



Upper Loup Scoop

Upper Loup NRD

July 2014

Inside this issue:

New No-Till Drill	2
Conservation Jeopardy	2
Youth Range Camp	3
Newly Planted Tree Care	3
Projects in Progress	3

Calendar of Events

July

- 4 Office Closed:
Independence Day
- 17 Board Meeting:
ULNRD Office 7pm CT

August

- 14 Board Meeting:
ULNRD Office 7pm CT
- 22-30 Nebraska State Fair

September

- 1 Office Closed:
Labor Day
- 3 ULNRD Jr. High Field Day
- 9-11 Husker Harvest Days
- 11 Board Meeting:
ULNRD Office 7pm CT

Upper Loup Natural Resources District To Begin Voluntary Integrated Management Plan

The Upper Loup NRD is continuing to be proactive in water management and is voluntarily developing, in cooperation with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (DNR), a Voluntary Integrated Management Plan (V-IMP). The ultimate goal of the project is to develop a comprehensive groundwater and surface water management plan that protects existing interests while facilitating economic growth and well-being across the district. Our vision is to develop a V-IMP that would achieve a balance between the water uses and water supplies in the District so that the economic viability, environmental sustainability, and safe living conditions within the District can be maintained and enhanced for both the short term and the long term.

The Upper Loup will pursue developing a V-IMP over the course of approximately 19 months. The NRD in cooperation with the DNR will engage the public and, specifically, a Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC), to represent the varied interests of water users across the District. The public and the SAC will be kept informed and will have the opportunity to become engaged in the plan development process. If you would like to be part of the Stakeholder group please contact Upper Loup General Manager, Anna Baum, as soon as possible at 308-645-2250.

Successful Annual ACE Camp

From June 15th through June 18th, campers from across the state of Nebraska attended the fifth annual Adventure Camp about the Environment (ACE) at the State 4-H Camp near Halsey. The camp drew in 32 campers and included some previous campers, too. Many of the campers attended the camp 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, and building water rockets. The campers also participated in competition activities with outdoor cooking, fishing, a scavenger hunt, geocaching, and other games. This was a great opportunity for the campers to learn more about nature and the natural resources in our area.

This year was the fifth year for the ACE Camp. In June of 2010, the first Adventure Camp about the Environment was held with a total of 55 campers from across the state. The ACE Camp Committee hopes to continue this camp for many more successful years. KNOP-TV News from North Platte captured a few moments from the camp on Monday and aired the story that evening and night.

The camp was sponsored and organized by the Nebraska Natural Resources Districts (NRDs), the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (*continued on page 2*)



ULNRD Offers New No-Till Drill

On April 5th, 2014 the Upper Loup Natural Resources District received a grant for \$30,000 from the Nebraska Environmental Trust for the “No-Till Drill” project. The Trust Board announced funding for the project at its meeting on April 3, 2014 in Lincoln.

There are many benefits of using a no-till technique such as the reduction of soil erosion, soil moisture and organic matter retention, protection of groundwater quality, reduction of chemical runoff, and reduction of soil compaction. In 2000, with the help of the Environmental Trust, the Upper Loup purchased a 10 foot Great Plains no-till drill. The drill was kept very busy (drilled over 12,000 acres) and could not keep up with the demand so the NRD purchased another 10 foot drill in 2007. Both drills have been used in all of the eight counties of our district and to date have serviced more than 18,526 acres.

The 20 foot Haybuster no-till drill is expected to be available to rent in July. A larger drill will provide a couple of advantages. One, it will cut down on the amount of time each producer needs to have the drill allowing it to be used by more producers during peak planting times. Two, it will reduce the number of rounds it will take to drill, making the process more conservation friendly (reducing fuel usage and emissions). The new drill can be easily pulled behind a pickup. It does not have seed boxes for native seeds. If you would like information about the new drill, please contact our office at 308-645-2250 and visit with Taylor.

Water Usage for Irrigators in ULNRD

Water use reporting is essential to the management of our vital water resource. Annual reporting of use 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. Knowing water use allows a wider range of options for dealing with any future drought-related water emergencies.

Many of you have had a flowmeter installed and the ULNRD staff will be reading those meters at the end of the growing season. If you are an irrigator and you don’t have a meter we ask that you please remember to keep track of your water use. You will need to track the number of acres irrigated, if applicable the electric horsepower, the number of hours watered and the flow rate in gallons per minute. If it has been years since the flow rate has been checked it would be a good idea to give us a call and one of our technicians will check this for you at no charge with a non-invasive ultrasonic flowmeter.

CONSERVATION JEOPARDY

1. What type of tree is green year around because it doesn’t lose its leaves in the fall?
2. One large tree can provide a day’s supply of oxygen for how many people? A. 1 B. 4 C. 7
3. True/False: Every tree produces fruit.
4. Term used to describe water moving over land surface: A. Erosion B. Recharge C. Runoff D. Storage
5. How many years does it take to form 1 inch of soil? A. 500 B. 200 C. 100

Answers on page 4

(Successful Camp, continued from page 1) (NARD) and the Hooker County Turner Youth Initiative. Presenters from the NRD’s, NRCS office, UNL extension office, and Nebraska Game and Parks also helped to make the ACE Camp a great learning experience for the kids. With the help from these sponsors, partners and presenters from year to year, ACE Camp becomes a huge success.

Local ACE Camp Scholarship Recipients from the Upper Loup NRD were J. Russell Mcmillan of Milburn, Aubrey Schultis and Jared Schultis of Tryon, Hollianna Watson of North Platte, and Taylor Downing of Dunning.



Youth Range Camp

On June 9th through the 13th, the Nebraska Society for Range Management held their annual Nebraska Youth Range Camp at the State 4-H Camp in Halsey. Campers learned about range plant identification, range/ecological sites, range condition, stocking rates, livestock health, wildlife habitat, range improvements, rangeland ecology, plant anatomy and growth, geology and monitoring methods. Other sponsors for the event were Nebraska Ranches, Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition, Sandhills Task Force, University of Nebraska, Nebraska's Natural Resource Districts, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Chadron State College.



The Upper Loup NRD awards scholarships for students in the District to attend the camp. Local Scholarship Recipients were Chelsea Nollette of Whitman, Kelsey Phillips of Mullen, Shaylee Jones and Natalie Jones of Stapleton.

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 ULNRD 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.

In the 2014 tree planting season, the Upper Loup NRD planted a total of 22,560 trees and shrubs. There was also 91,087 feet of mulch put down over the newly planted trees and shrubs.

Projects in Progress

Attention Irrigators:

Expansion of irrigated acres applications are due September 30. You can find an application to print from our website at www.upperloupnrd.org under the Groundwater tab, then click on Expansion of Irrigated Acres. Or you can contact the office at 308-645-2250 for a printed application form.

Recycle Update

The Upper Loup NRD would like to remind everyone of the items we accept for recycling. We accept numbers 1 through 7 plastics. This includes livestock supplement tubs ("lick tubs"). Aluminum and tin. Please remember that for plastics and tin the labels do not need to be removed but you need to rinse out the items. Newspapers, paper, magazines—please no heavily dyed paper. We also accept cardboard. When placing cardboard in recycle trailers please break down to allow for more room in the bins. ***Thank you for your continued effort with recycling with the Upper Loup NRD!***

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

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



For Latest News check out
www.upperlounprd.org

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

TO: POSTAL CUSTOMER

Hunter Safety Course

A hunter safety certification course will be held at the Upper Loup NRD office some time this fall through Nebraska Game and Parks. We currently do not have a date set, but will be sending out information in the newspaper with dates and times. You can also call our office at 308-645-2250 in July to find out more information about the course.

CONSERVATION JEOPARDY ANSWERS

1. Conifer 2. B. 4 3. True 4. C. Runoff 5. A. 500 years