



# Upper Loup Scoop

Upper Loup NRD

July 2018

## Inside this issue:

ACE Camp Report	2
Tree Planting Numbers	2
Learning Center	2
Star Gazing	3
New Director	3
New Irrigated Acres	3
Water Levels	4

## Calendar of Events

### July

4	Independence Day ULNRD Office Closed
12	Board Meeting ULNRD Office 7PM CT

### August

9	Board Meeting: ULNRD Office 7PM CT
22	ULNRD Field Day
24	Nebraska State Fair Begins

### September

3	Labor Day ULNRD Office Closed
11-13	Husker Harvest Days
13	Budget Hearing & Board Meeting: ULNRD Office 7PM CT
24-25	NARD Annual Conference

## 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, etc. The potential for contamination in our area is also increased because of the sandy soil.

The only way to know if nitrates and or bacteria are present in your drinking water is by testing because both contaminants are colorless, odorless, and tasteless. A water test for nitrates 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.

As of January 2018, the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR) listed over 38,830 domestic wells registered in the state. Domestic wells were not required to be registered with the state prior to September 1993, therefore thousands of domestic wells exist that are not registered with the NDNR. Unlike public water supplies, the quality of private water sources in Nebraska is unregulated by federal or state mandate. Thus, well owners are encouraged to have their well water tested and make sure their well is properly maintained to help protect their health and safety.

The Upper Loup Natural Resources District (ULNRD) has had in place a ground water quality monitoring program since 2011. All sub-districts are monitored, on a cyclic schedule, for nitrates and upon request bacteria. We are happy to report that since we started collecting and testing samples average nitrate levels have been well below the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 10 parts-per-million (ppm) across the entire NRD District.

The potential for water contamination is always present therefore water quality requires long term monitoring. The Upper Loup NRD recommends that all domestic wells, either registered or unregistered, get tested at least once every five years. Wells in Sub District 3, which includes all of Thomas County and the south third of Cherry County adjacent to Thomas County, are on schedule to be tested this year. We are glad to offer this important safety service to you AT NO CHARGE. Samples are most often collected from an outside faucet so there would be no need for you to be present at collection time. If you would like to have your well tested please contact our office at 308-645-2250 or email our water technician at [jginkens@upperloupnrd.org](mailto:jginkens@upperloupnrd.org) to be placed on the list.

## ACE Camp 2018 is a Wrap!

Another fun filled ACE Camp is in the books! The 9th annual Adventure about the Environment (ACE) Camp was held from Sunday, June 10th to Wednesday, June 13th, at the 4-H Camp in Halsey. Sessions varied from topics including range, forestry, soils, wildlife, water quality, entomology, outdoor first aid and survival, along with other exciting camp activities. Presenters traveled from all over the state as well to help teach about natural resources. One presenter, Sam Larson, came to teach about outdoor survival. Larson has appeared on the reality tv show, Alone, and won second place last season. Just days after camp ended, he headed off to join in on a new season of Alone!



Ranging from Nemaha to Scottsbluff to many in between, 44 youth were able to be a part of this opportunity to learn about the environment. Approximately 10 out the 23 NRDs were represented at the camp. Out of the 44 campers, 80% were able to come on scholarships with over half being first time attendees.

Each year, the Upper Loup NRD offers scholarships to cover the cost to attend ACE Camp. This year, six individuals from the district were chosen to receive scholarships: Samuel McMillan from Milburn, Ethan Hardin from Mullen, Colin Rooney from Stapleton, Jacob Reiser and Riggin Blumenstock from Thedford, and Jenna Christie from Dunning.

## Spring Tree Planting Numbers

The Upper Loup NRD wrapped up it's tree planting season May 19th. This season the ULNRD had approximately 19,000 machine plants which was up around 4,000 from last year! Thank you to everyone who ordered trees.

## New Learning Center at ULNRD

The District is very excited to announce that it will receive dollars from the Nebraska Environmental Trust for a "Learning Center" project. Environmental education is just one of the many critical components of the services that the Upper Loup offers. With help from the Environmental Trust the District will be remodeling its current shop into an educational facility for both youth and adults. In the past many of our educational and informational events have had to be limited in number, held at another location or even cancelled due to not being able to accommodate the group size at our current facilities. The remodel will increase our group size from 15 to 50.

For NO new tax dollars, the site will provide a comfortable, safe, well-equipped and central facility that can be used for information sharing, training, instruction and hands-on experiences on a variety of topics. Such topics would include but not be limited to: sustainable land management practices, water conservation, water quality, invasive species, recycling and waste management, wetlands, wildlife, new technology, best management practices, etc. The Center would be available to local schools, communities, organizations and the general public for various functions.

When construction and remodeling begins we will be taking pictures to show the progress of the project and upload them to our website at [www.upperloupnrd.org](http://www.upperloupnrd.org) for all to see.

## Recycling Trivia

1. How many years does it take for 1 plastic bottle to degrade in a landfill?  
A. 25 B. 500 C. 370 D. 1,000
2. An aluminum can will be recycled and back on the shelf in how many days?  
A. 60 B. 100 C. 200 D. 30
3. \_\_\_ marine animals are killed every year from plastic bag pollution  
A. 3,000 B. 60,000 C. 100,000
4. 1 ton of recycled paper saves \_\_\_ trees  
A. 20 B. 30 C. 17 D. 33
5. Plastic disposed each year can circle the Earth \_\_\_ times  
A. 7 B. 3 C. 4 D. 9

Answers on page 4



## Sandhills Star Gazing

Summer time in the Sandhills (usually) means warm, clear starry nights! These next few months are perfect for star gazing, so head outside to test your knowledge of prominent stars and constellations! You can pick up one of our field guides called, *The Night Sky* at our office. The guide has a summer locator key and also a winter locator key. Just shine a flashlight on the star chart and it glows in the dark!

## ULNRD Welcomes New Director

The Upper Loup NRD is pleased to welcome Eric Schipporeit as our newest director for Sub-District 4. Eric is a humble, hard working, and generous person and will make a great addition to the board. The ULNRD is excited to see what great ideas Eric will bring to the table.



## Board of Directors Approves New Irrigated Acres

2,500 new acres will be allowed for development throughout the District next year. Each of the five sub-districts has been allotted 500 acres.

Interested landowners must apply for any new irrigated acres on a District application form. The application period is from July 1 through September 30 of 2018. Along with the application form the landowner needs to submit an aerial photo depicting the new acres as well as a one-time non-refundable administrative fee of \$100.00 per application of 25 acres or less or \$500.00 for applications over 25 acres.

A minimum score of 15 points on the Upper Loup NRD Irrigated Acre Ranking Sheet is required for an application to be considered for approval. Each application will be ranked according to the following criteria: density of irrigated acres within the vicinity, NRCS soil classification, stream depletion factor, ground water quality, slope, removal of trees and any other criteria deemed relevant by the District.

Acres approved for expansion must be certified with the Upper Loup NRD as well as have a flowmeter installed.

For more information or an application, you can visit our website at [www.upperloupnrd.org](http://www.upperloupnrd.org) or call the office at 308-645-2250.

## Projects in Progress

### Recycling Trailers

Don't forget to take responsibility of our environment and reduce, reuse, and recycle! We accept numbers 1 and 2 plastics, tin and aluminum, paper and cardboard. Plastics can still have lids and labels just please rinse the containers out! Trailers are accessible in almost all communities around our district including Brownlee, Dunning, Halsey, Hyannis, Mullen, Thedford, and Stapleton. Containers for recycling electronics are available in Mullen and Thedford

### Chemigation Inspections

Shane has been doing chemigation inspections throughout the District. All chemigation systems must be fitted with the proper safety valves and equipment because of potential risks to our natural resources and public safety issues. This equipment must be inspected by the Upper Loup NRD prior to use to ensure functionality and compliance. If you are in need of a chemigation inspection, please contact Shane at 308-645-2250

### Debit Cards

We now accept debit and credit cards! Cards can be used on purchase of field guides, Plantskydd, trees, and more!

### Plantskydd

Plantskydd is back to protect your garden against vandals such as deer, rabbits, and voles! Stop by our office!

## ULNRD Staff

Anna Baum  
*General Manager*

Shane Young  
*Resources Technician*

Jake Ginkens  
*Resources Technician*

Leslie Harvey  
*Administrative Secretary*

Jack Brummet  
*Recycling Coordinator*

Lexi Hingtgen  
*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*

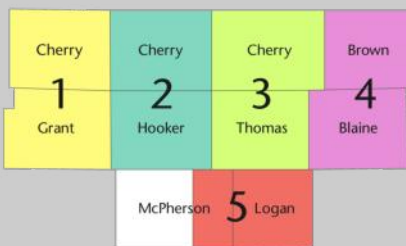
Eric Schipporeit  
Connie Cox

*Sub-District 5*

Tom Johnson  
Richard Burnside

*At Large*

Bobbie Jo Christensen

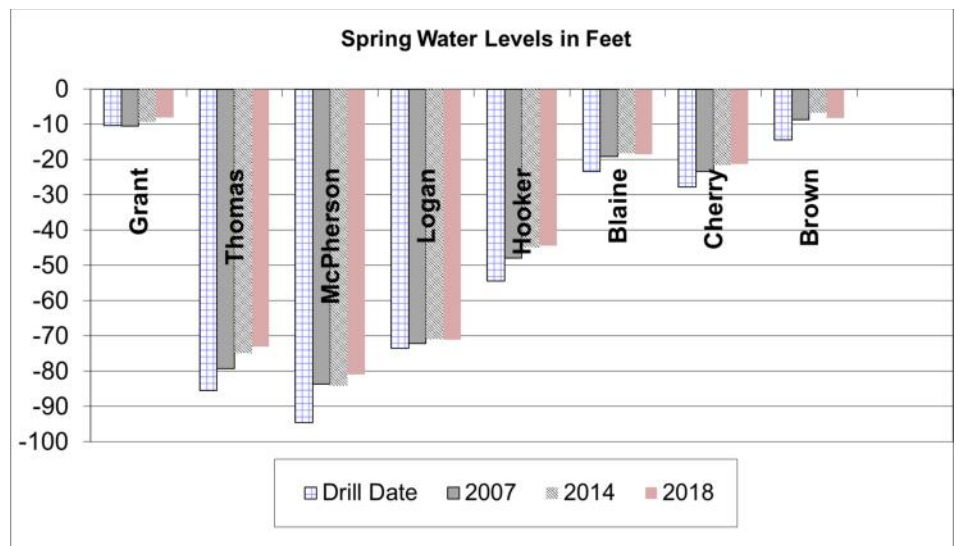


For Latest News check out  
[www.upperlounprd.org](http://www.upperlounprd.org)

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

## TO: POSTAL CUSTOMER

### Water Levels



0 represents ground level. You will notice that in all counties ground water level trends have gone up.

### Recycling Trivia Answers

- 1) 1,000 years    2) 60 days    3) 100,000 animals    4) 17 trees    5) 4 times