



Upper Loup Scoop

Upper Loup NRD

April 2016

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Calendar of Events

April

7	Chemigation Training, North Platte 1:30 PM
7	Chemigation Training, Ainsworth 1:30 PM
12	Chemigation Training, Valentine 1:00 PM
14	Public Hearing V-IMP ULNRD Office 7PM CT
14	Board Meeting ULNRD Office 7PM CT
22	Earth Day
29	Arbor Day

May

12	Board Meeting: ULNRD Office 7PM CT
15	Office Closed: Memorial Day
22	Boater Safety, ULNRD Office, 2:30 PM CT

June

9	Board Meeting: ULNRD Office 7PM CT
6-10	Youth Range Camp
12-15	ACE Camp at 4-H Camp, Halsey, NE

Domestic Well Owner, 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 percent of rural residents get their household water supply from private or domestic wells. If they are not properly protected, these wells are at risk of being contaminated from several sources. Potential sources of ground water contamination which may be present near your home include septic tanks, animal waste, pesticides, fertilizers, fuel storage tanks, household chemicals, used motor oil, and more.

The potential for contamination in our area is also increased because of the sandy soil. The only way you know if nitrates and or bacterial are present in your drinking water is by testing because both 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. Coliform bacteria are microscopic, generally harmless organisms that live in the intestinal tract of many warm blooded animals including humans and are excreted into the environment through feces. Although most coliform bacteria are not directly disease causing, some are often found with other, more dangerous strains of bacteria like E. coli, shigella and salmonella. Some strains of E. coli are known to cause vomiting, diarrhea, and other serious gastrointestinal problems.

We are starting year 6 in our cycle which means that we will be testing both registered and non-registered domestic wells in Sub District 1 which includes all of Grant County and the southwest third of Cherry County. We are glad to offer this important safety service to you AT NO CHARGE. If you would like to ensure your well is on our list or would like to be added to the list please contact our office at 308-645-2250 or email Taylor at tspencer@upperloupnrd.org.



Upper Loup Natural Resources District Notice of Public Hearing

The Upper Loup NRD will conduct a public hearing on Thursday April 14, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. Central, at the Upper Loup Natural Resources District Office, 39252 Highway 2, Thedford NE 69166. The purpose of the hearing is to take testimony on the proposed Upper Loup NRD and Department of Natural Resources Integrated Management Plan (IMP) and the proposed controls. The geographic area for the proposed IMP and proposed controls encompasses the entire land area that is within the District boundary. A general description of the *(continued on page 3)*

ACE Camp Scholarships

The ULNRD is offering full scholarships to attend the annual ACE Camp to be held on June 12-15, 2016. ACE Camp is for students who have completed 6th, 7th or 8th grade in the 2015-2016 school year. To be qualified for a scholarship, you must fill out a scholarship form that can be found on our website at www.upperlounrd.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.



NRD to Begin 10th Year of Earth Day and Arbor Day Presentations

The Upper Loup NRD will be visiting elementary schools in the District again to celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day. The NRD will be donating reusable shopping bags, stress balls, water bottles, coasters, sunglasses and pumpkin seeds to K-6th grades at Halsey, Goose Creek, Mullen, Thedford and Stapleton schools. Several new presentations along with fun activities and experiments are planned for this spring. Students will learn about acid rain, bird beaks and eating, types of eaters, bird migration, landfills and taking care of our environment.

The NRD provides presentations not only to students, but any group or organizations on a variety of topics including Natural Resources Districts, pollution, water, trees, wildlife, geocaching, soil, and other environmental and conservation issues. If you would like the Upper Loup to present to your group, please contact the office at 308-645-2250 or email Anna at abaum@upperlounrd.org.

Small Acreage Tree Packages Available

Trees provide important benefits such as protecting homes and livestock from wind and snow, helping to reduce heating and cooling cost, preventing soil erosion, increase crop yields, and providing wildlife habitat. There are four different Small Acreage Packages that can be ordered through the Upper Loup NRD. These packages are \$52.75 each, and are not available for cost-share. There is a limited amount of these packages left.

Each package will contain 10 of each species. The West package includes the following species: Colorado Blue Spruce, Rocky Mountain Juniper, Cottonwood, Sandcherry, and Gambel Oak. The East package includes: Southwestern White Pine, Colorado Blue Spruce, Swamp White Oak, Dogwood, and Serviceberry. The Wildlife package includes the following: American Plum, Dogwood, Woods Rose, Gambel Oak, and Sandcherry. The Flowering package includes: Nanking Cherry, Sandcherry, Serviceberry, Dogwood, and Caragana. To purchase one of these Small Acreage Tree packages, please call Shane at 308-645-2250.

The ULNRD is still accepting orders for hand-plants for spring. At this time, we are not offering planting, but we do offer a tree planter for rental. For more information on the conservation tree program including tree prices, minimum purchases, availability of cost share, please stop by our office in Thedford or call us at 308-645-2250.

CONSERVATION JEOPARDY

1. True or false: The Platte, Missouri, Elkhorn, Republican, Loup and Dismal are all major rivers in Nebraska.
2. Which two states are transferring groundwater from Nebraska into their state?
3. Applying agricultural chemicals with a center pivot irrigation system is called? A. Fertilization B. Chemigation C. Hydrology
4. True or false: the Indian Ocean is the largest ocean?
5. Where is the Nile River, the longest river in the world, located?
A. Africa B. China C. South America

Answers on page 4

(Hearing, cont'd from page 1) contents of the sections of the proposed IMP is: 1) Introduction, 2) Map and Description of the Integrated Management Plan Area, 3) Goals and Objectives, 4) Action Items, 5) Incentive Programs, 6) Funding Options, 7) Monitoring Plan and Proposed Studies, 8) Modifications to the Integrated Management Plan, 9) Information Considered in Development of this Plan, and 10) Glossary of Terms.

For further information regarding the proposed IMP and proposed controls or for the full text of the proposed IMP and proposed controls, refer to the District website at <http://www.upperloupnrd.org/> or the Department's website at <http://dnr.ne.gov> or contact the District or the Department at the addresses listed above or contact the District at (308) 645-2250 or the Department at (402) 471-2363.

Upper Loup NRD Offers Cost Share for Soil Testing and Leafy Spurge

Soil testing is an important diagnostic tool to evaluate nutrient imbalances and understand plant growth. Testing the soil provides a basis for intelligent application of fertilizer and lime. Testing also allows for growers and homeowners to maintain a soil pH in the optimum range (6.0-7.0), which keeps nutrients more available to the plant for growth. Your local County Extension offices can instruct you on how to take the soil samples yourself. There are businesses that you can contact that will obtain the sample for you, one such group is your local Farmer's Co-op. The ULNRD understands the importance of soil testing and has a cost-share program to help land owners defray part of the costs associated with testing.

The use of herbicides for leafy spurge control is just one part of long term management that should include good grazing strategies and can include grazing by sheep or goats or biological control by the release of insects. It's important to continue yearly management as skipping a year can allow leafy spurge to re-infest rapidly. Extension educators and county weed supervisors are very good resources for weed management.

The ULNRD provides cost share funds for BOTH fall and spring treatment to landowners in the NRD area. Funds are available to cover 45% of the cost of approved chemicals up to \$400 per landowner. The appropriate chemical herbicide can be applied by a landowner with private pesticide certification or by a certified commercial applicator. Applications for cost share assistance can be obtained by contacting Upper Loup NRD at 308-645-2250 or downloading an application from our website at www.upperloupnrd.org

NRD's Featured on NETV Program in March

The NRDs were featured in an hour-long program on Nebraska Educational Television (NET), titled "Keeping Nebraska Local: A Unique Approach to Resource Management". The program took viewers back to before Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts were created and the struggle that Nebraska faced as soil and nutrients were swept away by the wind. It also covered how the NRDs were formed, and the many different things the NRDs do. The program first aired in March and will air again in May, and is also available for viewing online at www.netnebraska.org.

Projects in Progress

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.upperloupnrd.org/drill-rental/

Chemigation Training

Before an irrigator can begin chemigation, state law requires a permit to be obtained from the local NRD on an annual basis. Permit fees are due by June 1st and expire on midnight May 31st the following year. Permit fees through the ULNRD 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.

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. Area training dates and locations: April 7 at 1:30PM, 402 W State Farm Road, North Platte, contact Dave Boxler at 308-696-6721. April 7 at 1:30PM, Lutheran Church, Ainsworth, contact Amy Timmerman at 402-336-2760. April 12 at 1:00PM, Extension office, Valentine, contact Jay Jenkins at 402-376-1850.

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

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www.upperlounprd.org

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Boater Safety Education

Boating Safety Courses teach students how to safely operate a motorized boat while following all rules and regulations. Topics covered include navigation and safe operation, Nebraska laws, and emergency preparedness. Anyone born after December 31, 1985 is required to successfully complete a Boating Safety Course and possess a course certificate while operating a boat or personal watercraft. You must be at least 14 years of age to operate a motorboat or personal watercraft in Nebraska.

A Boater Safety course is being offered on Sunday, May 22nd, 2:30PM CT at the Upper Loup NRD Office, 39252 Hwy 2, in Thedford. To register for the course,, please contact Kevin Bergstrom by phone 308-520-1031 or by email kevin.j.bergstrom@nebraska.gov. He will provide you with information and supplies needed before the class.

CONSERVATION JEOPARDY ANSWERS

1. True 2. Colorado and Kansas 3. B. Chemigation 4. False, Pacific 5. A. Africa, 4,258 miles long



Nebraska's
Natural Resources
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Protecting Lives • Protecting Property • Protecting the Future
www.nrdnet.org

Registration Form for 2016 ACE Camp
DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2016

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: _____

2015-2016 Grade Level: _____ Male/Female: _____

Are you attending on a NRD Scholarship? _____

Parent Signature: _____

Please make checks payable to: NRD ACE Camp

Camp Cost: \$190

**A \$25.00 non-refundable deposit is required
to reserve your spot.**

Please mail your registration and camp fee to:

Upper Loup NRD
39252 Hwy 2,
Thedford, NE 69166
(phone) 308-645-2250
(email) ulnrd@upperloupnrd.org



ADVENTURE CAMP ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT

Hosted by Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts

Sunday, June 12th to Wednesday, June 15th

State 4-H Camp, Halsey, NE

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



Find us on Facebook:

Adventure Camp about the Environment

Camp Information

This camp is for 6th-8th graders. They must have completed 6th, 7th or 8th grade in the 2015-2016 school year.

Dates & Location: June 12th-15th, 2016, at State 4-H Camp in Halsey, Nebraska.

Arrival/Departure: Arrive at 4:00pm CST on Sunday, June 12th. Camp ends at 2:00pm CST on Wednesday, June 15th. Transportation to and from camp will be the parents' responsibility. Please arrive promptly with your campers but not before 4:00pm CST. Check-in will begin at 4:00pm CST.

Camp Cost: \$190.00*. The fee along with the registration form is due by Friday, May 27th, 2016. 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, tubing, fishing, a River Stomp and many more adventures for you to try!

***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.**

Wildlife

Bees, Monarchs, and Milkweed. What do these have in common? Heather Francis with Pheasants Forever will explain Monarch migration, the importance of milkweed and bee habitat. Take a journey from Midwest United States to Mexico and places in between to learn about the common thread between these three topics.

Experience some of the great wonders of camp at Halsey. Enjoy Halsey 4-H Camp activities—archery, tubing, fishing, 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!

Energy

Campers will have the opportunity to work with solar energy. They will learn about the engineering design process with John Hay, UNL Extension Educator, then use it to design, build, and test solar powered cars on a course.

Wetlands

Wetlands serve a variety of functions that benefit the environment, wildlife, fish, unique plants and even humans. Campers will get their feet wet with Adam Sutton, Environmental Education Assistant, Lower Platte South NRD, exploring the dynamic nature of wetland ecosystems and the seemingly endless biodiversity that call wetlands home.

Soils

Through hands-on activities, campers will learn from Larry Schultz, Lower Loup NRD, about the particles that make up soil, the texture, colors, and the role of soil in the environment, in both agriculture and urban locations.

Range

Balancing the range for wildlife and ranchers. Julie Schaeffer with NRCS in Thedford, will perform hands-on experiments with campers to decide which areas have the right grasses for grazing and for prairie chicken habitats.

Forestry

Trees provide important benefits such as protecting homes and livestock, helping to reduce heating and cooling costs, and even more. Anna Baum and Lacey Sabatka, Upper Loup NRD, will create scenarios for campers to build their own tree plans after learning about tree species, windbreaks and wildlife habitats.

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.

