



Upper Loup Scoop

Upper Loup NRD

January 2015

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Calendar of Events

January

- 1 Office Closed:
New Years Day
- 8 Board Meeting:
ULNRD Office 3pm CT
- 19 Office Closed:
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February

- 12 Board Meeting:
ULNRD Office 3pm CT
- 16 Office Closed:
President's Day

March

- 12 Board Meeting:
ULNRD Office 3pm CT

Water Basin Management Plans Being Developed

Lower Platte South Basin Water Management Plan The Upper Loup NRD, along with six other NRD's and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources have signed an interlocal agreement to pursue and discuss water management components that could compromise a voluntary basin-wide water management plan. This effort could be incorporated into individual NRD's Integrated Management Plans. The other NRD's include the Lower Loup NRD, the Upper Elkhorn NRD, the Lower Elkhorn NRD, the Lower Platte North NRD, the Lower Platte South NRD, and the Papio-Missouri River NRD.

Niobrara River Basin Water Management Plan NRD's involved in the Niobrara River Basin management are planning a question and answer session that will be open to the public on February 11th. The session will be in regards to stakeholders and the basin planning process. The NRD's involved with the Niobrara River Basin are Upper Niobrara White NRD, Middle Niobrara NRD, Lower Niobrara NRD, Upper Elkhorn NRD and Upper Loup NRD.

ULNRD Voluntary IMP 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 *(continued on page 3)*

Time to Order Trees for 2015

Do you have enough protection for you and your livestock against the wind and snow? Trees provide important benefits such as sheltering livestock, helping to reduce heating and cooling costs, preventing soil erosion, increase crop yields, and providing wildlife habitat. ULNRD technicians are available to work with landowners to determine the type and number of trees and shrubs needed. If you are needing to work on a shelterbelt plan, the cost for tree planning is free but it needs to be done within the next few months. The Upper Loup NRD offers tree program services including: planning, planting, weed barrier installation or weed control, and drip irrigation.

The ULNRD provides a 65% cost-share and 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, weed mulch, and drip irrigation systems are all eligible for the cost-share program. Tree and shrub orders are now being taken through March 31st or 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.upperloupnrd.org or contact Kyle at 308-645-2250.

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. Please pre-register so enough materials/tests can be packed for that location.

Here are local area training days and locations:

Feb 10: Stapleton Courthouse at 1:30PM CT – Contact Dave Boxler at 308-696-6721

Feb 12: North Platte WREC* at 1:30PM CT – Contact Dave Boxler at 308-696-6721

March 4: Stapleton Courthouse at 1:30PM CT Contact Dave Boxler at 308-696-6721

April 2: Stapleton Courthouse at 1:30PM CT Contact Dave Boxler 308-696-6721

April 7: Valentine Extension Office in Courthouse at 1PM CT, contact Jay Jenkins at 402-376-1850

*WREC: West Central Research & Extension Center southwest of Menards on State Farm Road.

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. Additional training information can be found at <http://www.deq.state.ne.us/> under Licenses & Certifications, then Chemigation.

The Nebraska Legislature in 2014 approved changes to the Nebraska Chemigation law. The standard fees set in the law have been eliminated and replaced with a requirement of each NRD to set the fees sufficient enough to cover the ongoing administrative costs and the costs of annual inspection programs by the NRD. The proposed changes to the permit fees in the Upper Loup are as follows: Renewal Permit: \$30.00, New Permit: \$60.00, Special Permit: \$60.00 and Emergency Permit: \$250.00. Inspections will continue to be made on a three year cycle; new and modified systems must still have an inspection prior to injecting fertilizer or pesticides. Renewal permits and fees are due in the office of the Upper Loup NRD no later than 4pm CT on June 1st.

CONSERVATION JEOPARDY

1. True or False: Nebraska has more underground water reserves than any other state in the continental U.S.
2. True or False: Nebraska has more than 100,000 registered irrigation wells.
3. An area of land from which all runoff drains to is called a : A. Pond
B. Watershed C. Basin
4. Approximately what percent of the U.S. uses ground water as a source for drinking water? A. 30% B. 10% C. 80%
5. True or False: Nebraska is the third largest user of groundwater behind California and Texas.

Answers on page 4

New Field Office Secretary Welcomed to ULNRD

Pam Petersen grew up on a small ranch north of Norden, NE with two older sisters, a twin sister and two wonderful parents. After graduating from UNL, receiving a Bachelors Degree in Middle School Education with an added Elementary Endorsement, she returned to the ranch where she grew up to teach in the one room country schools in the area in the early years of her teaching. In the later years she taught at the Middle School and High School level in the areas of English, Reading, and Art, in Nebraska schools in the east end of the state. Pam has three children that do not live with her but whom she is very close to. She loves the outdoors, traveling and exploring new things, creating art, writing and time with her family. Currently she lives with family in Mullen, NE. Pam started working for the Upper Loup NRD in September 2014. Her office is located in the NRCS Building.



(Basin Plans continued from page 1) 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. They are tentatively looking at January to hold their first meeting.

Groundwater Rules and Regulations Update

The ULNRD is currently making updates to the Groundwater Rules and Regulations. We are tentatively looking at February to hold a public meeting about the new updates. Please watch the newspapers for updates on dates and information.

A full copy of the proposed Groundwater Rules and Regulations will be posted on our website by the middle of January. Here is a summary of the changes to the Upper Loup NRD's current rules and regulations which the public hearing will take testimony:

- Variance application fee increase to \$50.00
- Addition of Rule 9 which covers "complaints" against landowners or operator's within the District
- The requirement that all industrial and commercial well applications must provide a hydrological evaluation showing a 20 year potential impact of the withdrawal to water quality and quantity to both ground and surface water users in the District
- No high capacity wells will be allowed to be drilled within 300 feet from an existing registered domestic well
- Flowmeters will be required on all high capacity wells by May 1 of 2018
- Transfer permit fees increase to \$75.00 per application of 25 acres or less, or \$3.00 per acre for applications over 25 acres
- The Board reserves the right to approve less than 2500 acres annually
- A minimum score of 15 points (out of 70) will be required on an irrigated acre ranking sheet before the application will be considered for approval
- Application period to apply for new groundwater irrigated acres shall be during the months of July, August, and September
- A maximum of 260 irrigated acres per individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, or other entity or trust will be allowed per application period for expanded irrigated acres
- Chemigation permit fee changes: Renewal \$30.00, New \$60.00, Special \$60.00 and Emergency \$250.00

The Board reserves the right to establish a sub-area, place a temporary moratorium in new acres in that area as well as begin hydrological studies in efforts to prevent any potential groundwater quantity problems.

Projects in Progress

Measuring Pivots

With our new computer program, Beehive, we are able to measure pivots more precisely. We are currently working along with assessor records to update the records with the correct irrigated acres. Therefore, producers might see changes on their 2014 tax evaluation because of this.

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. ***We do not accept any styrofoam, and feed bags that have plastic inside. These items cannot be recycled.*** Thank you for your continued effort with recycling with the Upper Loup NRD!

ULNRD Staff

Anna Baum

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Resources Technician

Leslie Harvey

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Recycling Coordinator

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Pam Petersen

Field Office Secretary

ULNRD Board of Directors

Sub-District 1

Eric Storer

Chris Vinton

Sub-District 2

Judy Ridenour

Tim Andersen

Sub-District 3

Chris Higgins

Gary Reiser

Sub-District 4

Gordon Simonson

Todd Schipporeit

Sub-District 5

Tom Johnson

At Large

Bobbie Jo Christensen

Cherry 1	Cherry 2	Cherry 3	Brown 4
Grant	Hooker	Thomas	Blaine
	McPherson	5 Logan	

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www.upperlounprd.org

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Sixth Annual ACE Camp Dates Set

Make plans to attend the sixth annual Adventure Camp about the Environment (ACE). The dates have been set for Sunday, June 14 through Wednesday, June 17, 2015 at the State 4-H Camp in Halsey. The camp is four days of outdoor fun, exploring and learning about Nebraska's natural resources for 6th, 7th and 8th graders. If you would like more information about the camp you can visit our website at upperlounprd.org and look under the Education tab, or call the office at 308-645-2250.

CONSERVATION JEOPARDY ANSWERS

1. True 2. True 3. B. Watershed 4. C. 80% 5. False, Nebraska is the 4th, behind Arkansas