



Upper Loup Scoop

Upper Loup NRD

April 2014

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Calendar of Events

April

1	HMP Public Hearing, Mullen 7PM MT
2	HMP Public Hearing, ULNRD Office, Thedford, 7PM CT
3	HMP Public Hearing, Stapleton 3PM CT
10	Board Meeting: ULNRD Office 7pm CT
22	Earth Day
25	Arbor Day

May

8	Board Meeting: ULNRD Office 7pm CT
26	Office Closed: Memorial Day
30	ACE Camp Registration Deadline

June

12	Board Meeting: ULNRD Office 3pm CT
15-18	ACE Camp

Flowmeters Still Available

Upper Loup Natural Resources District has received a flowmeter grant opportunity for the "Ground Irrigation Management Program." Funding is to be used to offer flowmeters and crop water sensors to irrigators. 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. The Nebraska Environmental Trust is helping to provide funds to qualified flowmeters.

Eligible wells are any legally registered irrigation well that was drilled prior to 2008 and is actively being used. Due to the number of flow meters we have available and the amount of response we have had we are allowing each producer up to 6 flowmeters. You have until April 30, 2014 to install the flowmeter. With that being said we ask you to please let us know as soon as possible how many units you will be installing so that we may properly allocate the flowmeters.

As a condition of receiving a flowmeter you as the participating landowner agree to pay for installation and allow the District access to the monitoring site so that the meter can be read in the fall or at the end of the irrigation season. Only impeller driven flowmeters will be cost-shared on. The NRD will reimburse you 100% of the actual cost of the flowmeter up to \$1,700.00.

Help Manage Precious Groundwater Resources

This year, the Upper Loup NRD has 15 Watermark brand soil moisture sensors which will be distributed throughout the District at no cost. There are still 10 Soil moisture sensors available. 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.

Accurate determination of soil water status (soil water content or soil water potential) is fundamental to agricultural water management. Effective irrigation management requires that soil water status be accurately monitored over time in representative locations in the field. Irrigation scheduling requires the knowledge of "when" and "how much" water to apply to optimize crop production. Proper irrigation management will help prevent economic losses caused by over or under irrigation; movement of nutrients, pesticides and other chemicals into the groundwater and other water bodies; and wasting water resources and energy consumption. **(continued on page 3)**

No-Till Drills Available for Rent at ULNRD

No-till drilling has positive impacts on soil health, water quality, net farm income, and the quality of life. Continuous no-till improves soil structure which increases biological and microbial activity. Water holding capacity and nutrient retention capacity of the soil are also increased. Compaction and soil erosion are reduced, resulting in improved soil health, runoff prevention and reduced loss of valuable topsoil. Energy is saved and profitability is also increased with no-till drilling due to reduced labor, fuel, equipment needs and less trips across the fields.

To help producers with their conservation efforts, the Upper Loup NRD has two no-till drills available for rent. The 10 ft. Great Plains Minimum Till Drill rents for \$8.44 per acre for crop seed. The same drill also rents for a minimum of \$75 or 12.5 acres per rental for flower seed. The 4 Row Buffalo Interseeder rents for \$4.22 per acre. The drill can be picked up or delivered. A \$55 delivery fee will be charged for deliveries under 60 miles and \$70 will be charged for deliveries over 60 miles. Sales tax is also charged on the rental of all equipment. There is no day charge for the first day (24 hours). Each following day will be assessed a \$15.00 day charge (weather dependent). Rental rates are for the machine only; no tractor or operator. For more information please contact Taylor at 308-645-2250 or tspencer@upperloupnrd.org.



The Upper Loup NRD has been approved for a grant to purchase another No-Till Drill. A new larger 15' drill has not been purchased yet, but will be soon to replace the older drill. The older drill will then be for sale. If you would like information about the old drill that will be for sale, please contact the office at 308-645-2250 or watch for the listing in the newspaper.

Chemigation and Permit Training

Chemigation is the term commonly used to describe the practice of applying agrichemicals (i.e. fertilizer-including livestock waste, insecticides, herbicides and fungicides) through an irrigation distribution system. All chemigation systems must be fitted with the proper safety valves and equipment because of potential risks to our natural resources and public safety issues. 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 at 308-645-2267. After certification, apply at the Upper Loup NRD or fill out a form on-line at www.upperloupnrd.org under Find a Form, permits and chemigation permits. 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, then Chemigation.

Local Training dates are: April 1 in Ainsworth, April 8 in Valentine and May 8 in North Platte. For times, locations and other dates go to www.deq.state.ne.us.

CONSERVATION JEOPARDY

1. Approximately how many billion gallons of water are used in the U.S. each day? A. 235 B. 400 C. 110
2. True or False: 1.7% of the worlds water water is frozen, therefore it is unusable.
3. In which activity do Americans use the most water daily? A. Brushing their teeth B. Showering C. Flushing the toilet
4. How much does a gallon of water weigh in pounds?
5. True or false: it takes 100 gallons of water to produce 1 gallon of milk.

Answers on page 4



Nebraska's
Natural Resources
Districts

www.nrdnet.org

Protecting Lives • Protecting Property • Protecting the Future
Registration Form for 2014 ACE Camp
DEADLINE IS FRIDAY MAY 30TH

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: _____

2013-2014 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 15 - June 18, 2014

Mail your registration and camp fee to:

Please send registrations to: Upper Loup NRD

39252 Hwy 2

Theford, NE 69166

308-645-2250

ulnrd@upperloupnrd.org

Camp Information

This camp is for 6th-8th graders. They must have completed 6th, 7th or 8th grade in the 2013-2014 school year.

Dates & Location: June 15th-June 18th, 2014, at State 4-H Camp in Halsey, Nebraska.

Arrival/Departure: Arrive at 4:00pm CST on Sunday, June 15th. Camp ends at 2:00pm CST on Wednesday, June 18th. **Transportation to and from camp will be the parents' responsibility.** Please arrive promptly with your campers but not before 4:00pm CST.

Camp Cost: \$190.00. The fee and registration form are due by Friday, May 30th, 2014. Once the registration form has been received, additional information will be sent back to registered campers. **\$25.00 of the fee will be non-refundable.**

Halsey 4-H Camp Activities

Experience some of the great wonders of camp at Halsey! Enjoy archery, zipline, tanking, tubing, a River Stomp and many more adventures for you to try!

Check with your local NRD for Camp Scholarship availability.

Adventure Camp about the Environment

Hosted by Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts
Sunday, June 15th to Wednesday, June 18th, 2014
State 4-H Camp, Halsey, NE



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

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
- Turner Youth Foundation
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension Agency
- United States Department of Agriculture-
- Natural Resources Conservation Services



Chuck Markley with the USDA-NRCS, North Platte, will have campers get their hands dirty while learning about Cob-a form of building material that has been used for more that 5000 years. Campers will learn new uses for this historical construction material.

Outdoor Cooking

Who said cooking has to be done in the kitchen? Jeeseye Goertz from the UNL Extension office in Custer County will give campers the chance to learn outdoor cooking skills and compete like top chef masters!

Forestry

Explore different types of trees at the Bessey National Forest with Richard Gilbert, forester at the Bessey Nursery. Campers will tour the nursery and even get to plant their own seedlings.



Heather Francis from Pheasants Forever, with Adam Sutton, Lower Platte South NRD, will provide a pollinator activity for campers. They will learn about how wildlife interacts with nature.



Pollutants can impact the quality of water we all need to survive. With collecting activities, Sheri Daniels with the Upper Niobrara White NRD, will take a walk with campers through the Middle Loup River to connect water quality with spineless critters living in the water.

Fishing **New for 2014**

Adam Sutton, with the Lower Platte South NRD, will teach campers how to tie two of the strongest knots for fishing and how to reach fish with the perfect cast. Then campers will put their skills to the test against others and whoever catches the most fish wins a prize!

NRD Olympics

Campers will be split into groups and compete in challenges that you'll just have to find out what they are when you get to camp!



Explore the grasslands of the Sand Hills and learn some of the basic range ecology principles with the help of Shelly Kelly, a Range Management Specialist from the North Platte USDA-NRCS. Campers will also explore the range area in groups with a scavenger hunt.

(Groundwater Resources continued from page 1)

If you would like to use a soil moisture sensor at no cost, please call the ULNRD office to have one saved for you. If you are not completely sure if you want to use a soil moisture sensor, we can still add your name to the list to save you one. If you would like more information on them, please contact Taylor Spencer at 308-645-2250.

Newly Planted Tree Care

Windbreaks on your farm are important to provide protection for the home, livestock and crops; provide habitat for wildlife; and contribute to an overall healthy environment for you and your family. Like any other living thing, they need proper care and management in order to continue to function at their best. The Upper Loup NRD will be planting trees soon and wants to remind you of ways to properly take care of your newly planted trees.

Water: In low rainfall regions or under drought conditions, supplemental water may be necessary for the survival of newly planted trees and shrubs. In very dry areas, it is essential for newly planted trees to receive additional watering at the time of planting. When watering bare root trees with a tank or hose it is best to water a minimum of once every 1-2 weeks applying 2-5 gallons per plant at a low pressure so as it is important not to disturb the soil around the roots.

Wildlife Damage: A common problem with newly planted windbreaks is damage from small rodents and deer. Please ask our technicians for advice on preventing damage from small rodents in your area.

Protection from Wind and Sun: Plants vary in their tolerance to direct sunlight. Shade can be provided using a number of items. Existing vegetation or logs are the easiest and cheapest to use, shake shingles work well, and commercially manufactured shade products are also available.

Attention Irrigators: Check Sprinkler Package

Flow meters provide a means to determine the flow rate and flow volume of irrigation systems. Many producers do not have flow meters, so they must rely on original well registration information. Over time, flow rates can change due to many factors including water table fluctuations and normal wear and tear. As a result, flow rates listed on original well registrations may not be accurate.

Annual reporting is important to protect stakeholder interests, adopting actions in times of water emergencies, and providing data for effective farm management. Water use reporting is essential to the management of this vital resource.

If you have changed your sprinkler package in the last few years or are thinking about changing your sprinkler package it would be beneficial to check the flow rate and flow volume. If you are in need of your irrigation system to be inspected, the Upper Loup NRD does not charge for this service. The procedure is a non-evasive meter and does not take long to do. It is beneficial to monitor flow rates throughout the irrigation season to ensure that the proper amount of irrigation water is being applied. If you are interested in this service, please contact our office at 308-645-2250 to set up a time.

ACE Camp Scholarships

The ULNRD is offering full scholarships to attend the ACE Camp on June 15-18, 2014. ACE Camp is for students who have completed 6th, 7th or 8th grade in the 2013-2014 school year.

To be qualified for a scholarship, you must fill out a scholarship form that can be found on our website at www.upperloupnrd.org. You must also fill out a camp registration form that can be found in this newsletter, on our website, or at the office. If you have any questions, please call 308-645-2250.

Upcoming Hazard Mitigation Plan Meetings

There will be Public Hearings for the next round of the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan on Tuesday, April 1st, at the Village Office in Mullen at 7PM MT; Wednesday, April 2, at the ULNRD Office in Thedford at 7PM CT; and Thursday, April 3, at the County Courthouse in Stapleton at 3 PM CT.

Updating Addresses

If you have moved or know someone that moved out of the district and no longer receives the newsletter but would still like to please contact the office at 308-645-2250 or email us at ulnrd@upperloupnrd.org.

ULNRD 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

ULNRD Board of Directors

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Judy Ridenour

Wynn Wiens

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Gary Reiser

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Sub-District 5

Darwin Frey

Tom Johnson

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Patrick Wright



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Earth Day and Arbor Day Presentations

Anna will be going around to the schools in the Upper Loup District to present to Kindergarten through 6th grade students about natural resources. Some of the topics she will be covering are animal habits, tree rings, the food web, hazardous waste, landfills and watershed health.

CONSERVATION JEOPARDY ANSWERS

1. B. 400 2. True 3. C. Flushing the toilet 4. 8.34 pounds 5. False. It takes 1000 gallons