



# Upper Loup Scoop

Upper Loup NRD

January 2017

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## Calendar of Events

### January

2	Office Closed: Observance of New Year's Day
12	Board Meeting: ULNRD Office 3PM CT
16	Office Closed: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
24-25	Legislative Conference Lincoln

### February

9	Board Meeting: ULNRD Office 3PM CT
20	Office Closed: President's Day

### March

9	Board Meeting: ULNRD Office 3PM CT
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## Tree Orders for Spring

The Upper Loup Natural Resources District continues to sell and plant trees to property owners across the district as it has for the past 40+ years. Anyone wishing to plant trees in the spring should be making plans now. The Upper Loup NRD cost-shares on hand plant orders of at least 100 trees or shrubs and machine planted trees or shrubs of at least 200 trees.



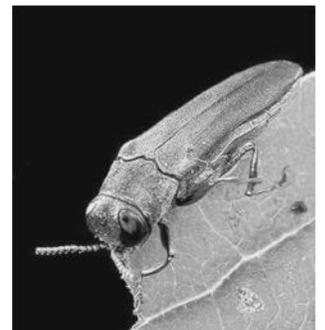
Early planning and tree ordering is encouraged for cost share funds, as they are distributed in a first come, first serve basis. The benefits of windbreaks are numerous. They protect your home and livestock, and when planted along cropland edges they increase crop production. Orders are now being accepted for spring planting. Call Shane at our office and he will assist you with deciding which tree species will work best for you, draft planting plans, and assist in filling out the cost-share forms. **The order deadline for trees and shrubs is February 1, 2017.**

## Upper Loup NRD Recycling Program

**ATTENTION all area residents:** it has come to our attention that some of the guidelines of our recycling program are not being followed. As of Summer 2016, the Upper Loup NRD **ONLY ACCEPTS** the following materials: plastics number 1, plastics number 2, paper, cardboard, aluminium, and tin. **Plastics MUST have a number 1 or 2 on the bottom** of the container. We **DO NOT accept plastic bags** of any kind, unless you have shredded paper in a plastic bag. We also **DO NOT accept styrofoam** of any kind, and we **no longer accept supplement/lick tubs.**

## Emerald Ash Borer confirmed in Nebraska

Emerald ash borer (EAB) is an invasive, wood-boring beetle from Asia that was discovered in southeastern Michigan in the summer of 2002. Since its discovery it has killed tens of millions of ash trees in North America. Adult beetles nibble on ash foliage but cause little damage. After 15 to 20 days of leaf feeding, the females begin to lay eggs, tucking them beneath bark flaps or in crevices. The larvae hatch from their eggs in mid-summer and chew through the bark to reach the inner bark called the pith. Pith is the tissue used by trees to transport water and nutrients. A few larvae feeding in a tree will have little effect however, as the density of larvae builds, the ability of the tree to transport water and ***(Emerald Ash, cont'd on page 2)***



**(Emerald Ash, cont'd from page 1)** nutrients is disrupted and eventually the entire tree dies. Mortality doesn't really start till 4-7 years after infestation.

EAB can be spread a few ways. Adult beetles are good fliers and capable of flying up to three miles, hitching a ride on cars and trucks, lastly transported long distances by people who unknowingly brought infested ash trees from nurseries or recently cut logs or firewood into the area.



Should the trees be cut or saved? You need to consider the value, health and location of the tree(s). Treatment is something that has to be done yearly or every other year for the remaining life of the tree, therefore, it may be a costly investment.

Why should we care about this pest? Nebraska communities have nearly 1 million ash trees. Nearly 100 percent of ash trees within a community have the potential to be killed within 15 years of EAB introduction. The possible financial impact for removal, disposal and replacement of dead trees killed by EAB will cost almost a billion dollars.

We know it is coming so communities and homeowners need to be proactive and get a plan and budget in place. To learn more on EAB you can visit the Nebraska Forest Service website at: [www.nfs.unl.edu/EAB](http://www.nfs.unl.edu/EAB)

## ULNRD Welcomes Two to Board of Directors

The Upper Loup NRD announces two new directors to join the ULNRD Board of Directors in January of 2017. Connie Cox will be representing Sub-District 4, which includes Blaine County and the southern half of Brown County, and Miles Maseburg will be representing Sub-District 3, which includes Thomas County and the Southeastern corner of Cherry County.

Connie Cox resides 3.5 miles from Purdum on the family ranch. Byron, her husband, served on the ULNRD Board for 24 years. Together, they have three children and six grandchildren. Connie has been working at the Nebraska 4-H Camp for the past 22 years. Her time is devoted to the community and helping those to better themselves. When she isn't at camp, she enjoys helping the on the ranch.

Miles Maseburg graduated from Thedford High School in 1997. After high school, he served in the United States Army for 6 ½ years. During this time, he

was stationed in Korea, Guatemala, Haiti, Kuwait and Iraq. In 2003, Miles was honorably discharged and moved back to become the fifth generation to work on the family ranch. In 2008, he married his wonderful wife, Jessica, who teaches 5th and 6th grades at Thedford elementary. Miles looks forward to serving on the Upper Loup NRD's board of Directors.



## CONSERVATION JEOPARDY

1. What is the name of the most famous geyser in the world?
2. True or false: the process of water in the soil that soaks back into the groundwater supply is known as precipitation.
3. Water can absorb \_\_\_\_\_ times as much heat as land before changing temperature. A. Ten B. Two C. Five
4. True or false: the four cloud groups are cirrus, cumulus, nimbus and stratus.
5. Which of these forms does water occur in? A. Gas and liquid B. Solid, gas and liquid C. Liquid and solid

Answers on page 4

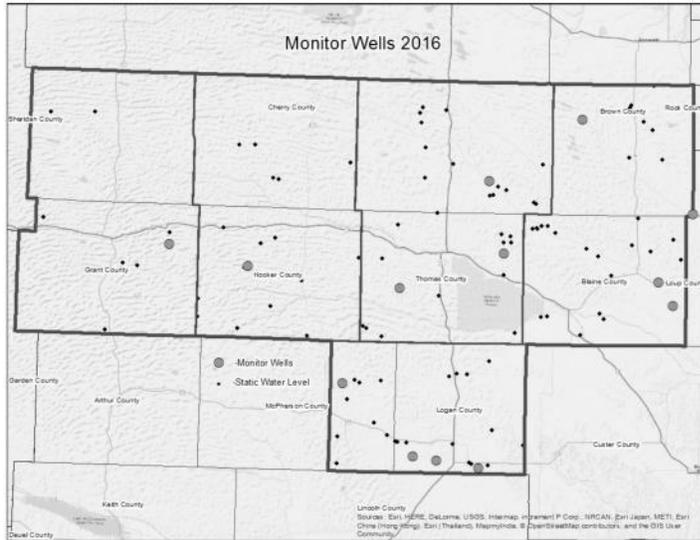
## Adventure Camp about the Environment (ACE)

Nebraska's NRDs announce the 2017 Adventure Camp about the Environment on June 11-14, 2017, at the 4-H Camp in Halsey, Nebraska. The four day camp is for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. Explore Nebraska's natural resources with hands-on activities including fishing, water activities, zip line, and more! For more information contact the Upper Loup NRD or visit [www.upperloupnrd.org](http://www.upperloupnrd.org) and click on Camps & Scholarships under the Education tab.

## Monitoring Groundwater

Groundwater aquifers are valuable resources of water supply for various purposes including domestic, agricultural, commercial and industrial use. There are two important purposes for monitoring groundwater—one is to monitor levels and the other is quality. Each NRD monitors groundwater conditions within its own District.

Over the past 10+ years the Upper Loup NRD has been expanding its monitoring well network across its 4,275,000 acre District. Currently, over 100 monitoring wells are being observed across the District. The District, in collaboration with the Conservation and Survey Division and the Nebraska Environmental Trust, has recently added three more dedicated observation wells in the upper Calamus and North Loup River watersheds. The information gained from these wells is beneficial to the District when it comes to water management planning for both quantity and quality.



## Chemigation and Permit Training

Chemigation is the injection of agricultural chemicals into water flowing through an irrigation distribution system for application to land, crops, or both. Each year several irrigators across the Upper Loup NRD use chemigation to apply fertilizers and pesticides to their fields. With chemigation, the rate of application can be regulated and chemicals may be applied at the exact time needed by plants to produce maximum results. The actual handling of chemicals is reduced so operator exposure is minimized and the chance for spills is diminished.

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. 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, and the irrigator is required to take a renewal course. Chemigation inspections are required every 3 years. Training dates and locations for 2016 are still being finalized at this time. Please watch the newspaper for any updates. Or visit our website at [www.upperloupnrd.org](http://www.upperloupnrd.org).

## Projects in Progress

### Attention Irrigators

Flow meters are a valuable tool for providing producers with information about the total amount of irrigation water being applied. Data collected from the flow meters also helps the NRD determine the amount of water being withdrawn from the aquifer across the district. Effective groundwater irrigation management begins with accurate water use measurements. Jake and Shane will be reading meters throughout the district in the next month.

If you have recently installed a flow meter, please call us at 308-645-2250 so we can send a technician to inspect it.

All high capacity wells associated with certified irrigated acres (whether actively watering or not) must be equipped with a flowmeter. Sub-District 5 (Logan and McPherson Counties) due date is May 1, 2017. Sub-District 4 (Brown and Blaine Counties) due date is May 1, 2018. Lastly, Sub-Districts 1-3 (Grant, Hooker, Thomas and Cherry Counties) shall be metered by May 1, 2020.

### Help Needed for Spring Tree Planting

The Upper Loup NRD is looking for someone to help plant trees during April and May 2017. Planting takes place Monday through Friday, weather permitting. For a full description contact Shane 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

### Sub-District 1

Eric Storer

Chris Vinton

### Sub-District 2

Judy Ridenour

Tim Andersen

### Sub-District 3

Chris Higgins

Miles Maseburg

### Sub-District 4

Todd Schipporeit

Connie Cox

### Sub-District 5

Tom Johnson

Richard Burnside

### At Large

Bobbie Jo Christensen

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

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

PRSRT STD  
ECRWSS  
US Postage Paid  
Thedford, NE 69166  
Permit. No. 11

## TO: POSTAL CUSTOMER

### Upcoming Pesticide Trainings

Certification for private pesticide is needed for landowners buying and applying restricted use pesticides on their land. For more information about pesticides, chemicals and certification visit the UNL Pesticide website at [pested.unl.edu](http://pested.unl.edu)

To register for local trainings, call the UNL–Central Sandhills Area office at 308-645-2267.

Jan. 18, 2017, 1:00 - 4:00pm, at the Blaine County Courtroom in Brewster

Jan. 24, 2017, 9:00am - 12:00pm, at the Grant County Courthouse basement in Hyannis

Jan. 25, 2017, 1:00 - 4:00pm, at the Thomas County Courtroom in Thedford

Jan. 31, 2017, 9:00am - 12:00pm, at the Hooker County courthouse in Mullen

Feb. 15, 2017, 1:00 - 4:00pm, at the Thomas County Courtroom in Thedford

### CONSERVATION JEOPARDY ANSWERS

1. Old Faithful 2. False, recharge 3. C. five 4. True 5. B. Solid, gas and liquid