

UPPER ELKHORN The Oracle

“Making Wise Decisions Concerning Our Natural Resources”

<http://www.uenrd.org>

Natural
Resources
District

Fall/Winter 2022

Phase II Annual Reports Due December 31 for Growers in Both Phase II and Phase III Areas



The deadline for the 2022 Phase II Annual Reports is December 31, 2022. If you farm in a Phase II or Phase III area you are required to submit a Phase II report for every field larger than 40 acres. Where more than 50 pounds per acre of actual nitrogen fertilizer, commercial or organic, is applied (for example: corn) a full report is required. A mandatory two foot deep soil sampling analysis is required for the Phase II report. The soil sample used on the 2022 annual report should have been taken in Fall 2021 or Spring 2022. If less than 50 pounds per acre is applied, a report must be submitted stating the crop planted. If a report is not completed for a field it is considered noncompliant.

For more information on Phase II Annual Reports or Nitrogen Certification visit the UENRD website at <https://www.uenrd.org/> or contact the UENRD office at 402-336-3867. Phase II reports can be filled out on-line; or, filled out, printed and returned to the UENRD office. Both versions of the Phase II form are available on the UENRD website. In addition to the continuation of the Phase I and II requirements, Phase III includes a random soil sampling conducted by the UENRD. Those selected for soil sampling for Fall 2022 have already been selected and notified. Soil sampling is underway.

UENRD 2022 Crop Water Use Report for Phase II Reporting

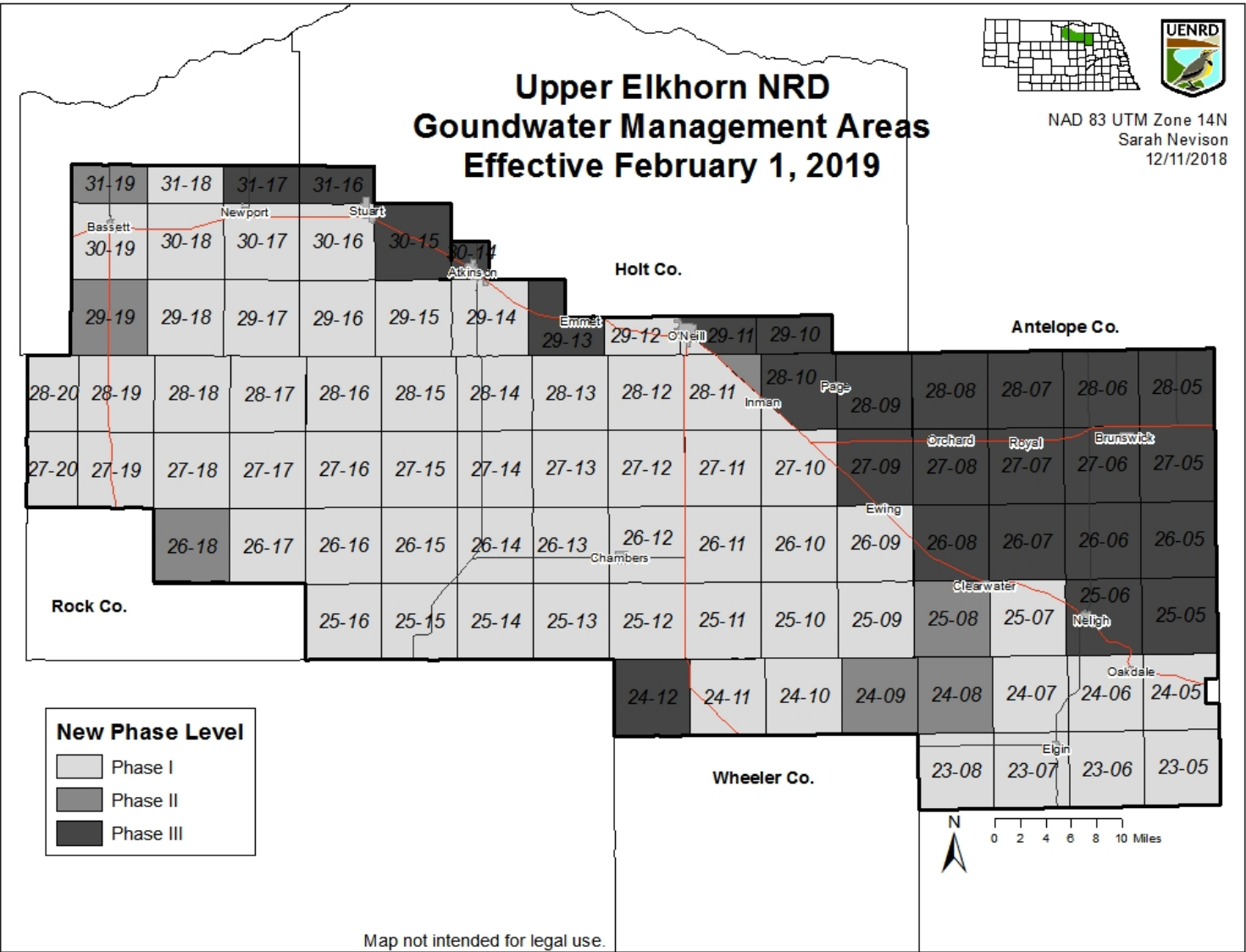
Elgin	Total Inches	Emergence	Maturity
Corn Total ET	27.59	5/10/22	9/28/22
Soybean Total ET	27.36	5/17/22	9/26/22
Potato Total ET	28.31	5/15/22	10/1/22
Precipitation from 5/1/2022	8.67		

O'Neill	Total Inches	Emergence	Maturity
Corn Total ET	27.31	5/10/22	9/23/22
Soybean Total ET	27.04	5/17/22	9/14/22
Potato Total ET	27.46	5/15/22	9/21/22
Precipitation from 5/1/2022	10.41		

UENRD Senior Scholarship Program

Each year, the Upper Elkhorn Natural Resources District offers three \$500 scholarships to graduating High School Seniors from the District. These scholarships are available for students who are planning to further their education in a field related to natural resources or agriculture. Seniors who are interested should contact the Upper Elkhorn NRD or visit the website at www.uenrd.org/education.html for further information, eligibility requirements and applications. The deadline for all scholarship applications is April 5, 2023.

Upper Elkhorn
Natural Resources District



Tree Orders Being Taken Now For Spring Planting! Deadline March 1

How about a new windbreak to help keep down the wind and offer protection for cattle, field windbreak and homesteads? The UENRD is now taking orders for machine and handplant seedlings for spring delivery and planting.

There are several incentive programs to help offset the cost of installing a new windbreak on the federal, state and local level. Contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service or your local NRD to find out what programs are available.

The Upper Elkhorn NRD will be taking orders from now until March 1, 2023. Trees are available on a first come first serve basis and are available

in a variety of species consisting of conifers, broadleaves and shrubs. Handplant trees should be ordered in bundles of 25 while machine plant orders will be based on the windbreak design. The NRD can also provide technical assistance to cooperators who would like help designing a new windbreak or renovating an old one. The technician will suggest the type of trees best suited for your soil type and design a layout beneficial to your needs.

The NRD also offers two practices to help increase the survival rate of new seedlings, drip irrigation and conservation weed mulch. Drip irrigation is available for cooperator installation and is used when there

is a water source at the site. Conservation weed mulch is installed over the seedlings to help control weeds and retain moisture. Both practices can be very beneficial to young windbreaks and should be considered when placing your order.

Remember, the Upper Elkhorn NRD is your one-stop shop to order trees and weed mulch. The NRD can plant and install the trees and fabric as we have for the past 40+ years. Trees and mulch purchased from the Upper Elkhorn NRD could be eligible for local or state funds. For further information or to place an order contact your local NRCS office or the Upper Elkhorn NRD at 301 N. Harrison Street, O'Neill or (402) 336-3867.

Upper Elkhorn NRD Board of Directors Set Property Tax Asking for FY 22-23

The Upper Elkhorn NRD Board of Directors in September approved the 2022-2023 fiscal year budget, mill-levy and property tax asking. The FY 22-23 budget request is only 1.91 cents per \$100 of valuation for a total of \$911,727 in property tax asking. This reflects an increase from last years property tax asking due to inflation. 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 Department of Environmental Quality 319 Grants.

2023 Chemigation Season

The Upper Elkhorn NRD will once again be mailing out Renewal Chemigation Forms for the 2023 Growing Season. Cooperators with Chemigation sites which were permitted last year will receive their pre-printed renewal forms in January. Forms will need to be completed with last year's fertilizer/pesticide use, signed and returned by the June 1 deadline!

Groundwater Irrigated Acre Transfer Period in Progress

The Upper Elkhorn NRD Groundwater Irrigated Acre Transfer Period runs from November 1, 2022 – March 1, 2023. The Upper Elkhorn NRD will be taking requests for the transfer of groundwater irrigated acres from November 1, 2022 through March 1, 2023. Due to changes in the UENRD GWMP Rules and Regulations, there is a \$50 application fee for landowners who would like to make an appointment and review a possible transfer. The Upper Elkhorn NRD Board of Directors have adopted changes to the Transfer program over the last couple of years pertaining to the Transfer Agreement and added an application fee. The Transfer Agreement, transfer procedures and support information can be found on the UENRD website at www.uenrd.org. We are encouraging anyone interested in signing up for a Transfer to go through the information on the website first before making an appointment. If you have questions, please feel free to contact the office at 402-336-3867.

Notice:

Anyone Applying for an Application for a Permit to Construct a New or Replacement Irrigation Well within the Upper Elkhorn NRD MUST have their groundwater irrigated acres certified and be in compliance with all other UENRD programs prior to receiving approval!

Available Tree Species

Conifers		
Eastern Red Cedar	Rocky Mountain Juniper	Colorado Blue Spruce
Norway Spruce	Jack Pine	Ponderosa Pine
Black Hills Spruce	SW White Pine	
Broadleaves		
Native Cottonwood	Swamp White Oak	Bur Oak
Black Walnut	American Elm	Silver Maple
Hackberry	Honeylocust	Black Cherry
Catalpa	Crabapple	Amur Maple
Red Oak	Hybrid Poplar	
Shrubs		
Caragana	Sumac	Sandcherry
Serviceberry	Woods Rose	Chokecherry
Dogwood	Hazelnut	Elderberry
Lilac	American Plum	Cotoneaster
Chokeberry	Golden Current	Buffaloberry
		False Indigo

Cost of Trees & Materials

Handplant Trees	\$ 1.30/Tree plus tax
Machine Plant Trees	\$ 210.00/100 plus tax
Weed Mulch (Installed)	\$.80/foot plus tax
Weed Mulch	\$ 250.00/500 Foot Roll
Weed Mulch Squares	\$ 2.85 Each plus tax
Prices Subject to Change	

The Oracle is the official publication of the Upper Elkhorn Natural Resources District. It is produced for the purpose of educating the public regarding natural resources issues. Any comments or questions should be sent to Beth Walsh, Upper Elkhorn NRD, 301 N. Harrison Street, O'Neill, NE 68763 or e-mailed to bwalsh@uenrd.org.

The Upper Elkhorn NRD Welcomes Three New Members to the Board of Directors

The 2022 General Election has ushered in 3 new members to the Upper Elkhorn NRD Board of Directors. Elected in Subdistrict 1, Trevor Gotschall of Stuart; in Subdistrict 4, Tony Sanderson of Chambers has been elected; and, in Subdistrict 7, Matt Beckman of Elgin has been elected. We would also like to recognize those Directors stepping down from the Board who gave their time to promote the future of our natural resources and help develop our current rules and regulations. Directors retiring from their post include Michael Moser with 8 Years of Service; Chip Whitaker with 8 Years of Service; and, Jim Keller with 39 Years of Service. We would like to welcome our new members and thank those Directors who have served their communities.

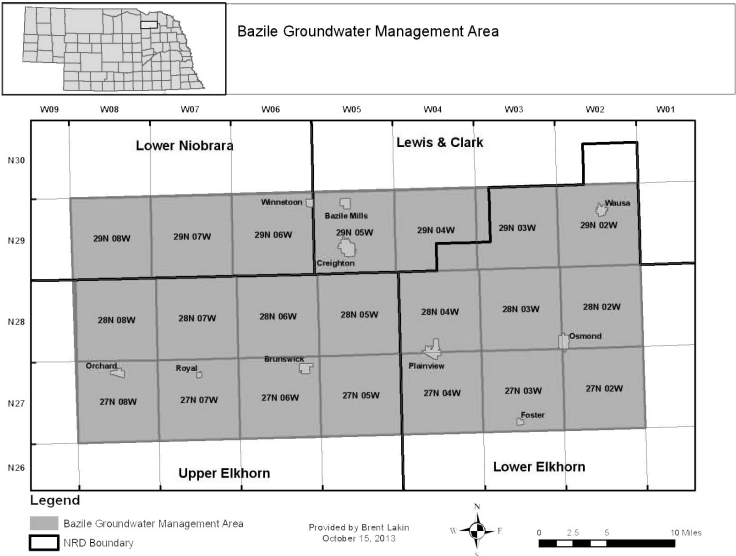
Nitrogen Certification Classes have been set for February 22 - O'Neill in the morning and Neligh afternoon; and, February 23 - Neligh in the morning and O'Neill in the afternoon. Times will be announced at a later date. Landowners/Operators needing to re-certify in Nitrogen Management will be notified by mail.

	Candidate	Antelope County	Holt County	Rock County	Wheeler County	Total
Sub-district 1	Trevor Gotschall	0	492	354	0	846
Sub-district 2	John W. Vogel (Write-In)	0	5	0	0	5
Sub-district 3	Marv Fritz	0	587	0	0	587
Sub-district 4	Tony A Sanderson	0	656	0	37	693
Sub-district 5	Kevin Blair	415	262	0	0	677
Sub-district 6	Aaron Rice	722	0	0	0	722
Sub-district 7	Matthew D Beckman	639	0	0	0	639
At-Large	Chris Dierks	1706	2822	330	44	4902

Groundwater Irrigated Acres Not Certified May Lose Irrigation Rights!

The Upper Elkhorn NRD has been in the process of certifying groundwater irrigated acres since 2011. If a landowner does not want to lose the ability to irrigate their acres, they need to be certified once with the Upper Elkhorn NRD. It is the best interest of the landowner to certify those groundwater irrigated acres to protect their investment. Multiple attempts have been made to contact landowners believed to have groundwater irrigated acres based on county assessor tax records but not all landowners have responded to our requests to certify their irrigated acres. Ultimately it is the landowners responsibility to make sure their acres are certified and available for future use. Again, anyone with Groundwater irrigated acres within the Upper Elkhorn NRD is only required to certify those acres once with the district to ensure the future use. For more information you can visit our website at www.uenrd.org/programs-projects/water and review the Acre Certification Factsheet and Certification process or contact the Upper Elkhorn NRD office.

Bazile Groundwater Management Area Sets Winter Meeting Date



Reminder! Expansion & Transfer Acres Must Be Re-Certified
Cooperators who have Expanded or Transferred groundwater irrigated acres must re-certify those locations once they are watered. Documentation should be in the form of a FSA form 578 or county assessor tax records and will be based off of the first irrigation season following the approval of the expansion or transfer. Please contact the NRD office if you have any questions.



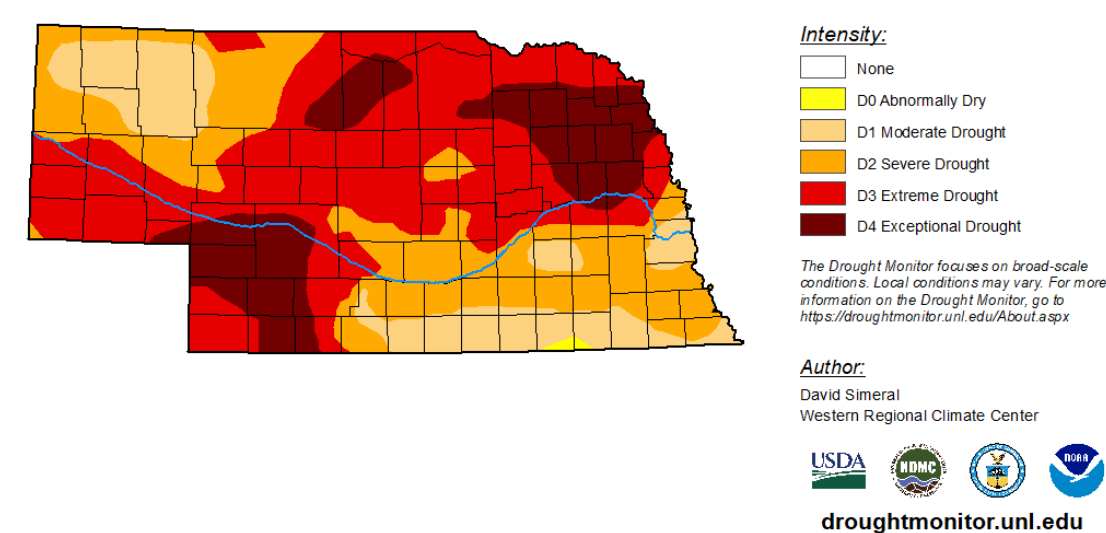
The Bazile Groundwater Management Area Project is planning to hold its Winter Meeting February 7, 2023 at the Osmond Auditorium. More information will be forthcoming when we get closer to the event date, so mark your calendars for February 7, 2023! This year's theme: "Nitrogen Management: Best Practices".

**Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts
Protecting Lives
Protecting Property &
Protecting the Future Since 1972**



Drought Still Looms Throughout Nebraska

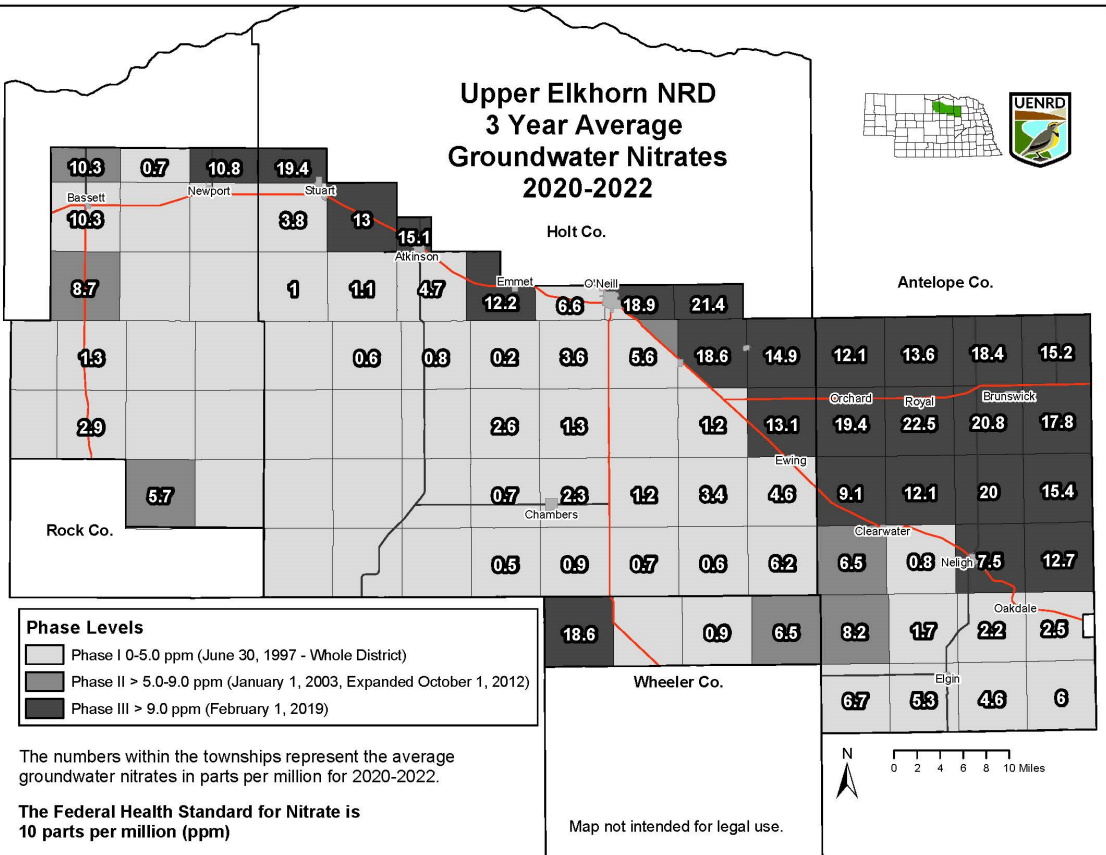
December 8, 2022



Upper Elkhorn NRD Continues to Monitor Nitrate Levels in Irrigation Wells Annually

Each year during irrigation season the UENRD staff collect water samples on irrigation wells throughout the district. Samples are collected throughout the summer on approximately 685 wells. The samples are collected by UENRD staff and sent to a laboratory for analysis. The data collected is used for the evaluation and implementation of the UENRD Groundwater Management Plan. The data is also provided back to the operators, who can use the results to determine the irrigation credit. With fertilizer costs continuing to increase as well as groundwater nitrates, it is becoming economically critical to utilize all nitrogen credits to reduce the amount of commercial fertilizer application. The map below shows the collected data summarized by township. The number shows the average nitrate level in parts per million (ppm) for the last three years. In the UENRD township averages range from 0.2 ppm to 22.5 ppm.

As a reminder, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established 10 ppm nitrate-N as the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for drinking water. The District recommends that samples also be taken from nearby domestic wells to check for possible contamination.



Upper Elkhorn Natural Resources District Board of Directors

Roy Stewart	Subdistrict 1 ~ Newport	(402) 244-5360
Jim Keller	Subdistrict 1 ~ Newport	(402) 244-5448
Curtis Gotschall	Subdistrict 2 ~ Stuart	(402) 925-2504
John Vogel	Subdistrict 2 ~ Atkinson	(402) 925-5312
Gene Kelly	Subdistrict 3 ~ O'Neill	(402) 336-3681
Marv Fritz	Subdistrict 3 ~ O'Neill	(402) 340-0747
Gary Bartak	Subdistrict 4 ~ Ewing	(402) 485-2662
Chip Whitaker	Subdistrict 4 ~ Chambers	(402) 482-5665
Cody Frank	Subdistrict 5 ~ Brunswick	(402) 660-7147
Kevin Blair	Subdistrict 5 ~ Brunswick	(402) 358-5430
Art Tanderup	Subdistrict 6 ~ Neligh	(402) 887-1396
Aaron Rice	Subdistrict 6 ~ Neligh	(402) 929-0470
Keith Heithoff	Subdistrict 7 ~ Elgin	(402) 843-6499
Michael Moser	Subdistrict 7 ~ Elgin	(402) 649-0391
Chris Dierks	At-Large ~ Ewing	(402) 485-2618

UENRD Board Meetings are held the 4th Monday of every month.
April through October at 7:00 P.M. and November through March at 2:30 P.M.

UENRD Staff

Dennis Schueth	General Manager e-mail: dschueth@uenrd.org
Joslynn VanDerslice	Water Resources Manager e-mail: jvanderslice@uenrd.org
Vacant	Forestry, Wildlife & Resource Coordinator e-mail: @uenrd.org
Kelly Kloppenborg	Water Resources Technician e-mail: kloppenborg@uenrd.org
Wayne Frederick	Water Resources Technician e-mail: wfederick@uenrd.org
Krissy McClintic	Administrative Secretary e-mail: kmclintic@uenrd.org
Beth Walsh	Information & Education/Chemigation Coordinator e-mail: bwalsh@uenrd.org
Brett Sholes	Agronomy Resource Technician e-mail: bsholes@uenrd.org
Lisa Lauver	Bazile Management Project Coordinator e-mail: llauver@lenrd.org
Caitlin Smith	NRCS Clerk, Neligh
Mary Zakrzewski	NRCS Clerk, O'Neill

UENRD Offers Limited Water Testing Services at NRD Office in O'Neill

The Upper Elkhorn NRD can test private drinking water wells for nitrate-nitrogen content and bacteria at the office in O'Neill. Nitrate-Nitrogen sampling is available for \$7.50 per sample and bacteria sampling is available for \$16.06 per sample. The bacteria test takes 24 hours to complete and can detect coliform and e-coli. Bacteria samples must be collected in approved containers from the NRD office and delivered within 4 hours of collecting the sample. We also have kits available at no charge which can be sent off to test for a variety of other components. The UENRD is not a certified lab so for more formal sampling results, a certified lab should be contacted.

