

Upper Loup Scoop

April 2012

NRD

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TAKE PART IN THE THIRD ANNUAL "ACE" EVENT

Sign up today for the third annual Adventure Camp about the Environment (ACE). ACE is for middle school students who have completed sixth, seventh and eighth grades in the 2011-2012 school year and who are interested in having fun and learning about Nebraska Natural Resources. ACE is hosted at the State 4-H Youth Camp near Halsey, June 17th-20th and is organized by Nebraska Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) and the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD).



The four-day adventure camp focuses on water resources, soil and land, forestry, range and grassland, and wildlife, while educating campers through hands-on activities on the importance of protecting our natural resources. During ACE, campers have the opportunity to roll up their sleeves and dig into nature and form a new understanding of the environment through interactive participation.

In addition, campers have the chance to experience nature through activities such as tubing, archery, zip line, water rockets, the water slide and other adventures. Campers also will learn about possible careers in the area of natural resources from the professionals who work there every day. This is a great opportunity to get our youth involved in learning about natural resources through hands-on activities with experts that are excited about natural resources.

Fees and registration is \$185.00 dollars per camper. Many NRDs offer scholarships for the four day camp, contact your local NRD to see if assistance is available. Space is limited and the registration deadline is May 25, 2012. **The Upper Loup NRD offers one full scholarship per sub-district.** For more scholarship information please contact the ULNRD office at 308-645-2250 or visit our website at www.upperloupnrd.org.

ACE is sponsored by Nebraska NRDs, Nebraska Association of Resources Districts, Olsen Agricultural Laboratory, Hooker County Turner Youth Initiative, the Nebraska Environmental Trust and Nebraska Academy of Science, Inc. Nebraska NRDs and NARD partnered with several organizations to help make the camp a success. Partnering organizations included: University of Nebraska, Nebraska Natural Resources Conservation Service, Nebraska National Forest, Nebraska State 4-H Camp, and Nebraska Pheasants Forever.

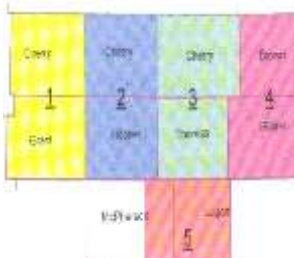
To find out more information about ACE or to get a copy of a registration, contact your local NRD

No-Till Drills Available at the ULNRD



No-till drilling is considered a management tool used in conservation practices. Continuous no-till improves soil structure by increasing earthworm and other biological activity; increases the water holding capacity and nutrient retention capacity of the soil; reduces trips across the fields saving energy, time and eliminating compaction; significantly reduces soil erosion and runoff; prevents the loss of valuable topsoils. To help producers with their conserva-

tions efforts, the Upper Loup NRD has two no-till drills available for rent. The 10 ft. Great Plains Minimum Till Drill rents for \$6.33 per acre and the 4 Row Buffalo Interseeder rents for \$4.22 per acre. A \$55 delivery fee will be charged for deliveries under 60 miles and \$70 will be charged for deliveries over 60 miles. For more information please contact Evan at 308-645-2250 or esuhr@upperloupnrd.org.





Recycling grant

The Upper Loup NRD (ULNRD) has been preliminarily approved for the 3rd year of a 3 year Environmental Trust recycling grant. A fifth trailer will be purchased and will be used to make the program more efficient. Residents can now recycle all plastics numbered 1 - 7 in the ULNRD's recycling trailers. Examples of plastics include salad dressing bottles, beverage containers, squeezable bottles such as honey and mustard containers, yogurt containers, plastic cups and plates, and empty medicine bottles. With this new addition of items the ULNRD is asking that items be rinsed and lids removed to help with their effort to maintain a comprehensive recycling program.



Personal Container

Trailer Locations:

Dunning—High school parking lot

Halsey—Just south of the community building

Hyannis—At the entrance of the Hyannis Recycling Center (behind orange gates)

Mullen—At village drop site during business hours. T-TH-S 8:00-5:00 MT

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

Seneca—By the elementary school next to dumpsters

We are currently collecting:

- ◆ #1-#7 plastics **PLEASE RINSE AND REMOVE LIDS
- ◆ Aluminum and Tin **PLEASE RINSE**DO NOT NEED TO REMOVE LABELS
- ◆ Paper/Newspaper/Magazines **NO HEAVY CONSTRUCTION PAPER OR HEAVILY DYED

If you have any questions regarding the trailers or recyclables please feel free to contact our office at 308-645-2250, Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.. CT. We have recycling information and location of recycling trailers listed on our website at www.upperloupnrd.org under **SERVICES**.

Upper Loup NRD continues to find ways to better manage its precious groundwater resource.....

This year the Upper Loup has invested in 15 of the Watermark brand of soil moisture sensors which will be distributed throughout the District. Soil moisture sensors measure the water content in soil. Using soil moisture measurements is one of the best and simplest ways to get feedback to help make improved water management decisions. Good irrigation water management will increase yields, improve crop quality, conserve water, save energy, decrease fertilizer requirements, and reduce non-point source pollution.

All 15 sensors for the 2012 growing season have been spoken for but the NRD plans to continue this program into the future. If you would like to get on the list for soil moisture sensors for next year or would like more information on them you can contact Evan Suhr at 308-645-2250 or email at esuhr@upperloupnrd.org.



Tree Hand-Plants and Small Acreage Packages Available

The ULNRD has bare-root trees available. The cost is \$0.84 (includes tax) per tree with a 25 tree order minimum. For a complete list of trees and shrubs and hand-planting guide please visit our website at www.upperloupnrd.org

Small Acreage Package contains 10 each of the following species: Ponderosa Pine, Rocky Mountain Juniper, Hackberry, Chokecherry, and American Cranberrybush. Contact Kyle for all of your tree needs 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.



Boater Safety

The Upper Loup NRD in Thedford will host a boating safety test-out session Thursday May 23 2012. Scott Eveland, Boating Safety Officer for the Nebraska Game and Parks commission, will be the instructor for the class.

Nebraska law requires any motorboat operator (including personal watercraft) under 18 years of age must complete a Boating Safety Course and be in possession of a course certificate when operating the boat. Beginning in 2012, this requirement will including operators of personal watercraft—Jet ski, SeaDoo, Waverunner, etc.) The minimum age to operate a boat is 14. The class covers everything from equipment requirements to safe boat operation, accident prevention and is a great course for both new and experienced boaters. Boat owners who complete the class may qualify for insurance discounts.

The test-out session will run from 10:00 am CT until 12:00 pm CT on Thursday May 26th. The class will be held at the Upper Loup NRD office in Thedford. To register for the class, contact the ULNRD office at 308-645-2250 or for additional information, contact Boating Safety Officer Eveland at 308-289-0017. For information on Nebraska boating laws and other scheduled classes, please visit: www.OutdoorNebraska.org/boating

NRD to Give Presentations for Earth Day at Elementary Schools

The Upper Loup NRD will again be visiting the elementary schools in the District to celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day. The ULNRD will donating reusable shopping bags or water bottles to all K-6th grades.

The ULNRD provides 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 or email Anna at abaum@upperloupnrd.org.



Bow Hunter Safety

A bow hunter safety course will be held at the Upper Loup Natural Resources office in Thedford on April 20-22. According to the Nebraska Game and Parks, all archery (Bow and Arrow) hunters of deer, antelope, elk or mountain sheep age 12 through age

29 must have completed a bow hunter education course AND must carry some form of proof showing you have complete the required course on your person while hunting deer, antelope, elk and mountain sheep.

The ten-hour course covers everything from proper equipment use, planning a hunt, point of shot, wildlife and habitat conservation. The class is a three session course and attendance is mandatory for all sessions to receive certification. Sessions will be: Friday, April 20th 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm CT, Saturday, April 21st 9 am – 4 pm CT, and Sunday, April 22nd 2 pm - 3 pm CT. Participants are asked to bring their lunch for Saturday's session. The class will be held at the Upper Loup NRD office at 39252 Highway 2 in Thedford. For more information or to register, please visit the Nebraska's Game and Parks Commission website at www.huntsafenebraska.org.

Dripial Pursuit.

Test your water knowledge:

1. How many Natural Resources Districts are there in Nebraska?
2. The release of moisture from plants into the air is known as what?
3. Who is the mythological god of the sea?
4. Does water refract or reflect light waves?
5. How deep is a fathom?
6. What is the universal solvent?
7. What is the largest lake in North America?
8. What mineral is used to recharge water softeners?

Answers found on page 4

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We are on the web!
www.upperloupnrd.org

Calendar of Events

April

- 12 ULNRD Board Meeting—
Thedford
- 20-22 Bow Hunter Safety Class
- 22 Earth Day
- 27 Arbor Day

May

- 10 ULNRD Board Meeting—
Thedford
Public Hearing—Groundwater
Rules & Regs 7:00 pm CT
- 23 Boater Safety Class
- 28 Holiday—Office Closed

June

- 14 ULNRD Board Meeting—
Thedford

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.

Dripal Pursuit Answers:

1. 23
2. Transpiration
3. Poseidon
4. Refract
5. 6 feet
6. Water
7. Lake Superior
8. Salt

Upper Loup Staff

Anna BaumGeneral Manager
Jack Brummet...Resources Technician
Kyle Yrkoski....Resources Technician
Evan Suhr.....Resources Technician
Leslie Harvey.....Administrative Secretary
Denise Vinton...Information & Education

TO: POSTAL CUSTOMER

Upper Loup Natural Resources District Notice of Public Hearing

- The Upper Loup NRD will conduct a public hearing on Thursday May 10, 2012 to receive public testimony in regards to proposed amendments to the Upper Loup NRD Ground Water Management Area Rules and Regulations.
- Revisions include an additional application permit for any high capacity well that would require more than 300 acre feet withdrawal per year, Phase 2 Area water quality rules and regulations were added, and the sunset date on the allotment of 2,500 new irrigated groundwater acres annually has been removed.

The hearing will be at 7:00 p.m. CT, at the Upper Loup NRD office in Thedford, NE.

- A full text copy of the amended Ground Water Management Area Rules and Regulations can be obtained from the Upper Loup NRD office or viewed and downloaded from www.upperloupnrd.org

Domestic Well Testing Available for Sub-district #2

The Upper Loup NRD recommends that all domestic wells, either registered or unregistered, get tested at least once every five years. We are starting our water quality testing in Sub District 2 which includes all of Hooker County and the lower 1/3 portion of Cherry County that lies directly above Hooker Co. We are glad to offer this important safety service to you AT NO CHARGE. Letters have been sent out to all registered domestic well owners in sub-district #2. If you did not receive a letter and would like to have your well tested (we test both registered and unregistered) please contact our office at 308-645-2250 or email Evan at esuhr@upperloupnrd.org to be placed on the list.