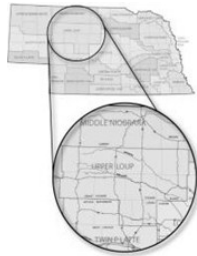




ULNRD



Upper Loup Scoop

April 2013

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Board of Directors

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Eric Storer

Sub-district 2

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Judy Ridenour

Sub-district 3

Gary Reiser
Chris Higgins

Sub-district 4

Byron Cox
Gordon Simonson

Sub-district 5

Darwin Frey
Tom Johnson

At large

Patrick Wright

Chemigation & Permit Training

There are potential risks to our natural resources and public safety issues when using chemigation. Therefore, all chemigation systems must be fitted with the proper safety valves and equipment. This equipment must be inspected by the Upper Loup NRD prior to use to assure functionality and compliance. There are six different things during inspections that need to be checked and approved. Operators must have proper chemigation training to certify that they are prepared to apply chemicals through the irrigation system.

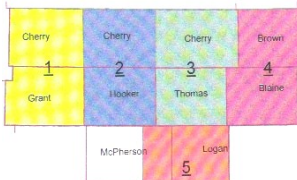
To obtain a Chemigation permit you must first attend a UNL Extension Service training class and pass a written exam to receive Chemigation Certification (certification is valid for four years). For more information please contact Bethany Johnston at the Central Sandhills Extension office or call 308-645-2267. After certification, apply at the Upper Loup NRD or fill out a form on-line at www.upperlounprd.org under Application and Forms. Chemigation renewal permits cost \$10 and must be submitted to the Upper Loup NRD. An irrigation system that has not been renewed prior to the June 1 deadline cannot apply chemicals through the system until a new permit is obtained. New chemigation permits cost \$30 and the applicant cannot use the system until it passes a mandatory inspection. Additional training information can be found at <http://www.deq.state.ne.us/> under Licenses & Certifications/Chemigation.

Local Training dates are: West Central REC, North Platte, April 4 at 1:30pm. Cherry County Extension Office, Valentine, April 9 at 1:00pm

Tree Program Services Offered

Trees provide important benefits such as protecting homes and livestock from wind and snow, helping to reduce heating and cooling costs, preventing soil erosion, increase crop yields, and providing wildlife habitat. The Upper Loup NRD offers tree program services including: planting, weed barrier installation or weed control, and new is drip irrigation systems. A well-planned drip irrigation system can have a tremendous impact on a young tree's survival and growth. We understand drought concern for young trees and to help with this the ULNRD has made available to producers the opportunity to develop an irrigation system.

The ULNRD provides a 65% cost-share, and there are funds still available. Funds will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis for those practices that meet requirements. Trees and shrubs (excluding small acreage package), planting, and weed mulch are all eligible for the cost share program. Orders are now being taken 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.upperlounprd.org or contact Kyle at 308-645-2250.



Domestic well owner, is your drinking water safe?

A good supply of fresh water is essential to human existence. We use fresh water not only for drinking, but for bathing, growing food, cleaning, watering animals and watering lawns. In Nebraska about 95% of rural residents get their household water supply from private or domestic wells. If they are not properly protected, these wells are at risk of being contaminated from several sources. Potential sources of ground water contamination which may be present near your home include septic tanks, animal waste, pesticides, fertilizers, fuel storage tanks, household chemicals, used motor oil, etc. The potential for contamination in our area is also increased because of the sandy soil.

The only way to know if nitrates and or bacteria are present in your drinking water is by testing because both contaminants are colorless, odorless, and tasteless. A water test for nitrate is highly recommended for households with infants, pregnant women, nursing mothers, or elderly people, as these groups are most susceptible to nitrates. Coliform bacteria are microscopic, generally harmless organisms that live in the intestinal tract of many warm blooded animals including humans and are excreted into the environment through feces. Although most coliform bacteria are not directly disease causing, some are often found with other, more dangerous strains of bacteria like E. coli, shigella and salmonella. Some strains of E. coli are known to cause vomiting, diarrhea, and other serious gastrointestinal problems.

As of October 2012, the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR) listed over 24,960 domestic wells registered in the state. Domestic wells were not required to be registered with the state prior to September 1993, therefore thousands of domestic wells exist that are not registered with the NDNR. Unlike public water supplies, the quality of private water sources in Nebraska is unregulated by federal or state mandate. Thus, well owners are encouraged to have their well water tested and make sure their well is properly maintained to help protect their health and safety.

The Upper Loup Natural Resources District (ULNRD) has been a part of an important water quality grant the past three years. The goal of this undertaking was to obtain a good base of information about the nitrate levels within the district as well as develop a long-term comparable data base system that would support sound management and policy decisions. I am happy to report that we were able to collect, review and log a significant amount of information in regards to any point and nonpoint contamination problems within our district and found there to be no significant findings or events that occurred. The District's average nitrate levels were 3.5 ppm in Domestic wells and 3.2 ppm in Irrigation wells, all of which are well below the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 10 parts-per-million (ppm).

The potential for water contamination is always present therefore water quality requires long term monitoring. The Upper Loup NRD recommends that all domestic wells, either registered or unregistered, get tested at least once every five years. Wells in Sub District 3, which includes all of Thomas County and the south third of Cherry County adjacent to Thomas County, are on schedule to be tested this year. We are glad to offer this important safety service to you AT NO CHARGE. Samples are most often collected from an outside hydrant so there would be no need for you to be present at collection time. If you would like to have your well tested please contact our office at 308-645-2250 or email our water technician at tspencer@upperloupnrd.org to be placed on the list.

Five Scholarships offered for ACE Camp

The Upper Loup NRD is offering 5 full scholarships for students, who have completed grades 6 through 8, to attend the Adventure Camp about the Environment this summer. The camp is held June 16th to June 19th at the State 4-H Camp in Halsey. For more information, see the enclosed ACE Camp brochure.

Adventure Camp about the Environment

2013

Hosted by:
Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts

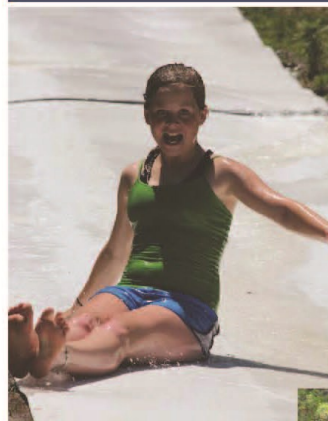
Sunday June 16th -
Wednesday
June 19th, 2013

State 4-H Camp
Halsey, Nebraska

ACE Camp
is for 6th-8th graders
who want to learn more
about natural resources and
have an adventure at camp.

www.nrdnet.org

Need a ride? Contact the 4-H Camp Director about possible transportation from the Grand Island area to the camp in Halsey. (308) 533-2224



ACE

2013



Adventure Camp About the Environment

Find us on facebook:
Adventure Camp About the Environment



www.nrdnet.org
Protecting Lives • Protecting Property • Protecting the Future

REGISTRATION FORM FOR Adventure Camp

• May 31st deadline • www.nrdnet.org

Camper's Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

NRD District: _____

Adult Size T-Shirt (Please circle one) S M L XL

Name of School you attend: _____

2012-2013 Grade Level: _____ Male/Female: _____

Are you attending on a NRD Scholarship? _____

Parent Signature: _____

Please make checks payable to: **NRD ACE CAMP**

Camp Cost: \$190

\$25.00 is non-refundable

Date of Camp: June 16th - June 19th, 2013

Mail your registration and camp fee to:

Upper Loup NRD
32952 Hwy 2

Thedford, NE 69166

308-645-2250

lharvey@upperloupnrd.org

I referred _____
to join in on the fun at the 2013 ACE Camp!

This camp is for 6th–8th graders. They must have completed 6th, 7th or 8th grade in the 2012–2013 school year.

Dates & Location: June 16th–June 19th, 2013, State 4-H Camp, Halsey, Nebraska

Arrival/Departure: Arrive at 4:00PM CST on Sunday, June 16, 2013. Camp ends at 3:00PM on Wednesday, June 19, 2013. Transportation to and from camp will be the parents' responsibility. Please arrive promptly with your campers but not before 4:00PM.

Camp Cost: \$190.00. The fee and registration form are due by Friday, May 31, 2013. Once the registration form has been received, additional information will be sent back to registered campers.

\$25.00 of the fee will be non-fundable.

Check with your local NRD for Camp Scholarship availability.

Adventures in Water Quality

Clear water is not necessarily clean water. Campers will learn hands-on how to determine how much water is flowing in the Middle Loup River and then relate that to water quality. Activities will include a session in the river and a session that connects surface water to the groundwater we all depend on for drinking.

Career Education

Careers in natural resources conservation, management, research and technology will be introduced to campers through an interactive presentation provided by a representative of the University of Nebraska--Lincoln.

Forestry

Campers will create their own sustainable landscape plans that benefit both humans and wildlife. They will learn about different tree/shrub species that are important for quality wildlife habitat.

Wind Energy

It will blow you away!
Campers will explore and discover the power of wind. It pumps water, shapes the landscape, moves boats, grinds flour, mills wood and grows corn, wheat and so much more.

Activities

Halsey 4H Camp Activities

- Experience some of the wonders of camp at Halsey! Enjoy archery, water slide, canoeing, climbing, repelling, and a River Stomp and many more adventure for you to try.

Range and Grassland

Long known as "Cattle Country" in the heart of Nebraska, campers will explore the grasslands of the Sandhills and get up close and personal with many range plant species with the help of a Range Scientist.

Soils and Land

Play in the dirt!

Campers will examine up close the different Nebraska soils. Afterwards, they will see firsthand how water can shape, color and distribute the different Nebraska soils.

Wildlife CSI: Critter Scene Investigation

— Campers will learn to use GPS technology to locate 'real' animal signs in nature. Discover Nebraska's wildlife by investigating animal tracks, fur, skulls, bones and other signs to determine what took place at that location.

Education Partners:

Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts - Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Nebraska National Forest, Bessey Nursery - Nebraska Game & Parks Commission - Nebraska Forest Service
Nebraska State 4-H Camp - Nebraska Pheasants Forever - Nebraska Dept. of Environmental Quality
Sandhills UN-L Extension - University of Nebraska-Lincoln - USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Welcome to the NRD

We would like to introduce our Field Office Secretary, Natalie Davidson. Natalie grew up on farm/ranch north of Broken Bow. She graduated from Sargent High School and received an Associate's Degree from Central Community College. The previous 12 years she worked for Sargent Irrigation Co. in Broken Bow. She has a daughter attending Creighton University and a 9-year-old son. In 2012, they moved to Thedford to begin a new business at Brahmer's Steakhouse and Saloon. Natalie started working for the NRD in July 2012; her office is located in the NRCS building in Thedford.



The Directors and staff of the Upper Loup NRD would like to extend a warm welcome to Gary Reiser. He has been elected to represent Sub-district 3 of the ULNRD which includes all of Thomas County and a small portion of southeast Cherry County. Gary grew up in Brownlee and graduated from Thedford High School and attended UNL for a year and a half. He previously drilled water wells for 17 years, and currently ranches and owns the "Rustic Tavern" in Mullen. Gary and his wife, Rhonda, have three kids—two of which are in the Air Force. Gus is in California, Taylor is in Germany and Ted is still in school.



We would like to introduce our new Information and Education Coordinator, Lacey Sabatka. Lacey grew up on a farm south of David City. She graduated from Aquinas High School in 2007 and attended Southeast Community College in Milford, where she received an Associate's Degree in Graphic Design in 2009. After moving to the area in 2011, she started a small business adventure from her home where she does graphic design and photography. She and her husband, T.J., currently reside near Purdum. She enjoys baking, taking photographs, and spending time with family, friends, her dog and horses.

New Irrigated Acres Granted Across Upper Loup NRD

The Upper Loup NRD approved applications for 4,217 new irrigated acres across the District in 2013. 2013 is the final year that new irrigation could be allowed under LB-483, a bill approved by the Nebraska Legislature in 2009. That law allowed NRD's in river basins where a fully appropriated designation was reversed to develop up to 10,000 new irrigated acres over a four year period. The Upper Loup developed a total of 8,008 acres of the 10,000 allowed under that legislation (335 in 2010, 1,426 in 2011, 2,030 in 2012 and 4,217 in 2013).

Upon reaching the sunset date of LB-483 the Upper Loup Board of Directors approved a rule change, following a public hearing on May 10, 2012, to limit the number of new irrigated acres to 2,500 annually. This rule will remain in place indefinitely or until the Department of Natural Resources would designate the basin as fully appropriated. If applications for new irrigation acres exceed the 2,500 a ranking process will be used to determine the acres that will be approved. Criteria to be used in the ranking process are currently being reviewed by District staff, directors and UNL hydrologists and geologists. Standards that are being looked at include the status of groundwater and surface water levels, the concentration of irrigation, type of acres being developed, stream depletion, and the soil classification. The goals are to have a fair and equitable system for awarding new acres to the best parcels of land.

ATTENTION: Past ACE Campers!

If you refer friends to register for ACE Camp, you can receive up to \$30 in camp store bucks for new campers. ***Make sure you write who you referred on your registration.*** If you are too old to attend camp this year, why not consider being a camp counselor? If you are interested, please contact the ULNRD office for more information.

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

April

- 11 ULNRD Board Meeting—
Thedford
22 Earth Day
26 Arbor Day

May

- 09 ULNRD Board Meeting—
Thedford

June

- 13 ULNRD Board Meeting—
Thedford
16-19 ACE Camp, Halsey 4H Camp

July

- 4 Holiday—Office Closed
11 ULNRD Board Meeting—
Thedford
22-28 Thomas County Fair

Upper Loup Staff

Anna Baum	General Manager
Kyle Yrkoski	Resources Technician
Taylor Spencer	Resources Technician
Leslie Harvey	Administrative Secretary
Jack Brummet	Recycling Coordinator
Lacey Sabatka	Information & Education
Natalie Davidson	Field Office Secretary

The Upper Loup NRD is still accepting orders for conservation tree seedlings for 2013. Each tree is a 2 year-old bare root seedling and is approximately 12-18 inches tall.

Cost-share assistance may be available for more information contact the NRD. **All trees and shrubs are 80 cents per seedling plus sales tax. Each species must be ordered in lots of 25. Payment must be made when order is placed.** You may complete and clip out the adjacent order form and submit to the NRD.

To learn more about the species you can go online to www.nrdtrees.org/

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
US Postage Paid
Thedford, NE 69166
Permit. No. 11

TO: POSTAL CUSTOMER

Bow Hunter Safety

Attention Bow Hunters ages 12-29: You must complete a bow hunter education course for hunting deer, antelope, elk or mountain sheep AND carry proof while hunting. A bow hunter safety course is being offered this spring at the ULNRD. If you are interested, please contact the office for more information.

2013 Conservation Tree Sales Ending Soon

Upper Loup Natural Resources District 2013 Tree Order Form

Conifers

- ☐ Austrian Pine
☐ Black Hills Spruce
☐ Colorado Blue Spruce
☐ Eastern Red Cedar
☐ Jack Pine
☐ Norway Spruce
☐ Ponderosa Pine
☐ Rocky Mountain Juniper

Hardwoods

- ☐ Amur Maple
☐ Black Walnut
☐ Bur Oak
☐ Catalpa
☐ Hybrid Cottonwood
☐ Native Cottonwood
☐ Gamble Oak
☐ Peach Leaf Willow
☐ Green Ash
☐ Hackberry
☐ Honey Locust
☐ Kentucky Coffee Tree
☐ Manchurian Apricot
☐ Mountain Ash Oak
☐ Red Maple
☐ Red Oak
☐ Siberian Elm
☐ Shumard Oak
☐ Silver Maple

Shrubs

- ☐ American Plum
☐ Buffalo Berry
☐ Caragana
☐ Chokeberry
☐ Chokecherry
☐ Elderberry
☐ False Indigo
☐ Golden Current
☐ Hazelnut
☐ Contoneaster
☐ Lilac
☐ Red Osier Dogwood
☐ Russian Almond
☐ Sand Cherry
☐ Serviceberry
☐ Sumac
☐ Woods Rose

.80 / tree & shrub
(sold in lots of 25)

.550 tax on total

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address, City, Zip: _____

Total Trees & Shrubs: _____ Total \$ Enclosed: _____