

Upper Loup Scoop

January 2012

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Board of Directors

Sub district 1

Chris Vinton
Eric Storer

Sub district 2

Judy Ridenour
Wynn Wiens

Sub district 3

Gary Schaeffer
Chris Higgins

Sub district 4

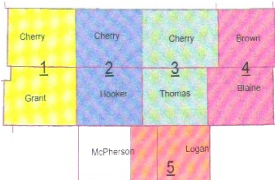
Byron Cox
Gordon Simonson

Sub district 5

Darwin Frey
Tom Johnson

At large

Patrick Wright



Open House to Celebrate 25 Years of Service

The Upper Loup NRD Board of Directors and office staff would like to say **Thank You** to Jack Brummet for 25 years of outstanding service to the Upper Loup NRD. Anna Baum, General Manager, said “I have been so very fortunate to have worked with Jack. I appreciate his knowledge, dedication, advice, and his willingness to try new things”.

After serving 6 years on the ULNRD Board of Directors and 19 years as a ULNRD technician, Jack will be stepping down from his full-time position to part-time. He will continue to maintain the recycling division.

Over the years Jack has been the “Jack of all trades”. Early on he was the only technician and his responsibilities covered a wide spectrum. Jack has been in charge of trees (designing tree plans, ordering and planting), water quality, chemigation, cost-share programs, water level reporting, maintenance of office and district equipment (tractors, tree planter, drills and gopher machine), and most currently have added recycling to the list. He has also designed some of the district equipment such as the mulch machine and has even created a water wheel for the fair.

To celebrate Jack’s 25 years of service there will be a Come & Go Open House Thursday, February 9, 2012 from 10 am - 2:30 pm CT at the ULNRD office in Thedford. We are inviting everyone in the district to stop by to share in saying thank you.

Now is the Time to Order Trees

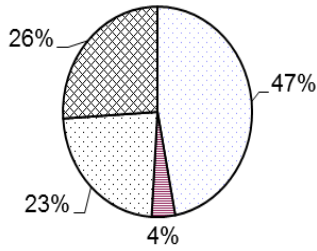
Do you have enough protection or in need of replacing some existing trees in your shelterbelts? Trees provide important benefits such as sheltering livestock, preventing soil erosion, and crop damage due to wind. They also help to reduce heating and cooling costs to homes and shop buildings. ULNRD technician, Kyle Yrkoski, is available to work with landowners to determine the type and number of trees and shrubs needed, planting, weed control, and care following planting.



To help promote tree planting, the ULNRD provides a 65% cost-share. Funds will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis for those practices that meet requirements; as a result we are encouraging anyone wanting to plant trees in spring 2012 to contact Kyle immediately. Trees, shrubs, planting, and weed mulch are all eligible for the cost share program. Orders are now being taken through March 1st or until inventory runs out. To view a complete list of trees and shrubs available, along with pricing information, you can either visit our website at www.upperloupnrd.org or contact our office at 308-645-2250.

REMINDER: Many miles of the black fabric mulch have been applied to tree windbreaks in Nebraska over the last 15 years. The woven fabric has greatly increased tree and shrub survival and growth rate by inhibiting weeds and retaining soil moisture. The fabric is expected to slowly degrade after five years, but it does not degrade as well in the shade of the tree. This may cause the trees to grow into the fabric and become girdled, thus decreasing the health of trees. To prevent damage to plantings, landowners need to inspect their mulched windbreaks and enlarge openings, as needed. If you have any questions please call Kyle .

ULNRD 2011 Revenues



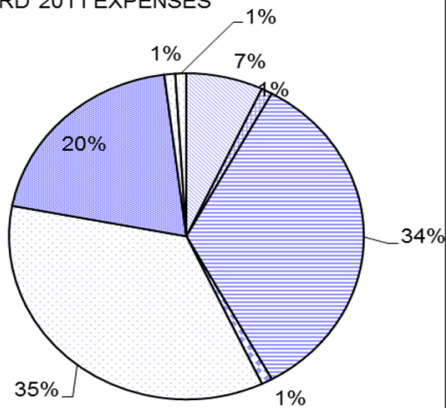
- Property Taxes 47%
- State 4%
- District 23%
- Grant Dollars 26%

Budget News

In September the Upper Loup NRD Board of Directors adopted the budget for fiscal year 2011-12. Due to state budget cuts and the loss of state-aid, the ULNRD continues to find other funding mechanisms to maintain your NRD. One way this has been accomplished is through grant funding, which has resulted in the ability to maintain a lower levy rate. NRDs have the option to levy up to 4 cents per 100 dollars of property valuation. We are proud to say that since 1990 we have been able to fund our programs, conservation studies, and services with the same levy rate of 2 cents per 100 dollars of property valuation. The current levy rate for the ULNRD is .021864.

Since 2007 the ULNRD has received \$555,668 in grant funding. With the help of grant dollars the District can continue to provide recycling services, cost-share services, and perform a variety of conservation studies.

ULNRD 2011 EXPENSES



- Office Operations - 7%
- Equipment Operations - 1%
- Personnel - 34%
- Groundwater Quality Mngt - 1%
- Groundwater Quantity Mngt - 35%
- Conservation Mngt - 20%
- Information & Education - 1%
- District Projects / recycling - 1%

Fall Water Levels

County	Wells Checked	Wells Down	Average	Highest Lowest
Blaine	20	9	Up 0.12 ft	Highest 1.42 ft Lowest 0.96 ft
Brown	8	None	Up 1.24 ft	Highest 2.13 ft
Cherry	23	7	Up 0.36 ft	Highest 1.93 ft Lowest 0.76
Grant	5	None	Up 0.47 ft	Highest 0.66
Hooker	12	1	Up 0.58 ft	Highest 1.07 Lowest 0.43
Logan	16	4	Up 0.46 ft	Highest 1.60 Lowest 2.07
McPherson	8	1	Up 0.85 ft	Highest 1.87 ft Lowest 1.49 ft
Thomas	12	2	Up 1.04 ft	Highest 2.06 ft



Welcome Evan Suhr

Evan Suhr is the newest member of the Upper Loup NRD family. Evan is originally from a ranch north of Valentine, NE. He graduated from the UNL– Kearney in 2010 where he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology with an Wildlife emphasis.

Evan comes to us with experience from the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission in Bassett, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Kulm, ND and Valentine's National Wildlife Refuge. Evan's hobbies and interest include hunting, fishing, livestock, range, and wildlife management.

UNL Extension Offering Education to Private Pesticide Applicators

LINCOLN, Neb. — Private pesticide applicators holding licenses expiring in 2012, as well as anyone seeking first-time private applicator certification, should contact their local University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension office for information on pesticide education training sessions that begin in January.

Licensed private pesticide applicators can buy and use restricted-use pesticides in their own farming operations after completing this training.

UNL Extension provides the educational training, while NDA is responsible for licensing. Cost of NU training is \$30 per person.

For a full list of training sessions, sites and dates, contact your nearest extension office or go online to <http://pested.unl.edu/> where applicators will find pesticide education sites for private applicators listed by county.

LOCATION:

Brewster, Blain Co Courthouse
 Ainsworth, Lutheran Church
 Ainsworth, Lutheran Church
 Valentine, 4-H Building Cherry Co Fairgrounds
 Merriman, Village Hall
 Valentine, 4-H Building Cherry Co Fairgrounds
 Hyannis, Grant Co Courthouse
 Mullen, Hooker Co Courthouse
 North Platte, West Central Research
 North Platte, West Central Research
 North Platte, West Central Research
 North Platte, West Central Research
 Stapleton, Logan County Courthouse

DATES:

January 10
 February 28
 April 05
 January 23
 January 24
 April 02
 January 4
 January 12
 January 17
 February 16
 March 15
 April 10
 January 19

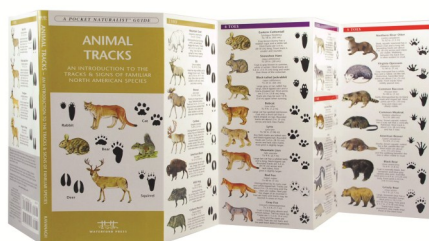
TIME:

1:00
 1:30
 1:30
 1:30
 1:30
 1:30
 9:00
 1:00
 9:00
 1:30
 9:00
 9:00
 9:00
 9:00

Available pocket guides

- Trees
- Nebraska Birds
- Animal Tracks
- Wilderness Survival
- Edible Wild Plants
- Roadside Wildflowers
- Invasive Weeds
- The Night Sky
- Butterflies & Moths
- House & Garden Pests
- NE Trees & Wildflowers
- Field Dressing Guide

Pocket Guides Available



Pocket guides are available at the Upper Loup NRD office in Theftord for a cost of \$6.00 per guide. The field dressing guide is \$8.00. If you have any questions please stop in the office or call 308-645-2250.

Dripal Pursuit.

Test your water knowledge:

1. What is the average annual precipitation in the continental U.S.?
2. Which has the greatest gravitational effect on tides, the sun or moon?
3. What is it called when the body is lacking in adequate fluids?
4. About what percentage of the earth's surface is water?

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

Upper Loup NRD
39252 Hwy 2
Thedford, NE 69166
Phone: 308-645-2250
Fax: 308-645-2308



Calendar of Events

January

- 2 Holiday—Office Closed
- 12 Board Meeting 3:00 CT -
Thedford
- 16 Holiday—Office Closed
- 23-25 Legislative Conference—
Lincoln

February

- 09 ULNRD Board Meeting 3:00
CT— Thedford
- 20 Holiday—Office Closed

March

- 08 ULNRD Board Meeting 3:00
CT— Thedford

April

- 12 ULNRD Board Meeting 7:00

TO: POSTAL CUSTOMER

Irrigators:

Expansion of Irrigated Acres applications for 2012 are no longer being accepted. We will reopen the application process in the fall of 2012 for the 2013 irrigation season.

Water use reports

Please return or call in reports by the end of January 2012. If you did not irrigate please let us know that as well.

To Date the Percentage of Water Use Reports Returned:

- Brown 37%
- McPherson 25%
- Cherry 22%
- Logan 57%
- Blaine 40%
- Thomas 31%
- Hooker 50%
- Grant 33%

Dripial Pursuit Answers:

1. 30 inches
2. Moon
3. Dehydration
4. 80%

Upper Loup Staff

Anna BaumGeneral Manager
Jack Brummet...Resources Technician
Kyle Yrkoski....Resources Technician
Evan Suhr.....Resources Technician
Leslie Harvey....Administrative Secretary
Denise Vinton...Information & Education
Cleo Jacobs... Thedford Field Office Sec.