



Upper Loup Scoop

Upper Loup NRD

January 2021

Inside this Issue:

Spring Tree Orders	2
Drought Mitigation	2
Pesticide Training Dates	3
District Water Quality	3

Calendar of Events

January

- 1** New Year's Day : ULNRD
Office Closed
- 14** Board Meeting:
ULNRD Office 3PM CT
- 18** Martin Luther King Jr.
Day: Office Closed
- 26-27** Legislative Conference,
Lincoln (Tentative)

February

- 11** Board Meeting:
ULNRD Office 3PM CT
- 15** President's Day: ULNRD
Office Closed

March

- 11** Board Meeting:
ULNRD Office 3PM CT

Energy Bag Program-Coupon below!

In 2016 the Hefty Energy Bag program launched in Nebraska. A group of companies banded together to develop and introduce a program in Omaha, Nebraska called Hefty Energy Bag, which has been designed to convert hard-to-recycle plastics into energy. Through the program, hard-to-recycle plastics like candy wrappers, meat and cheese packaging, plastic cups, plates, straws, and fast-food foam containers, normally disposed of at area landfills, are collected into special orange-colored bags, made by Hefty, and placed into regular recycling trailers. The benefits of this program include; diverting materials away from landfills, reducing our dependence on fossil fuels, increasing the efficiency at recycling facilities as well as improving the quality of other recycled materials.



How does the Energy Bag program work? Simply fill the official Hefty orange bag with the **plastics** that are hard to recycle. Make sure items are relatively clean and dry. Once filled, tie and take to your local recycling trailer or dumpster along with your normal recycling (1-7 plastics, tin, aluminum, paper and cardboard). They are then later sorted at a recycling facility and converted into useful resources like energy, fuel and durable building materials.

What items **ARE** accepted in the Hefty® EnergyBag® bags?

- **PLASTIC BAGS:** Chip and snack bags, plastic pet food bags, fresh and frozen vegetable & fruit bags, salad bags, storage & grocery bags, etc.
- **FOAM PRODUCTS:** Foam cups, plates & bowls, foam to-go boxes, packing peanuts
- **PLASTIC DINNERWARE:** Straws, stirrers, utensils, cups, plates & bowls
- **PLASTIC FOOD PACKAGING:** Shredded cheese packages, cake mix liners & other dry powder mix liners, granola/energy bar & candy wrappers, condiment packets, pudding cups, food wrap, etc.
- **PLASTIC POUCHES:** Stand-up drink pouches, squeezable baby food pouches

Where can you get the Hefty® EnergyBag® bags? Rolls can be purchased from the Upper Loup NRD at our cost, in 3 sizes. 8-gallon roll (20 bags/roll) for \$10.50, 30-gallon roll (20 bags/roll) for \$22.00 or 55-gallon roll (16 bags/roll) for \$38.50. Bags are also available at some Hy-Vee and Home Depot stores.

✂

Present this coupon at the Upper Loup NRD office in Thedford to redeem:

ONE FREE STARTER ROLL OF HEFTY ENERGY BAGS (8 GAL)



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 orders of at least 200 trees.

The benefits of windbreaks are numerous; they provide protection for livestock, crops, wildlife, and your home. Resources technician, Shane Young, will assist you with deciding which tree species will work best for your needs, draft planting plans, and assist in filling out the cost-share forms. Early planning and tree ordering is encouraged for cost-share funds, as they are distributed on a first come, first serve basis. If you

are planning on ordering trees, please call our office ASAP to ensure availability and cost-share opportunities.

Drought Mitigation Plan to be Developed

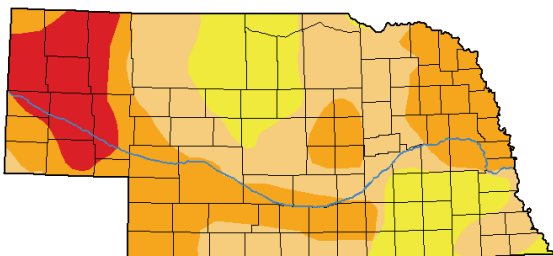
The Upper Loup Natural Resources District is undertaking an effort to develop a Drought Mitigation Plan and would like to invite any interested parties to participate as a stakeholder. This plan will: refine a collective understanding of drought risk and vulnerabilities, identify and prioritize mitigation efforts, and define drought response measures that will be utilized during future drought events. The overarching goal is to develop a sound operational drought response framework and improve critical water supplies throughout the District during periods of drought.

As a part of this planning process, the NRD is creating a stakeholder group that will help guide this effort. Stakeholders will be asked to review materials periodically and attend a couple project meetings. Your commitment in fulfilling this important role will be greatly appreciated and will ensure a successful plan.

U.S. Drought Monitor

Nebraska

October 13, 2020



The first meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 2021. If you are interested in joining this planning effort or have questions, please contact abaum@upperloupnrd.org

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Winter Trivia

- Which of the following animals change their coat color during the winter and summer months?
A) Ermine B) Arctic Fox C) Arctic Hare D) All of the Above
- How long does winter last in the Southern Hemisphere?
A) December to March B) June to September C) November to February D) August to March
- If someone has a fear of snow they suffer from:
A) Cryophobia B) Anemophobia C) Selenophobia D) Chionophobia
- Earth is the only planet that has an equinox. **True or False?**
- Which is the name of the March Full Moon?
A) Wolf Moon B) Harvest Moon C) Worm Moon D) Green Moon

Answers on page 4

Pesticide Training Dates



Certification for private pesticide is needed for landowners buying and applying restricted use pesticides on their land. The preferred method would be for applicators to complete the online chemigation training and testing option. This option is available for both initial and recertifying chemigation licensing. To register for the online option please visit the UNL Water Page at:

<https://water.unl.edu/article/agricultural-irrigation/chemigation> and follow the instructions to complete the online course. However, there are still opportunities to register for an in person training course. Listed below are the counties that are holding training and testing events. To register for an in person local training, please call the UNL–Central Sandhills Extension office at 308-645-2267.

January 12: Blaine County Courthouse, Brewster, 1pm-4:30pm CT

January 13: Thomas County Courthouse, Thedford, 1pm-4:30pm CT

January 26: Hooker County Courthouse, Mullen, 1pm-4:30pm MT

January 28: Grant County Courthouse, Hyannis, 1pm-4:30pm MT

District Water Quality Overview

The District is on a scheduled water quality testing cycle that rotates through each of the sub-districts every five years. During this scheduled cycle, the main focus is testing nitrate levels in domestic wells while also performing bacteria tests when requested. As of June 2020, the NRD has expanded the water quality program and has begun testing for manganese and iron as well. These are all important to test for due to the health risks that they may impose. Nitrates and manganese in high quantities and prolonged exposure may result in adverse health issues to the general public especially infants, elderly, pregnant or nursing women. The EPA has a standard guideline that is considered safe for drinking water; nitrates should remain in the range of 0-10 ppm and manganese should remain under 0.05 ppm.

Over the course of the year, our technicians tested approximately 130 wells, with about 73% of these being located in Sub-District 5 which was the sub-district scheduled to be tested in 2020. Our results showed that Sub-District 5 had a manganese average of 0.043 ppm and a nitrate average of 1.38 ppm in domestic wells and a nitrate average of 3 ppm in irrigation wells. As for the District as a whole, the nitrate average is 1.68 ppm.

If you have any questions or would like more information on our data results please contact our office to speak with a technician.

Projects in Progress

Static Water Level Readings

Jake will be out this spring conducting his annual static water level checks on area wells.

Learning Center

Don't forget, the ULNRD's Learning Center is available for use! The Center is free to non-profits and schools, donations are appreciated. Call our office to reserve the space.

Notary Services

Our administrative secretary, Jamie Green, is certified to provide any notary services you may need. Just call or stop in to our office!

Flowmeter Maintenance

Reminder, inspect your flow meters for any odd behaviors such as unusual noises or if the meter has stopped. Producers are responsible for flowmeter maintenance and repairs. If you have recently had your meter repaired please call our office so that our technicians can inspect it.

Field Guides

We have a variety of field guides available including: The Night Sky, Sandhill Crane Displays, and many more.

ULNRD Staff

Anna Baum

General Manager

Shane Young

Resources Technician

Jake Ginkens

Resources Technician

Lexi Spurlin

Information & Education,

Resources Technician

Jamie Green

Administrative Secretary

Earl Rowley

Recycling Coordinator

Pam Petersen

Field Office Secretary

ULNRD Board of Directors

Sub-District 1

Eric Storer

Rebecca Connealy

Sub-District 2

Judy Ridenour

John Krave

Sub-District 3

Chris Higgins

Miles Maseberg

Sub-District 4

Eric Schipporeit

Sub-District 5

Tom Johnson

Richard Burnside

At Large

Patrick Wright

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

For latest news check out
www.upperloupnrd.org

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

TO: POSTAL CUSTOMER

**From all of us here at the ULNRD,
We hope you block the year 2020 out
of your memories forever and may the
roaring 20s begin! Happy New Year!**

Winter Trivia Answers

1. D) All of the Above 2. B) June to September 3. D) Chionophobia 4. False 5. C) Worm Moon