

CHEMIGATION PERMITS

By state law, a chemigation permit MUST be obtained before any person may legally chemigate.

Current permits expire June 1st of each year.

Renewal Permits

The fee for a renewal permit is \$30.00. Renewal permits can be issued without an inspection; however the Upper Loup NRD is required to reinspect systems in operation. The Upper Loup NRD sends out renewal permits late February to mid-March of each year. To renew, enclose \$30.00 with your completed application form to the Upper Loup Natural Resources District, 39252 Hwy. 2, Thedford, NE 69166. Renewal applications received after the permit expires on June 1, must comply with provisions for new permits, including a fee of \$60.00 and the requirement for an inspection before the permit can be issued.

New Permits

The fee for a new permit is \$60.00. If requesting a new permit you need to call the Upper Loup Natural Resources District at 308-645-2250 to line up an inspection time for the system and to get the application.

Emergency Permits

An emergency permit, costing \$250.00 and valid for 45 days, may be issued by the Upper Loup Natural Resources District, which has 48 hours to act on an application for such a permit. Such permit holders must comply with all chemigation rules and regulations.

*A chemigation system **must** be inspected before a new permit may be issued, and periodic inspections, to ensure compliance with the Chemigation Act, are required for systems under a renewal permit.*

New Permit Inspections

The system is required to be started, brought to normal operating pressure and shut down. A permit holder or applicator must be present during the inspection. The Upper Loup NRD District staff will not operate any irrigation or chemigation equipment, nor will they open any electrical control box.

Periodic Re-inspection

To meet the Chemigation Act's requirements that each Natural Resources District conduct area-wide, selective and periodic inspections, the Upper Loup NRD requires a full inspection, which involves a start-up and shut-down of the chemigation system, to be performed a minimum of once every three years. The Upper Loup NRD will contact via mail any cooperators that have a system(s) due for reinspection. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to then contact the Upper Loup NRD to set an appointment for such an inspection. If a system is not inspected during the year it was due for reinspection, the permit will be suspended. A renewal application for a suspended permit will not be approved until the system has been reinspected and all requirements are met.

Non-permitted Chemigation Systems

The Upper Loup NRD is also required by law to make area-wide, selective and periodic inspections of non-permitted irrigation systems. The Upper Loup NRD will also investigate complaints concerning non-permitted systems. In cases of non-compliance and subsequent lack of cooperation by an irrigator, the Upper Loup NRD may apply to the district court or county court of the county in which the irrigation system is located for an inspection warrant to allow the Upper Loup NRD's employees entry onto the irrigator's property to carry out duties under the Chemigation Act.

UPPER LOUP Natural Resources District

CHEMIGATION PROGRAM

A guide to the regulations and requirements of Nebraska law affecting chemigators in the Upper Loup Natural Resources District.

Operators **MUST** Be
Certified

Equipment **MUST** Meet
Specifications

An Annual Permit Is
REQUIRED

Office Address:

Upper Loup NRD
39252 Hwy. 2
Thedford, NE 69166

For Additional Information, Call:
(308) 645-2250

Chemigation Applicators Must Be Certified

Whether or not the permit holder is certified, the person who actually applies chemicals through an irrigation system **MUST** be certified.

Certification consists of attending a course of instruction offered by the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service and passing a written exam.

Check with the Upper Loup Natural Resources District or County Extension Office for dates and times of the courses and tests.

Certification is good for four years, after which renewals are required.

Reporting Accidents

An actual or suspected accident, relating to the use of chemigation, must be reported within 24 hours of its discovery.

Notification should be made by telephone during normal working hours to the Nebraska Department of Environmental Control, (402) 471-2186 or the Upper Loup NRD, (308) 645-2250. Notification should include (if known) the time of occurrence, quantity and type of material, location and any corrective or cleanup actions presently being taken.

After hours or on weekends and holidays, notification should be made to the Nebraska State Patrol.

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

Six specific equipment requirements are included in the laws relating to chemigation. These items must be in place before any system is approved for permit and must also be in place and in use during any application:

Mainline Check Valve

An irrigation line check valve must be located in the pipeline between the irrigation pump and the point of chemical injection into the irrigation pipeline. The check valve must stop the water and chemicals from draining or siphoning back into the irrigation well. The check valve must have a positive closing action and a watertight seal. It should be easy to repair and maintain.

Vacuum Relief Valve

A vacuum relief valve must be located on the pipeline between the irrigation pump and the mainline check valve. The valve allows air into the pipeline when the water flow stops, preventing a vacuum that could cause siphoning.

Inspection Port

An inspection port must be located between the irrigation pump discharge and the mainline check valve. The inspection port enables the operator to make a visual inspection for possible leaks of the check valve. The vacuum relief connection can often serve as the inspection port.

Automatic Low Pressure Drain

The low pressure drain, made of corrosion-resistant material and having at least a three-quarter inch orifice, must be located on the bottom of the horizontal pipe between the irrigation pump and the irrigation pipeline check valve. The drain must discharge at least 20 feet from the water source. The drain inlet should not extend beyond the inside surface of the pipe unless a check dam is also

present. This drain will keep any mixture of water and chemical away from the irrigation water source.

Chemical Injection Line Check Valve

A chemical injection line check valve must be located between the point of chemical injection into the irrigation pipeline and the chemical injection pump. This valve shall be chemically resistant. With a minimum opening pressure of 10 psi, this check valve is needed to stop the flow of water from the irrigation system into the chemical supply tank and to prevent gravity flow from the chemical supply tank through the injection pump and into the irrigation pipeline after an unexpected shutdown.

Simultaneous Interlock Device

The irrigation pump and the chemical injection pump need to be interlocked so that if the irrigation pump stops, the chemical injection pump will also stop. The interlock may be electrical or mechanical. This interlock prevents the pumping of chemicals from the supply tank into the irrigation pipeline after the irrigation pump stops.

Equipment Changes

The Upper Loup Natural Resources District should be notified within 72 hours of any replacements or alterations involving chemigation equipment. The Upper Loup Natural Resources District must then make an inspection. If in compliance, the permit will be continued. If the equipment does not comply, the permit must be suspended until compliance is achieved and the Upper Loup Natural Resources District gives its approval.

As required by law, the Upper Loup NRD will conduct area-wide, selective and periodic inspections to ensure Chemigation Act compliance.