



# Upper Loup Scoop

Upper Loup NRD

April 2023

## Inside this issue:

Spring Trees	2
Meter Maintenance	2
Chemigation Permits	2
No-Till Drill	2
Adventure Camp	3
Gopher Bait	3
Ranch Practicum	3
Recycling	3
Trivia	4

## Calendar of Events

### April

- 13 Board Meeting- ULNRD  
Office @ 7 PM CT
- 22 Earth Day
- 28 Arbor Day

### May

- 11 Board Meeting-ULNRD  
Office @ 7 PM CT
- 25 Chemigation training-  
ULNRD Office @ 1 pm
- 29 Office Closed:  
Memorial Day

### June

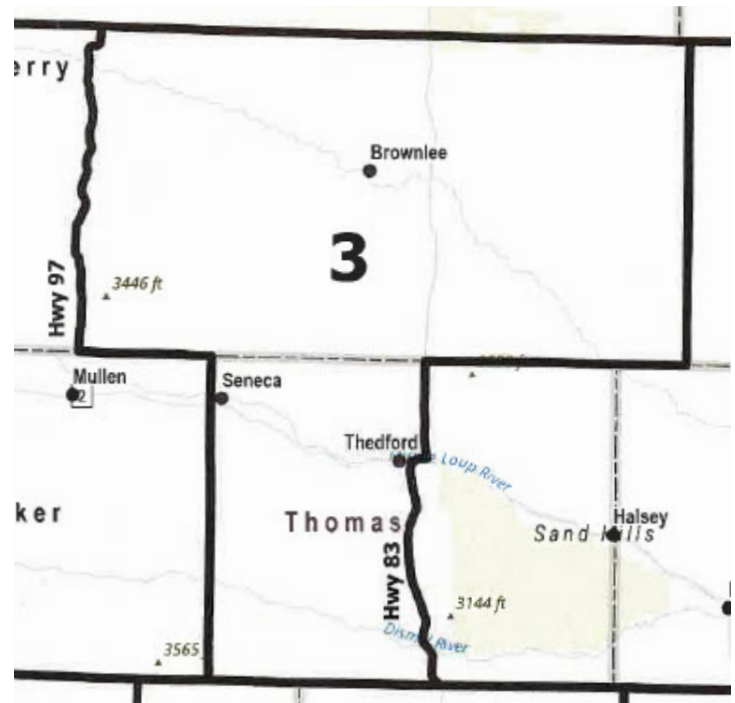
- 8 Board Meeting-ULNRD  
Office @ 7 PM CT
- 19 Office Closed: Juneteenth
- 20 Hazard Mitigation Plan  
Update Kickoff Meeting  
BBQ @ 6:30 pm -ULNRD  
Office

## Domestic Well Testing

The Upper Loup NRD recommends that all domestic wells, either registered or unregistered, get tested at least every five years. Each of our sub-districts is on a rotating testing schedule where, annually, various areas around one sub-district are tested to observe nitrate levels. Domestic well owners residing in Sub-District 3, your sub-district is next in our current well testing rotation. This includes the western half of Thomas county (west of highway 83) and southeastern Cherry counties (east of Highway 97). We are glad to offer this safety service to you at no charge. Samples are most often collected from an outside faucet around the testing site.

Due to the sandy soil in our District, well owners are at an increased risk for groundwater contamination. Potential sources of groundwater contamination which may be present near your

home include septic tanks, animal waste, rusted irrigation systems, pesticides, fertilizers, fuel storage tanks, household chemicals, used motor oil, etc. Unfortunately, the only way to know if nitrates or bacteria are in your drinking water is by testing because both contaminants are odorless, colorless, 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.



Resource technicians will begin testing early this summer. If you have questions about being placed on our list, what tests we offer, or any additional questions please contact our office or email [lsurlin@upperloupnrd.org](mailto:lsurlin@upperloupnrd.org).

## Spring Trees Available

Spring is a great time to plant trees so it is important to utilize this time to reinforce existing



windbreaks or create more habitat for wildlife. 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 \$27.69/bundle. To purchase trees please contact the NRD office.

## Flow Meter Maintenance

Attention irrigators! Please be sure to check your meter before this irrigating season to ensure that it is not broken or malfunctioning. The irrigator is responsible for maintaining flow meters on all active pivots before pumping season begins.



## 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, 2022. For any producers needing to attend a chemigation class to renew their applicator license, there will be a training opportunity that will be held at the NRD office in Thedford on May 26th at 1pm CT. If you can't attend this session, there will be more opportunities through UNL Extension.

## No-Till Drill



No-till drilling is a management tool used in conservation practices. The Upper Loup has a 10' Great Plains Minimum Till Drill that rents \$8.00/acre with a minimum of \$75. A 15' Great Plains No Till Drill is also available to rent for \$10/acre. The drill is on a first come first serve basis. The producer must be willing to pick up and return the drill to the NRD office in Thedford 48 hours after the producer has completed planting. Please contact the office if you would like to be put on the list.

## Adventure Camp about the Environment to be held again in 2024



Due to the loss of the State 4-H Camp facilities from the BOVEE Fire that occurred in October of 2022, Adventure Camp about the Environment has been canceled for the 2023 season. Kamp Kaleo located near Burwell will be the next location of the 2024 Adventure Camp about the Environment which will be held June 23-26, 2024.

### Gopher Bait Available

**Individuals must have a pesticide certification number to purchase bait.**

The NRD has 50 lb bags of gopher/rodent bait (5% Strychnine) available for sale and pick up in Thedford.

50 lb bag.....\$165.00 (includes tax)

### Ranch Practicum Applications

The Nebraska Ranch Practicum is a 3 season (8 sessions), hands-on educational program designed to give participants the skills needed in today's complex ranching industry. Participants will learn about plant identification, range conditions and grazing strategies, wildlife management, marketing alternatives, evaluation of cow body condition scores, and more.

Registration fee is \$675 with a \$350 fee for spouses. The ULNRD sponsors one \$100 scholarship per sub-district yearly. Please visit our website to find the scholarship application.

To register, submit a completed application and registration fee by May 3. Applicants will be notified of their status no later than May 19. Please follow the link below to register or for more information.

<https://nebraskaranchpracticum.unl.edu/>

### Recycling

We would appreciate your help keeping the areas next to our trailers clean of piled recyclables. We understand if our trailers are full and it is not during office hours some overflow may happen. However, we have noticed piles of recyclables are being placed outside of the empty trailers. We are asking that you please help us out to keep our trailer area accessible to everyone by not piling up bags, tubs, etc. If you have an oversized load that cannot fit in the trailer, please come into our office during business hours and we will be happy to assist you in unloading your recyclables in our recycling facility.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!



## ULNRD Staff

**Anna Baum**

*General Manager*

**Lexi Spurlin**

*Information & Education,*

*Resources Technician*

**Justin Sprague**

*Resources Technician*

**Kyon Neal**

*Resources Technician*

**Jamie Green**

*Administrative Secretary*

**Pam Petersen**

*NRCS Field Secretary*

**Spud Rowley**

*Recycling Coordinator*

## ULNRD Board of Directors

### **Sub-District 1**

David Vinton

Rebecca Connealy

### **Sub-District 2**

Judy Ridenour

John Kraye

### **Sub-District 3**

Chris Higgins

Miles Maseberg

### **Sub-District 4**

Max Fay

Tony Ruhter

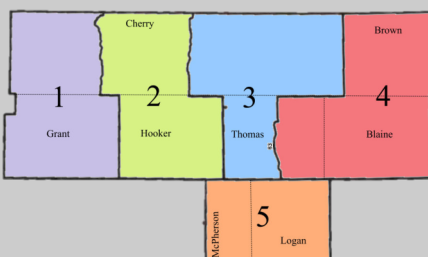
### **Sub-District 5**

Tom Johnson

Richard Burnside

### **At Large**

Patrick Wright



## Earth Trivia

1. In groundwater, you can smell and see nitrate contamination.

True

False

2. The oldest trees in Nebraska are living in the Wildcat Hills. What species are they?

A. Cottonwood

B. Ash

C. Eastern Red Cedar

D. Rocky Mt Juniper

3. Approximately how many miles of continuously flowing rivers and streams does Nebraska have?

A. 700

B. 18,000

C. 3,500

D. 11,300

4. A group of cranes is called a:

A. Sedge

B. Pod

C. Quiver

D. Colony

5. The Ornate Box Turtle lives only on land.

True

False

6. The Earth is which largest planet?

A. 6th

B. 3rd

C. 5th

D. 4th

### Trivia Answers

1. False 2. D) Rocky Mt Juniper 3. B) 18,000 4. A) Sedge 5. True 6. C) 5th