



# Upper Loup Scoop

Upper Loup NRD

January 2019

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## Calendar of Events

### January

- 1** New Year's Day : ULNRD Office Closed
- 10** Board Meeting: ULNRD Office 3PM CT
- 21** Martin Luther King Jr. Day: ULNRD Office Closed
- 29-30** Legislative Conference Lincoln

### February

- 14** Board Meeting: ULNRD Office 3PM CT
- 18** President's Day: ULNRD Office Closed

### March

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

## Good News for Domestic Water Well Users in Sub-District 3!

Since 2008 the Upper Loup has implemented a domestic well water quality monitoring program. A ground water analysis for nitrate-nitrogen content in registered and any requested non-registered domestic wells is done once within a five-year cycle. Sub-District 3, which contains all of Thomas County and the southern portion of Cherry County that sits directly north of Thomas County was tested this summer. 96 domestic wells were tested with the nitrate results ranging from 0-3.6 mg/L and an average of 1.07 which is well below the Maximum Contaminant Level of 10 mg/L.

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 know if nitrates and or bacterial are present in your drinking water is by testing because both contaminants are 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 Upper Loup NRD recommends that all domestic wells get tested at least once every five years. Wells in Sub District 4, which includes all of Blaine County and the south portion of Brown County, are on schedule to be tested summer of 2019.

## NRD Learning Center Approaches Completion

The Learning Center/meeting room is almost complete at the ULNRD office. This spring, there will be an open house held to showcase the new addition. The Center is available with no fee to schools and non-profit organizations. Private rent will also be available.

## Local Students Win Conservation Poster Contest with Creative Drawings

(Thedford, NE) The Upper Loup Resources District (NRD) is excited to announce the regional winners of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Poster Contest. The winner of the 7-9<sup>th</sup> grade category is, Thedford Public School student Brooke Milam and the winner of the 10-12<sup>th</sup> grade category is, Sandhills Public School student Brooklyn Leach! The top two posters were sent on to the state competition and Brooke Milam won first place in the state 7-9<sup>th</sup> grade category and received a \$25 Visa gift card! Her poster will be entered into the national contest.

This year, the poster contest theme was “Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home”. Students were asked to create a poster that reflected what watersheds meant to them and their homes. One winner is selected in every division ranging from K-1; 2-3; 4-6; 7-9; 10-12. Those winners are then sent to the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts state competition. State winners are then selected to compete at the national competition held in Washington D.C.



## Tree Orders for Spring

The Upper Loup Natural Resources District continues to sell and plant trees to property owners across the district as it has for the past 40+ years. 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 (excluding cedars) or shrubs and machine planted trees or shrubs of at least 200 trees.

Early planning and tree ordering is encouraged for cost share funds, as they are distributed in a first come, first serve basis. The benefits of windbreaks are numerous. They protect your home and livestock, and when planted along crop land edges they increase crop production. Call Shane at our office and he will assist you with deciding which tree species will work best for you, draft planting plans, and assist in filling out the cost-share forms. The order deadline for trees and shrubs is February 1, 2019.



## Winter Trivia

1. How quickly does snow fall?  
A) 100 ft/sec B) 10 ft/sec C) 1 ft/sec D) 1 in/sec
2. What is the snowiest city on Earth?  
A) Stockholm B) Japan C) Berlin
3. What percent of freshwater on Earth is frozen as snow/ice?  
A) 50% B) 30% C) 80% D) 20%
4. The coldest temperature ever recorded was:  
A) -13°F B) -50°F C) -150°F D) -253°F
5. The largest snowman ever built was how tall?  
A) 50 ft B) 113ft C) 80 ft D) 33 ft
6. All snowflakes have how many sides?  
A) 6 B) 2 C) 4 D) 1

Answers on page 4

## HMP Planning Efforts

For every \$1 spent on hazard mitigation, \$4 in post storm clean up and rebuilding is saved, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Proactive hazard mitigation planning allows a community to take actions to reduce or eliminate threats from natural disasters. To help guide future hazard mitigation projects, Upper Loup NRD, JEO Consulting and local communities are undertaking an effort to update the region's Hazard Mitigation Plan. Hazard mitigation plans (HMP) are a requirement of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, administered by FEMA, and once a community, county, or district is part of an approved plan they become eligible for up to a 75% cost share for a wide variety of projects listed in the plan. Hazard Mitigation Plans are required to be updated on a five-year cycle and the current Upper Loup Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan will expire August 2020.

A hazard mitigation plan is a publicly-guided document that identifies vulnerability to natural disasters such as flood, drought, earthquake, wildfire, winter storm, tornado/high wind storm, dam failure, etc. The plan establishes goals, outlines specific mitigation options, and prioritizes projects which may reduce or eliminate loss of life and potential damages to property when future disasters occur.

Public input will be gathered throughout the duration of the plan development through online tools and public meetings. All communities, public school districts, and other taxing authorities within the NRD are eligible to participate. First round of stakeholder and participant meetings will begin January.

## 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](http://pested.unl.edu)

To register for local trainings, call the UNL-Central Sandhills Area office at 308-645-2267.

- January 16- Cherry County Fairgrounds, Valentine
- January 18- West Central Research/Extension Center, North Platte
- January 29- Hyannis Courthouse, Hyannis
- January 30- Blaine County Courthouse, Brewster
- February 4- Hooker County Library, Mullen
- February 14 - Thomas County Courthouse, Thedford
- February 19 - Logan County Courthouse, Stapleton
- February 21- West Central Research/Extension Center, North Platte
- March 14- West Central Research/Extension Center, North Platte

## Projects in Progress

### Attention Irrigators

Flow meters provide producers with information about the total amount of irrigation water being applied. Data collected from the flow meters also helps the NRD determine the amount of water being withdrawn from the aquifer across the district. Effective groundwater irrigation management begins with accurate water use measurements. Jake, Shane, and Lexi will be finishing reading meters throughout the district within the month. If you have recently installed a flow meter, please call our office so we can send a technician to inspect it. All high capacity wells with pumps associated with certified irrigated acres must be equipped with a flowmeter. Sub-Districts 1-3 (Grant, Hooker, Thomas and Cherry Counties) shall be metered by May 1, 2020.

### Static Water Level Readings

Jake and Lexi will be out and about this spring checking static water levels on area wells. Say hi if you see them around!

### Notary Service

Don't forget, the ULNRD is available to provide notary services!

## ULNRD Staff

Anna Baum

*General Manager*

Shane Young

*Resources Technician*

Jake Ginkens

*Resources Technician*

Leslie Harvey

*Administrative Secretary*

Jack Brummet

*Recycling Coordinator*

Lexi Hingtgen

*Information & Education,*

*Resources Technician*

Pam Petersen

*Field Office Secretary*

## ULNRD Board of Directors

### *Sub-District 1*

Eric Storer

Chris Vinton

### *Sub-District 2*

Judy Ridenour

John Krave

### *Sub-District 3*

Chris Higgins

Miles Maseberg

### *Sub-District 4*

Todd Schipporeit

Connie Cox

### *Sub-District 5*

Tom Johnson

Richard Burnside

### *At Large*

Patrick Wright

Cherry 1 Grant	Cherry 2 Hooker	Cherry 3 Thomas	Brown 4 Blaine
	McPherson 5 Logan		

For latest news check out  
[www.upperloupnrd.org](http://www.upperloupnrd.org)

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

## TO: POSTAL CUSTOMER

### Irrigated Lands Ownership Change

Reminder: If there has been a change in ownership of any certified irrigated acres ownership please contact our office at 308-645-2250 so that we can keep our records current and assist with any well registration ownership changes.

### Winter Trivia Answers

1. 1-6 ft/sec 2. B) Japan 3. C) 80% 4. D) -253°F 5. B) 113 ft 6. A) 6 sides