



Upper Loup Scoop

Upper Loup NRD

July 2021

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Calendar of Events

July

5	Independence Day ULNRD Office Closed
8	Board Meeting ULNRD Office 7PM CT

August

12	Board Meeting: ULNRD Office 7PM CT
27	Nebraska State Fair Begins

September

6	Labor Day ULNRD Office Closed
9	Budget Hearing & Board Meeting: ULNRD Office 7PM CT
26-28	NARD Annual Conference

Last Call for Drought Management Plan Stakeholders

Last chance to become a stakeholder committee member! The Upper Loup NRD is taking proactive steps to reduce the negative impacts of future drought events. One of these steps is the development of the ULNRD 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.

Public and stakeholder engagement is one of the important steps in the process. If you believe there is a possibility you may be affected by a drought then it is encouraged that you become a stakeholder in the development of this plan. This is not a long term or time consuming commitment. Stakeholders will meet once or twice during the development of the plan. The committee will review the management techniques currently in place and examine what other practices may be more beneficial. The first meeting is scheduled for the 3rd week in July. If you would like to be on the committee please contact our office.

Directors Approve Expansion of Acres for 2022

2,500 new acres will be allowed for development throughout the District next year. Each of the five sub-districts has been allotted 500 acres.

Interested landowners must apply for any new irrigated acres on a District application form. The application period is from June 2021 through September 30 of 2021. Along with the application form, the landowner needs to submit an aerial photo depicting the new acres as well as a one-time 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 as well as have a flowmeter installed.

Sub-District 1 Domestic Wells in Line for Testing Rotation

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 determine if nitrates are present in your drinking water is by testing a sample because this contaminant is 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 potential for water contamination, especially in our sandy soils, is always present therefore water quality requires long term monitoring. The Upper Loup NRD recommends that all domestic wells, either registered or



unregistered, get tested at least once every five years. Wells in Sub District 1, which includes all of Grant County and the southern adjoining portion of Cherry County, are on schedule to be tested this year. We are glad to offer this important safety service to you AT NO CHARGE. Samples are most often collected from an outside faucet so there is no need for you to be present at collection time. If you have any questions or want to ensure you are on our test list you can contact our water technician at lpurlin@upperloupnrd.org.

Certified Arborist on Staff

We are excited to announce that Shane Young has recently earned the credential of Certified Arborist through the International Society of Arboriculture or the ISA. To earn this credential, Shane took a course through the Nebraska Forest Service and was then knowledge tested in all aspects of arboriculture. ISA Certified Arborists must adhere to a Code of Ethics and take 30 hours of continuing education every three years.

As a Certified Arborist, he is pleased to be bringing a high level of expertise to under-served rural areas. This certification benefits district residents as Shane will be a local resource for all tree related concerns. Shane is available to visit sites and make recommendations for improvement to existing tree projects, as well as to plan for new ones. Contact him at syoung@upperloupnrd.org or call our office.



Adventure Camp about the Environment 2021



Another year of camp is in the books! The 11th annual Adventure Camp about the Environment (ACE) was held on Sunday, June 6th through Wednesday, June 9th at the State 4H Camp located by Halsey. From Harrison to Syracuse and many places in between, we had a great

turn out in attendance with 45 campers in total coming from various parts of the state. Overall, 82% of those individuals receiving a scholarship from their local NRD to sponsor a portion, if not all, of their camp registration fee. The Upper Loup NRD

awarded six individuals scholarships to sponsor their full registration to camp. The award recipients were: Cecilia Bencotter of Thedford, Gavin Mann of Alliance, Cooper Walker of Stapleton, Daniel Wright, Tate Kvanvig and Brandon Hardin of Mullen.



Sessions covered a variety of topics such as range, forestry, soils, water quality, wildlife, and entomology. Extracurricular sessions were added such as geocaching, fishing, atlatl throwing, and more! During these sessions youths were able to be a part of a hands on learning experience relating to our natural resources.

New Tree Care

The recent heat has been hard on newly planted trees in the area. These new trees, like other plants and living things require proper care and management to ensure that they thrive and flourish.

In dry areas and times of high heat such as these, watering is a must for the survivability of newly planted trees and shrubs. When watering bare root trees with a tank or hose it is best to water a minimum of once every 1-2 weeks applying 2-5 gallons per plant at a low pressure. This is important to not disturb the soil around the roots. If you have any questions about your saplings please contact our Certified Arborist, Shane Young.

In Other News..

Spring Tree Numbers

This year the ULNRD planted 14,162 trees with our machine planter and sold 8,295 trees as hand plants. We donated various shrubs and trees to the arboretum, as well as fairgrounds and golf courses in our district. Thank you to every one who purchased trees!

Chemigation

Shane will be out and about around the District conducting chemigation inspections. These inspections are on a 3 year rotation.

Hefty Energy Bags

Hefty Energy Bags are available for purchase at our office! They are fantastic to recycle those odd plastics such as grocery bags, plastic packaging, food wrappers, plastic cutlery, etc! When you fill a bag just simply place it in your local recycling trailer. We have three sizes available :

8 gal.....\$10.50

30 gal....\$22.00

55 gal....\$38.50

ULNRD Staff

Anna Baum
General Manager

Lexi Spurlin
*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
Rebecca Connealy

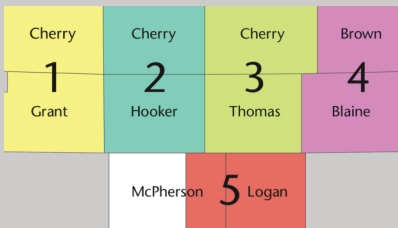
Sub-District 2
Judy Ridenour
John Kraye

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

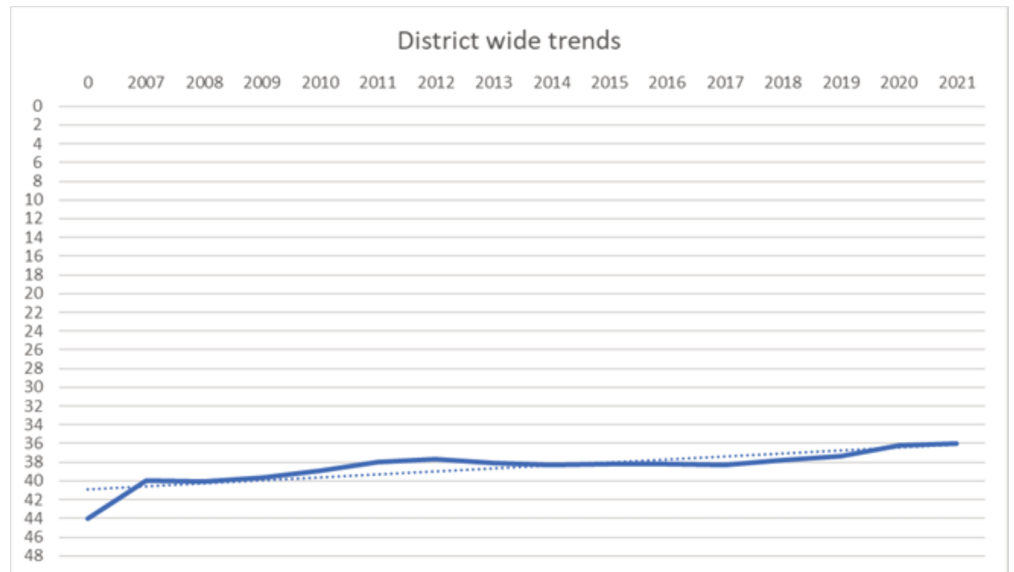


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District Groundwater Levels



0=ground level

To see Sub-District specific groundwater level data please visit our website.