



Upper Loup Scoop

Upper Loup NRD

July 2022

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Calendar of Events

July

- 4** Independence Day
ULNRD Office Closed
- 14** Board Meeting/Public
Hearing on Ground-
Water Management
Plan @ ULNRD Office
7PM CT

August

- 11** Board Meeting:
ULNRD Office 7PM CT
- 20-21** Firearm Hunter Ed-
ULNRD Office
- 24** Jr High Field Day-
ULNRD Office
- 26** Nebraska State Fair
Begins

September

- 5** Labor Day
ULNRD Office Closed
- 8** Budget Hearing &
Board Meeting:
ULNRD Office 7PM CT
- 20** Local Range Judging
Contest
- 26-27** NARD Annual
Conference- Kearney

Seeking Bids for Hauling Services

The recycling program has been in operation since 2010 and has grown from four trailers in four communities to 20 trailers, along with numerous collection bins in 9 communities. Since the beginning of the program, the NRD has diverted over 887 tons from our local landfills.

In order to keep the program running efficiently we need to obtain support in hauling services. The NRD is seeking help in collecting, baling, and transporting our recyclable materials and collection trailers from their point of origin to end market. If you have any interest or questions about submitting a bid please contact our General Manager, Anna Baum, prior to August 1, 2022.

Directors Approve Expansion of Acres for 2023

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 through September 30, 2022. 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.



Sub-District 2 Domestic Wells in Line for Testing Rotation

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 determine if nitrates are present in your drinking water is by testing a sample because this contaminant is 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.

The potential for water contamination, especially in our sandy soils, 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 2, which includes all of Hooker County and the eastern half of Cherry 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 is no need for you to be present at collection time. If you have any questions or want to ensure you are on our test list you can contact our water technician at ispurlin@upperlounprd.org or by calling our office.



Drought Management Plan Underway

The Upper Loup Natural Resources District (ULNRD) is undertaking an effort to develop a Drought Management Plan for the district and would like your input. The plan will refine a collective understanding of drought 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 framework for the district during periods of drought.

The NRD is encouraging all residents and stakeholders to provide their input by filling out a survey they can find here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FCYC3KQ> or by scanning the QR code. The survey will be open until July 30th.

For more information about this planning effort, please contact Anna Baum at (308)-645-2250 or abaum@upperlounprd.org or Phil Luebbert at (402)-474-8768 or pluebbert@jeo.com.

*To scan QR code, open any smart phone to the 'Camera' function and point at code, select the link that appears



Adventure Camp about the Environment 2022

Another year of camp is in the books! The 12th annual Adventure Camp about the Environment (ACE) was held on Sunday, June 26th through Wednesday, June 29th at the State 4H Camp located by Halsey. From Harrison to Dunbar and many places in between, we had a great turn out in attendance with 36 campers in total coming from various parts of the state.

Overall, 83% of those individuals received a scholarship from their local NRD to sponsor a portion, if not all, of their camp registration fee. The Upper Loup NRD

awarded 3 individuals scholarships to sponsor their full registration to camp. The award recipients were: Gavin Mann of Alliance, Cooper Walker of Seneca and Daniel Wright of Mullen.

Sessions covered a variety of topics such as range, forestry, soils, water quality, wildlife, and weather. Extracurricular sessions were added such as archery, edible plants, and more! During these sessions youths were able to be a part of a hands on learning experience relating to our natural resources.



Thedford Fire Hall Arboretum

If you find yourself driving down Highway 2 through the Village of Thedford and need to stretch your legs, the NRD invites you to check out the Fire Hall Arboretum. It is located north of the highway behind the Thedford Fire Hall. Public parking is reserved at the western edge of the parking lot in front of the railroad ties. Please do not park in the spots reserved for the emergency service vehicles.

Over 2 years ago, the NRD decided take a barren section of ground and create an aesthetically pleasing, conservation minded green space. This space provides an educational landscape with trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers.



There are over 30 species of conifer trees, deciduous trees and shrubs as well as a wide variety of native grasses and pollinators planted. Test your tree and shrub identification skills by reviewing the wooden markers or enjoy a break at one of the picnic tables.

In Other News..

Spring Tree Numbers

This year the ULNRD planted 10,994 trees with our machine planter and sold 9,194 trees as hand plants. The NRD also donated 2,000 hand plants around the district. Thank you to every one who purchased trees!

Chemigation

Shane will be out and about around the District conducting chemigation inspections. These inspections are on a 3 year rotation.

Newsletter Subscriptions

The Upper Loup Scoop will be moving to an online platform. However, the NRD will be mailing out an Annual Report at the conclusion of each fiscal year. If you would like to receive our E-Newsletter please call the office to leave your email address or you can sign up at upperloupnrd.org/newsletters

ULNRD Staff

Anna Baum
General Manager

Lexi Spurlin
*Information & Education,
Resources Technician*

Shane Young
Resources Technician

Jamie Green
Administrative Secretary

Spud Rowley
Recycling Coordinator

Pam Petersen
Field Office Secretary

ULNRD Board of Directors

Sub-District 1
Eric Storer
Rebecca Connealy

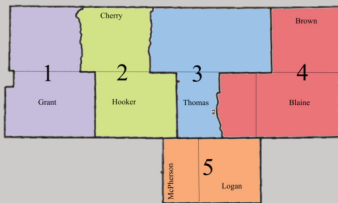
Sub-District 2
Judy Ridenour
John Kraye

Sub-District 3
Chris Higgins
Miles Maseberg

Sub-District 4
Eric Schipporeit
Tony Ruhter

Sub-District 5
Tom Johnson
Richard Burnside

At Large
Patrick Wright

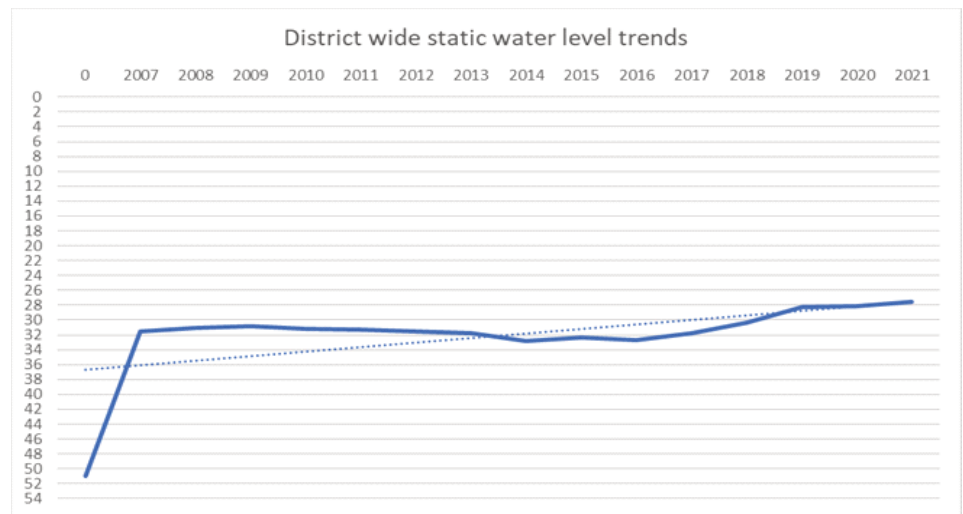


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District Groundwater Levels



Ground water levels continue to maintain across the district. Over 100 wells representing all the sub-basins across the Upper Loup NRD are monitored yearly. The graph represents average levels (solid line) and the trend level for the past 12 years. 0 represents ground levels and the vertical axis shows depth in feet.