



# Upper Loup Scoop

Upper Loup NRD

July 2019

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## Calendar of Events

### July

4	Independence Day ULNRD Office Closed
11	Board Meeting ULNRD Office 7PM CT

### August

8	Board Meeting: ULNRD Office 7PM CT
21	ULNRD Field Day
23	Nebraska State Fair Begins

### September

2	Labor Day ULNRD Office Closed
10-12	Husker Harvest Days
11	Budget Hearing & Board Meeting: ULNRD Office 7PM CT
23-24	NARD Annual Conference

## Domestic Well Owner, Is Your Drinking Water Safe?

A good supply of fresh water is essential to human existence. We use fresh water not only for drinking, but for bathing, growing food, cleaning, watering animals and watering lawns. 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 bacteria are present in your drinking water is by testing because both contaminants are colorless, odorless, and tasteless. A water test for nitrates is highly recommended for households with infants, pregnant women, nursing mothers, or elderly people, as these groups are most susceptible to nitrates. Coliform bacteria are microscopic, generally harmless organisms that live in the intestinal tract of many warm blooded animals including humans and are excreted into the environment through feces. Although most coliform bacteria are not directly disease causing, some are often found with other, more dangerous strains of bacteria like E. coli, shigella and salmonella. Some strains of E. coli are known to cause vomiting, diarrhea, and other serious gastrointestinal problems.

As of January 2019, the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR) listed over 31,341 domestic wells registered in the state and 331 in the Upper Loup NRD. Domestic wells were not required to be registered with the state prior to September 1993, therefore thousands of domestic wells exist that are not registered with the NDNR. Unlike public water supplies, the quality of private water sources in Nebraska is unregulated by federal or state mandate. Thus, well owners are encouraged to have their well water tested and make sure their well is properly maintained to help protect their health and safety.

The Upper Loup Natural Resources District (ULNRD) has had in place a ground water quality monitoring program since 2011. All sub-districts are monitored, on a cyclic schedule, for nitrates and upon request bacteria. We are happy to report that since we started collecting and testing samples average nitrate levels have been well below the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 10 parts-per-million (ppm) across the entire NRD District.

The potential for water contamination 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 4, which includes all of Blaine and and the southern third of Brown 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 would be no need for you to be present at collection time. If you would like to have your well tested please contact our office at 308-645-2250 or email our water technician at [jjenkins@upperloupnrd.org](mailto:jjenkins@upperloupnrd.org) to be placed on the list.

## Ten Years of ACE in the Books!

This year was a milestone! The 10th annual Adventure Camp about the Environment (ACE) was held from Sunday, June 16th to Wednesday, June 19th, at the 4-H Camp in Halsey. Sessions varied from topics including range, forestry, soils, wildlife, water quality, edible/toxic plants, outdoor cooking, technology, along with other exciting camp activities. This year, campers planted a ceremonial tree, provided by the nursery, for our tenth year! Presenters traveled from all over the state as well to help teach about natural resources.

Ranging from Harrison to Nemaha to many in between, 24 youth were able to be a part of this opportunity to learn about the environment. Approximately 12 out of the 23 NRDs were represented at the camp. Out of the 24 campers, 95% were able to come on scholarships with over half being first time attendees.

Each year, the Upper Loup NRD offers scholarships to cover the cost to attend ACE Camp. This year, 3 individuals from the district were chosen to receive scholarships: Colin Rooney from Stapleton, Caleb Burnside from Stapleton, and Rylee Anderson from Whitman.



Caleb Burnside, Stapleton



Colin Rooney, Stapleton



Rylee Anderson, Whitman

## Summer Trivia

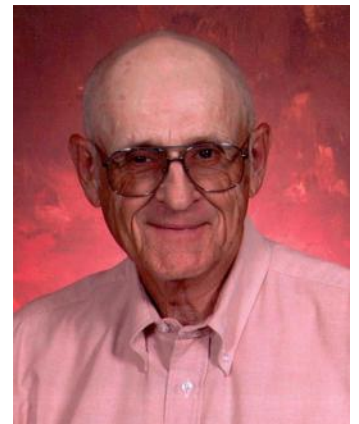
- 1. True or False:** The longest day of the year is called the equinox
- 2. True or False:** Mosquitoes have been on earth for more than 30 million years.
- 3.** The world record for the tallest bonfire was:  
A. 70.5 ft B. 200.5 ft C. 155.5 ft
- 4.** In Alaska, the first day of summer is celebrated with:  
A. Midnight Baseball B. Potluck  
C. Relay race D. Parade
- 5. True or False:** June is named after a Roman Goddess

Answers on page 4

## Important Announcement for Recycling

The ULNRD's Recycling Program is very beneficial to our district, we collect over 113 tons of recyclable material yearly. In order to keep our program running we need help. We have had an increase of non-recyclables make their way into our trailers such as Styrofoam (cannot decompose or be recycled), unacceptable plastics (#3-7), trash, glass, etc. We appreciate everyone who is using our recycling program but these extra items are disrupting the flow of the program. We have **one** recycling technician, Jack Brummet (pictured below), who has to sort through every trailer brought back to the NRD (~19 trailers) and throw away the materials that are not accepted.

Businesses, if we collect items from you such as cardboard, please breakdown and remove any plastic wrapping that may be on it. Across the district, we ask that everyone be mindful and look on the products you are recycling. As a reminder, **we only accept 1 & 2 plastics, cardboard/paper, and tin/aluminum.** Lastly, please rinse out containers so that our facilities can stay clean.

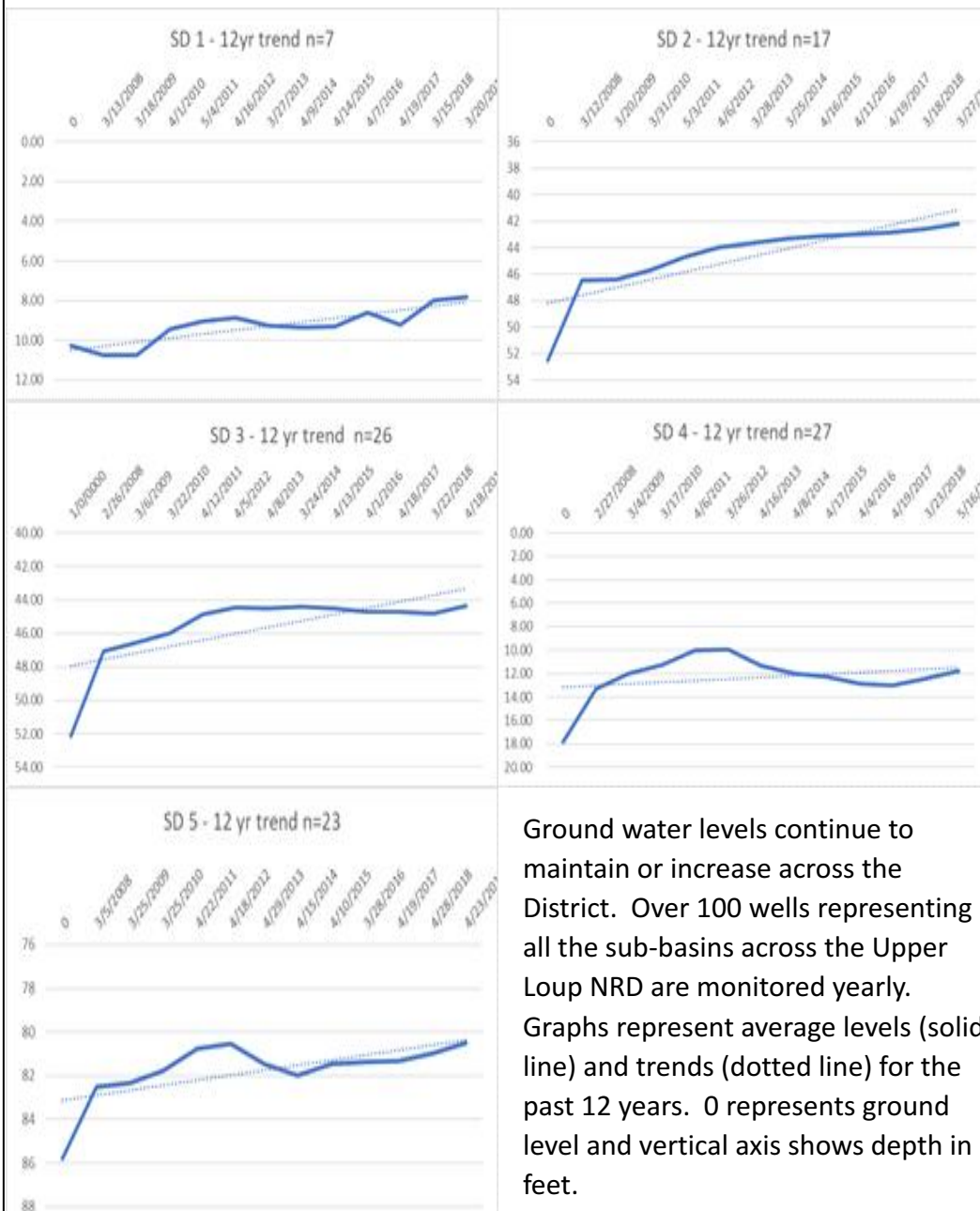


## Board of Directors Approves 2,500 New Irrigated Acres

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 2019. 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.

### Water Levels



## Projects in Progress

### Spring Tree Numbers

This year the ULNRD planted 21,900 trees with our machine planter. We also had 454 NRD hand plants. Trees purchased as hand plants totalled 14,203 and we donated about 400 trees. Thank you to every one who purchased trees!

### Chemigation Inspections

Shane has been doing chemigation inspections throughout the District. All chemigation systems must be fitted with the proper safety valves and equipment because of potential risks to our natural resources and public safety issues. This equipment must be inspected by the Upper Loup NRD prior to use to ensure functionality and compliance. If you are in need of a chemigation inspection, please contact Shane at 308-645-2250

### New Recycling Trailer

The ULNRD has been approved for a grant from NDEQ and will receive funds that we will be able to use to add an additional recycling trailer. The trailer will be located in Purdum.

### Learning Center

The ULNRD Learning Center is available for use! Call our office for more information. 308-645-2250

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

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

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## TO: POSTAL CUSTOMER

### Nature Activities with the Girl Scouts

Upper Loup NRD's I & E Coordinator, Lexi Hingtgen, spent the day in Mullen with the Girl Scouts. They planted around 30 trees and shrubs such as Bur Oak, Ponderosa Pine, Crabapple, and Sandcherry around Mullen's new dog park. Afterwards, the girls did some artistic molds with modeling clay, paint, and items found in nature. Thank you to the troop for having Lexi out, and if any group would like us to come do an activity/presentation please call our office!



### Summer Trivia Answers

1) False      2) True      3) C, 155.5 ft      4) A, Midnight Baseball      5) True (Juno)