



# Upper Loup Scoop

October 2012

## Inside this issue:

- Recycling 2
- Water Use Reporting 2
- Expansion of Irrigated Acres 2
- Welcome 3
- Hunter Safety Class 3
- Jr. High Field Day 3
- Director Elections 4

## Board of Directors

**Sub district 1**  
Chris Vinton  
Eric Storer

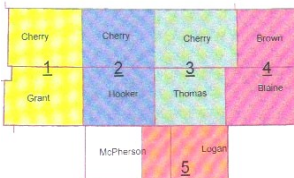
**Sub district 2**  
Wynn Wiens  
Judy Ridenour

**Sub district 3**  
Gary Schaeffer  
Chris Higgins

**Sub district 4**  
Byron Cox  
Gordon Simonson

**Sub district 5**  
Darwin Frey  
Tom Johnson

**At large**  
Patrick Wright



## 2012 Local Conservation Winners



### 2012 Tree Planter Award Dan and Shirley Carson

Dan and Shirley have been actively working their cow/calf operation since 1967. They have a strong history of tree planting throughout their operation. Their primary concerns were livestock protection and wildlife habitat. The Carson's have faithfully added new windbreaks and have consistently replanted younger trees to replace older ones to ensure a full stand. Dan and Shirley feel they have achieved their objectives of managing for multiple benefits and are proud to see the results of their tree planting; especially during calving season.



### 2012 Grassland Conservationist Award Steve and Pam Reed

Steve and Pam purchased their ranch in 2005 and have become actively involved in preserving the land in a manner that balances the needs of ranching, wildlife, and prairie. They have completed the Ranch Practicum, and have utilized several programs to help implement their conservation efforts. Through these programs they have installed cross fence, pipeline, tanks, windmills, wildlife ramps, and implemented prescribed grazing practices. They have cleared cedar trees, hauled out metal and iron waste from the river, and reseeded native grasses for riparian habitat. The Reeds also use lighter vehicles to reduce the impact of truck/equipment traffic on roads and trails throughout the ranch. They believe in being good stewards of the land in order to leave it better for future generations.



### 2012 Director of the Year Judy Ridenour

Judy has been a member of the Upper Loup Natural Resources District Board of Directors since 1990. She takes her directorship seriously and has been an active, enthusiastic, and faithful member of the ULNRD over the last 22 years. Judy has served in several leadership roles including: Board treasurer since 1993, Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Delegate, and is currently serving on two NARD committees. She provides invaluable insight from the perspective of a producer, director and as a conservationist. A native to Mullen, Judy has a true love and appreciation of the Sandhills and the natural resources it provides.



## ULNRD Adds Baling Facility to Recycling Program

The ULNRD received a grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust to improve and increase recycling initiatives for the Upper Loup District. Upon implementing the existing recycling program of collecting recyclable materials of aluminum, plastics, tin and paper, the ULNRD had been strongly urged by constituents to collect cardboard to help further reduce solid waste that is being sent to the landfill. The overall goal for this project was twofold. One was to meet the expressed desires of the NRD's residents and two, to establish a means of making the current recycling program sustainable. Funding was used to construct a new building and loading dock and to purchase a baler and a densifier (glorified crusher). The building is located on District property which will be used to bale cardboard and paper, tin and aluminum.

As this new grant starts, the previous 3 year recycling grant will come to a close, but the program will continue. Throughout the last three years the recycling program has seen much success. Recycling trailers have been placed in the communities of Dunning, Halsey, Hyannis, Mullen, Seneca, Thedford, as well as taking over the transportation of Stapleton's trailer. The program has also increased the types of materials it collects. We now collect plastics numbered 1-7, tin, aluminum, paper, and cardboard (limited sites). To date the District has collected over 82 tons of materials. An open house was held on October 11, 2012 to celebrate the new segment of the recycling program.



---

## Water Use Reports will be in Mailboxes Soon

Water use reporting is essential to the management of this vital resource. Annual reporting 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 and rancher's interests in any litigation related to the state's right to water use in a given basin, existing water uses must be able to be quantified.

We will be mailing out report forms to irrigators soon. Please return your information as soon as possible, even if you didn't irrigate in 2012 we need to know that. There are four ways you can report your information: 1) mail 2) fax information to 308-645-2308 3) call in to 308-645-2250 or 4) email to Taylor at [tspencer@upperloupnrd.org](mailto:tspencer@upperloupnrd.org)

Wells with FLOW METERS installed will be read by district staff.

---

## Are you wanting to increase irrigated acres in 2013?

If you want to increase your number of irrigated acres for 2013 you must first apply. The ULNRD is allotted 2,500 new irrigated acres annually district wide. If applications for new irrigation acres exceeds the 2,500 limit, a ranking process will be used to determine the acres that will be approved. The criteria reviewed in the ranking process include the status of groundwater and surface water levels, the concentration of irrigation, the type of acres being developed, the type of irrigation system to be used, and the soil classification.

Application forms for landowners interested in developing new irrigated acres are available online at [www.upperloupnrd.org](http://www.upperloupnrd.org) under 'Groundwater' or they can be mailed upon request by calling the office at 308-645-2250. Completed applications along with an FSA map depicting the proposed acres and a non-refundable fee (\$75.00 for 25 acres or less or \$3.00 per acre if the request is for more than 25 acres) will be accepted by the ULNRD through Dec 31. **NO LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Landowners will be notified of the application's outcome by January 31.

# Welcome

We would like to introduce our new resource technician, Taylor Spencer. Taylor grew up on a ranch south of Whitman and had been involved with ranching most of his life. He graduated from Mullen High School in 2005 and attended Hastings College where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Biology in 2009. Taylor and his wife Nicole live in Mullen. He enjoys hunting, fishing, sports, family and friends.



## 37 Certify at Hunter Safety Class

Thanks to volunteer Dane Petersen, 37 participants were able to attend and complete the Hunter Safety class held October 1-2 at the ULNRD office in Thedford. Participants came from several communities

that included: Brewster, Ogallala, Valentine, Mullen, Dunning, Whitman, North Platte, Thedford, Crookston, Kilgore, Purdum, Stapleton, Brownlee, Arnold, and McCook. 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 and older, or born on or after January 1, 1977 who hunts any game animal or game bird in Nebraska using a firearm or crossbow.

## Dripal Pursuit. Test your water knowledge:

1. What is the largest lake in North America?
2. What percentage of the world's cropland is irrigated?
3. What is the saltiest sea in the world?
4. The process of water in the soil that leaches or soaks back into the groundwater supply is known as what?

**Answers found on page 4**

## ULNRD 7th-8th Grade Field Day

The Upper Loup, in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts, and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, sponsored a Student Field Day with the Districts 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade science classes at the ULNRD office on September 5th. Schools that participated were Dunning, Hyannis, Mullen, and Thedford. Students attended five sessions that covered Water, Range, Wildlife, Forestry, and Recycling. During the water session students were able to get into the river and search for insects to help determine the water quality of the river. Range provided a scavenger hunt to find and identify specific range plants. In the wildlife session students learned about the Sandhills rangeland and how the current drought affects bird habitat. In the forestry session students used GPS units to help located and identify trees. During the recycling session students learned about recycling facts with a Recycling Jeopardy game and then finished the session by launching water rockets made from recycled plastic bottles and cardboard tubing. Students enjoyed the "hands-on" experience and plans are already in progress for next year's field day.





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

**We are on the web!**  
[www.upperlounrd.org](http://www.upperlounrd.org)

### Calendar of Events

#### October

- 08 Holiday—Office Closed
- 11 ULNRD Board Meeting—  
Thedford

#### November

- 08 ULNRD Board Meeting—  
Thedford
- 12 Holiday—Office Closed
- 22-23 Holiday—Office Closed

#### December

- 13 ULNRD Board Meeting—  
Thedford
- 25 Holiday—Office Closed
- 31 Deadline for Submitting  
Applications for Expansion  
Of Irrigated Acres

#### January

- 1 Holiday—Office Closed

## TO: POSTAL CUSTOMER

Kyle will be starting tree survival checks this month.

Taylor has completed his irrigation nitrate testing for 2012. The average nitrate level was 3.2 ppm. This is well below the maximum contaminant safe level of 10 ppm.

#### Dripial Pursuit Answers:

1. Lake Superior
2. 17%
3. Dead Sea
4. Recharge

### Upper Loup Staff

Anna Baum .....General Manager  
Jack Brummet...Resources Technician  
Kyle Yrkoski....Resources Technician  
Taylor Spencer...Resources Technician  
Leslie Harvey.....Administrative Secretary  
Denise Vinton...Information & Education  
Natalie Davidson....Field Office Secretary

## 2012 Election

**SUBDISTRICT 1**  
Chris Vinton  
Unopposed

**SUBDISTRICT 2**  
Judy Ridenour  
Unopposed

**SUBDISTRICT 3**  
Gary Reiser  
Unopposed

**SUBDISTRICT 4**  
Gordon Simonson  
Unopposed

**SUBDISTRICT 5**  
Tom Johnson  
Unopposed