and the staff carries it out.

The Board holds regularly scheduled monthly meetings on the second Thursday of every month at the NRD office in Thedford.

Subdistrict 3 consists of Hooker County and part of the south-central corner of Cherry County. Subdistrict 3 directors include Wayne Eatinger and Gary Schaeffer.

Wayne is married to Roxanne and they are parents to a grown son, Miles. Wayne is a 5th generation

rancher in the area. He became an ULNRD director in 1990 and is the NARD Alternate Representative. Wayne enjoys snow skiing and traveling.

Gary Schaeffer and his wife Linda have two adults sons, Matt and Orrin and two adult daughters, Marisa and Juli. Since 1984 Gary has ranched north of Thedford where he is in partnership with his two brothers. Gary has been on the board since 1993 and currently holds the Board Chair position. Gary likes golf, football and when traveling enjoys seeing good cattle country.

Subdistrict 4 is represented by Bryon Cox and Gordon Simonson. The District is comprised of Blaine County and the southwestern part of Brown County.

Byron has been a board member since 1991, following in the footsteps of his father Bob Cox. Byron and his wife Connie have raised three children, Tyson, Trevor and a daughter Bobbi. He farms and ranches on the same place he was raised east of Purdum. When Byron isn't spending time watching his kids compete in rodeo he enjoys golfing, fishing and hunting.

Gordon is one of the newest board members and came on board in

November of 06. Gordon and his wife Amy have a son Dillon who goes to school at Sandhills. Gordon's hobbies include horses, hunting, golf and any activities that center around family and community.

ULNRD has a non-invasive Ultra-Sonic Flow Meter to measure water flow in an irrigation system. This service is provided free to district producers. Call 308-645-2250 for more information.

The ULNRD has gopher bait on hand for purchase by those individuals that have a current pesticide applicators license. The District also has a gopher machine available for rent. If interested please contact the office for information. 308-645-2250

Legislation

State NRD's tracked forty-five bills presented for legislative year 2007. Bills that our NRD watched closely included LB 701, LB 564, 566 and 567.

The legislature passed a major water policy proposal (LB 701) which addressed the Republican River Compact compliance issues. The four main components of LB 701 are the bonding authority for NRD's in the Republican River Basin, State funding for water programs, water management changes and a vegetation management provision. This bill has set a precedence for how future water issues may be resolved.

LB 564, a Recreational Liability Act was also passed. This bill extends some protection to cities and other political subdivisions from lawsuits by those injured on government-owned property that do not charge for public access.

Dripial Pursuit.

Test your water knowledge:

1. How much water is in dry ice?
2. What is the largest lake in North America?
3. On average, what percentage of water used in your home goes down the drain?
4. About how much water does it take to take a shower?
5. What is water stored in an aquifer called?
6. What type of soil is most likely to allow groundwater contamination?
7. What is the primary surface water pollutant in the US?
8. About how many gallons of water does it take to produce a hamburger, fries and soft drink?

Answers found on page 4 of this newsletter



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TO: POSTAL CUSTOMER

Calendar of Events

- July**
- 3 Stapleton Satellite Office Open
 - 4 ULNRD Office Closed—Holiday
 - 10 Mullen Satellite Office Open
 - 12 ULNRD Board Meeting, Theadford
 - 17 Hyannis Satellite Office Open
- August**
- 7 Stapleton Satellite Office Open
 - 9 ULNRD Board Meeting, Theadford
 - 14 Mullen Satellite Office Open
 - 21 Hyannis Satellite Office Open
- September**
- 4 Stapleton Satellite Office Open
 - 11 Mullen Satellite Office Open
 - 11-13 Husker Harvest Days— GI
 - 13 ULNRD Board Meeting, Theadford
 - 18 Hyannis Satellite Office Open
 - 23-25 NARD Annual Conference— Kearney

Doing some landscaping?

Weed control is important for plant growth and survival. Weeds are better competitors for moisture, nutrients and sunlight. They also provide fuel for fires and habitat for plant injuring pests. The ULNRD has a woven plastic mulch available for sale that helps keep weeds out and moisture in. For more information call our office at 308-645-2250



ULNRD

Tree Planting Stats

	2006	2007
Trees Sold	51,575	43,298
Tree Plans	72	54
Total trees sold to date:	2,142,924	
NRD planted trees to date:	1,437,741	
Donated trees to date:	35,000+	

Upper Loup NRD has 3 satellite office locations. A Resources Technician will be available to answer questions, provide information, perform nitrate water testing, discuss and supply various cost-share applications to all residents of the district. **The schedule is:**

Stapleton Extension office: 9-3 CST First Tuesday of each month

Mullen Extension Office: 9-3 MT Second Tuesday of each month

Hyannis Court House Meeting Room: 10-2 MT Third Tuesday of each month.

Resource Technicians will be out across the district performing chemigation checks and water quality checks on irrigation and domestic wells.

- Dripal Pursuit Answers:**
1. None
 2. Lake Superior
 3. 84%
 4. 10-20 gallons
 5. Groundwater
 6. Sandy
 7. Soil / Sediment
 8. 1,500 gallons