



# Upper Loup Scoop

Upper Loup NRD

April 2015

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## Calendar of Events

### April

2	Chemigation Training North Platte
7	Chemigation Training Valentine
9	Board Meeting ULNRD Office 7PM CT
24	Arbor Day

### May

14	Board Meeting: ULNRD Office 7PM CT
25	Office Closed: Memorial Day

### June

11	Board Meeting: ULNRD Office 7PM CT
14-17	ACE Camp, 4-H Camp, Halsey, NE

## Domestic Well Owners: 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. Unlike public water supplies, the quality of private water sources in Nebraska is unregulated by federal or state mandate.

The potential for water contamination, especially in our sandy soils, is always present therefore water quality requires long term monitoring. If not properly protected wells are at risk of being contaminated from several sources. The only way to know if nitrates and or bacterial 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.

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 5, which includes all of Logan County and the eastern portion of McPherson County, are on schedule to be tested this year. If you don't live in that subdistrict and would still like your water to be tested please just let us know. We are glad to offer this important safety service to you at NO CHARGE. If you would like to have your well tested please contact Taylor at 308-645-2250 to be placed on the list.

## Voluntary IMP Stakeholder Meeting

Representatives of various water user groups attended the first meeting held to begin creation of a voluntary integrated management plan (IMP) for the Upper Loup Natural Resources District on February 17, 2015 at the NRD office in Ord. Those attending the meeting included surface water, groundwater, industrial, municipal, commercial and agricultural representatives.

The objective of developing an integrated management plan is to manage the Loup River Basin to achieve and sustain a balance between water uses and water supplies for the long term. The voluntary integrated management plan is being created through a joint effort of the Upper Loup Natural Resources District and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. Karen Griffin of Olsson Associates, who was hired by the firm to facilitate the meetings, told the group that the plan was being created for a number of reasons. Those reasons include: 1. Water Sustainability - Protecting existing infrastructure while allowing for future development. 2. Funding Opportunities - Including the Water Sustainability Fund created (*continued on page 3*)

## ULNRD Welcomes New Directors to the Board

In January and February, the Upper Loup NRD swore in four new Directors to the Board: Tim Andersen representing Sub-district 2, Todd Schipporeit representing Sub-district 4, Bobbie Jo Christensen, Director At Large, and Richard Burnside representing Sub-district 5.

**Tim Andersen**, along with his wife Megan, and two daughters live in Mullen. He ranches in southern Cherry County with family in a cow/calf operation. Tim has a Bachelor's degree in Biology and Environmental Studies. Tim's technical studies included surface and groundwater quality monitoring, chemical data validation, flora and fauna surveys, and local, state and federal environmental permitting.



**Todd Schipporeit** and his wife of 30 years, Karen, reside near the Milburn Dam. They have two daughters, Tessa and Michaela. In 2003, Todd began working for Sargent Irrigation District in Sargent, and in 2008, he became a Co-Manager. Sargent Irrigation District is a canal system with around 14,000 acres. The water is diverted from the Middle Loup River at the Milburn Dam, which is managed by Todd. He is also the Secretary/Treasurer for the Loup Basin Surface Water Development Association, and has held this position since 2009.

**Bobbie Jo Christensen** grew up on a farm/ranch by Westerville, Nebraska, where her parents raised corn and alfalfa with pipe irrigation and dryland, and a cow/calf operation. Bobbie Jo graduated from Arcadia High School and attended Southeast Community College, in Milford, NE, where she earned a degree in Architectural Engineering Technology. She, and her husband John, live west of Arnold with their three daughters, who attend Arnold High School and Elementary. The majority of their farm ground is irrigated by center pivots, with some pipe irrigation and dryland. They raise corn, soybeans, wheat, alfalfa, and feed-sorghum, and also have a cow/calf operation.



**Richard Burnside**, his wife Polly, and their four children, reside southeast of Stapleton. He is a fourth generation Logan county farmer and rancher. In 1994, Richard earned a degree in Mechanized Systems

Management from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. After graduating, he returned to the family operation and has been there for the last twenty years. Richard and his family operate a diversified farming business where they raise corn, beans, various small grains, and livestock.



### CONSERVATION JEOPARDY

1. Switching to a high-efficiency washing machine can same up to how many gallons of water a year?  
A. 2,000 B. 3,000 C. 4,000
2. True or false: when washing dark clothes, cold water saved them water and energy.
3. Turning the water off while brushing your teeth can save up to how many gallons a minute? A. 2 B. 4 C. 8
4. True or false: hand washing dishes is more efficient and uses less water than dishwashers.
5. True or false: bathing uses the least amount of indoor water use.

Answers on page 4

### NeRain Volunteers Needed

The Upper Loup is in need of several NeRAIN volunteers in all our Counties (Grant, Hooker, Blaine, Brown, Cherry, Thomas, Logan and McPherson). It just takes a few minutes each day to record measurements of precipitation using backyard gauges, which are provided by the Upper Loup Natural Resources District.

The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources in collaboration with the Nebraska Natural Resources Districts initiated the Nebraska Rainfall Assessment and Information Network (NeRAIN) program. It is a special project designed to include volunteers in a study of the **(continued on page 3)**

*(V-IMP, continued from page 1)* by LB-1098. 3. Integrated Management of Groundwater and Surface Water Resources. The group also received a presentation on the IMP process from Tim Freed, Integrated Management Coordinator for the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources.

The creation of a stakeholders group was one of the first steps in the process. The stakeholders will offer input that will help DNR and the NRD develop goals and objectives for the integrated management plan. DNR and the NRD will finalize the goals and develop the IMP. Finally, the stakeholders will receive the opportunity to comment on the plan. The process can last months and even years before it is finalized.

*(NeRain, continued from page 2)* fascinating and very complex patterns of rain, hail and snow from our weather here in Nebraska.

Everyone can help. The only requirements are an enthusiasm for watching and reporting weather conditions and a desire to learn about the power and beauty of our natural world.

Each time a rain, hail or snow storm crosses the area, volunteers will be taking measurements of the precipitation from as many locations as possible. Hail does not occur as often as rain, but it can cause severe damage to crops and property. Observers will also be asked to keep notes detailing any storm characteristics and related weather conditions. Precipitation reports will be transmitted by computer using a web site designed to allow you to enter your precipitation data.

This unique project will give participants a chance to join in an effort to improve the collection of precipitation data to improve State Wide weather forecasting. The data will provide important daily decision making information for agriculture, industry, home water use, utility providers, insurance companies, resource managers and educators. For data to be considered accurate and precise volunteers must understand that this is a long term commitment of daily reporting. If you are interested or have any questions about becoming a volunteer please contact Lacey at 308-645-2250.

## **Chemigation and Permit Training**

Chemigation permits and permit renewal fees are due June 1. Renewal permits have been mailed out. Last years permits expire on midnight May 31. Fees are \$60 for a new permit, and \$30 for a renewal permit. New permit applications are available at the ULNRD office. If you plan to apply chemicals, you must attend one of the courses and pass a written exam to be certified. Certification is good for four years, and the irrigator is required to take a renewal course. Chemigation inspections are required every 3 years. Please view our website or call the office for training dates and locations.

## **No Till Drill Rental**

The ULNRD has 2 no-till drills available for rent: a 10 foot Great Plains minimum till drill and a 20 foot HayBuster No Till Drill. For more information and to set up an appointment, please call Taylor at 308-645-2250. The drill rental prices can be viewed on our website at [www.upperlounprd.org/drill-rental/](http://www.upperlounprd.org/drill-rental/)

## **Projects in Progress**

### **Help Manage Precious Groundwater Resources**

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.

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. Proper irrigation management will help prevent economic losses caused by over or under irrigation; conserve water; save energy; decrease fertilizer requirements; increase movement of nutrients, pesticides and other chemicals into the groundwater and other water bodies; and wasting water resources and energy consumption.

The Upper Loup NRD has Watermark brand soil moisture sensors which will be distributed throughout the District at no cost. Soil moisture sensors need to be installed within a specific time frame. If you would like to use a soil moisture sensor, or if you would like more information on them, please contact Taylor at 308-645-2250.

## ULNRD Staff

Anna Baum

*General Manager*

Taylor Spencer

*Resources Technician*

Shane Young

*Resources Technician*

Leslie Harvey

*Administrative Secretary*

Jack Brummet

*Recycling Coordinator*

Lacey Sabatka

*Information & Education*

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

Richard Burnside

### At Large

Bobbie Jo Christensen



For Latest News check out  
[www.upperloupnrd.org](http://www.upperloupnrd.org)

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## TO: POSTAL CUSTOMER

### ACE Camp Scholarships

The ULNRD is offering full scholarships to attend the annual ACE Camp to be held on June 14-17, 2015. ACE Camp is for students who have completed 6th, 7th or 8th grade in the 2014-2015 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](http://www.upperloupnrd.org), and you must also reside in the ULNRD boundaries. A camp registration form must also be filled out along with the scholarship form. The camp registration form can be found in this newsletter, on our website, or at the office. If you have any questions, please call 308-645-2250.

### CONSERVATION JEOPARDY ANSWERS

1. C. 4,000 2. True 3. B. 4 gallons 4. False 5. False, at 27% of water use



www.nrdnet.org

Protecting Lives • Protecting Property • Protecting the Future

### Registration Form for 2015 ACE Camp DEADLINE IS FRIDAY MAY 29TH

Camper's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

NRD District: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name of School you attend: \_\_\_\_\_

2014-2015 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  
 Dates of Camp: June 14 - June 17, 2015  
 Mail your registration and camp fee to:  
 Upper Loup NRD  
 39252 Hwy 2,  
 Thedford, NE 69166  
 (phone) 308-645-2250  
 (email) ulnrd@upperloupnrd.org

### Camp Information

This camp is for 6th-8th graders. They must have completed 6th, 7th or 8th grade in the 2014-2015 school year.

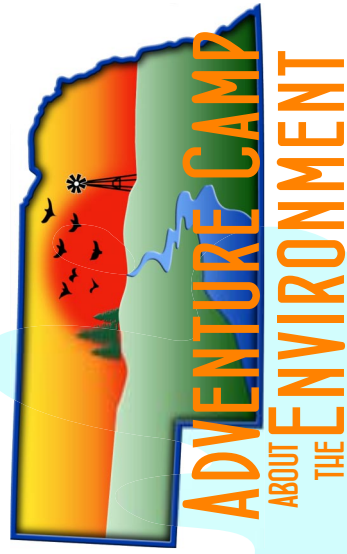
Dates & Location: June 14th-June 17th, 2015, at State 4-H Camp in Halsey, Nebraska.

Arrival/Departure: Arrive at 4:00pm CST on Sunday, June 14th. Camp ends at 2:00pm CST on Wednesday, June 17th. 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 along with the registration form is due by Friday, May 29th, 2015. 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.**

Experience some of the great wonders of camp at Halsey! Enjoy archery, zipline, tanking, tubing, a River Stomp and many more activities!



Hosted by Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts

**Sunday, June 14th to  
Wednesday, June 17th**

**State 4-H Camp, Halsey, NE**



**Find us on Facebook:  
Adventure Camp about the Environment**

### 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
- Hooker County Turner Youth Foundation
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension
- United States Department of Agriculture—
- Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Check with your local NRD about receiving a scholarship to attend the camp. You must reside in the district where you are applying for a scholarship.**

## Soil

Have you ever wondered what soil is and how it is formed? Patrick Cowsert, Resource Soil Scientist with the NRCS will explain what soil is all about and how to maintain soil health.

## Range

Plants and animals that are found in a particular location are part of an ecosystem. These plants and animals that exist here depend on each other to survive. Learn more about the different types of ecosystems with local ranch hand Austin Horn.

## Forestry

Did you know trees can reduce heating and cooling costs, prevent soil erosion, provide windbreaks for livestock and have many other benefits? Upper Loup NRD staff will explain the benefits of trees and teach campers how to properly plant trees with a tree planter.

## Wildlife

Campers will get their hands dirty with activities that demonstrate the importance of pollinating insects, and a habitat project that will benefit birds, bees and butterflies. Drew Larsen with Pheasants Forever will discuss the current issues impacting pollinator populations around the world.

## Water

Water is essential for all life. Through discussion, demonstration and activities, campers will explore the connections between drinking water, storm water and water quality. Sheri Daniels from Upper Niobrara White NRD, along with Jason Moudry from Lower Loup NRD will bring campers to the Middle Loup River to collect water and study aquatic macro-invertebrates.

## Outdoor Cooking

Who said cooking has to be in the kitchen? Campers will be able to learn some tips and tricks for cooking outdoors with Jessye Goertz with UNL-Extension in Custer County.

## Other Activities

Experience some of the great wonders of camp at Halsey. Enjoy Halsey 4-H Camp activities—archery, tubing, tanking, zip line, river activities, and many other adventures for you to try! And back for another year, the NRD Olympics. For some campers, this might be your chance to take over as new champions!

