



Upper Loup Scoop

Upper Loup NRD

April 2020

Inside this issue:

ACE Scholarships	2
Noxious Weeds	2
Hazard Mitigation	2
Domestic Wells	3
Spring Trees	3
Pesticide Permit	3
ACE Registration	4

Calendar of Events

April

9 Board Meeting
via Teleconference 7 PM

CT

22 Earth Day

24 Arbor Day

May

14 Board Meeting via
Teleconference @ 7 PM
CT

25 Office Closed:
Memorial Day

June

7-10 ACE Camp, 4H Camp
Halsey, NE

11 Board Meeting ULNRD
Office @ 7 PM CT

Important Information on Current COVID-19 Situation

Due to recent public health concerns, the Upper Loup NRD is open to the public by **appointment only** until further notice. If you answer “no” to all of the following questions you may call to schedule an appointment.

- Have you, someone living in your household, someone you’ve been in close or frequent contact with, or someone you are caring for been diagnosed with COVID-19 (Coronavirus) or had any contact with confirmed case of COVID-19?
- In the last 14 days, have you, someone living in your household, someone you have been in close or frequent contact with, or someone you are caring for returned from, or made a travel connection through a CDC Level 3 or Level 2 country or State Department Level 3 or Level 4 country?
- Do you currently have, or have you had within the last 24 hours, any cold or flu symptoms with a fever greater than 100.4 or acute respiratory distress (e.g. shortness of breath and coughing)?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, please call us at 308-645-2250 to conduct business by phone, or email us at ulnrd@upperloupnrd.org

Thank you and we appreciate your understanding during this time.

Attention Cherry, Grant, Hooker, and Thomas County Irrigators

Flow meters are an important tool that provide producers information about the total amount of water applied for irrigation. The NRD also uses this data to determine the amount of water being withdrawn from the aquifer across the district. Effective groundwater management begins with accurate water use measurements. All active high capacity wells associated with certified acres, those with a pumping apparatus, must be equipped with a flow meter. Subdistricts 1-3 (Cherry, Grant, Hooker, and Thomas Counties) wells need to be metered by **May 1, 2020**. If you have recently installed a flow meter, please call us at 308-645-2250. Technicians will be checking for meter installations in May.

Adventure Camp about the Environment to be held, Scholarships Available

The ULNRD is offering full scholarships to attend the annual ACE Camp to be held **June 7-10, 2020**. ACE is for students who have completed 6th, 7th and 8th grade in the 2019-2020 school year. To be qualified for a scholarship, you must reside in the ULNRD boundaries and you must also fill out a scholarship form that can be found on our website at www.upperlounprd.org. A camp registration form must be completed along with the enclosed scholarship form. The camp registration form can be found on the back of this newsletter, on our website, or at the office. The form should be completed and returned to the ULNRD office. If you have any questions, please call 308-645-2250 or visit our Facebook page: Adventure Camp about the Environment. If you are 17 and have been to the camp inquire about becoming a volunteer counselor!



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Noxious Weed Spraying

The legal description of a noxious weed is any plant designated by a federal, state or county government as injurious to public health, agriculture, recreation, wildlife or property. More commonly they are defined as a plant that grows out of place and is competitive, persistent, and pernicious.

In Nebraska, you are legally required to control noxious weeds on your property. The common noxious weeds on the Nebraska State list include: plumeless thistle, musk thistle, diffuse knapweed, spotted knapweed, Canada thistle, leafy spurge, purple loosestrife and saltcedar.

Fortunately, not all of these weeds are found in our district. To help with the battle of those found in our area (leafy spurge, Canada thistle, musk thistle), the Upper Loup Natural Resources District provides cost share funds for BOTH fall and spring treatment to landowners in the NRD area. Funds are available to cover 50% of the cost of approved chemicals up to \$500 per landowner. Applications can be found on our website or you can contact our office.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Renewal Complete

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. Several communities within the District have taken advantage of this grant program in the past for items such as generators and sirens for the communities to date.

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. The Upper Loup with the help of JEO Consulting and local community work groups are happy to report the update was completed well ahead of schedule.



Spring Trivia

1. Plums are members of the rose family. **True or False?**
2. The stems of this flower used to be used for flotation devices.
A. Jasmine B. Daffodil
C. Sunflower D. Tulips
3. This pricey spice has been used in textiles, food, medicine, and perfumes for thousands of years.
A. Coriander B. Turmeric
C. Fenugreek D. Saffron
4. Which of the following are, in some manner, poisonous?
A. Easter Lily B. Chokecherry
C. Water Hemlock D. All of the above
5. Flowers can only bloom when sunlight is present. **True or False?**

Answers on page 4

Domestic Well Owner, Is your Drinking Water Safe?

In Nebraska, about 95% 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.

The Upper Loup NRD recommends that all domestic wells, either registered or unregistered, get tested at least every five years. Wells in Sub-District 5, which includes all of Logan County and the eastern portion of McPherson County, are on schedule to be tested this year. We are glad to offer this safety service to you at **no charge**. Samples are most often collected from an outside faucet so you would not need to be present at the time of collection. If you would like to have your well tested, and don't reside in the counties specified above, please call our office or email our water technician at lhingtgen@upperloupnrd.org to be placed on the list.

Spring Trees Available

Spring machine tree planting is still on schedule and is to commence at the beginning of April. There are trees available to suit all of your needs such as a variety of hardwoods, conifers, as well as shrubs. Trees and shrubs will be bare root and sold in bundles of 25, costing approximately \$25/bundle. To purchase trees, please contact the ULNRD office.



Pesticide Training and Chemigation Permits

Before an irrigator can begin chemigation, state law requires a permit to be obtained on an annual basis. Permit fees through the ULNRD are as follows: **Renewal:** \$30, **New:** \$60, **Special:** \$60, and **Emergency:** \$250. Renewal permits and fees are due to the NRD office no later than 4 pm CT on **June 1st, 2020**.

If you plan to apply chemicals, you must attend one of the courses and pass a written exam to be certified. Area training dates: April 8th @ 9 am, May 12th @ 1 pm, and June 4th @ 1 pm. Trainings will be held at 402 W State Farm Rd, North Platte. You may contact Chuck Burr at 308-696-6783 for more information or visit pested.unl.edu.

Projects in Progress

No Till Drill Rental

The ULNRD has 2 no-till drills available for rent: a 10 foot Great Plains minimum till drill and a 20 foot HayBuster No Till Drill. For more information and to set up an appointment, please call Jake at 308-645-2250. The drill rental prices can be viewed on our website at www.upperloupnrd.org/drill-rental/

Static Water Levels

Jake will be out checking static water levels around various parts of our district this spring!

Field Guides

We have added to our pocket guide collection. New titles include: *Roadside Wildflowers*, *Sandhill Crane Display Dictionary*, *Mushrooms*, and the *Night Sky*. Buy one get one free now through July. To see all guides available check out our website under the education tab.

Gopher Bait

Don't forget, the ULNRD carries gopher/rodent bait available for purchase and a bait machine available to rent. We carry 50 lb bags of .5% Strychine for \$163.53. We currently have milo and oats in stock. Purchasers must have pesticide certification number.

Arboretum Meeting Postponed

The meeting for our project has been postponed to a later date. If you would like information on how to be involved with the project still please call our office.

ULNRD Staff

Anna Baum Jack Brummet
General Manager *Recycling Coordinator*

Shane Young Lexi Hingtgen
Resources Technician *Information & Education,*

Jake Ginkens *Resources Technician*

 Pam Petersen
Leslie Harvey *Field Office Secretary*

Administrative Secretary

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

Registration Form for 2020 ACE Camp Deadline is May 22, 2020 Camp Cost: \$215

Camper's Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

NRD District: _____

To find your NRD District

visit: <https://www.nrdnet.org/nrds/find-your-nrd>

Have you contacted your NRD about a scholarship? _____

Returning Camper? _____

Phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Adult Size T-Shirt (Please circle one): S M L XL

2019-2020 Grade Level: _____ Male/Female: _____

Food Allergies : _____

Parent Signature: _____

TO: POSTAL CUSTOMER

ULNRD Board of Directors

<i>Sub-District 1</i>	<i>Sub-District 3</i>	<i>Sub-District 5</i>
Eric Storer	Chris Higgins	Tom Johnson
Chris Vinton	Miles Maseberg	Richard Burnside
<i>Sub-District 2</i>	<i>Sub-District 4</i>	<i>At Large</i>
Judy Ridenour	Eric Schipporeit	Patrick Wright
John Kraye	Connie Cox	

Spring Trivia Answers

1. True 2. Sunflowers 3. Saffron 4. All of the above 5. False