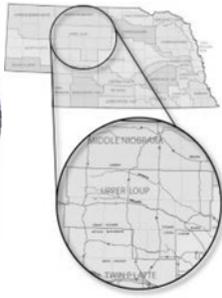




Natural Resource District



# New Director

The Directors and staff of the Upper Loup NRD would like to extend a warm welcome to Chris Vinton. He has been newly elected to represent sub-district 1 of the ULNRD which includes all of Grant County and a small portion of southwest Cherry County.

Chris was raised in the Sandhills and continues to ranch with his wife Sherry south of Whitman. They have three children, Jessica, David, and Becky, and two grandchildren. Becky is a sophomore at Arthur High School. Jessica, her husband Clint Taylor, and son Danny live in McPherson County. Jessica also teaches at District 26 in McPherson County. David, his wife Michele, and son Emmitt ranch in Grant County. Chris's hobbies include his horses, hunting, and spending time with his grandsons.

## TREES FOR NEWBORNS



The Upper Loup NRD is proud to announce the arrival of our newest cost share program—Trees For Newborns. The ULNRD offers parents of newborn babies in the District, a reimbursement on a tree or shrub to commemorate the birth of the newest addition to their family. This is an environmentally friendly, unique and natural gift which will provide everlasting memories.

The requirements for this special program are: parents reside in the ULNRD's district, the tree or shrub be a perennial, and the plant must be acquired from a reputable establishment.

The ULNRD will reimburse new parents \$15.00 on their purchase within a year of the baby's birth. Upon receiving proof of birth and a copy of the plant receipt, the ULNRD will provide a check to the family. If you have any questions about this program please contact the Upper Loup NRD at 308-645-2250 or visit our website [www.upperloupnrd.org](http://www.upperloupnrd.org).

UPPER LOUP SCOOP

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

January 2009

### Return % of Water Use Forms

- Grant County - 33%
- McPherson County - 47%
- Hooker County - 59%
- Thomas County - 45%
- Cherry County - 29%
- Blaine County - 20%
- Logan County - 25 %
- Brown County - 0%

### Irrigation Water Use Reporting Update

Water use reporting is essential to the management of this vital resource. Annual reporting of water use is important to protect stakeholder interests, adopting actions in times of water emergencies, and providing data for effective farm management. To protect the farmer's interests in any litigation related to the state's right to water use in a given basin, existing uses must be able to be quantified. Knowing water use also allows a wider range of options for dealing with any future drought-related water emergencies.

If you have not returned your water use reports please mail them at your earliest convenience, or if you need another form sent, please contact our office. **Thank you** to those producers that have already responded!

#### Upper Loup Board of

##### Directors

- Sub district 1 *Chris Vinton & Eric Storer*
- Sub district 2 *Steve Boyer & Judy Ridenour*
- Sub district 3 *Gary Schaeffer & Wayne Eatinger*
- Sub district 4 *Byron Cox & Gordon Simonson*
- Sub district 5 *Travis Hansen*
- At Large: *Wynn Wiens*

#### Upper Loup Staff

- Anna Baum .....General Manager
- Jack Brummet...Resources Technician
- Kyle Yrkoski....Resources Technician
- Leslie Reiser.....Administration Secretary
- Denise Vinton...Information & Education
- Cleo Jacobs.....Thedford Field Office

#### Fall Water Levels

- Brown** Up 1.34 ft
- Blaine** Up 0.82 ft
- Cherry** Up 0.35 ft
- Grant** Down 0.18 ft
- Hooker** Down 0.21 ft
- Logan** Up 0.34 ft
- McPherson** Up 0.02 ft
- Thomas** Down 0.26 ft

# Available Now...



## Now is the Time to Order Trees!

Do you have enough protection or in need of replacing some existing trees in your shelter-belts? Trees provide important benefits such as sheltering livestock, preventing soil erosion, and crop damage due to wind. They also help to reduce heating and cooling costs to homes and shop buildings. ULNRD technicians are available to work with landowners to determine the type and number of trees and shrubs needed, planting, weed control, and care following planting.

To help promote tree planting, the ULNRD provides a 65% cost-share on a first come, first serve basis for those practices that meet requirements; trees, shrubs, planting, and weed mulch are all eligible for the cost share program. Orders are now being taken through March 1<sup>st</sup> or until inventory runs out. To view a complete list of trees and shrubs available, along with pricing information, you can either visit our website at [www.upperloupnrd.org](http://www.upperloupnrd.org) or contact our office at 308-645-2250.

**REMINDER:** Many miles of the black fabric mulch have been applied to tree windbreaks in Nebraska over the last 15 years. The woven fabric has greatly increased tree and shrub survival and growth rate by inhibiting weeds and retaining soil moisture. The fabric is expected to slowly degrade after five years, but it does not degrade as well in the shade of the tree. This may cause the trees to grow into the fabric and become girdled, thus decreasing the health of trees. To prevent damage to plantings, landowners need to inspect their mulched windbreaks and enlarge openings, as needed. If you have any questions please call Kyle at our office 308-645-2250.

## Cost-Share Available for Soil Testing

The soil test is an excellent measure of soil fertility. It is an inexpensive way of maintaining good plant health and maximum crop productivity. Soil fertility fluctuates throughout the growing season each year--the quantity and availability of mineral nutrients are altered by the addition of fertilizers, manure, compost, mulch and lime or sulfur, in addition to leaching. Furthermore, large quantities of mineral nutrients are removed from soils as a result of plant growth and development and the harvesting of crops. The soil test will determine the current fertility status. It also provides the necessary information needed to maintain optimum fertility year after year.

The soil test takes the guesswork out of fertilization and is extremely cost effective. It not only eliminates the waste of money spent on unnecessary fertilizers, but also eliminates over-usage of fertilizers and prevention of leaching through the sandy soils and into the groundwater, thus helping to protect the environment.

**When do I soil test?** Sampling can be done at any time, but late October or early November is usually preferable. Avoid sampling when the soil is very wet or recently limed or fertilized.

**What tests are performed?** The basic soil test results will tell you the pH of the soil, organic matter (nutrient holding capacity), available phosphorous (P), and available potassium (K). The soil may also be tested for Nitrate (N), magnesium (Mg), calcium (Ca), sulfur (S), boron (B), manganese (Mn) and zinc (Zn).



The ULNRD understands the importance of soil testing and offers a cost-share program to help land owners defray part of the costs associated with testing.

**We are currently involved in a water quality grant and will pay for ALL costs associated with soil sampling for the first 70 producers that contact us.**

For more information or to obtain a cost-share application or take advantage of the free testing you can contact our office at 308-645-2250.



# Education



Chuck Markley instructs students

## Upper Loup NRD Sponsors First Land Judging Contest

The North Central Land Judging contest was held in Thedford on October 7, 2008. The Upper Loup NRD and the Natural Resources Conservation Service sponsored the event.

Soil acts as a filter for the water entering the groundwater supply, as well as interacting with or being eroded by, the water that flows over the surface. It is only through proper stewardship of soil that life on Earth can be sustained and improved. Land judging provides each participant the opportunity to learn how to recognize the physical features of the soil, determine land capability for crop production, and evaluate management practices needed for proper stewardship. Jim Goeke, hydrologist from UNL's Conservation and Survey Division, gave a presentation on the relationship of Nebraska water and soil.

Seven schools participated in the contest: Broken Bow, Cedar Rapids, North Loup-Scotia, Ord, Palmer, Twin River, and Verdigre with a total of 101 students and 4 adults. The first place in team division was Twin River, and first place in the individual division, was Baily McKay. The State competition was held in Scottsbluff on November 5th.

## World Water Monitoring Day

World Water Monitoring Day is an international education and outreach program that builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world by engaging citizens to conduct basic monitoring of their local water bodies.

The Upper Loup NRD participated in the World Water Monitoring Day by giving a 60 minute presentation to the Jr. High classes of Hyannis, Mullen, Thedford, Sandhills, and Stapleton schools. The students viewed a power point presentation on the importance of water quality, water sheds, and basic quality testing techniques. The students also performed hands-on testing with both surface water samples and groundwater samples. A game of "Water Quality" Jeopardy was played to review the information.



Thedford Jr. High students

The ULNRD has a district wide water quality monitoring network. If interested in joining this network, please contact the office for information at 308-645-2250.



## Fourth Grades Learn About Geocaching

The Upper Loup NRD and the Sandhills Extension Office joined efforts in teaching local fourth graders on using GPS units and geocaching. The students were given GPS units and went on a scavenger hunt to find caches (hidden treasures) that had been placed earlier in the day at a variety of mystery locations. They

searched for 10 caches that contained puzzle pieces that which were put together when all of the pieces were found.

## 11 Participants Complete Hunters Safety

Thanks to volunteer Ted Bonesteel, 11 participants were able to attend and complete the Hunter Safety class held on Nov. 1-2. Participants ranged in age from 11-16 and came from several communities that included: Brownlee, Mullen, Thedford, and Valentine.

Firearm Safety Education is a program ensuring that safe, respectful and responsible hunters participate in the sport of hunting in Nebraska. Proof of completion of this course is required for everyone 12 years of age or older, or born on or after January 1, 1977, who hunts any species of game, game animal or game bird in Nebraska using a firearm or crossbow.

The ULNRD will be offering a class in the spring, date and location TBA.

### Dripial Pursuit.

#### Test your water knowledge:

1. What is the source of both groundwater and surface water?
2. The beginning of a river is known as what?
3. What is another name for water pressure?
4. What do the letters TDS mean when used to describe the mineral content of water?
5. A current flowing opposite of the main current is called what?
6. The direction the current flows is called what?
7. Reclaimed water that can be used again or irrigation or watering plants is known as what?

Calendar of Events

**January**

- 1 Holiday—Office Closed
- 15 ULNRD Board Meeting and Public presentation—Thedford
- 19 Holiday—Office Closed
- 26-28 Legislative Conference—Lincoln

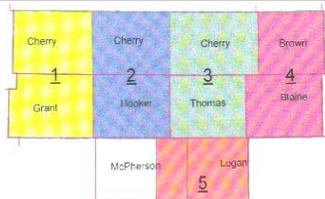
**February**

- 12 ULNRD Board Meeting—Thedford
- 16 Holiday—Office Closed

**March**

- 12 ULNRD Board Meeting—Thedford

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT	
39252 Hwy 2 Thedford, NE 69166 www.upperloupnrd.org	Phone: 308-645-2250 Fax: 308-645-2308 ulnrd@upperloupnrd.org



<p><b>PRSRT STD</b></p> <p><b>ECRWSS</b></p> <p><b>US Postage Paid</b></p> <p><b>Thedford, NE 69166</b></p> <p><b>Permit. No. 11</b></p>
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*TO: POSTAL CUSTOMER*

Dripal Pursuit Answers:

1. Precipitation
2. Source
3. Head
4. Total Dissolved Solids
5. Eddy
6. Set
7. Gray Water

# Services...

- Tree Planting & Weed Barrier
- Well Decommissioning Cost Share
- Soil Testing Cost Share
- Water Quality Testing
- Groundwater Level Monitoring
- Chemigation Inspection
- Deer and Rodent Repellent for Purchase
- Leafy Spurge Cost Share
- NSWCP Cost Share
- Soil & Water Conservation
- No Till Drill Rental
- Gopher Machine Rental & Bait
- Camp & Workshop Scholarships
- Youth & Adult Education
- Notary Public

## U.S.G.S and UNL Conservation and Survey Division to Give Presentation

The Upper Loup NRD is involved in developing a Well Monitoring Network, project partners include USGS, UNL Conservation and Survey Division, and local landowners. This network was put in place to monitor water levels in order to gain solid scientific data. A presentation will be given by the U.S. Geological Survey and UNL Conservation and Survey Division on the Sandhills hydrology and the importance of the Sandhills to Nebraska's water supply.

The presentation is open to the public and will be held on January 15, 2009, at the Legion Hall in Thedford, NE, 1:00 p.m. (CT).

## Notary Public Service New at ULNRD

The Upper Loup NRD can now assist you with obtaining a notarization. Secretary Leslie Reiser has become a certified Notary Public and is happy to provide the assistance. For your convenience services will be available at the Upper Loup NRD office in Thedford, Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:30-12:00 and 1:00-4:00. There is no charge for this service. For more information you can contact the ULNRD office at (308) 645-2250.

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 at 308-645-2250.

## ULNRD Website: [www.upperloupnrd.org](http://www.upperloupnrd.org)

- \* Latest News
- \* Groundwater Rules and Regulations
- \* Education Opportunities
- \* Applications and Forms
- \* Cost-Share Programs
- \* Services