



Upper Loup Scoop

Upper Loup NRD

October 2017

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Calendar of Events

October

9	Office Closed: Columbus Day
12	Board Meeting ULNRD Office 7PM CT
21-22	Hunter Education Course ULNRD Office

November

9	Board Meeting: ULNRD Office 7PM CT
10	Office Closed: Veteran's Day
23-24	Office Closed: Thanksgiving

December

14	Board Meeting: ULNRD Office 3PM CT
25-26	Office Closed: 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 21st and 22nd, 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.gov

Attention Brown and Blaine County Irrigators

As a reminder, **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**. 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, if chemigation practices will be used, meter must be impeller driven, if electronic, must have uninterruptible power supply, *(continued on page 2)*

(Attention, cont'd from page 1) 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 Sixth Year

The Upper Loup NRD held their annual Jr. High Field Day with area seventh and eighth graders. 51 students from Dunning, Thedford, and Hyannis attended the Field Day in Thedford on Wednesday, September 6th.



The presentation topics for the day included wildlife, soils, water quality and quantity, forestry, energy, and recycling.



Heather Francis and Jake Koenig with Pheasants Forever presented activities on pollination and plant identification. Chris Hobza and Riley Pinkerton 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 recycling session with Desarae Catlett, ULNRD Information and Education Coordinator. Sue Pearman with the UNL-Extension office taught students about energy by making sailboats. Anna Baum, ULNRD Manager, presented many activities about types of soil erosion. Jake Ginkens and Shane Young, ULNRD Technicians presented hands on activities for the students about trees and forestry.

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

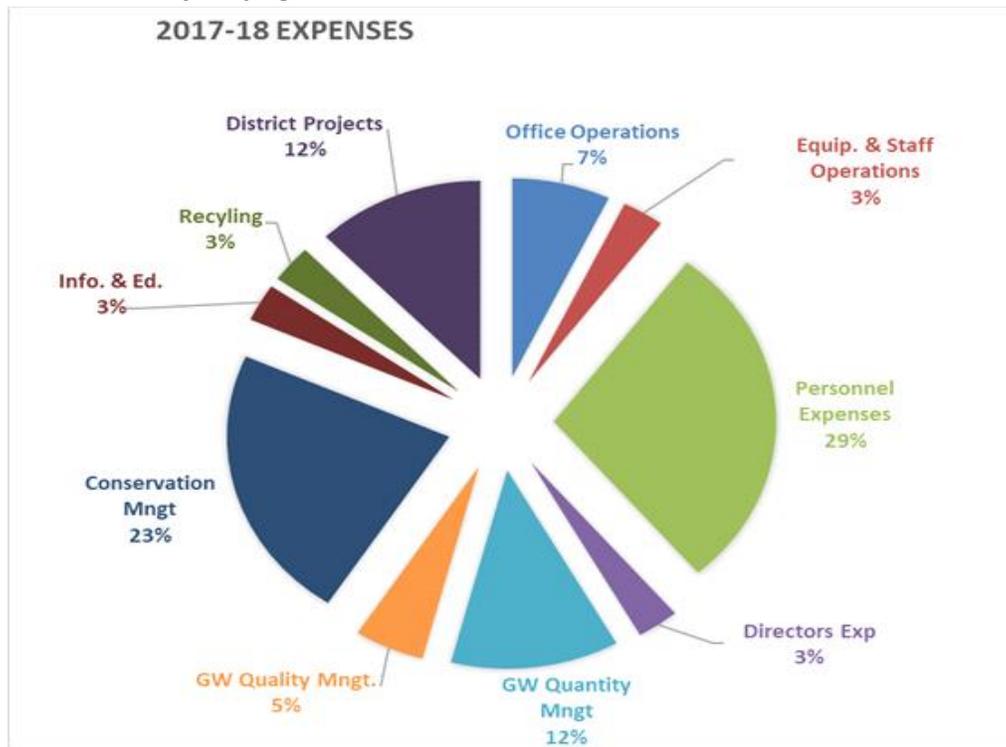
Trees provide important benefits such as protecting homes and livestock from wind and snow, helping to reduce heating and cooling costs, preventing soil erosion, and providing wildlife habitat. The Upper Loup NRD offers tree program services including: planning, planting, weed barrier installation or 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 2017-2018 Budget

On September 14, the Upper Loup Board of Directors adopted the budget for fiscal year 2017-18. NRD's have the option to levy up to 4.5 cents per 100 dollars of property valuation to aid in fulfilling their statutory responsibilities. This year's budget calls for a property tax levy of .019 (1.9 cents per 100 dollars of property valuation) which is slightly lower than last year. With the help of grants and product sales the NRD has been able to provide a wide variety of services (conservation practices, water quality testing, recycling, groundwater management, etc.) for its constituents with fewer tax dollars. The percentage of tax asking per budget has dropped from 42% to 39%, meaning less than half of our total budget is supported by tax dollars. **Levy Rate Summary on page 4.**



Fall Trees Available

The Upper Loup NRD has fall container trees for purchase. They range in price from \$3.50 plus tax to \$5.75 plus tax. For a list of species and prices please contact the office 308-645-2250.



Projects in Progress

Technicians Out and About

ULNRD's Technicians Shane Young and Jake Ginkens will be out and about checking flow meters in the coming months. If you see them don't be afraid to say hi!

Acre Certification Sheets

ATTENTION IRRIGATORS: Please fill out, sign, and return your acre certification sheets you received in the mail from the ULNRD as soon as possible. We are trying to receive the most updated information about these acres and your help is greatly appreciated! Thank You!

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.

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.

Flowmeter Maintenance

Reminder, inspect your flow meters for any odd behavior such as unusual noises. Little to no maintenance is required for most meters. Producers are responsible for flowmeter maintenance and repairs.

ULNRD Staff

Anna Baum

General Manager

Shane Young

Resources Technician

Jake Ginkens

Resources Technician

Leslie Harvey

Administrative Secretary

Jack Brummet

Recycling Coordinator

Desarae Catlett

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 Maseberg

Sub-District 4

Connie Cox

Todd Schipporeit

Sub-District 5

Tom Johnson

Richard Burnside

At Large

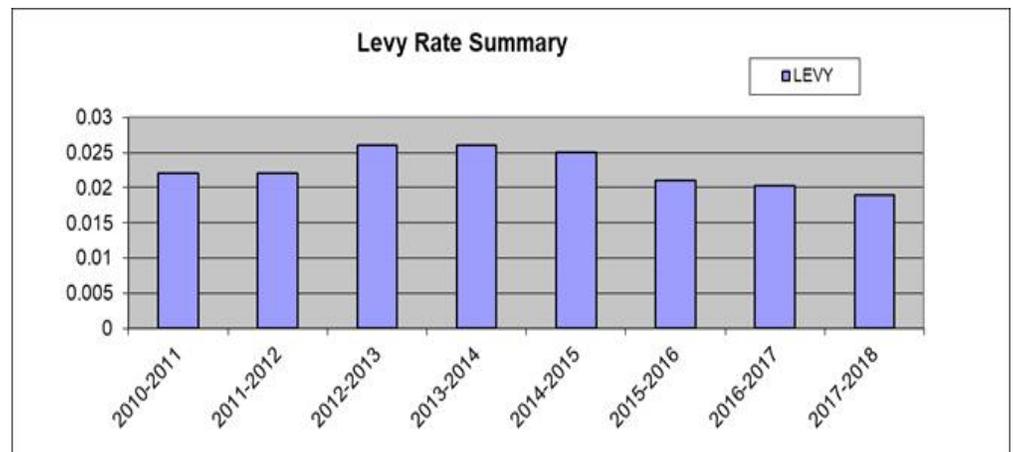
Bobbie Jo Christensen

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

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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%