



Upper Loup Scoop

Upper Loup Natural Resources District

Special Edition
April 2021



Celebrating Beef Month!

May is Beef Month in Nebraska, and we're celebrating the positive impact of the beef industry in our state. In celebration of Beef Month, we honor Nebraska's cattle producers – many who serve in leadership roles including on the Upper Loup Natural Resources District board of directors. We thank our ranchers for their commitment to the land, their animals and our communities.

Supporting Grazing Land Management

Beyond the protein on our plate, the cattle industry brings a lot to the table. Cattle grazing preserves and provides habitat for wildlife, defends against the spread of wildfires, and improves soil health and carbon sequestration potential.

Grazing accelerates and amplifies the storage of carbon. According to the

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, rangelands offer a well-established approach to retaining and sequestering carbon. In fact, grasslands are one of three major places that carbon sequestration occurs—forests and oceans are the other two.

Approximately 90 percent of what cattle

eat is forage and plant leftovers that people can't eat.

The U.S. beef industry is a critical component of a sustainable food system. It is the most productive and efficient in the world, producing 18 percent of the world's beef with just 6 percent of the world's cattle.

April 22, 2021

Earth Day

April 30, 2021

Arbor Day

May 13, 2021

Board Meeting
ULNRD Office
7 p.m. CT

May 31, 2021

Holiday, Office Closed

June 6-9, 2021

Adventure Camp about
the Environment (ACE)

June 10, 2021

Board Meeting
ULNRD Office
7 p.m. CT

Correction: Due to an oversight, we recently reprinted an article that did not express our shared Nebraska values. The article was not produced in-house and not properly vetted. The content in question has been removed from our platforms, including our newsletter and website.

ACE Camp is Back for 2021!

Middle school students interested in the outdoors are encouraged to sign up for this fun, educational and action-packed camp. Adventure Camp about the Environment (ACE) is for students who have completed 6th, 7th or 8th grades in the 20-21 school year.

The four-day adventure camp gives students an opportunity to dive into hands-on activities with a natural resources focus.

Core camp sessions

include water quality, wildlife, soil, trees, range and grasslands. Campers will also get the opportunity to go tubing, fish, zipline, build water rockets, and much more.

The Upper Loup NRD offers several full-ride scholarships for students in the district to attend.

To qualify for a scholarship, fill out the camp registration and scholarship forms found at upperloupnrd.org.

Please complete and

return forms to the Upper Loup NRD office no later than Friday, May 21.

Space is limited due to safety precautions, so sign up early!

ACE Camp

June 6-9, 2021

State 4-H Youth Camp

Halsey, Nebraska

\$225/Camper

Deadline: May 21, 2021

Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program

Cost-share Funds Still Available for District Landowners

The Upper Loup NRD offers cost-share assistance for several conservation practices including the following:

- Pasture planting or range seeding (NC 10) - to establish grass on land being converted from other uses or the renovation of existing pasture or range.
- Critical area planting (NC 11) - to stabilize the soil, reduce damage from sediment and runoff to downstream areas.
- Windbreaks (NC 12) - to establish a stand of trees to conserve soil and moisture and to prevent erosion.
- Planned grazing systems (NC 14) - to reduce erosion and improve water quality by maintaining or improving plant cover for increased forage production, enhanced wildlife habitat, grazing uniformity and water use efficiency.
- Windbreak renovation (NC 16) - to provide for restoration of farmstead or field windbreaks that have been rendered substantially ineffective due to the death of trees or other windbreak plantings as a result of weather, disease or other natural causes.
- Irrigation water management (NC 17) - to conserve groundwater and surface water by improving water-use efficiency on irrigated lands.
- Brush management (NC 20) - removal or reduction of non-herbaceous plants to restore natural plant community balance, create the desired plant community, and reduce competition between desired and unwanted plants.

Cost-share funds for the Nebraska Soil & Water

Conservation Program (NSWCP) are administered by the Upper Loup NRD, but provided by the State of Nebraska. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff provide technical assistance and certify that the practice is needed and meets the policy and guidelines established by the State of Nebraska and Upper Loup NRD.

The cost-share rate for sign up is 50 percent of the county average cost. Payment for completed practices is limited to 50 percent of the actual cost, or 50 percent of the average cost, whichever is less.

Cost-share funds are limited to \$4,500 per producer per year. Signing a cost-share application does not guarantee approval of cost-share funds. The Upper Loup NRD Board of Directors reviews all applications at monthly board meetings and makes approvals based upon the cost of the practice and the conservation benefit provided.

In addition to cost-share programs, the Upper Loup NRD offers the following services:

- Recycling
- No-till drill
- Gopher machine rental
- Deer and small rodent repellent
- Tree and shrub planting
- Weed barrier installation
- Water testing
- Chemigation Permits & Inspections

For a full list of cost-share opportunities and services, please call the NRD office at 308.645.2250.



Trivia – Cattle Conundrums

1. What family does cattle belong to?
Equidae, Bovidae or Anatidae
2. How many stomach chambers do cattle have?
Four, Three or One
3. What is the most common breed of cattle in the U.S.?
Jersey, Holstein or Black Angus
4. Tallow is an ingredient in soaps, cosmetics, candles and more. Tallow comes from cattle _____?
Hair, Fat or Bone
5. How many different medicines, including insulin and estrogen, come from cattle?
50, 75 or 100

Answers on page 4

The Lesser-known Faces of the Cattle Industry

Meet the Cattle(wo)man Herding Family, School, Careers and Cattle

Western heritage has painted the picture of a rugged cowboy on the ranch. However, according to the most recent Agriculture Census, more than 230,000 farms or ranches across America have a woman at the helm.

Check out this profile of Sandhills Rancher Terryn Drieling who illustrates this growing group of cattle ranchers, and the daily demands they meet at the ranch, in their homes, and at their professions.

Drieling, and her husband, live and work on a large ranch in the Sandhills. Drieling spends her days caring for the land, cattle and their three young children, and still finds time to manage a family business and various social media profiles.

“Ranching and raising beef cattle is more than our livelihood: It’s our passion. It’s what lights our fire and gets us out of bed in the morning. It’s our calling,” she said.

The ranch is always a busy place as the family works through weather and temperature swings and the

demand of caring for cattle. May marks the beginning of calving season, and family is even busier as they help cows give birth and tend to the calves’ needs throughout summer.

In addition to the family’s dedication to animal care, Drieling and her family, like beef farmers and ranchers across the country, are committed to preserving the land they live on and keeping their operation environmentally sustainable. They move the cows and their calves every three to five days through their growing season grazing rotation. The grazing rotation – or grazing plan – is mapped out at the start of every year and helps ensure they are not over-using the land, but rather are helping to improve the soil health. The plan considers what has taken place in past years, grass quality and availability and herd events like calving season.

“While it is a plan and nothing is set in stone, having this grazing plan year-in and year-out helps



us make the best decisions we can for the land and livestock in our care,” said Terryn. “No matter what Mother Nature throws at us, we’re better prepared.”

Check out Drieling’s blog, “Faith, Family and Beef” to learn more about their ranching operation in the Sandhills.

Article courtesy of BeefItsWhatsForDinner.com and photo courtesy of Drieling/Laura Johnson Photography

Seeking Input on Drought Management Plan

The Upper Loup NRD is taking proactive steps to reduce the negative impacts of future drought events by developing a Drought Management Plan with a FEMA planning grant.

Components of the plan include defining drought using local data, identifying regional drought vulnerabilities, and developing mitigation and management alternatives to reduce the impacts from future droughts. Having this blueprint in place will allow the district to respond to the challenges of an acute drought situation.

JEO Consulting Group will assist with the plan development, and public and stakeholder engagement

is one of the important steps in planning. Stakeholders include, but are not limited to, landowner/operators within the district, community and county personnel, water dependent businesses, and other government agencies. Being a stakeholder is not a long term or time-consuming commitment. Stakeholders will meet once or perhaps twice during the development of the plan to review and understand management techniques currently in place and to examine what other practices might be more beneficial. If you are interested in serving on the stakeholder committee, please contact the Upper Loup NRD at 308.645.2250 by Monday, May 3, 2021.

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Trivia Answers – 1. Bovidae 2. Four 3. Black Angus 4. Fat 5. 100



GRILLED TOP ROUND STEAK WITH PARMESAN ASPARAGUS

After soaking in a tasty vinegar-garlic marinade, this Top Round Steak is grilled alongside fresh asparagus.

BeefItsWhatsForDinner.com

Ingredients

1 beef Top Round Steak, Cut 3/4 inch thick (~1 pound)
1 pound asparagus, trimmed
1 teaspoon olive oil
3 tablespoons shaved parmesan cheese
Hot, cooked orzo (optional)

Marinade:
1/4 cup red wine vinegar
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 tablespoon fresh thyme
2 teaspoons steak seasoning blend
2 teaspoons minced garlic
1 teaspoon crushed red pepper

Cooking

1. Combine marinade ingredients in medium bowl. Place beef Top Round Steak and marinade in food-safe plastic bag; turn steak to coat. Close bag securely and marinate in refrigerator 6 hours or as long as overnight, turning occasionally.
2. Remove steak from marinade; discard marinade. Toss asparagus with oil. Place steak in center of grid over medium ash-covered coals; arrange asparagus around steak. Grill steak, covered, 10-11 minutes (over medium heat on preheated gas grill, times remain the same) for medium rare (145°F) doneness, turning occasionally. (Do not overcook) Grill asparagus 6-10 minutes (over medium heat on preheated gas grill, covered, 8-12 minutes) or until crisp-tender, turning occasionally.
3. Immediately sprinkle cheese over asparagus. Carve steak into thin slices. Season with salt, as desired. Serve with asparagus and orzo, if desired.