

Upper Loup Scoop

July 2010

Inside this issue:

Hazard Mitigation Plan	2
Water Quality Grant	2
Groundwater Monitoring Well	2
Stream Gaging Stations	2
"ACE" Camp	3
Boater Safety	3
Arbor & Earth Day	3

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Let's Get Recycling



The Upper Loup NRD (ULNRD) was very excited when they were approved for the first year of a 3 year Environmental Trust recycling grant. To promote conservation, water quality, and waste reduction within the District the ULNRD had requested

funds to help expand current recycling efforts across the District.

Two recycling trailers were placed in the communities of Hyannis and Thedford as well as transporting the current recycling trailers in Stapleton and Halsey to the end market. Two more trailers are planned to be placed in the communities of Dunning and Mullen in 2011.



The locations of these trailers are as follows:

Halsey—Just south of the community building.

Hyannis—At the entrance of the Hyannis Recycling Center (across from the state yards).

Thedford—39252 Hwy 2 (Upper Loup NRD parking lot).

Stapleton—In the old state yard one block south of Hwy 92 on the west edge of town.

We are currently collecting:

- #1 and #2 plastics **LIDS MUST BE REMOVED
- Aluminum
- Tin **DO NOT NEED LABELS REMOVED OR RINSED OUT
- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Paper **NO HEAVY CONSTRUCTION PAPER OR HEAVILY DYED

If you have any questions regarding the trailer or recyclables please feel free to contact our office at 308-645-2250, Monday-Friday, 7:30 am – 4:00 pm CT or your Village Office. We have recycling information and locations of recycling trailers listed on our website at www.upperlounprd.org under **SERVICES**.

We can make a difference and we are looking forward to working with you and establishing a sustainable recycling program .

Upper Loup NRD Services

The ULNRD is pleased to offer several services to our constituents:

- Chemigation Inspection
- Copies
- Deer and Rodent Repellent
- Drill Rental
- Flow Meters
- Gopher Machine & Bait
- Laminating
- Nature in Neighborhoods Grant
- Notary Public
- Presentations and Workshops
- Recycling
- Trees For Newborns & Memorials
- Trees & Planting
- Water Testing
- Weed Control & Mulch
- Well Level Monitoring
- Yard Enhancement (Rural & Urban)

For more information on these services contact the ULNRD offices at 308-645-2250 or visit our website at www.upperlounprd.org

Hazard Mitigation

The all-hazard plan is a community guided document that identifies vulnerability to natural disasters (tornados, hail, wind, drought, wildfires, thunderstorms, blizzards, etc.) and assesses the potential losses associated with each hazard. The plan also identifies critical facilities and projects to decrease the threat from identified hazards.

The Upper Loup Natural Resources District has been approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and there are eligible grant dollars available for all participating entities in the Hazard Mitigation Plan. These funds are for any projects that the participants have identified previously in their plan. Two communities in the District have already taken advantage of project cost-share dollars. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Upper Loup NRD office at 308-645-2250.



Water Quality Grant

The Water Quality Management Grant, with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, has been extended and the Upper Loup NRD will continue to test domestic and irrigation wells for nitrates and bacteria upon request. The main component of this grant is water quality testing. There are several tests to help determine the health and safety of drinking water. Two of the most common tests performed are for nitrates and bacteria. Nitrate is a common contaminant found mainly in groundwater. High nitrate concentration can be particularly dangerous to babies under six months since nitrates interfere with the ability of blood to carry oxygen. The Coliform bacteria test indicates the presence of microorganisms in the water

that are potentially harmful to human health. Testing is free of charge and you will be notified of the results. If you would like this service please contact ULNRD office by calling 308-645-2250 or email ulnrd@upperloupnrd.org To register a domestic well, contact the Department of Natural Resources at www.dnr.state.ne.us

Groundwater Monitoring Well Network



The Upper Loup NRD's collaborative project with the Nebraska Environmental Trust, United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the UNL Conservation Survey Division has been approved for its 3rd year of funding. To date there have been six wells drilled, one in each of the following counties: Logan, Thomas, McPherson, Grant, Hooker, and Cherry. There are 3-4 more wells planned to be drilled in 2010 in the counties of Thomas, Blaine, Cherry, and Logan. Data recorders have been placed in each of these wells to monitor groundwater levels.



Stream Gaging Network

The Upper Loup NRD received a grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust to install two stream gages in the District which will help provide critical hydrological information. The Sand Hills lie at the head waters of the Loup River system, which is a major tributary to the Platte River. Continuous stream flow information provided by gaging stations allows resource managers and hydrologist to analyze stream flow patterns, both temporally and spatially, and separate the groundwater discharge component of total stream flow, called base flow. Base flow is the primary component of stream flow in the Loup River Basin and constituents over 90 percent of stream flow in the central Sand Hills.



Two stream gaging locations have been identified as high priority areas. The South Loup River near Arnold is located near the eastern edge of the ULNRD and roughly marks where the South Loup River leaves the Sand Hills and enters the Loess Hills. The ULNRD has selected this location for additional monitoring to determine if groundwater irrigation is having an affect on stream flow on the South Loup. The North Loup River near Brewster is located below the confluence of Goose Creek and drains approximately 1,890 square miles. Much of this drainage area remains undeveloped with regard to groundwater irrigation. Stream flow information collected at this site would provide critical information for the ULNRD and a manager downstream to determine how much water is leaving the ULNRD as base flow. Because this drainage area remains undeveloped, stream flow changes at this location could be related to changes in groundwater recharge and climatic conditions.

Data collected can provide critical information on current conditions and provide a foundation to relate future stream flow conditions to long-term changes in water use and groundwater recharge. Information gained can also be used to enhance public safety by providing data for forecasting as managing floods, evaluating groundwater and surface water interaction, and providing baseline information allowing managers to assess long-term changes in the hydrologic cycle. All data would be maintained permanently in the publicly accessible U.S. Geological Survey's National Water Information System database and served real-time to the World Wide Web on NWIS Web. For more information or to view the stream flow links visit our website at www.upperloupnrd.org under **Stream Gaging Network**.

First Annual "ACE" Was a Success



Campers from across the state of Nebraska participated in the first annual Adventure Camp about the Environment (ACE) at the State 4-H Youth Camp near Halsey June 20th-23rd. The camp was sponsored and organized by Nebraska Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) and the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD). The four day adventure drew 55 campers from across the state, and many of the campers received scholarships from their local NRD. The camp was open to all sixth through eighth graders interested in learning more about science and the environment. The camp focused on water resources, soil, forestry, range, and wildlife.

During ACE, campers had the opportunity to roll up their sleeves and dig into nature and form a new understanding of the environment through interactive activities such as gau gau ball, canoeing, zip line, water rockets, the water slide and more. Campers also learned about possible careers in the area of natural resources from the professionals who work there everyday.

We are looking forward to next year's camp and are already in the planning stages. It will be held again at the Halsey 4-H Camp in June. The ULNRD has 5 scholarships available for next year's ACE Camp. For more information about the ACE Camp and possible scholarships contact the ULNRD office at 308-645-2250 or visit our website at www.upperlounprd.org.



Participants Complete Boater Safety

Thanks to Scott Eveland, Boating Safety Officer for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, participants completed the boater safety course held on May 27th at the Upper Loup NRD office. 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 six-hour class covers everything from equipment requirements to safe boat operation and accident prevention, and is a great course for both new and experienced boaters. Boat owners who complete the class may qualify for insurance discounts. For more information on boater safety contact Boating Safety Officer Eveland at (308) 289-0017 or

scott.eveland@ngpc.ne.gov

Arbor and Earth Day Celebrated

The Upper Loup NRD celebrated Arbor and Earth Days by providing 4rd-6th grade students with tree seedlings and the 1st-3rd grade students received reusable shopping bags with the Upper Loup NRD logo. General Manager Anna Baum and Extension Agent Sue Pearman visited all of the grade schools within the ULNRD. Approximately 300 students from Hyannis, Ashby, Mullen, Thedford, Peaceful Plains, Goosecreek, Halsey, Brownlee, and Stapleton joined in several activities.

The ULNRD provides classroom presentations to students K-12, any group or organization on a variety of topics including pollution, water, trees, wildlife, land treatment, geocaching or other environmental and conservation issues. If you would like the ULNRD to present to your group, please contact the office at 308-645-2250.



Available pocket guides

- Trees
- Nebraska Birds
- Animal Tracks
- Wilderness Survival
- Edible Wild Plants
- Invasive Weeds of North America
- Roadside Flowers
- Nebraska Trees & Wildlife
- The Night Sky
- Field Dressing

Pocket Guides Available

Do you need help identifying animal tracks that you find in the sand or Nebraska Birds? Can you identify trees and edible plants? How about surviving in the wilderness? The Upper Loup NRD has available handy pocket guides that can assist you in your efforts. Pockets guides are available at the Upper Loup NRD office in Thedford for a cost of \$6.00 per guide. The Field Dressing Guide is made of a waterproof material and is available for \$8.00. If you have any questions please stop in the ULNRD office or call 308-645-2250.

Dripal Pursuit. Test your water knowledge:

1. Of all the earth's water, what percentage is ocean or seas?
2. What stream has more air than water?
3. What is the universal solvent?
4. The Nile River flows through how many countries?
5. About what percentage of the earth's water is freshwater?
6. What were the first water pipes in the U.S. made from?
7. What accounts for nearly 80 percent of deaths among natural disasters?
8. How many personal flotation devices are you required to carry on your Boat?
9. What is another word for hydrologic cycle?

Answers found on page 4

Upper Loup NRD
39252 Hwy 2
Thedford, NE 69166
Phone: 308-645-2250
Fax: 308-645-2308

We are on the web!
www.upperloupnrd.org

Calendar of Events

July

- 5 Holiday—Office Closed
- 8 ULNRD Board Meeting—
Thedford

August

- 4 Blaine/Thomas County Fair
- 5 Hooker County Fair
- 11 Logan County Fair
- 12 ULNRD Board Meeting—
Thedford
- 20 Grant County Fair

September

- 6 Holiday—Office Closed
- 9 ULNRD Board Meeting—
Thedford

Dripial Pursuit Answers:

1. 97%
2. Jet Stream
3. Water
4. Nine
5. 1%
6. Logs
7. Floods
8. As Many As People on Board
9. Water Cycle

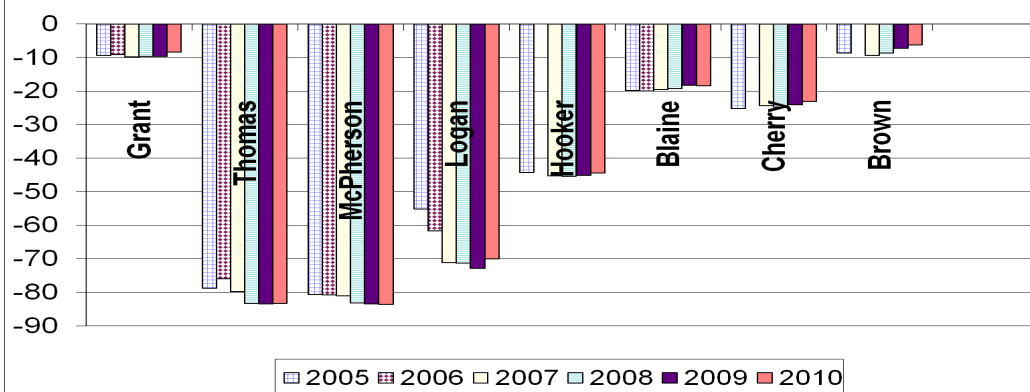
Upper Loup Staff

Anna BaumGeneral Manager
Jack Brummett.....Resources Technician
Kyle Yrkowski.....Resources Technician
Leslie Reiser.....Administrative Secretary
Denise Vinton.....Information & Education
Cleo Jacobs.... Thedford Field Office Sec.

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Spring Water Levels in Feet



The 0 on the graph indicates ground level. The graph shows the results of monitoring of 104 wells throughout the District during the last five years. We are happy to report no notable declines in the static groundwater levels across the District.

2009-10 ULNRD Statistics

Certified Acres—67,382
Number of acres irrigated—45,212
Average water used in inches—7.73
Trees Planted—39,481

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.