



Upper Loup Scoop

Upper Loup NRD

October 2016

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Calendar of Events

October

6	Land Judging Competition, Arnold
10	Office Closed: Columbus Day
13	Board Meeting ULNRD Office 7PM CT
22-23	Hunter Education Course ULNRD Office

November

10	Board Meeting: ULNRD Office 7PM CT
11	Office Closed Veteran's Day
24-25	Office Closed: Thanksgiving

December

8	Board Meeting: ULNRD Office 7PM CT
25	Christmas
26	Office Closed: Observance of Christmas

Are Noxious Weeds a Problem for You? Let Upper Loup NRD Help

The legal description of a noxious weed is any plant designated by a Federal, State or county government as injurious to public health, agriculture, recreation, wildlife or property. More commonly, they are defined as a plant that grows out of place and is competitive, persistent and pernicious.

Regardless of which weed you are trying to manage it's important to continue yearly management as skipping a year can cause the noxious weed to re-infest rapidly. Persistence is the key to any successful weed control program.

In Nebraska, you are legally required to control noxious weeds on your property. The common noxious weeds on the Nebraska State list include: plumeless thistle, musk thistle, diffuse knapweed, spotted knapweed, Canada thistle, leafy spurge, purple loosestrife and saltcedar. Fortunately, not all of these weeds are found in our District. To help with the battle of noxious weeds in our area (leafy spurge, Canada thistle, musk thistle), the Upper Loup Natural Resources District 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.

Not sure if you have noxious weeds on your property? Read more on our website or download an application at www.upperloupnrd.org to learn more about them.

Firearm Hunter Education Course

On Saturday and Sunday, October 22nd and 23rd, a Firearm Hunter Education Classroom course will be held at the Upper Loup NRD Office. The class will begin Saturday at 1:00 PM Central Time. Anyone born on or after January 1, 1977, is required to carry proof of completion while hunting. Anyone younger than 11 may take the course but will not be certified. They must also be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Anyone under 18 must give instructor a signed and completed Parental Release Form. Please register online for this event at outdoornebraska.ne.gov/huntereducation/

Attention Logan and McPherson County Irrigators

As a reminder, **May 1, 2017**, is the date for **ALL** high capacity wells associated with certified irrigated acres—whether actively watering or not—to be equipped with a **flowmeter**. After that date any irrigation wells that do not have a flowmeter installed will be considered in non-compliance of the District's Groundwater Rules & Regulations, and subject to penalties. Basic flowmeter requirements are: new, NOT a Seametric brand, if chemigation practices will be used, meter **(continued on page 2)**

(Attention, cont'd from page 1) must be impeller driven, if electronic, must have uninterruptible power supply, meet or exceed industry standard of +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, 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 the meter(s) installed please contact our office at 308-645-2250 and we will send out a technician to inspect. If you have any questions, or need to make any changes, please feel free to contact us.

ULNRD Field Day Another Success for the Fifth Year

The Upper Loup NRD held their annual Jr. High Field Day with area seventh and eighth graders. 59 students from Dunning, Thedford, Stapleton, and Hyannis attended the Field Day in Thedford on Wednesday, September 7th. The presentation topics for the day included wildlife, range, water quality and quantity, forestry, solar energy and recycling.

Heather Francis with Pheasants Forever presented activities on pollination and plant identification. Students competed in a scavenger hunt about the different types of grasses in the Sandhills with Juli Schaeffer and



Leah Carson from the USDA-NRCS in

Thedford. Chris Hobza and Cory Kavan from United States Geological Survey (USGS) taught students about water quality and quantity in the Middle Loup River. The students played a Jeopardy game during the forestry session with Anna Baum, ULNRD Manager. Sue Pearman with the UNL-Extension office taught students about solar energy by making pizza box ovens. Lacey Sabatka, ULNRD Information and Education Coordinator, helped students create garbage pizza graphs with recycled materials.

For some of the students, this was their second year of attending the Jr. High Field Day. Each year the NRD tries to add new material and new sessions for students to explore the wide range of natural resources topics. The students really enjoy the hands-on learning experience the NRD provides and leave with a better knowledge of natural resources.

CONSERVATION JEOPARDY

1. True or false: raindrops fall in only one shape.
2. Which of these is not an example of flowing surface water?
A. Creek B. Canal C. Pond
3. Which of these is not an example of standing surface water?
A. lake B. waterfall C. swamp
4. True or false: the Atlantic Ocean is deeper than the Pacific Ocean.
5. About what percentage of the human body is water?
A. 57-60% B. 32-35% C. 9-12%

Answers on page 4

Fall is the Time to Start Tree Planning

Trees provide important benefits such as protecting homes and livestock from wind and snow, helping to reduce heating and cooling costs, preventing soil erosion, and providing wildlife habitat. The Upper Loup NRD offers tree program services including: planning, planting, weed barrier installation or weed control, and drip irrigation.

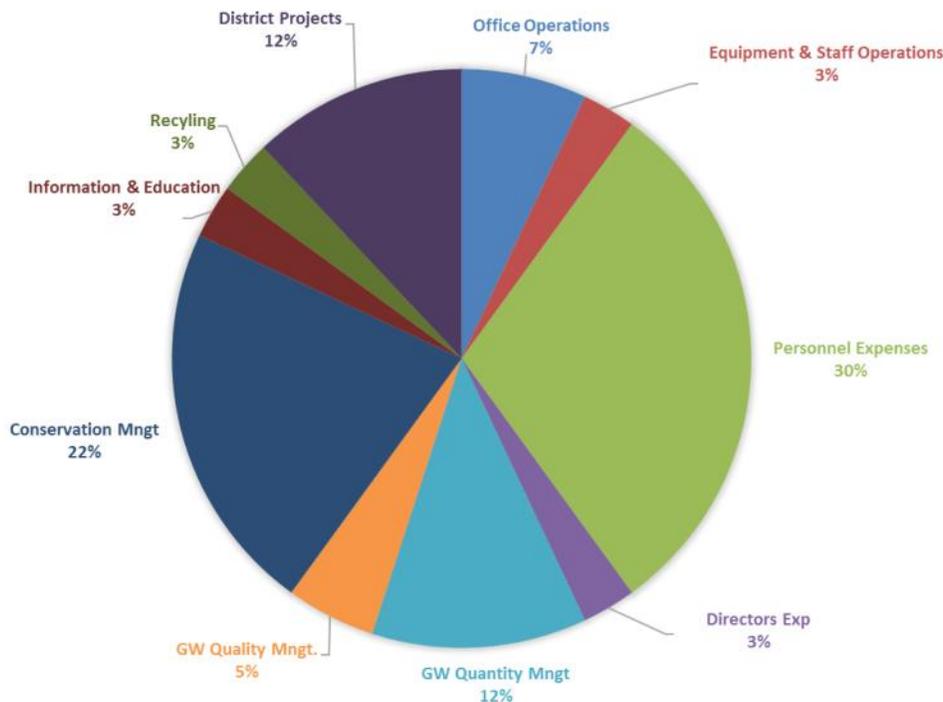


Fall is a good time to think about tree planning. The ULNRD provides a 65% cost share along with free tree planning services. Trees and shrubs (excluding small acreage package), planting, weed mulch, and drip irrigation systems are all eligible for the cost share program. For more information about these services or to make an appointment for your tree plan, contact Shane at 308-645-2250.

ULNRD Board Approves 2016-2017 Budget

Upper Loup NRD plays its part in tax relief by keeping its budget asking the same for a third year. On September 8th the Upper Loup Board of Directors adopted the budget for fiscal year 2016-17. NRD's have the option to levy up to 4 cents per 100 dollars of property valuation. We are proud to say that since 1990 we have been able to fund conservation practices, provide a wide variety of services such as water quality testing, recycling, as well as take part in several environmental studies with a levy rate of less than 2 cents per 100 dollars of property valuation. To date, less than half of our total budget is supported by tax dollars (41%). **Levy Rate Summary on page 4.**

2016-17 BUDGETED EXPENSES



Welcome New Resources Technician

The Upper Loup NRD would like to introduce our new Resources Technician, Jake Ginkens from Mullen. Jake graduated high school in Mullen. He continued his education at Chadron State College, where he graduated with a major in Rangeland Management with an emphasis on Wildlife. In the fall and winter in his free time, Jake enjoys hunting upland game birds and waterfowl. In the summer, he enjoys tanking and kayaking down the Middle Loup River. Jake will be assuming Taylor Spencer's duties, including groundwater quality and quantity monitoring, reading flowmeters, drill rental, etc. You can contact Jake at the office or email him at jginkens@upperloupnrd.org



Projects in Progress

Changes Regarding the Recycling of Plastics

We are asking everyone in our District to be aware of the recent changes to our recycling program. **WE WILL ONLY ACCEPT PLASTICS LABELED WITH NUMBER 1 AND NUMBER 2.** We do not have the man-power or monetary resources to separate the plastics, so we ask that you please look at the triangle on the bottom of the plastic recyclable before putting it in the bin. 1 and 2 plastics include drink bottles, milk jugs, margarine tubs and more.

We also **DO NOT ACCEPT** supplement/lick tubs, styrofoam, or plastic bags. If you have any items that you are unsure if they can be recycled or not, please stop in and ask or call the office at 308-645-2250. This cuts down immensely on the sorting process at our facility.

Groundwater Use Reports

Annual water use reporting letters will be mailed out soon to those irrigators who DO NOT have a flowmeter in place. Please return the information as soon as possible to the NRD, even if you DID NOT irrigate we need to know that. You may report your water use by: 1) mail, 2) fax to 308-645-2308, 3) call in to the office at 308-645-2250, or 4) email [Jake jginkens@upperloupnrd.org](mailto:jginkens@upperloupnrd.org).

Tree Survival Checks

Shane will be conducting tree survival checks in the District over the next few months and is also working on tree plans. If you are planning on planting trees in the spring, please contact Shane to get on the list and set up an appointment at 308-645-2250.

ULNRD Staff

Anna Baum

General Manager

Shane Young

Resources Technician

Jake Ginkens

Resources Technician

Leslie Harvey

Administrative Secretary

Jack Brummet

Recycling Coordinator

Lacey Sabatka

Information & Education

Pam Petersen

Field Office Secretary

ULNRD Board of Directors

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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

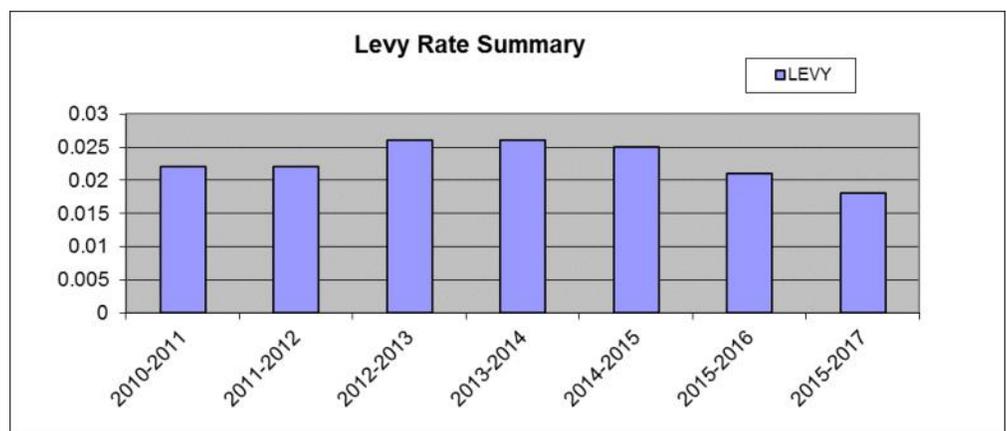
Bobbie Jo Christensen



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CONSERVATION JEOPARDY ANSWERS

1. False—they can be round or oval. 2. C. Pond 3. B. waterfall 4. False 5. A. 57-60%