



Upper Loup Scoop

Upper Loup NRD

January 2022

Inside this Issue:

Tree Giveaway	2
Drought Mitigation	2
Recycling Reminder	2
Tree Netting	2
Pesticide Training Dates	3
Poster Contest Winner	3

Calendar of Events

January

- 10** Drought Mitigation Meeting @ 2 pm CT
- 13** Board Meeting: ULNRD Office 3PM CT
- 17** Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Office Closed
- 24-26** Legislative Conference, Lincoln

February

- 10** Board Meeting: ULNRD Office 3PM CT
- 21** President's Day: ULNRD Office Closed

March

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

Tree Orders for Spring

The Upper Loup Natural Resources District continues to sell and plant trees and shrubs to property owners across the district. 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.



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. 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, approximately 113 wells were tested, with about 95% of these being located in Sub-District 1 (Grant and part of Cherry) which was the sub-district scheduled to be tested in 2021. Our results showed that Sub-District 1 had a manganese average of 0.074 ppm and a nitrate average of 2.0 ppm in domestic wells. Overall, the District averages fall within the EPA Recommended Guidelines for Drinking Water Safety.

Attention: Schools, Non-Profit Organizations, Churches, etc.



Executive Travel has partnered with Nebraska's NRDs to plant 1 million trees across the state over the next five years through the ETGreen campaign, starting with 50,000 trees in 2022. The campaign is designed to help offset Executive Travel's carbon footprint generated by airline travel. In partnership with the Nebraska NRDs, Executive Travel will source the trees from the Charles E. Bessey Nursery in Halsey.

With donation funds received from the campaign, the Upper Loup NRD has thousands of seedling trees and shrubs that will be available for free this spring. Any schools, churches, non-profits, community spaces, etc. residing in the District may choose the species and amount from the NRD's availability list. Please call our office to be placed on the list, orders will be taken from now through February 1, 2022.

It's Not too Late

The Upper Loup NRD will be having its second stakeholder meeting in regards to putting together a District wide Drought Mitigation Plan and you're invited. The date has been set for Monday January 10, 2022, weather permitting. It will be held at 2:00 pm central time at the NRD office in Thedford. A tentative agenda for this meeting is: 1) Summary of the Drought Plan (overview of work done to this point) 2) Monitoring and Response Protocol Discussion (examples, ideas, limitations, etc.) 3) Potential Mitigation / Management Actions 4) Potential Source of Conflict / Challenges 5) Next Steps. We greatly appreciate your time and input on this community project.

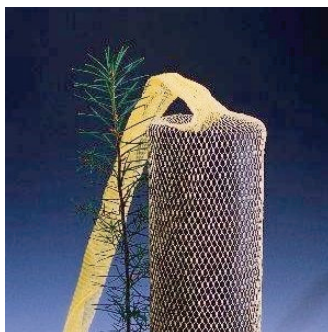
Recycling Reminders

The NRD would like to remind our District residents that we have Hefty Energy Bags available for purchase at the office. These bags are great to recycle single use plastics such as cutlery, plastic packaging, Styrofoam, etc. We have three bag sizes available: 8 gallons, 30 gallons, and 55 gallons.

Additionally, the NRD would like to remind our Dunning area residents to breakdown cardboard and recycle it at the trailer located at Norm's Auto.

Tree Netting Available

This is the time of year deer are looking for a snack and your young pine tree tops sure do look good. Be sure to protect the tops of your trees with Terr Tech Netting. We have standard netting for 5¢/foot available for purchase at the NRD office.



Winter Trivia

1. Which fruit has a variety called "Winter Banana"?
A) Watermelon B) Apple
C) Grapefruit D) Cherry
2. Dry ice is made from solid:
A) Salt B) Hydrogen Peroxide
C) Water D) Carbon Dioxide
3. A snowflake has ___ sides.:
A) Four B) Eight
C) Six D) Two
4. 70% of Earth's freshwater is locked in glaciers. **True or False?**
5. The coldest temperature ever recorded in Nebraska was:
A) -47°F B) -23°F
C) -15°F D) -55°F

Answers on page 4

Pesticide Training Dates

Certification for private pesticide is needed for landowners buying and applying restricted use pesticides on their land. For more information about pesticides, chemicals, and certification visit the UNL pesticide website at pested.unl.edu. 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 4: Hooker County Courthouse, Mullen, 1pm MT

January 5: Thomas County Courthouse, Thedford, 1pm CT

January 11: Grant County Courthouse, Hyannis, 1pm MT

January 25: Blaine County Courthouse, Brewster, 1pm CT



State Poster Contest Winner

Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities. That was the theme in which participants needed to communicate through their artwork for the National Association of Conservation District's Poster Contest. The NRD chose 3 student's posters from our District contest to compete at the state level competition. Those individuals were Piper Hanson (2nd grade), Harper Zutavern (4th grade), and Ember Chavez (7th grade). Piper Hanson



(pictured), was the winner of the 2nd-3rd grade category at the state competition for the Contest! Her poster will be sent on to the national competition. Way to go Piper!

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.

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: Mushrooms, Weather, 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

Tony Ruhter

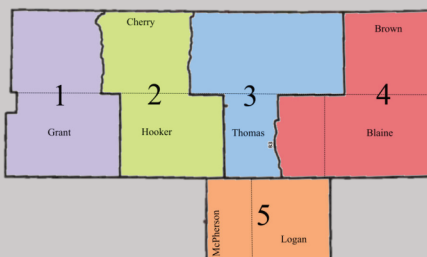
Sub-District 5

Tom Johnson

Richard Burnside

At Large

Patrick Wright



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

TO: POSTAL CUSTOMER

Cozy Comforts

Cowboy Butter

Great topping for any meat dish

1 cup unsalted butter, softened
2 cups lightly packed fresh parsley leaves
8 garlic cloves
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper

Combine, blend, roll into log form and chill for 30 minutes. Top any roast, steak, burger, or your favorite meat dish.

Winter Trivia Answers

1. B) Apple 2. D) Carbon Dioxide 3. C) Six 4. True 5. A) -47°F