

**UPPER ELKHORN NRD**

**UENRD QUICK FACTS:**

- UENRD encompasses 3,052 sq miles or 1,953,280 acres
- District Population - 17,935
- 8437 Registered Wells of which 4819 are for Irrigation
- Collect Data from approximately 600 Irrigation & Monitoring Wells
- Certified over 1,600 Producers in Nitrogen Management
- Maintain a District wide Groundwater Management Area
- Distributed Cost Share to local Co-operators for Conservation Practices throughout the District
- Welcomed 3 New Board of Directors in 2019
- Hired an Agronomy Technician to Facilitate the Implementation of Phase III of the GWMP

Protecting Lives

Protecting Property

Protecting the Future

## New Phase III Controls Effective February 1, 2019 Phase III Activities to Begin Fall of 2019

At the December 17, 2018 Board of Directors Meeting the UENRD Directors passed the Phase III Controls and designated the Phase III area in the district. The controls will be effective starting February 1, 2019. A summary of the controls is as follows:

1. The controls establish a Phase III Groundwater Quality Management Area (see map)
2. The controls are limited to the Phase III Groundwater Quality Management Areas.
3. The controls authorize randomized soil sampling on lands located within Phase III areas to determine residual nitrate-nitrogen levels. The soil samples will be col-

lected in the fall from fields that have been harvested. Depending on the levels of nitrate-nitrogen collected from the samples, future management in the application of nitrate-nitrogen may be required along with meetings with District staff and board.

4. The controls authorize the District to issue orders to cease the application of nitrogen, cease irrigation, reduce or remove certified irrigated acres and such other measures as authorized by law for persons who fail to attain the necessary nitrate-nitrogen levels after 3 years.
5. The controls repeal prior Phase III rules regarding Fertility, Pest, and Irrigation Management Plans.

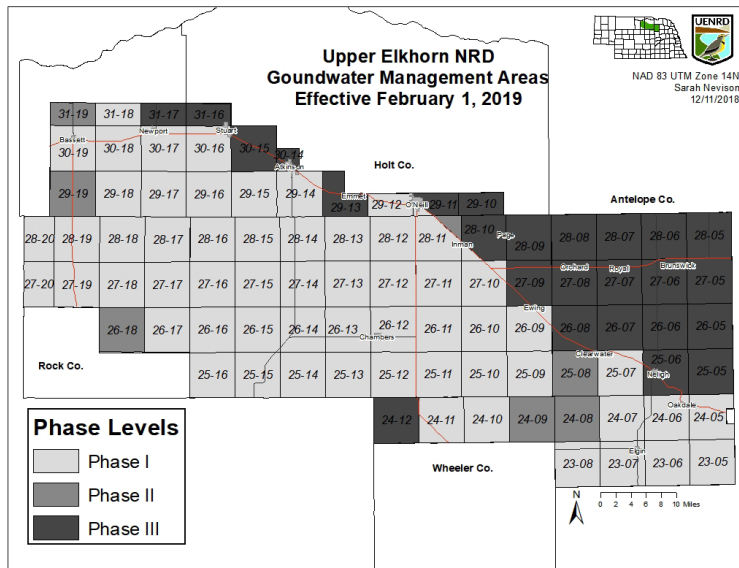
## UENRD Approves Groundwater Irrigated Acre Expansion

The Upper Elkhorn NRD is taking applications for the expansion of new groundwater irrigated acres during the month of October for the 2020 growing season. The sign up is not on a first come first served basis; but, on a ranking criteria based on current water quality and quantity issues within the district. Applications will be accepted from the landowner or their power of attorney from October 1 through October 31, 2019 with a minimum application fee of \$125 or \$5.00 per acre. Appointments are recommended for the application process. For further information visit the Upper Elkhorn NRD website at [www.uenrd.org](http://www.uenrd.org).

- Protecting Your Health through Water Quality
- Protecting Your Taxes through Local Control
- Protecting Our Natural Resources for Future Generations

## Phase III Activities continued.....

Copies of the full text of the controls may be obtained at, or by contacting, the Upper Elkhorn NRD, 301 North Harrison Street, O'Neill, Nebraska 68763, telephone number 402-336-3867 or at <https://www.uenrd.org/>.



## UENRD Groundwater Irrigated Acres To Be Certified by January 1, 2021

The Upper Elkhorn NRD is Continuing to CERTIFY ALL Groundwater Irrigated Acres within the district. Historically irrigated acres or acres that have been brought back into production need to be certified for any possibility of future groundwater irrigation. Get started by visiting the UENRD website at [www.uenrd.org](http://www.uenrd.org) for further information on the certification process. Also, landowners who have not responded to the certification letters that were sent to you should do so as soon as possible! To complete the certification process, please contact the UENRD office at 402-336-3867 and schedule an appointment.

## Upper Elkhorn Natural Resources Groundwater Management Plan: Phase II Soil Sampling Reminder

Reminder to everyone in the UENRD Phase II areas – Deep soil sampling analysis required (mandatory two foot sample) for nitrate-nitrogen content on each field going into corn, larger than 40 acres, with more than 50 pounds per acre of actual nitrogen fertilizer applies. This soil sampling information is required on your Phase II report at the end of the 2018 growing season to be submitted to us. Please visit our web-site at [www.uenrd.org](http://www.uenrd.org) to verify if you are in the Phase II area, or contact the office at 402-336-3867.

## Volunteers Wanted for NeRAIN Program

If you are a weather enthusiast you should consider volunteering for the Nebraska Rainfall Assessment and Information Network (NeRAIN). The network consists of volunteers from all over the state of Nebraska recording precipitation measurements as well as other noticeable weather events and posting them on the NeRAIN website. For further information you can visit the NeRAIN website at <https://nednr.nebraska.gov/NeRain> or you can contact the Upper Elkhorn NRD at 402-336-3867 for further information.

Created by the Nebraska Legislature in 1969 with the passage of LB 1356, Nebraska's NRDs began operating on July 1, 1972. NRDs were formed using Nebraska's 13 major river basins to offer local solutions to local problems. Locally elected officials establish District policies to address the needs of our specific area. This unique form of local government assures that the concerns of the upper reaches of the Elkhorn River Basin are addressed by the people being affected. Locally led conservation for your future.

The Upper Elkhorn NRD continues to maintain a responsible budget to lessen the property tax burdens of its friends and neighbors. This has been accomplished by obtaining additional funding through the Nebraska Environmental Trust and the Dept of Environmental Quality 319 Grants. The FY 18-19 budget request is only 1.54 cents per \$100 of valuation and a total of \$755,985 in property tax asking. A decrease of \$6,120 from FY 17-18.

The Upper Elkhorn NRD Board of Directors meet on the 4th Monday of every month at the Upper Elkhorn NRD Office in O'Neill, unless otherwise noted in the public notice. Everyone is welcome to attend and share their thoughts or concerns for our natural resources.