

Upper Loup Scoop

July 2013

ULNRD

Inside this issue:

Fourth Annual ACE Camp	2
Hazard Mitigation Plan Update	2
Conservation Jeopardy	2
Bow Hunter Safety	3
Tree Workshop	3
Public Hearing	3
Projects in Progress	3

ULNRD Receives Grant from Nebraska Environmental Trust

Upper Loup Natural Resources District announced in April that it will receive **\$100,000 from the Nebraska Environmental Trust for the "Groundwater Irrigation Management Program."** The Trust Board announced funding for the project at its meeting on April 4, 2013 in Lincoln.

Funding is being sought from the Environmental Trust to help provide a portion of the monies needed to offer flowmeters and crop water sensors to irrigators.

Having this technology in place will help to increase understanding of groundwater irrigation occurring in the Upper Loup Natural Resources District (ULNRD), as well as help irrigators to conserve water by managing water application practices. This **project addresses several of the trust's priorities in regards to water use.** There is limited information available regarding the total amounts of irrigation taking place across the District. Due to the increasing demands of water for irrigation it is important that long-term water usage is managed in a sustainable and equitable way. Effective groundwater irrigation management begins with accurate water use measurements. Quantifying the amount of groundwater utilized for irrigation is essential for water and nitrate management. Currently data is manually recorded by farmers resulting in irregular reporting and is subject to human errors. We are looking at the Trust to help provide funds for the flowmeter portion of this project. The placement of flowmeters on wells, which qualified District personnel will read, will ensure the accuracy of the data collected.

The ULNRD wants to use the best scientifically-based management practices to deal with current and future groundwater management needs and feels that this project will provide key information when developing groundwater policy. For more information on the Nebraska Environmental Trust you can visit their website at www.environmentaltrust.org.



Managing Groundwater Resource

The Upper Loup NRD has Watermark brand 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.

The NRD has some soil moisture sensors still available for this year. If you would like to use them or would like more information on them you can contact Taylor at 308-645-2250.

Board of Directors

Sub-district 1
Eric Storer
Chris Vinton

Sub-district 2
Judy Ridenour
Wynn Wiens

Sub-district 3
Chris Higgins
Gary Reiser

Sub-district 4
Byron Cox
Gordon Simonson

Sub-district 5
Darwin Frey
Tom Johnson

At Large
Patrick Wright



Fourth Annual ACE Camp

Campers from across the state of Nebraska attended the fourth annual Adventure Camp about the Environment (ACE) from June 16th through the 19th at the State 4-H Youth Camp near Halsey. The camp drew in 32 campers; many of which attended through a scholarship from their local NRD.

The educational camp focused on forestry, rangeland, water quality, soils and wildlife. Campers had the chance to get their hands dirty and experience nature in many activities, as well as fun time in the river, sliding down the water slide and building water rockets. This was a great opportunity for the campers to learn more about nature and the natural resources in our area.

Many sponsors, partners and presenters continue to make ACE Camp a success. The camp was



sponsored and organized by the Nebraska Natural Resources Districts (NRDs), the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) and the Hooker County Turner Youth Initiative.

Presenters from the NARD, NRD's, NRCS office, and UNL extension office also helped to make the ACE Camp a great learning experience for the kids.

Local ACE Camp Scholarship Recipients from the Upper Loup NRD were (pictured left to right) Kyra and Dixie Kennedy of Purdum, Shaianna Sabata of Mullen, Jesse Coble of Mullen, and Hannah Higgins of Valentine.

Time for the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

It is time to evaluate, amend and renew current Community Hazard Mitigation Plans approved by FEMA that were put into place five years ago. As a reminder the hazard mitigation plans are **community-guided documents that identify each participating community's vulnerability to natural disasters such as flood, drought, earthquake, wildfire, winter storm, tornado/high wind storm, etc.** The plans set goals for each community, establish mitigation alternatives, and prioritize projects which can alleviate potential damages to property and life when future disasters occur. Any community or county that is part of a plan is eligible for up to a 75% cost share for a wide variety of projects listed in the plan.

Beginning this summer look for local announcements by your participating village or county about receiving public input in regards to your communities current plan and what you may like to see stay the same or change. The following is a list of Hazard Mitigation Plan Participants: Upper Loup NRD, Region 26 Emergency Management, Village of Thedford, Village of Stapleton, Village of Halsey, Village of Dunning, Village of Seneca, Village of Mullen, Village of Brewster, Village of Gandy, Hooker County, Blaine County, Logan County and Thomas County.

Cost Share dollars still available

The ULNRD has cost share still available for planned grazing projects, brush removal and drip line for shelter belts. If you are interested in any of these please contact our office at 308-645-2250.

Range Camp Scholarship Recipients

Area students attended the Range Camp held June 10-13, at the State 4-H Camp in Halsey. The students learned about topics such as plant identification, rangeland management, rangeland conservation, geology, and other topics. Natalie Jones of Stapleton, Hannah Watson of North Platte, Chelsea Nollette of Whitman, and Kelsey Phillips of Mullen, all received a scholarship from the ULNRD to attend the camp.

CONSERVATION JEOPARDY!

Test your water knowledge:

1. The Ogallala Aquifer underlies how many states?
2. Nebraska claims more miles of flowing streams per square mile of land than any other state. True or false?
3. What two states are transferring ground-water from Nebraska into their state?
4. A name of an artificial lake that collects and stores water.

Answers found on page 4

Bow Hunter Safety Course

A bow hunter safety course will be held at the Upper Loup Natural Resources office in Thedford on July 12th through 14th, 2013. 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. Bow hunter education courses will provide instruction in the proper use of equipment, fundamentals, shooting and hunting techniques, game identification, conservation management as well as hunter ethics.

The course is three sessions and attendance is mandatory for all sessions to receive certification. Sessions are Friday, July 12, 7pm–10 pm CT, Saturday, July 13, 9am–5pm CT, and Sunday, July 14, 1pm–5pm CT. Participants will have an hour lunch on Saturday and are asked to bring their lunch for the session. The course will be held at the Upper Loup NRD office at 39252 Highway 2 in Thedford. For more information and to register, please visit the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission website at www.huntsafenebraska.org.

“Save Your Shelterbelt” Workshop at Thomas County Fairgrounds

The flash drought of 2012 and other weather conditions seriously impacted the health of young and **mature trees. The evergreens were the hardest hit. The effects of the hot and dry weather weren't** immediate and could be seen this winter and spring, as more and more evergreen trees turned brown and died.

Is your shelterbelt in dire conditions? Wondering what to do next? The Upper Loup NRD, UNL Extension, and Nebraska Forest Service will be hosting a workshop on Tuesday, July 16th from 8:30 am to noon CT at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. Registration will begin at 8:30am with coffee and donuts, with the speakers to present at 9 am.

The workshop will cover re-planting options, costs, planting tips, **watering and care, and what to expect from last year's drought. The** Upper Loup NRD and NRCS will cover cost-share programs, while forest experts will explain how to keep our live trees healthy. A tour of local shelterbelts will end the program.

There is no cost for the workshop. Pre-registrations are appreciated. Please call the Central Sandhills Extension Office at 308-645-2267 or 1-800-657-2113 by July 9. If you have questions or would like more information contact Kyle at 308-645-2250.

Notice of Public Hearing

The Upper Loup NRD will be conducting a public hearing July 11, 2013 at 7 pm CT to receive public testimony on a proposed amendment to its Ground Water Area Rules and Regulations. The change **is to move up the due date for any “ Expansion of Irrigated Acres”** application from December 31st of each year to September 30th of each year.

You can review a full text copy of the amended Groundwater Rules and Regulations by going to our website www.upperloupnrd.org and clicking on Proposed 2013 Rules and Regulations on the Groundwater Rules and Regulations page under the Groundwater tab.

Projects in Progress

–We are finishing up with our NET recycling grant, but services will still continue. Trailers are located in Brownlee: east of the old Post Office, Dunning: southwest corner of High School parking lot, Halsey: south of the Community Building, Hyannis: entrance of the Hyannis Recycling Center, Mullen: at the village drop-off site during normal business hours, Seneca: next to dumpsters by Elementary School, Thedford: ULNRD office parking lot, Stapleton: in the old state yard on the west edge of town

–Working under the Litter reduction grant, there will be recycling collection bins for aluminum and plastic placed at the Mullen, Stapleton and Thedford Fair Grounds

–Recycling collection boxes for electronics are located at Security First Bank, Ewoldt's Grocery Store, the Courthouse and the ULNRD Office in Thedford; also Nebraskaland National Bank in Mullen

–Kyle is currently doing chemigation checks from now until end of July

–Taylor is doing domestic and irrigation well quality checks now and throughout the summer

Upper Loup NRD

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 Thedford, NE 69166
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Calendar of Events

July

- 4 Holiday—Office Closed
- 11 Public Hearing 7pm
- 11 ULNRD Board Meeting—
Thedford
- 12-13 Bow Hunter Safety
- 22-28 Thomas County Fair

August

- 1-4 Hooker County Fair
- 15 ULNRD Board Meeting—
Thedford
- 15-18 Grant County Fair
- 22-25 Logan County Fair

September

- 2 Holiday—Office Closed
- 4 Jr. High Field Day
- 12 ULNRD Budget Hearing 7pm
- 12 ULNRD Board Meeting—
Thedford

CONSERVATION JEOPARDY!

Answers:

1. Eight states: South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas
2. True
3. Kansas and Colorado
4. Reservoir

Upper Loup NRD Staff

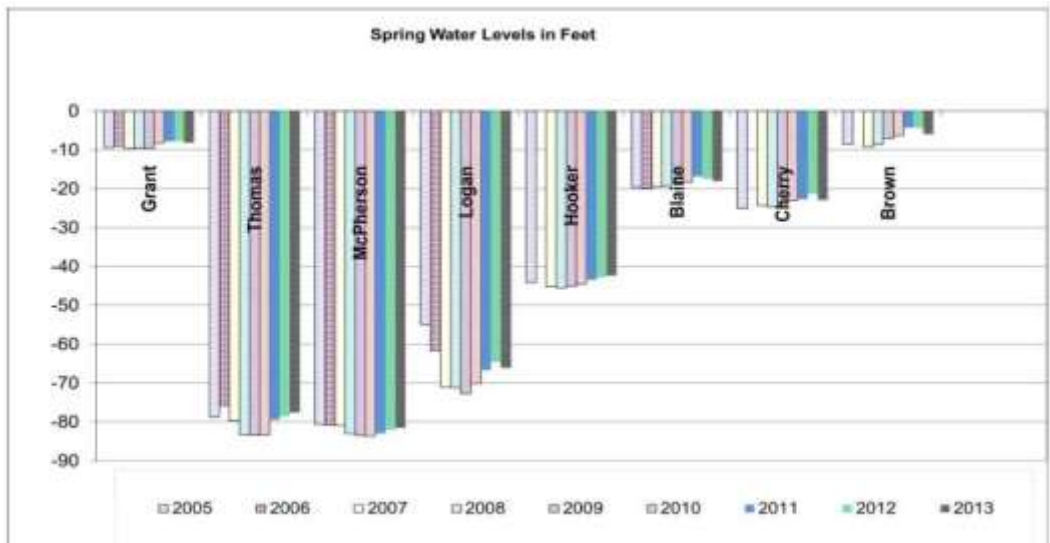
Anna Baum	General Manager
Kyle Yrkoski	Resources Technician
Taylor Spencer	Resources Technician
Leslie Harvey	Administrative Secretary
Jack Brummet	Recycling Coordinator
Lacey Sabatka	Information & Education
Natalie Davidson	Field Office Secretary

PRSRT STD
 ECRWSS
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 Thedford, NE 69166
 Permit. No. 11

TO: POSTAL CUSTOMER

Attention Brownlee Area Residents:

The ULNRD has placed a recycling trailer in Brownlee east of the old Post Office for your convenience of recycling plastics, aluminum, tin, papers, and cardboard.



The 0 on the graph indicates ground level. The graph shows results from the monitoring of wells throughout the District during the last nine years.