



Upper Loup Scoop

Upper Loup NRD

July 2015

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Calendar of Events

July

4	Office Closed: Independence Day
9	Board Meeting ULNRD Office 7PM CT

August

13	Board Meeting: ULNRD Office 7PM CT
28	State Fair begins

September

2	ULNRD Field Day
7	Office Closed: Labor Day
10	Board Meeting: ULNRD Office 7PM CT
15-17	Husker Harvest Days

Changes Regarding ALL Irrigation Wells in 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. With the placement of flowmeters on all wells it will ensure the accuracy of data collected. Therefore, one of the proactive management decisions our Board has decided to take is requiring flowmeters to be placed on all high capacity wells, or those wells pumping 50 gallons per minute or greater, throughout the entire District. Rule 19 of the Upper Loup Groundwater Rules and Regulations (complete copy of these rules and regs can be found on our website at www.upperlounprd.org) states that all high capacity wells associated with certified irrigated acres (whether actively watering or not) must be equipped with a flowmeter by: May 1, 2017 for wells in Sub-District 5 (Logan and McPherson Counties), May 1, 2018 for wells in Sub-District 4 (Brown and Blaine Counties) and May 1, 2020 in Sub-Districts 1-3 (Grant, Hooker, Thomas and Cherry Counties).

Basic flowmeter requirements are: new, NOT a Seametric brand; if chemigation practices will be used, the meter must be impeller driven; if electronic, it must have uninterruptible power supply; meet or exceed industry standard of $\pm 2\%$ water flow accuracy; installed according to manufacturer's specifications and calibrated to the pipe size; capable of measuring all the groundwater pumped by a well or wells connected in a series serving a single purpose; have a gallon totalizer gauge that reads in acre-inches and a flow rate gauge that reads in gallons per minute; and be protected with a cover. Flowmeter size, serial number, and flow direction shall be clearly stamped on the body of the flowmeter and shall be recorded by the District for inventory purposes.

Once you have your meter(s) installed please contact our office at 308-645-2250 and we will send a technician to inspect it.

Expansion of Irrigated Acres in the Upper Loup NRD

The Upper Loup Board of Directors voted to allow up to two thousand five hundred (2,500) acres of new development for year 2016 across the District at its June Board meeting. Five hundred (500) acres have been allotted to each of the five sub-districts.

Landowners must apply for any new irrigated acres on a District application form. These forms can be downloaded from our website at **(continued on page 3)**

ACE Camp Success

Another successful ACE Camp is in the books! The 2015 Adventure Camp about the Environment (ACE) was held from June 14th through the 17th, at the 4-H Camp in Halsey. A total of 42 campers from Grand Island to Scottsbluff, North Loup to Stratton, and other towns in between, came to learn about natural resources. Some of the campers attended ACE Camp last year, with a few of them returning for their third year at camp.

The campers had the opportunity to learn about Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts, forestry, water quality, soils, range, outdoor cooking, birding and GPS through different hands-on activities. Presenters came from all over the state to help teach the campers about natural resources. Employees from Nebraska's NRDs, Nebraska National Forest, Bessey Nursery, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Pheasants Forever, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, and United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Services helped bring their expertise with teaching the campers.

Each year, the Upper Loup NRD offers scholarships to cover the cost to attend ACE Camp. This year, four campers received scholarships to attend the camp: Lane Watson and Hollianna Watson from McPherson County, BaiLee McMillan from Milburn, and Aubrey Schultis from Tryon. Hollianna and Aubrey returned to camp for their second year.

Many sponsors continue to help make ACE Camp successful from year to year. Nebraska's NRDs and Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Foundation are the main sponsors of the camp from year to year. Other sponsors that help to make camp successful are from the Nebraska National Forest, Bessey Nursery, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Nebraska Forest Service, Nebraska State 4-H Camp, Hooker County Turner Youth Foundation, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, and the United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Services.



ULNRD Welcomes New Resources Technician

The Upper Loup NRD would like to introduce our new Resources Technician, Shane Young. Shane graduated from Mullen High School in 2008. He attended college at the University of Nebraska in Kearney, graduating in

December 2012 with a double major in Geography & GIS, and History. During the summers, he did maintenance for the Sand Hills Golf Club. After college, he interned in Kansas at Prairie Land Electric for six months doing mapping. He also worked at Global Mapping Solutions mapping electric lines in Kansas and Colorado for nine months.

At the end of March, Shane started his new position at the Upper Loup NRD, where he began organization for the tree season. He recently started doing chemigation inspections, and has taken over the GIS for mapping well locations, water levels and water sheds. Some of Shane's interests include sports, especially football, and spending time with family and friends.



CONSERVATION JEOPARDY

1. What is the source of both groundwater and surface water?
A. Rain B. Precipitation C. Wells
2. True or false: the beginning of a river is known as the source.
3. What is the largest lake in North America?
A. Lake McConaughy
B. Lake Michigan C. Lake Superior
4. When fully saturated, which of the following sediments will hold the most water:
A. Clay B. Sandstone C. Gravel
5. True or false: fresh water is heavier than salt.

Answers on page 4

(Expansion, continued from page 1) www.upperloupnrd.org or by calling the office at 308-645-2250 and requesting an application. The application period is July 1, 2015 thru September 30, 2015. An application received outside of an application period will be returned to the applicants as incomplete. A maximum of two hundred and sixty (260) irrigated acres per individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, other entity or trust will be allowed per application period for expanded irrigated acres.

A one-time non-refundable administrative fee of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) per application of twenty-five (25) acres or less or three dollars (\$3.00) per acre for applications over twenty-five (25) acres must accompany an application. The application form requires: information on the landowner and/or their contact person; field description, an aerial photo depicting the field; and the number of acres of new irrigation requested.

A minimum score of fifteen (15) points on the Upper Loup District Irrigated Acre Ranking Sheet is required for an application to be considered for approval. Each application for expansion of irrigated acres will be ranked according to the following criteria: groundwater quality in the vicinity, density of irrigated acres within the vicinity, NRCS soil classification (e.g. Highly Erodible Lands, or HEL), stream proximity, slope, removal of trees and any other criteria and/or considerations deemed relevant by the District.

Acres approved for expansion must be certified with the Upper Loup NRD as well as have a flowmeter installed on any new or existing wells prior to any pumping with groundwater.

Nebraska Youth Range Camp

The Nebraska Society for Range Management held their annual Nebraska Youth Range Camp at the State 4-H Camp in Halsey on June 8th through the 12th. 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. 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 every year for students in the District to attend the camp. Local scholarship recipients were Ryley Johnson of Hyannis and Elizabeth Spencer of Whitman.

Projects in Progress

Chemigation Inspections

Shane has been doing chemigation inspections throughout the District. 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 insure functionality and compliance. If you are in need of a chemigation inspection, please contact Shane at 308-645-2250.

Domestic Well Monitoring

The potential for water contamination, especially in our sandy soils, is always present, therefore, water quality requires long term monitoring. The ULNRD recommends that all domestic wells, either register, or unregistered, get tested at least once every five years. Taylor is currently checking wells in Sub-District 5, which includes Logan County and the eastern third of McPherson County. If you would like your well tested, please contact Taylor at 308-645-2250.

Expansion of Irrigated Acres Applications

Applications for Expansion of Irrigated Acres are now being accepted through September 30, 2015. An application received after the application period will be returned to the applicant as incomplete.

ULNRD Staff

Anna Baum

General Manager

Taylor Spencer

Resources Technician

Shane Young

Resources Technician

Leslie Harvey

Administrative Secretary

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Recycling Coordinator

Lacey Sabatka

Information & Education

Pam Petersen

Field Office Secretary

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Sub-District 4

Gordon Simonson

Todd Schipporeit

Sub-District 5

Tom Johnson

Richard Burnside

At Large

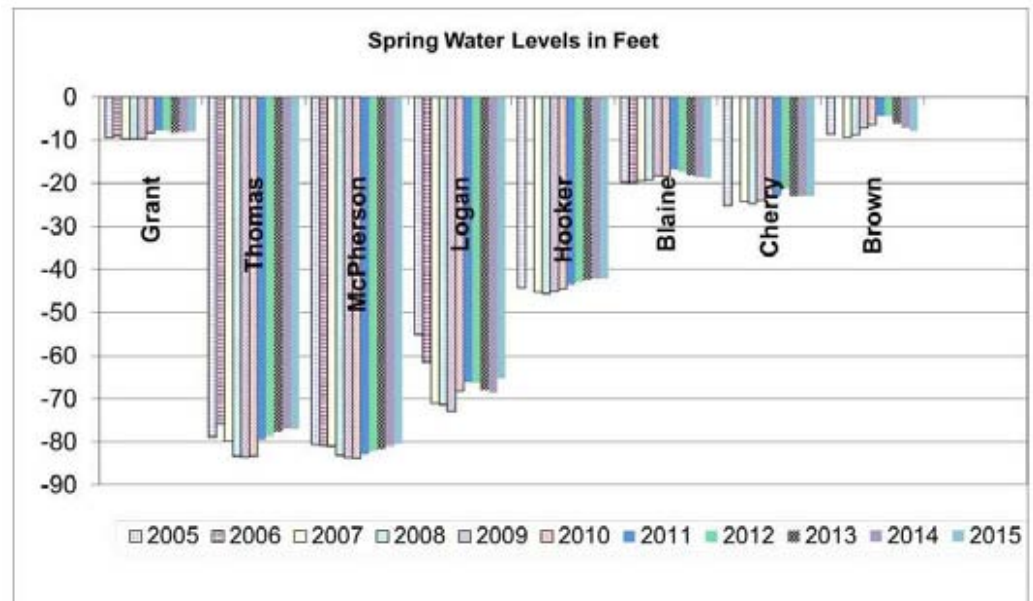
Bobbie Jo Christensen



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

CONSERVATION JEOPARDY ANSWERS

1. B. Precipitation 2. True 3. C. Lake Superior 4. A. Clay 5. False, salt is heavier