



Upper Loup Scoop

Upper Loup NRD

July 2017

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Calendar of Events

July

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

August

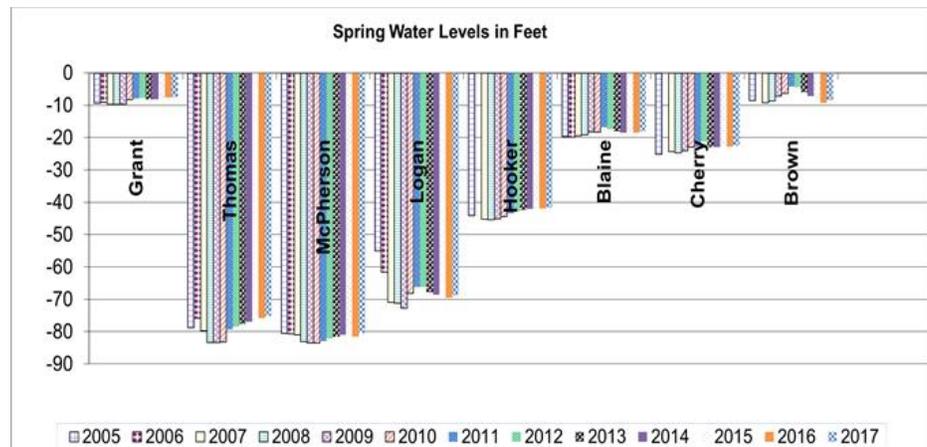
9	IMP Annual Review ULNRD Office 1 PM CT
10	Board Meeting: ULNRD Office 7PM CT

September

4	Office Closed: Labor Day
6	ULNRD Field Day
14	Board Meeting: ULNRD Office 7PM CT
13-15	Husker Harvest Days
25-27	NARD Annual Conference

Important Information About Irrigated Acres

The Upper Loup Board of Directors voted at the June Board Meeting to allow up to two thousand five hundred (2,500) acres of new development for year 2018 across the District. 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 www.upperloupnrd.org or by calling the office at 308-645-2250 and requesting an application. The application period is July 1, 2017 thru September 30, 2017. An application received outside of the 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.



0 represents ground level. These are the results of monitoring wells throughout the district.

Sub-District 4 (Blaine and Brown Counties) Irrigators

May 1, 2018 is the date for all high capacity wells associated with certified irrigated acres –whether actively watering or not – to be equipped with a flowmeter.

Basic flowmeter requirements are:

- Must be new not used
- If chemigation practices will be used, meter 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 changes please contact us.

ULNRD Awards Scholarships for Summer Camps

Each year, the Upper Loup NRD offers scholarships to area students who want to attend the summer camps, Nebraska Youth Range Camp and Adventure Camp about the Environment (ACE), at the 4-H Camp in Halsey. This year, the ULNRD approved scholarships for BaiLee McMillan from Milburn as well as Ryley Johnson and Neva Ducker from Grant County to attend the Nebraska Youth Range Camp. For ACE Camp, Jenna Christie from Brewster and Winter Benscoter from Valentine were awarded scholarships.



Pictured from left to right are ACE campers from ULNRD: Jenna Christie and Winter Benscoter

45th Anniversary of NRD's Jeopardy

1. LB1357, the bill that created Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts was signed into law on: a. July 4, 1776 b. May 1, 1867 c. July 1, 1972
2. How many trees have been sold since the beginning of NRD's: a. 100 million b. 46 million c. 2.4 billion
3. How many Natural Resource Districts are in Nebraska?
4. True or False: Nebraska has the most irrigated acres in the US but still maintains groundwater levels equivalent to that of pre-development times.
5. There are ___ NRD recreation areas across the state: a. 80 b. 112 c. 53

Answers on page 4

HELP WANTED: Blaine and Brown County Weather Watchers

Upper Loup NRD is in GREAT need of NeRAIN volunteers in Blaine and Brown Counties. Some of you already collect this information on your own but you can now become part of the NeRAIN network that will affect local, state, and even National Weather Service reporting. The Upper Loup NRD is providing participants with high quality precision rain gauges at no cost. In return, participants record precipitation measurements such as hail, rain, and snow. Data can be collected and called in to our office or easily entered into the NeRAIN website. To be a part of this unique project and to get your rain gauge contact the ULNRD office at 308-645-2250 and ask for Jake.



ACE Camp Another Big Success

Another Adventure Camp about the Environment is in the books! The camp was held from Sunday, June 11th through Wednesday, June 14th at the 4-H Camp in Halsey. 47 campers travelled as far as Superior and Mitchell to attend. 11 of the states NRD's were represented and 90% of the campers came on scholarship from those NRD's.



The campers had the opportunity to learn through hands-on activities about Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts, energy, water quality, forestry, soils, range, wildlife, edible plants, archery, and careers in natural resources. Activities included building and testing wind turbines, searching for aquatic creatures in the Middle Loup River, cooking with a stove made from soil, and learning which plants are edible in the wild. Some of the presenters came from NRD's

close by, while others came from all over the state to help teach the campers, including employees from USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Services, Nebraska Game and Parks, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Many sponsors continue to help make ACE Camp successful from year to year. The sponsors include Nebraska's NRDs and the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Foundation. Other sponsors that help make camp a hit are the Nebraska National Forest, Nebraska State 4-H Camp, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and the Hooker County Turner Youth Foundation.

Caring For Newly Planted Trees

The recent heat has been hard on newly planted trees in the area. These new trees, like other plants and living things require proper care and management in order to have them functioning at their best. The ULNRD wants to remind you of ways to properly take care of your newly planted trees, especially watering.

In dry areas and times of high heat such as these, watering is a must to insure the survival of newly planted trees and shrubs. When watering bare root trees with a tank or hose it is best to water a minimum of once every 1-2 weeks applying 2-5 gallons per plant at a low pressure. This is important to not disturb the soil around the roots. For more information contact the office, visit our website, or find us on Facebook!

Projects in Progress

Sub-District 2 Domestic Well Owners

An Upper Loup NRD technician will be in Hooker County and the southwest third of Cherry County over the next several months performing NO COST water quality tests on registered domestic wells, known unregistered wells and any requested wells. Domestic 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, etc. 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. Call the office at 308-645-2250 for more information.

Recycling Trailers

Don't forget to do your part and recycle! Trailers are available in almost all communities in the district including Brownlee, Dunning, Halsey, Mullen, Hyannis, Thedford, and Stapleton. Electronics recycling containers are also located in Thedford and Mullen. For more information and items that can be recycled contact the office.

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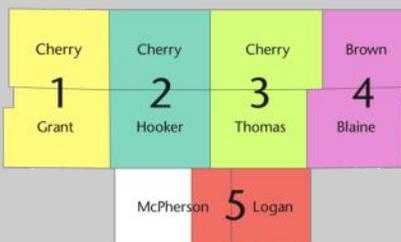
Sub-District 5

Tom Johnson

Richard Burnside

At Large

Bobbie Jo Christensen



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The Upper Loup NRD is now on Facebook

Find us on Facebook at Upper Loup Natural Resources District -NRD to keep up with the latest news and events!

All District Irrigators

Be on the lookout for new certified irrigated acre forms in your mailbox this summer. It has been almost 9 years since we began certifying irrigated acres and we are now in the process of revising the form and collecting current owner contact information. We ask when you receive the form(s) that you please review all the information, update as necessary, sign and return to our office in a timely manner. If you have any questions or major changes needing to be made we ask that you contact our office and we will make any necessary adjustments. We appreciate your help with this task.

45th Anniversary of NRD's Jeopardy

1. C. July 1, 1972 2. B. 46 Million 3. 23 4. True 5. A. 80