

Reminders: Phase II/III Producers

Crop Reporting Form

Be sure to update your Crop Reporting Form for Nitrogen Management with 2019 yields. Each page of the form is automatically saved to allow update throughout the year without worrying if the data you've entered has been saved. An updated feature that you may find helpful is UNL's recommended Nitrogen application rates are visible and adjusted as you fill out the form, so you'll see the results of each application. When forms are successfully submitted, a receipt will be sent to your email address. Complete annual forms by March 31st at cpnrd.gisworkshop.com.



Violations

As mentioned above, the 2019 Crop Reports were due on March 31st. Landowners who do not submit forms by the November 21st NRD Board meeting will receive a Cease & Desist Order. Phase II/III producers must file reports for *all crops grown* including corn, sorghum, potatoes, beans, alfalfa, and all small grains. If you need help completing the form, contact Tricia Dudley at (308) 385-6282 or email dudley@cpnrd.org.

Water & Soil Tests

Producers planting corn, grain sorghum, or potatoes in 2020, must take deep soil and groundwater samples for nitrogen (NO3-N). The requirement to take a water sample will be waived for producers who were unable to take a sample due to weather conditions this year. You must submit the annual report by March 31st even if you are unable to provide a water sample.

Nitrogen Certification

Nitrogen certification is valid for four years. Producers with certification expiring on January 1, 2020, will receive a certification test to be completed and returned to the CPNRD office. Certification from other districts is accepted. Producers who attend CPNRD's Water Programs Conference this winter will not need to complete the test...watch for details in the next newsletter.

NOTE: Bordering NRDs may not have the same requirements as Central Platte NRD. If you have land in another Natural Resources District, be sure to check their requirements as well.

Property Tax Request Down for 2020

The Central Platte NRD strives to conserve and preserve natural resources for the residents of central Nebraska. The money that the NRD receives from local property taxes provides funding for flood control, water quality and water quantity programs, soil health, tree planting, wildlife restoration areas, cost-share to landowners, and many other natural resources benefits.

The 2019/2020 budget is \$20,896,780.63 with a property tax request of \$4.2 million; which is down \$323,412.83 compared to the 2018/2019 budget. The levy was approved at 0.023799; therefore, a homeowner with a home valued at \$100,000 will pay \$23.80 for conservation benefits.

The NRD's fiscal year budget cycle ends June 30, 2020.

Important Dates

- * **January 1** Nitrogen Certification test is due. Tests will be mailed in November.
- * **January - March** Chemigation training available.
- * **March 31** Crop Report forms due for Groundwater Management Program.
- * **June 1** Chemigation applications due.
- * **September 1-March 1** Transfer applications for irrigated acres are accepted.
- * **September 15** Chemigation reinspections must be completed.
- * **November 1-April 1** Tree & weed barrier orders accepted.

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IN PERSPECTIVE
NEWSLETTER

215 Kaufman Ave Grand Island NE (308) 385-6282 cpnrd.org

CPNRD to Receive \$1.35 Million
for Flood Planning

Central Platte NRD was recently awarded funding to hire engineers to develop watershed plans for two projects through the Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Program totaling \$1,350,000 from the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Lyndon Vogt, general manager, said "These funds provide the first step in identifying what is needed to address flooding within these areas and to design specific watershed plans."

The goal of both projects is to establish a recommended plan through an assessment of alternatives supported by public engagement and sponsor participation that follows the NEPA process.

The two project areas funded within the Central Platte NRD are the Spring/Buffalo Creek Watershed and the Lower Wood River Watershed.

Spring/Buffalo Creek

The plan area covers 266,870 acres of Dawson, Custer, and Buffalo counties. The purpose of the project is to mitigate flood damages to canal infrastructure and ag properties resulting from frequent over-topping and flooding of the Buffalo and Spring creeks, address climate change challenges in the agricultural environment, and increase base flows in the Platte River for threatened and endangered species.

Lower Wood River

This plan area covers 232,295 acres in Buffalo, Hall, and Merrick counties. The City of Wood River, Village of Gibbon, and Village of Shelton experienced the greatest impact from the March 2019 flooding which triggered FEMA Disaster Declaration. Similar devastation occurring on July 10, 2019. The capacity of the Wood River is limited and the topography of the area is very flat.

This project will identify structural and non-structural alternatives to improve flood resiliency, mitigate flood damages, and improve soil health in the watershed.

The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act provides technical and financial assistance to install watershed improvement measures in watersheds to reduce flood, sedimentation, and erosion damage; improve the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water; and advance the conservation and proper utilization of land.

There are over 1,300 active or completed watershed projects in Nebraska. The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service cooperates with States and local agencies to carry out the projects.

*Photo courtesy: Barrett Stinson, BH News Service

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7/10/19 The town of Gibbon as floodwaters moved eastward after heavy rains caused large-scale flooding in Kearney on July 9, 2019.

Integrated Management Plans

INDIVIDUAL INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Central Platte NRD and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR) began working on the the NRD's individual Integrated Management Plan (IMP) in 2005 by meeting with Stakeholders to educate them on requirements set by NeDNR and the issues to be considered in developing the IMP. Stakeholders included surface and groundwater interests such as irrigators, city utilities, power districts, economic development, and banking representatives. The draft plan was finished in 2006, with the intention that the plan would remain in place for 3-5 years; however, an extension was approved to complete the IMP in 2009 to allow for completion of the Basin-wide Plan. In May 2009, the IMP was approved and the corresponding Rules and Regulations were revised to correlate with the requirements in the IMP.

In July 2019, the second increment IMP was approved by the CPNRD board with the existing **groundwater controls**:

- 1) groundwater moratorium
- 2) certification of groundwater uses
- 3) groundwater variances
- 4) groundwater transfers
- 5) municipal and industrial accounting.

NeDNR will continue existing **surface water controls**:

- 1) maintain moratorium on new surface water appropriations and on expanded surface water uses
- 2) transfers of appropriations are subject to statutory criteria and NeDNR rules
- 3) continue surface water administration and monitoring of use of surface water
- 4) no additional requirements of surface water appropriators to use additional conservation measures
- 5) no other reasonable restrictions on surface water use.



BASINWIDE INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN

In 2010, the NeDNR held an annual review of the basin IMPs. The revised basin IMP became effective in 2012 to set objectives to incrementally reduce the difference between current and fully appropriated levels of development within the basin. Although goals are being met, the original plan required that the same parties develop a second increment within 10 years after the adoption of the first increment basin-wide plan.

In July 2019, the CPNRD board approved the second increment *Basin-Wide Plan for Joint Integrated Water Resources Management of Overappropriated Portions of the Platte River Basin*, developed by the Platte Basin Natural Resources Districts (North Platte, South Platte, Central Platte, Twin Platte, Tri-Basin NRDs), and the NeDNR. The geographic area of the Plan is the extent of the Nebraska portion of the Platte River surface water basin beginning at the Nebraska-Wyoming State line and ending at the Kearney Canal Diversion at Elm Creek. The Plan includes: 1) introduction; 2) planning process; 3) activities of the first increment; 4) goals, objectives, and action items; 5) monitoring. The plan does not include controls.

An information session and public hearings were held on both the IMP and Basin-Wide plans on July 15, 2019, with testimony submitted by Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District and Nebraska Public Power District. After reviewing the testimony provided, CPNRD and NeDNR concluded that amendments to the proposed plans were not necessary.

Both plans were effective on September 11, 2019.

Follow Central Platte NRD  

Landowner Cost-Share Funding Available

Central Platte NRD helps landowners pay for improvements designed to enhance conservation of natural resources through cost-sharing programs. Our programs provide financial assistance to encourage conservation measures on privately owned land that produces long-term benefits for the general public.

PRACTICE	FUNDING AVAILABLE
Trees & Weed Barrier	\$10,000
Center Pivot Incentive	\$80,000
Streambank Stabilization	\$10,000
Well Decommissioning	\$10,000
Urban Forestry	\$5,000
Cover Crop	\$500
Soil Moisture Sensors	\$25,000
Grazing Deferment	\$41,000
Flow Meters	\$20,000
Phragmites Control	\$25,000
Prescribed Fire	\$2,500
Burn Preparation	\$50,000

Central Platte NRD has distributed
\$11,886,776.84 since 1972!

Funding Spotlight: Buffer Strips

A Buffer strip is a strip of native vegetation planted and established along drainages. These strips offer many real advantages including:

- Increased water quality through filtration.
- Increased water quantity through slowed and captured runoff and snow melt.
- Enhanced wildlife habitat.
- Decreased erosion and field work.

Runoff water that goes into streams or ditches can carry excess pollutants and sediment. By planting native tall grasses in low areas next to streams and drainages, runoff is slowed and water is captured and cleaned. This impacts the quality and quantity of water, and since these areas are lower in productivity, buffer strips can save time and expense as well.

Central Platte NRD's Buffer Strip Program is a land rental program and does not include installation cost share dollars. Contracts are 5 to 10-years in length with these options:

• **For Irrigated Cropland** where CRP, CREP, or other governmentally-funded programs are used, rental rates are \$250/acre minus payments from the other programs. When other programs are not used, the rental rate is \$225/acre minus any other program payments.

• **For non-irrigated cropland** enrolled in CRP, CREP or other governmentally-funded programs, the rental rate is equal to 20% of the average CRP soil rental rate. When other programs are not used, the rental rate per acre is equal to 120% of the average CRP soil rental rate plus \$5 per acre, minus the payment rate from any other programs.

• In no case may payments from all programs exceed \$250/acre.

For more information contact your local NRCS office to begin the sign up or contact Kelly Cole at (308) 385-6282 or cole@cpnrd.org

Tree Seedling Orders Underway

Orders are underway for the Conservation Tree Program. Seedlings are sold in bundles of 25 for \$22.50. Mail the order form below with your payment to CPNRD. Tree descriptions and photos are available at: cpnrd.org. You may also call Kelly Cole at (308) 385-6282 or your contact your local USDA-NRCS office.

TREE ORDER FORM # _____



NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____
PHONE: _____
EMAIL: _____
COUNTY OF DELIVERY: _____
(Handplants only: Hall, Merrick, Buffalo, Dawson or Polk)

Date of Order: _____

Please mark one:

HANDPLANT ☐ DISTRICT PLANT ☐ WINDBREAK RENOVATION: ☐ Y or N
_____ 1/4 Section _____ Township _____ Range _____
(Only required to fill out legal on district plant order)

All tree orders are accepted subject to availability.

THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO SURVIVAL GUARANTEE ON STOCK SOLD BY THE DISTRICT OR PLANTED BY THE DISTRICT.

Must order in multiples of 25, except for the Packages.

CONIFERS (\$0.90 each)	HARDWOODS (\$0.90 each)	SHRUBS (\$0.90 each)	PACKAGES (\$55 each)
Austrian Pine <input type="text"/>	Black Cherry <input type="text"/>	American Plum <input type="text"/>	Wildlife <input type="text"/>
CO Blue Spruce <input type="text"/>	Black Walnut <input type="text"/>	American Hazel <input type="text"/>	Flowering <input type="text"/>
Eastern Red Cedar <input type="text"/>	Bur Oak <input type="text"/>	Amur Maple <input type="text"/>	Eastern <input type="text"/>
Jack Pine <input type="text"/>	Catalpa <input type="text"/>	Black Chokeberry <input type="text"/>	Western <input type="text"/>
Ponderosa Pine <input type="text"/>	Cottonwood <input type="text"/>	Caragana <input type="text"/>	
Rocky Mtn Juniper <input type="text"/>	Hackberry <input type="text"/>	Chokecherry <input type="text"/>	
Norway Spruce <input type="text"/>	Manchurian Apricot <input type="text"/>	Common Lilac <input type="text"/>	
SW White Pine <input type="text"/>	Midwest Crabapple <input type="text"/>	Elderberry <input type="text"/>	
<input type="text"/>	Red Oak <input type="text"/>	False Indigo <input type="text"/>	
	Red Maple <input type="text"/>	Golden Currant <input type="text"/>	
	Silver Maple <input type="text"/>	Peking Cotoneaster <input type="text"/>	
	Swamp White Oak <input type="text"/>	Red-Osier Dogwood <input type="text"/>	
	<input type="text"/>	Sandcherry <input type="text"/>	
	<input type="text"/>	Serviceberry <input type="text"/>	
	<input type="text"/>	Silver Buffaloberry <input type="text"/>	
		Skunkbush Sumac <input type="text"/>	

PAYMENT (please mark one):	
Cash _____	
Check _____ # _____	
Make checks payable to the Central Platte NRD	

of Trees Ordered _____
of Packages Ordered _____
Total cost of trees ordered (# x 0.90) _____
Total cost of packages ordered (# x 55) _____
Pre-Total _____
10% Discount if ordered before December 31st 10.00% _____
SUB-TOTAL _____
TAX _____
TOTAL DUE TODAY _____

I understand that the above charges are for trees only:

Landowner or Operator _____