

EVERGREENS	QUANTITY
CONCOLOR FIR	
BLACK HILLS SPRUCE	not available
COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE	
NORWAY SPRUCE	
EASTERN WHITE PINE	
JACK PINE	
PONDEROSA PINE	
RED CEDAR	
DECIDUOUS TREES	
AMERICAN LINDEN	
BLACK WALNUT	
BUR OAK	
CATALPA	
COMMON PERSIMMON	
COTTONWOOD (SEEDLESS)	
CRABAPPLE	
EASTERN RED BUD	
HACKBERRY	
HAZELNUT	
RED MAPLE	
RED OAK	
SHAGBARK HICKORY	
SILVER MAPLE	
SUGAR MAPLE	
SWAMP WHITE OAK	
SHRUBS	
AMERICAN PLUM	
BUFFALOBERRY	
CARAGANA	
CHOKEBERRY	
CHOKECHERRY	
COTONEASTER	
ELDERBERRY	
GOLDEN CURRANT	
GRAPEVINE	
HARDY APRICOT	
LILAC (COMMON)	
NANKING CHERRY	
REDOSIER DOGWOOD	
SANDCHERRY	
SERVICEBERRY	
SKUNKBUSH SUMAC	
TOTAL TREES ORDERED	
PRICE PER TREE \$1.15	

WEED BARRIER SQUARES	=	PRICE		QUANTITY
MESH TREE PROTECTORS +	=	\$1.50	X	
5 SPECIES ACREAGE PKG*	=	\$1.00	X	
5 SPECEIS WILDLIFE PKG*	=	\$55.00	X	
5 SPECIES FLOWERING PKG*	=	\$55.00	X	
TOTAL				
TAX 8.0%				
HANDLING				\$2.20
TOTAL DUE =				

5 SPECIES ACREAGE PKG* 10 EACH: COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE, PONDEROSA PINE, SWAMP WHITE OAK, NANKING CHERRY, CHOKEBERRY.
5 SPECIES WILDLIFE PKG* 10 EACH: AMERICAN PLUM, ELDERBERRY, WOODS ROSE, NANKING CHERRY,CHOKEBERRY.
5 SPECIES FLOWERING PKG* 10 EACH: NANKING CHERRY, REDOSIER DOGWOOD, COMMON LILAC, CRABAPPLE, CARAGANA.

HAND PLANTS 2020

RETURN YOUR ORDER TO:

Lower Big Blue NRD

P.O. Box 826 Phone: (402) 228-3402

Beatrice NE 68310

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

MEMO

Pay Online or Find More Information at:

www.lbbnrd.net

PLEASE MARK WHERE YOU WILL PICK UP YOUR TREES

BEATRICE

FAIRBURY

WILBER

ORDERING INFORMATION

Trees are not guaranteed
Order in multiples of 25 per species only
Payment required when order is placed
Payment by cash, check or credit card
Last day to order is March 1, 2020

WEED BARRIER SQUARES:	\$1.50	EACH
3X3 SQUARE & FIVE 9-GAUGE PINS		
MESH TREE PROTECTORS:	\$1.00	EACH
18" HIGH, EVERGREENS, BAMBOO STAKE		

Now Accepting



	=	PRICE		QUANTITY
WEED BARRIER SQUARES	=	\$1.50	X	
MESH TREE PROTECTORS +	=	\$1.00	X	
5 SPECIES ACREAGE PKG*	=	\$55.00	X	
5 SPECEIS WILDLIFE PKG*	=	\$55.00	X	
5 SPECIES FLOWERING PKG*	=	\$55.00	X	

NO SPECIES SUBSTITUTIONS FOR PKGS*

OFFICE USE ONLY

Payment Method: Check ☐ Cash ☐ Credit Card ☐

Payment Amount

Check Number

Prepared by

Date

THE BLUE BUZZ

LOWER BIG BLUE NRD

Protecting Lives. Protecting Property. Protecting the Future.

Lower Big Blue

Natural Resources District

Watershed Capital of Nebraska

“Protecting Lives, Protecting Property,
Protecting The Future”

805 Dorsey Street

Beatrice, NE 68310

Phone: (402) 228.3402

Fax: (402) 223.4441

www.lbbnrd.net

February 2020

Would you like to receive news electronically? Sign up at www.lbbnrd.net

2020 Tree Program

The Lower Big Blue NRD began taking tree orders for spring planting in November (refer to the back of this newsletter or lbbnrd.net for an order form). Trees are sold in bundles of 25 and will not be reserved until payment is received. Orders will be taken until March 1, 2020.

Mark Your Calendars!!

TBA

March 31, 2020

March 1, 2020

March 1, 2020

-Phase II Operator training

-Deadline for irrigation scheduling equipment cost-share

- Deadline to order trees

- Deadline for changes to certified acres

2020 LBB NRD Officers

Dean Roehr

Steve Kelley

Doug Pieper

Darrell Rains

Bob Lorenz

– Charmain

– Vice Chairman, NARD Representative

– Secretary

– Treasurer

– 5 Five Rivers RC&D Representative

Certification of Irrigated Acres

Certifying irrigated acres is part of the updated Groundwater Management Plan Rules and Regulations (Chapter 12) that was adopted by the Board of Directors on March 27, 2014. The acres certified were those acres irrigated by groundwater and surface water during the 2016 crop year. These acres will serve as the baseline data. Recently, certified producers received a mailing from the NRD, showing certified acres on record as well as requesting some supplemental information such as crop type, irrigation method and tillage practices. Please carefully review the acreage listed and notify the NRD of any changes. If no changes are required, please fill out the supplemental information and return the forms to us. Irrigators will only need to notify the NRD in the future if any changes are made. Changes are due by March 1st of each year. By knowing the location and number of irrigated acres, the NRD will be able to better protect current irrigators existing irrigation rights. Additional groundwater management decisions can also be made using this information to ensure that our most valuable resource is being used efficiently and effectively.

LBBNRD Board Elections

The deadline for non-incumbents to file for the office of NRD Director is March 2, 2020. This year, 7 positions are up for election. NRD directors are elected to govern the activities of the district and make policy decisions regarding the use of the district’s natural resources. Persons who wish to file must be a registered voter in the state of Nebraska and reside in the subdistrict in which they intend to run. Directors are elected to a four year term. This year, one two year term will be on the ballot in subdistrict one as well. The remaining 6 positions are in each of the subdistricts that make up the Lower Big Blue NRD. Anyone interested in being placed on this years ballot should contact the NRD for more information or visit the secretary of state website at www.sos.nebraska.gov for more information.

2019-2020 Budget Lowers Tax Levy

At the September 9, 2019 Budget Hearing, the Lower Big Blue NRD Board of Directors voted to pass the fiscal year 2019-2020 budget, levy and tax asking. For the 10th straight year, the tax asking has remained the same or has been less than the previous year. This year’s tax asking is 3% less than last year’s, at \$1,414,420.00, despite the overall valuation of the district declining 2%. The NRD was again able to lower the districts portion of the property tax levy. Board members and staff carefully scrutinize income and expenses to ensure that tax dollars are used efficiently in the best interest of the district.

Lower Big Blue NRD Newsletter

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Questions or comments regarding the newsletter may be directed to the office of the Lower Big Blue NRD by phone at (402) 228.3402; by fax at (402) 223.4441; by email at kimmerling@lbbnrd.net; or by mail at:

Lower Big Blue NRD

805 Dorsey Street

P.O. Box 826

Beatrice, NE 68310

Lower Big Blue NRD Board of Directors

Lawrence Gronewold

Beatrice—Sub-District 1

Ryan Birkett

Wilber—Sub-District 1

Darrell Rains (Treasurer)

Beatrice—Sub-District 2

James Damrow

Diller—Sub-District 2

Larry Barta

Swanton—Sub-District 3

Doug Stokebrand

DeWitt—Sub-District 3

Robert J. Lorenz

Crete—Sub-District 4

Rodney Skleba

Wilber—Sub-District 4

Dean Roehr (Chairman)

Beatrice—Sub-District 5

Ronald Wiens

Beatrice—Sub-District 5

Steven A. Kelley (Vice Chairman)

Beatrice—Sub-District 6

Doug Pieper (Secretary)

Beatrice—Sub-District 6

Jason Pohlmann

DeWitt—At-Large Member

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Jane Filipi

Saline County NRCS Clerk

Email: jane.filipi@ne.nacdnet.net

Paula Schultz

Jefferson County NRCS Clerk

Email: paula.schultz@ne.nacdnet.net

On the Upside.....

Generally speaking, the difference between spring and fall readings shows a decline in water levels. This makes sense because irrigation season is at its peak during the summer months. This year however, showed an increase in the static water level district wide. This anomaly, depicted in the graph below, has been observed during just five of the last thirty nine years. Since summer time declines are the norm, these measurements are not used for regulatory purposes. Only spring year to year changes influence the rules and regulations adopted by the district. So why track them? Well, the increase shown this fall, caused by abundant rainfall, resulting in diminished irrigation pressure, should carry over into the spring readings. In a nutshell, increases in static water levels are always a good thing. It’s what one would expect to see based on the environmental factors in 2019, and it’s another tool we can use to ensure the groundwater in the district is being managed appropriately.

Irrigation Scheduling Equipment

Irrigation scheduling equipment is once again being sold by the NRD. Producers can receive 50% cost-share on Watermark Sensors, ET Gages, and more up to \$300. Cost-share is available until March 31, 2020, however, most equipment is available for purchase year round. Irrigation equipment purchased from the NRD is a great way to ensure you apply the right amount of water at the right time! Cost share forms are available in our office or online at lbbnrd.net

Fall 2019 Groundwater Level Measurements

The Lower Big Blue NRD measures the static water level of 95 irrigation wells around the District every Spring (usually the first week in April) and Fall (usually the first week in November). Fall 2019 county average readings are listed below.

County	No. of Wells	Change Fall ‘18 to Fall ‘19	Change Spring ‘19 to Fall ‘19
Gage	28	+4.09’	+1.09’
Saline	43	+3.67’	+1.01’
Jefferson	24	+3.96’	+0.99’
Dedicated	44	+3.91’	+0.31’

Monitoring Wells (District Wide)

*The Overall District Average water level was up 3.91’ from Fall ‘18 to Fall ‘19, and up 0.85’ from Spring ‘19 to Fall ‘19.

