



Upper Loup Scoop

Upper Loup NRD

April 2024

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Calendar of Events

April

- 11 Board Meeting- ULNRD
Office @ 7 PM CT
- 22 Earth Day
- 26 Arbor Day

May

- 9 Board Meeting-ULNRD
Office @ 7 PM CT
- 27 Office Closed:
Memorial Day

June

- 13 Board Meeting-ULNRD
Office @ 7 PM CT
- 19 Office Closed:
Juneteenth
- 23-26 Adventure Camp about
the Environment

Domestic Well Testing

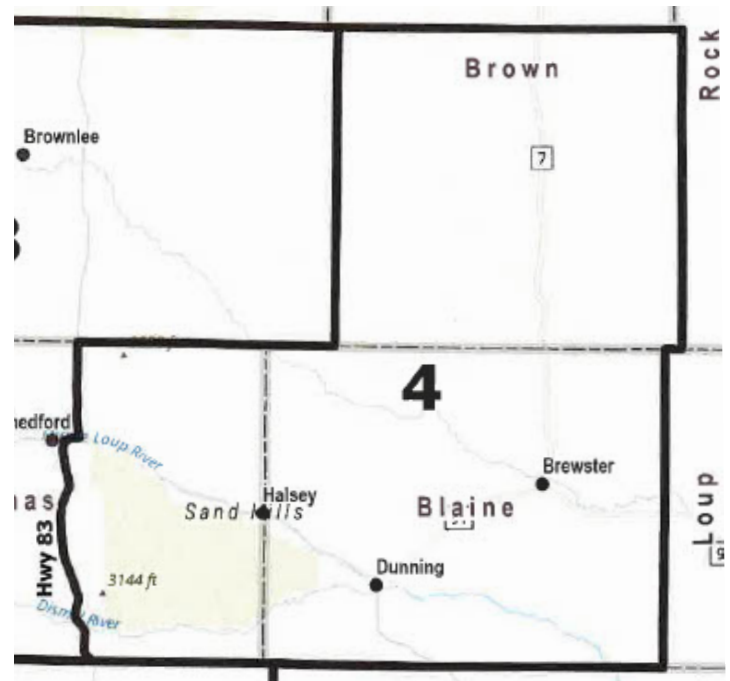
The Upper Loup NRD recommends that all domestic wells, either registered or unregistered, get tested at least every five years. Each of our sub-districts is on a rotating testing schedule where, annually, various areas around one sub-district are tested to observe nitrate levels. Domestic well owners residing in Sub-District 4, your sub-district is next in our current well testing rotation. This includes the eastern half of Thomas county and all of Blaine and Brown counties counties. We are glad to offer this safety service to you at no charge. Samples are most often collected from an outside faucet around the testing site.

Due to the sandy soil in our District, well owners are at an increased risk for groundwater contamination.

Potential sources of groundwater contamination which may be present near your home include septic tanks, animal waste, rusted irrigation systems, pesticides, fertilizers, fuel storage tanks, household chemicals, used motor oil, etc. Unfortunately, the only way to know if nitrates or bacteria are in your drinking water is by testing because both contaminants are odorless, colorless, 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.

Resource technicians will begin testing early this summer. If you have questions about being placed on our list, what tests we offer, or any additional questions please contact our office or email our water technician, Kyon Neal, at kneal@upperloupnrd.org.



Spring Trees Available

Spring is a great time to plant trees so it is important to utilize this time to reinforce existing windbreaks or create more habitat for wildlife. There are trees available to suit all of your needs such as a variety of hardwoods, conifers, as well as shrubs. Trees and shrubs will be bare root and sold in bundles of 25, costing \$31.75/bundle. Drip line irrigation and weed barrier fabric is also available for purchase at the NRD office. These can be beneficial tools to implement to increase the success of your newly planted trees. To purchase trees, weed barrier fabric or drip line irrigation please contact the NRD office. Availability is limited, trees may be purchased until the first week of May.



Adventure Camp about the Environment to be held again in 2024

Adventure Camp about the Environment (ACE) is back and will be held at a new location! ACE 2024 will be held from June 23rd through June 26th at Kamp Kaleo located near Burwell.



Hosted by Nebraska's Natural Resources District, ACE is a unique experience that combines the classic fun activities of summer camp with hands on learning sessions on various topics relating to natural resources! While at camp, individuals will get the opportunity to learn about the importance of natural resources during our core sessions on wildlife, water, forestry, range, and soils. In addition, campers will be able to enjoy the classic summer camp favorites such as fishing, archery, tubing, and more!

Here's the catch, not everyone is eligible for this great camp experience! Adventure Camp about the Environment is for youths who have completed 6th or 7th grade or the equivalent for homeschooled individuals during the 2023-2024 school year.

Registration is required to attend camp. ACE 2024 has a registration fee of \$235, however, scholarships are available and the Upper Loup NRD awards 5 scholarships each year for camp for those who reside within the Upper Loup district. Visit our website to fill out a scholarship application or scan the QR code below to submit a registration form.

For more information, visit our website or call our office. To visit the online registration form, scan the QR code by opening up your camera on your cell phone and hover over the code. A link should appear on the screen. Click on that link and you will be directed to the online registration form. A hardcopy registration form is also available at the NRD office.



Scan QR code for registration form

Chemigation Permits

Before an irrigator can begin chemigation, state law requires a permit to be obtained on an annual basis. Permit fees through the ULNRD are as follows: **Renewal:** \$30, **New:** \$60, **Special:** \$60, and **Emergency:** \$250. Renewal permits and fees are due to the NRD office no later than 4 pm CT on June 1st, 2024. For any producers needing to attend a chemigation class to renew their applicator license, there will be a training opportunity that will be held at the West Central Research Extension Center in North Platte on April 11th at 1pm CT.

Ranch Practicum Applications

The Nebraska Ranch Practicum is a 3 season (8 sessions), hands-on educational program designed to give participants the skills needed in today's complex ranching industry. Participants will learn about plant identification, range conditions and grazing strategies, wildlife management, marketing alternatives, evaluation of cow body condition scores, and more.

Registration fee is \$675 with a \$350 fee for spouses. The ULNRD sponsors one \$100 scholarship per sub-district yearly. Please visit our website to find the scholarship application as well as the practicum application.

To register, submit a completed application and registration fee by **May 3**. Applicants will be notified of their status no later than May 20. Please follow the link below to register or for more information.

<https://nebraskaranchpracticum.unl.edu/>

No-Till Drill

No-till drilling is a management tool used in conservation practices. The Upper Loup has a 10' Great Plains Minimum Till Drill that rents \$8.00/acre with a minimum of \$75. A 15' Great Plains No Till Drill is also available to rent for \$10/acre. A delivery charge of \$2/mile will be added to the final bill. We ask that producers make sure our technician has a clear path to deliver the drill, if a fence or gate is not wide enough the drill will be left in a location for the producer to pick up. It is not the responsibility of the NRD to take down fences or autogates to deliver the drill. The drill is on a first come first serve basis. Please contact the office if you would like to be put on the list.



Gopher Bait Available

Individuals must have a pesticide certification number to purchase bait.

The NRD has 50 lb bags of gopher/rodent bait (5% Strychnine) available for sale and pick up in Thedford.

50 lb bag.....\$172.00 (includes tax)

ULNRD Staff

Anna Baum

General Manager

Lexi Spurlin

Information & Education,

Resources Technician

Justin Sprague

Resources Technician

Kyon Neal

Resources Technician

Jamie Green

Administrative Secretary

Pam Petersen

NRCS Field Secretary

Spud Rowley

Recycling Coordinator

ULNRD Board of Directors

Sub-District 1

David Vinton

Jais Connealy

Sub-District 2

Judy Ridenour

John Kraye

Sub-District 3

Chris Higgins

Miles Maseberg

Sub-District 4

Max Fay

Tony Ruhter

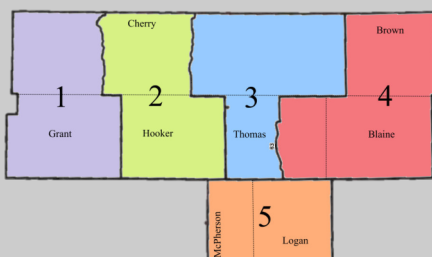
Sub-District 5

Tom Johnson

Richard Burnside

At Large

Patrick Wright



Flow Meter Maintenance

Attention irrigators! Please be sure to check your meter before this irrigating season to ensure that it is not broken or malfunctioning. The irrigator is responsible for maintaining flow meters on all active pivots before pumping season begins.



Earth Trivia

1. In groundwater, nitrate contamination can be caused by:
A. Septic Tanks
B. Excess fertilizer
C. Manure piles
D. All of the above
2. The oldest trees in Nebraska are living in the Wildcat Hills. What species are they?
A. Cottonwood
B. Ash
C. Eastern Red Cedar
D. Rocky Mt Juniper
3. Which flower's sap contains sharp crystals that protect against grazing animals?
A. Dandelion
B. Daisy
C. Daffodil
D. Dahlia
4. A group of cranes is called a:
A. Sedge
B. Pod
C. Quiver
D. Colony
5. The process of water in the soil soaking back into the groundwater is called:
A. Recharge
B. Transpiration
C. Restart
D. Condensation

Trivia Answers

1. (D) All of the above 2. (D) Rocky Mt Juniper 3. (C) Daffodil 4. (A) Sedge 5. (A) Recharge