



# Upper Loup Scoop

Upper Loup NRD

July 2020

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## Calendar of Events

### July

- 3 Independence Day  
ULNRD Office Closed
- 9 Board Meeting  
ULNRD Office 7PM CT

### August

- 13 Board Meeting:  
ULNRD Office 7PM CT
- 28 Nebraska State Fair  
Begins

### September

- 7 Labor Day  
ULNRD Office Closed
- 10 Budget Hearing &  
Board Meeting:  
ULNRD Office 7PM CT
- 28-29 NARD Annual  
Conference

## Chemigation Inspections amid COVID-19

Shane will be out performing chemigation inspections and we want those on the list to know we will be doing all we can to keep everyone safe. We ask that you please try to abide by the following guidelines this summer during inspections. 1) Maintain social distancing (6' rule, no physical contact); 2) Shane will be carrying masks in case you are not comfortable with solely social distancing; 3) When possible we ask that you meet with Shane at the inspection site; 4) Shane will be wearing latex gloves when handling any commonly touched equipment (check valve, vacuum relief valve, hose, etc.); 5) If Shane is not feeling well he will call to reschedule the inspection, we ask that if you are not feeling well the day of the inspection please call to reschedule. We thank you for your understanding and patience as we work through this pandemic.

## Directors Approve Expansion of Acres for 2021

Due to increased groundwater levels, water surplus and non-drought conditions, the Board voted to allow 2,500 new irrigated acres District wide (500 per subdistrict) for development.

Interested landowners must apply for any new irrigated acres on a District application form. The application period is from July 1 through September 30 of 2020. Along with the application form the landowner needs to submit an aerial photo depicting the new acres as well as a onetime non-refundable administrative fee of \$100.00 per application of 25 acres or less or \$500.00 for applications over 25 acres.

A minimum score of 15 points on the Upper Loup NRD Irrigated Acre Ranking Sheet is required for an application to be considered for approval. Each application will be ranked according to the following criteria: density of irrigated acres within the vicinity, NRCS soil classification, stream depletion factor, ground water quality, slope, removal of trees and any other criteria deemed relevant by the District.

Acres approved for expansion must be certified with the Upper Loup NRD and have a flowmeter installed.

For more information or an application, you can visit our website at [www.upperlounprd.org](http://www.upperlounprd.org) or call the office at 308-645-2250

## Theford Fire Hall Arboretum Update

Last fall the 2020 Greener Towns Program awarded the Upper Loup Natural Resources District a landscape grant to plant an arboretum on the bare ground surrounding the Theford Rural Fire Hall. Project partners include the Theford Rural Fire Department, The Village of Theford, The Upper Loup NRD, the Nebraska Forest Service, the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum as well as the Nebraska Environmental Trust. There are three main project goals. The first is education of youth and the general public. Inform and show different types of trees, shrubs and plants as well as maintenance practices like pruning, fertilizing, watering etc. Provide a living lab for students of range, horticulture, nature, and conservation studies, etc. The second goal is the conservation of soil, water, and energy. The Arboretum will visually show the benefits of planting trees and shrubs as a conservation practice. Plantings will reduce runoff, aid in wind erosion and capture snow to help with water recharge. Hardwoods will aid in shading the building in summer months helping with energy needs. Native shrubs and plant species will be a good habitat and food source for wildlife such as pollinators, birds, insects and small mammals. A water efficient drip line was installed along with natural mulch to help with water conservation. The project will also achieve our third goal of providing an opportunity for research. The arboretum will help to identify the species of plants that grow best in the Sandhills and will show the possibilities of what the public can incorporate into their own landscapes.

A lot of work has been done to date such as design and planning, spring planting and irrigation installation. A concrete path and patio will be poured this summer. We will have a second round of planting this fall which will include more trees and many pollinator plants.

There are several ways in which you can support this great project. You can donate pollinator/bird/bat houses or bird baths. You can donate monies for the purchase of benches and picnic tables or for the cost of hardscape and plant signage. If you make a monetary donation of \$200 or more we will have a personalized plaque made in memory of your loved one, in dedication of someone, or recognizing you as being a donor.



### Herbal Trivia

1. Which herb will produce a deep red color when the fresh flowers are infused in oil? A) Turmeric B) Fennel C) St. John's Wort D) Arrowroot
2. What herb gets its name from the Sanskrit word for "horn root"  
A) Arrowroot B) Ginger  
C) Garlic D) Yucca root
3. The essential oil distilled from what spice is used by fishermen to disguise their scent? A) Saffron B) Valerian C) Wormwood D) Anise Seed
- 4) This herb was once believed to be eaten by serpents to improve their eyesight. A) Fennel B) Oregano C) Dill D) Turmeric

Answers on page 4

### Drought Management Planning

The district is taking steps to reduce the negative impacts of future drought events. One of these steps is the development of the Upper Loup Natural Resources District (ULNRD) Drought Management Plan. With the help of a FEMA planning grant the ULNRD will soon begin work 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. Having such a blueprint in place would allow the district to respond to the challenges of an acute drought situation.

The ULNRD has hired JEO Consulting Group, Inc. to assist with the plan development. Public and stakeholder engagement is one of the important steps in this process. Stake holders include but are not limited to landowner/operators within the district, community and county personnel, water dependent businesses, and other government agencies. If you would like to be on the stakeholder committee please contact our office at 308-645-2250 and visit with Anna Baum.

## ULNRD Welcomes New Recycling Coordinator

We would like to welcome Earl 'Spud' Rowley Jr as our new Recycling Coordinator. Spud is from Kimball, NE and has worked in the recycling/waste management industry for the last 20+ years. He has partnered with various entities such as the City of Kimball and Keep Kimball Beautiful. He is a stakeholder on the Nebraska Recycling Council. We are collaborating with Spud and Western Resources Group, which is the central hub where the majority of recyclables that are collected around our district are taken. We are excited to welcome Spud and his team!

## ULNRD Welcomes New Administrative Secretary

A new voice will be on the other end of the line when you call our office! Her name is Jamie Green and she is our new Administrative Secretary. Jamie graduated from Mullen High School Class of '01, she later went to the University of Montana in Missoula for Business Administration. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, camping, riding horses, and reading. At her previous job, she was a Dispatcher/Jailer for Clay County Sheriff's Office. She has two daughters who will be attending Mullen Public Schools in the fall. We are excited for her to be a part of our family!



## Recycling Program Increases Materials Collection

Spud is expanding our recycling program! We are now taking **ALL plastics 1-7**. Labels do not need to be removed but we do ask that you take the time to empty and rinse when possible. We are also accepting **GLASS**, of any color, at our office in Thedford. Like with plastics, we ask that you take the time to empty and rinse the glass containers when possible. We are still accepting standard printer ink cartridges as well, drop off is located inside the office. There is also another new bin outside of the office for **ELECTRONICS**. Computer monitors, televisions, phones, irons, if you can plug it in, we will take it. Lastly, you can now bring **PLASTIC FEED TUBS** to the NRD office. We cannot accept any broken or breaking tubs. If you do have tubs please drop them off in front of the dock next to our recycling facility.



## In Other News..

### Spring Tree Numbers

This year the ULNRD planted 18,072 trees with our machine planter and sold 16,623 trees as hand plants. We donated various shrubs and trees to our arboretum project as well. Thank you to every one who purchased trees, be sure to keep a look out for our fall potted trees.

### Bumble Bee Surveying

Lexi will be conducting bumble bee surveys for the NE Bumble Bee Atlas Project from July-September in Grant County. The Atlas is a statewide community project aimed at tracking and conserving native bumble bees. The NE Bumble Bee Atlas is seeking more volunteers to help with this project. Volunteers are asked to conduct two surveys between June-Sept and submit their findings. Visit their website to select your survey area and more helpful information on how to help with the project.

<https://www.nebraskabumblebeeatlas.org/grid-cells.html>



## ULNRD Staff

Anna Baum  
*General Manager*

Lexi Hingtgen  
*Information & Education,  
Resources Technician*

Shane Young  
*Resources Technician*

Jake Ginkens  
*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*  
Eric Schipporeit  
Connie Cox

*Sub-District 5*  
Tom Johnson  
Richard Burnside

*At Large*  
Patrick Wright

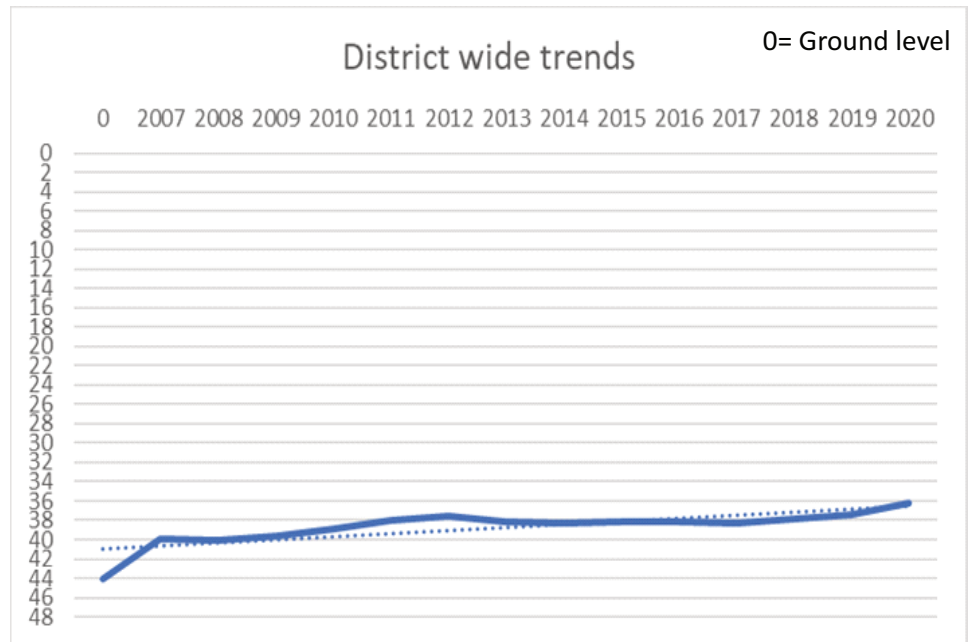
Cherry <b>1</b> Grant	Cherry <b>2</b> Hooker	Cherry <b>3</b> Thomas	Brown <b>4</b> Blaine
	McPherson <b>5</b>	Logan	

For Latest News check out  
[www.upperlounprd.org](http://www.upperlounprd.org)

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## District Water Levels



## Herbal Trivia Answers

1) C. St. John's Wort 2) B. Ginger 3) D. Anise Seed 4) A. Fennel