



# Upper Loup Scoop

Upper Loup NRD

October 2020

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## Calendar of Events

### October

- 1** Board Meeting: ULNRD Office @ 1 pm CT
- 8** Arboretum Open House 4:30-5:30 pm CT
- 10** Hunter Education  
Day 1: ULNRD 1-6 pm CT
- 12** Columbus Day: Office closed
- 17** Hunter Education  
Day 2: ULNRD 1-6 pm CT

### November

- 11** Veteran's Day: Office closed
- 12** Board Meeting:  
ULNRD Office @ 7 pm CT
- 26-27** Thanksgiving: Office closed

### December

- 10** Board Meeting:  
ULNRD Office @ 3 pm CT
- 25** Christmas: Office closed

## Arboretum Open House to be Held

It has been over a year ago since the idea to take a barren section of ground, around the Thedford Fire Hall, and create an aesthetically pleasing, conservation minded space was conceived. The area would provide an educational landscape with trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers. Now this vision has finally come to fruition.

The second phase, or fall planting, was completed Tuesday, September 15th with the help of the Nebraska Forest Service and Upper Loup NRD Resources Technicians Shane Young and Lexi Hingtgen. Around 30 trees were planted, as well as various shrubs, and over 50 pollinator plants. Since the planting, mulch has been spread around the newly planted trees and plants and an additional pollinator seed mix was seeded over our pollinator space.



To help with this project, the arboretum is still in need of "wish list" items such as bird, bat, or pollinator houses, heavy bird baths, or hefty picnic tables. You may also donate or provide monies for these items. Any donations or purchase valuing \$200 or more, the NRD will provide an engraved sign with either your name, in memory of, or in recognition of.

We are excited to present our progress of this project to our community with an open house which will be held **Thursday, October 8th from 4:30-5:30 pm CT**. Shane will be available to give tours and answer any questions about the project. The Bessey Nursey will be giving out small potted trees to anyone who would like one. We want to thank the program partners, NE Statewide Arboretum, NE Environmental Trust, NE Forest Service, and all the volunteers that have helped with this project and share the hard work that has been put in over the last several months.

## Drought Management Planning

The district is taking steps to reduce the negative impacts of future drought events. With the help of a FEMA planning grant, the ULNRD and consulting firm JEO, are working on a Drought Management Plan. Components of the plan will include defining drought using local data, identifying regional drought vulnerabilities, and developing mitigation and management alternatives to reduce the impacts from future droughts. If you would like to be a part of the stakeholder group please contact Anna at 308-645-2250.

## 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 also 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 50% cost share along with free tree planning services. Trees and shrubs, planting, weed mulch, and drip irrigation systems are all eligible for the cost share program.

For more information on these services or to make an appointment for your tree plan, please contact Shane at 308-645-2250.

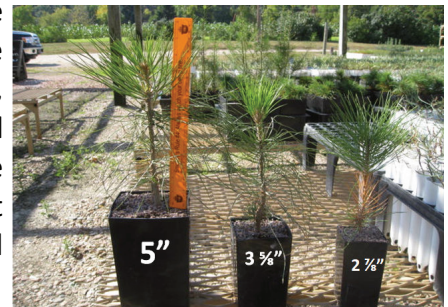
## Cost-Share Funds Available for Fall Noxious Weed Control



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. Yearly management is key as skipping a year can cause the weed to re-infest rapidly. To help battle those found 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 50% of the cost of approved chemicals up to \$500 per landowner.

## Fall Container Trees

Need to spruce up your landscape or replace a few trees in your tree line? Fall container trees are available for purchase! Sizes range from: 2 7/8" for \$5.75, 3 5/8" for \$8.75, and 5" for \$10.75. **Species and quantity are very limited.** Please contact our office for the current availability of species, quantity, and sizes.



## Firearm Hunter Education Course

On Saturday, October 10th and Saturday, October 17th, a Firearm Hunter Education Classroom course will be held at the Upper Loup NRD Office. Both classes will begin at 1:00 pm CT and end at 6:00 pm CT. Participants will need to attend both days in order to complete the course. The State of Nebraska requires hunters age 12 through 29 who hunt any species to complete the course. Anyone younger than 11 may take the course but will not be certified. They must also be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Please register online for this event at [outdoornebraska.gov](http://outdoornebraska.gov)

## Autumn Trivia

1) The pollen from this plant causes the most common fall allergies.

- A) Cedars    B) Ragweed  
C) Cotton    D) Rye

2) List the three Zodiac signs of Autumn.  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_

3) Samhain, a Gaelic word, means what?

- A) Harvest Moon    B) Autumn Begins  
C) Summer's End    D) New Year

4) What is the pigment trees stop producing causing colors to change in leaves?

- A) Melanin    B) Coliform  
C) Riboflavin    D) Chlorophyll

5) In Greek Mythology who is the goddess of nature and the harvest?

- A) Persephone    B) Artemis  
C) Aphrodite    D) Demeter

Answers on page 4

## Projects in Progress

### Tree Survival Checks

Shane will be conducting tree survival checks in the District over the next few weeks and is also working on tree plans. If you are wanting to plant trees in the spring, please contact Shane to get on the list and set up an appointment at 308-645-2250.

### Flowmeter Reading

Beginning in October Jake, Shane and Lexi will be out reading flowmeters. You will recognize them by the white pickup with the Upper Loup NRD emblem on the side. Weather permitting, all readings shall be completed by January 1.

### Flowmeter Maintenance

Reminder, inspect your flow meters for any odd behavior such as unusual noises or meter has stopped. Producers are responsible for flowmeter maintenance and repairs.

### Notary Services

Our administrative secretary, Jamie Green, is now certified to provide notary services.

### Learning Center

Need a meeting space? Our learning center/meeting room is free to use for non-profits and schools. Donations are appreciated.

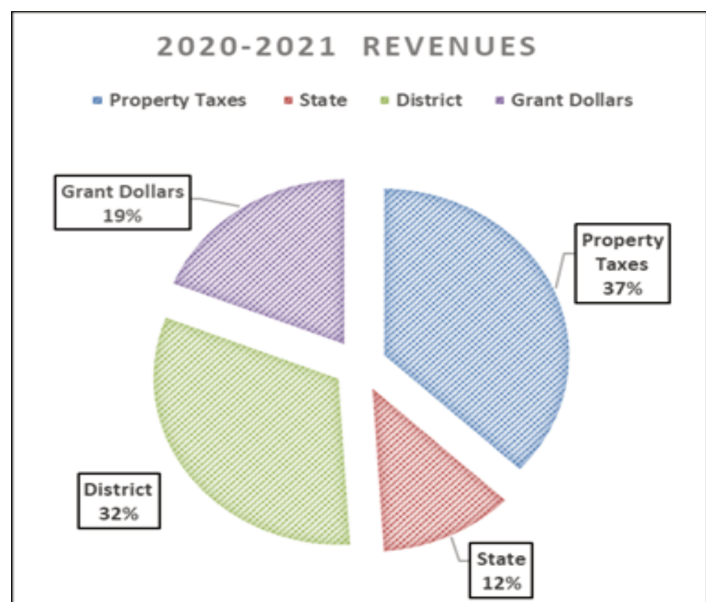
### Field Guides Available

All guides are \$6

Field Dressing, Basic Tracking, Edible Plants, Mushrooms, Roadside Wildflowers, The Night Sky, Sandhill Crane Display Dictionary, Invasive Weeds and Plants, Nebraska Wildflowers, Nebraska Wildlife, Nebraska Birds, Wilderness First Aid, Home and Garden Pests, and more!

## ULNRD Board Approves 2020-2021 Budget

On September 10, 2020 the Upper Loup Board of Directors adopted the budget for fiscal year 2020-21. This year's budget calls for a property tax levy of .017 (1.7 cents per 100 dollars of property valuation). NRD's have the option to levy up to 4.5 cents per 100 dollars of valuation to aid in fulfilling all their statutory responsibilities, which we are well below. With the help of grants and product sales the Upper Loup has been able to provide a wide variety of services including water quality testing, conservation practices, wildlife habitat improvement, soil sampling, noxious weed control, recycling, yard enhancement, and camp scholarships to name just a few. The upcoming annual budget total is \$1,200,625.00 with a tax asking of \$439,350.00, meaning **less than half of our total budget (37%) is supported by tax dollars**. It's a decrease in asking of approximately 11% from 2019.



## ULNRD Staff

Anna Baum

*General Manager*

Shane Young

*Resources Technician*

Jake Ginkens

*Resources Technician*

Lexi Hingtgen

*Information & Education,  
Resources Technician*

Jamie Green

*Administrative Secretary*

Spud Rowley

*Recycling Coordinator*

Pam Petersen

*Field Office Secretary*

## ULNRD Board of Directors

### *Sub-District 1*

Eric Storer

Chris Vinton

### *Sub-District 2*

Judy Ridenour

John Kraye

### *Sub-District 3*

Chris Higgins

Miles Maseberg

### *Sub-District 4*

Connie Cox

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

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[www.upperlounprd.org](http://www.upperlounprd.org)

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## TO: POSTAL CUSTOMER

### Recycling Reminder

A reminder for accepted materials:

Cardboard, magazines, office paper, shredded paper, newspaper, etc

Tin/ Aluminum

Glass of any kind and color- please rinse containers

Plastics #1-7- please rinse containers

Electronics- must fit in bin, will not collect if left on the ground

Alkaline batteries- Security First Bank

Standard ink cartridges- ULNRD Office

### Autumn Trivia Answers

1. B) Ragweed 2. Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius 3. C) Summer's End 4. D) Chlorophyll 5. D) Demeter