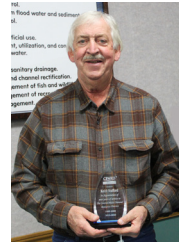


Board and Staff Service Recognition

Outgoing Board Members

Keith Stafford- 27 Years of Service

Keith was first elected to Subdistrict 4 in 1988 and served until 2008. He was elected again in 2013, serving a total of 27 years with the NRD. He chose not to refile for another term. Keith has been an active member of the Water Resources, Western Projects, and Groundwater Quality committees.



Chris Henry- 5 Years of Service

Chris was elected to the board in 2015 and resigned in December because he moved out of Subdistrict 2. At the time of his resignation, he was serving as chairman of the Western Projects Committee and also served on the Water Quantity and Budget committees.

Staff Recognition

Dean Krull- 40 Years of Service

Dean began working with the NRD in 1980 as a technician for the Hall County Water Quality Project. In 1984, he helped implement CPNRD/UNL's Nitrogen and Irrigation Management Demonstration Project, establishing over 400 sites with producers to encourage best management practices. In 2013, he began research with the Crop Irrigation and Demand Network. Other projects Krull has worked on include cover crops, Project SENSE and fertigation.



Shelly Lippincott- 20 Years of Service

Shelly has served as Central Platte NRD's Secretary in the Kearney NRCS field office for 20 years. She helps producers with irrigation management records and conservation programs. Shelly maintains the file management, orders supplies and sends quarterly reports to the NRCS state office.

New Staff

We'd like to welcome three new staff to the Central Platte NRD...

- ~ Jackie Luebbe, District Secretary, Grand Island NRCS field office
- ~ Elison Wagner, Easement Habitat Specialist, Grand Island NRCS field office
- ~ Sara Umstead, District Secretary at the Central City NRCS field office



Sign Up for Grazing Deferment by January 31st

Grazing deferment is essential when planning for a prescribed burn. Allowing the site to rest provides adequate fuel load that is necessary for a successful burn. Most burns rely on fine fuel made up of warm season grasses for combustion to create the desired impacts; which is why it's important to allow 'dead grasses' to remain in the field to serve as the fine fuel for your prescribed fire.

Funding Assistance

Central Platte NRD provides an incentive for landowners to defer grazing in a pasture for one growing season, so that a prescribed burn can be successfully applied in the following year to help in cedar reduction.

Cost-share is available at \$15/acre with a maximum of \$30,000/landowner. One application per landowner per year is allowed. Applications must be received by January 31st of each year for approval in February.



To learn more about deferred grazing or to sign up for cost-share, contact David Carr or Kelly Cole (308) 385-6282 or email: carr@cpnrd.org | cole@cpnrd.org

Important Dates

- * January 1 Nitrogen Certification test due
- * March 31 Crop Report forms due for Groundwater Management Program
- * April 15 CPNRD-Ron Bishop Memorial College Scholarship applications due
- * June 1 Chemigation applications due
- * Sept 1- March 1 Transfer applications for irrigated acres accepted
- * September 15 Chemigation reinspections must be completed
- * Nov 1 - April 1 Tree and weed barrier orders accepted

Board of Directors

Subdistrict

At-Large	Keith Ostermeier, Grand Island- Treasurer	Brian Keiser, Gothenburg
1	Jay Richeson, Gothenburg	Vacant
2	Dwayne Margritz, Lexington	Steve Sheen, Kearney
3	Marvion Reichert, Elm Creek	Vacant
4	Lon Bohn, Gibbon	Jim Bendfeldt, Kearney- Chairman
5	Deb VanMatre, Gibbon- Secretary	Mick Reynolds, Wood River- Vice-Chairman
6	Jerry Milner, Grand Island	Ed Stoltenberg, Cairo
7	Jerry Wiese, Grand Island	Alicia Haussler, Grand Island
8	LeRoy Arends, Grand Island	Doug Reeves, Central City
9	Ed Kyes, Central City	Barry Obermiller, Grand Island
10	Chuck Maser, Grand Island	

Staff

General Manager: Lyndon Vogt
 Assistant Manager: Jesse Mintken
 Administrative Assistant: Kelly Cole
 Cozad Ditch Manager: Michael Schmeeckle
 Easement Admin Specialist: Michelle Steffen
 Easement Habitat Specialist: Krystal Bialas
 Easement Habitat Specialist: Elison Wagner
 GIS Coordinator: Angela Warner
 GIS Image Analyst: Luke Zakrzewski
 Hydrologist: Brandi Flyr
 Information/Education Specialist: Marcia Lee
 Projects Assistant: Tom Backer
 Range Management Specialist: David Carr

Resources Conservationist: Bill Hiatt
 Resources Conservationist: Shane Max
 Secretary/CPNRD: Deb Jarzynka
 Secretary/NRCS-Grand Island: Jackie Luebbe
 Secretary/NRCS-Central City: Sara Umstead
 Secretary/NRCS-Lexington: Samantha Keith
 Secretary/NRCS-Kearney: Shelly Lippincott
 Secretary/Thirty Mile Irrigation District: Marci Ostergard
 Thirty Mile Irrigation District Manager: Jim Harris
 Thirty Mile Irrigation District Technician: Mike Ostergard
 UNL/CPNRD Demo Project Coordinator: Dean Krull
 Water Quality Programs Assistant: Tricia Dudley
 Water Resources Specialist: Dan Clement
 Water Resources Technician: Courtney Widup



IN PERSPECTIVE

Central Platte NRD Newsletter

Volume 24 No. 3
January 2021

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

50% Cost-Share Available to Plant Trees



According to recent data released by the U.S. Forest Service, Nebraska's trees and forests are experiencing steady declines. The Central Platte NRD aims to reduce this decline by providing cost-share for landowners to invest in an additional windbreak or update trees that have died in existing windbreaks.

The NRD purchases seedlings from Bessey Nursery at Halsey National Forest, the largest man-made forest in the country. Bessey Nursery has produced conservation plants since 1902. The nursery produces seedlings for the Nebraska Conservation Tree Program for distribution to rural

landowners across the state, as well as in North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado and Kansas.

Funds Available In CPNRD

Central Platte NRD provides 50% cost-share on orders of 200 or more trees for landowners to establish and restore windbreaks, and to install weed barrier. You may also want to take advantage of the NRD's tree planting service. Details below.

Trees: 30 varieties of shrubs, conifers and deciduous seedlings may be ordered for spring planting. Orders are taken through April 1st. Stock is sold in bundles of 25. **Cost:** 100 trees for \$90 or 25 trees for \$22.50

Weed Barrier Fabric: Weed barrier provides long-lasting protection against weeds for seedling trees and shrubs. **Fabric-** \$.50 cents/lineal foot (6' wide) **Sheets-** \$1.25/4'x4' sheet **Staples-** \$.15 each (10"x 2"x 8" gauge)

Fabric & Installation- Minimum of 1,000 linear feet will be installed at a job site. \$.80 cents/lineal foot

Tree Planting Service: CPNRD's tree planting service includes a tree crew and equipment.

Cost: \$.40 cents/tree planted, minimum charge of \$160.

NOTE: A minimum of 200 trees must be ordered to receive cost-share funds and the tree planting service.

HOW TO ORDER

*Central Platte NRD

(308) 385-6282 215 Kaufman Ave Grand Island

*NRCS Field Offices (Ext. 3)

Central City: (308) 946-2251 Grand Island: (308) 382-0814
 Kearney: (308) 237-3118 Lexington: (308) 324-6314
 Osceola: (402) 747-2461

Descriptions of trees and order forms available at cpnrd.org

In This Issue

- 50% Cost-Share Available to Plant Trees
- Funding to Decommission Unused Wells
- Important Dates for 2021 Irrigators
- Community Recreation Apps Due March 1st
- Yes - Irrigated Acres Can Be Transferred
- Board & Staff Recognition
- Sign Up for Grazing Deferment by Jan. 31st
- Important Dates

Funding Available to Decommission Your Unused Well

Wherever you live – the country, small town, or city – you could have one or more wells on your property that are not being used. The reality is . . . wells do not last forever. Wells are left unused for a variety of reasons such as: not enough water, it needed repairs, became contaminated, property changed hands, the land use changed, or it was connected to a community water system.

Whatever the reason, the bottom line is that every unused well (either domestic or irrigation) that is not properly sealed or decommissioned is illegal and poses a safety, health, and environmental threat to your family and to your community.

Physical Safety

Children and small animals can easily fall into an unprotected open large capacity well. Accidents can also occur when equipment is unsuspectingly driven over a crumbling well or well pit.

Health and Environment

An unused well can act like a drain - allowing surface water runoff, contaminated water, decomposing animals, or improperly disposed waste a direct pathway into drinking water sources. When this occurs, the quality of everyone's water is threatened – city water wells, neighbor's wells, even your current well.



How to Find a Well

If your house was built before public water was available, the property may have had one or more wells. Wells can be located either inside or outside a building. Indoors: Look for glass block or concrete patch in an exterior step. Wells are often housed in a small room in the basement, many times under exterior concrete steps. Also check for a pipe sticking up out of the floor in your basement or a concrete patch in the floor where the well was located.

Outdoors: Look for a low spot or sunken area in the ground with metal, wood, concrete cover or manhole. Check for a windmill, an old shed or well house, or an old pump. Dug wells typically appear as a ring anywhere from one foot or several feet in diameter and are made of concrete, tile, bricks, or rocks. Also look for well casing above the ground.

Decommissioning Your Well



If you have a well that is not in use and/or poses a threat to health or safety, Nebraska law requires that you, as the landowner/homeowner, must have the well decommissioned. If your well appears to be filled or capped, but you learn it was improperly sealed, you are responsible to have the well properly sealed or decommissioned by a licensed well contractor.

The most important thing to know about decommissioning a well is that you can not do it yourself. Nebraska law mandates that a well only be decommissioned by a licensed well contractor. A notice of well decommissioning form must also be sent to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR).

Funding Assistance

Central Platte NRD has cost-share funds to help defray the expenses associated with hiring a contractor to properly decommission your well. CPNRD's cost-share rate is 60% up to \$750 maximum for any irrigation well, any well that pumps 50 gallons or less up to a \$500 maximum, and any hand-dug well up to \$1,500. Replacement wells are not eligible for cost-share. Funding is available year-round. Sign up at:

- > Central Platte NRD, 215 Kaufman Ave in Grand Island (308) 385-6282
To learn more about decommissioning wells contact: Dan Clement dclement@cpnrd.org
To sign up for cost-share contact: Kelly Cole (308) 385-6282 cole@cpnrd.org
Or complete the application by clicking on the 'Cost-Share Funding' link at cpnrd.org.
- > Your local Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) office (phone numbers page 1).
- > For additional information, search 'Well Decommissioning' on the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources website: <https://dnr.nebraska.gov/>

Follow Central Platte NRD on:



Important Dates for 2021 Irrigators

Nitrogen Certification

Good management of both nitrogen and water is necessary to reduce nitrate contamination of groundwater and producer education is a key component of the NRD's Groundwater Management Plan. The Nitrogen Certification Training Program provides the knowledge base needed by producers to manage both nitrogen and irrigation in a manner that will reduce nonpoint source contamination and be profitable. Certification is valid for four years.

If your certification expires in 2021, you should've received a certification test to be completed and returned to the CPNRD office. If you did not receive the test that was mailed out in November, contact Tricia Dudley at (308) 385-6282. Certification is accepted from other districts.

Annual Crop Report Due March 31st

Producers in Phases II/III of the NRD's Nitrogen Management Program are reminded to complete their Crop Report Form(s) with 2020 yields for all crops including corn, sorghum, potatoes, beans, alfalfa, small grains and commodity crops at <http://cpnrd.gisworkshop.com> by March 31st. When a completed form is submitted, a receipt will be sent to the email address provided. Producers who don't submit completed forms by the deadline will receive a Cease and Desist letter following the April board of directors meeting. Violations will be enforced prior to the 2021 irrigation season.

Chemigation Training

Chemigation online training and testing is available for both Initial and Recertifying Chemigation licensing. Due to the pandemic and limited class capacities, in-person training dates will not be posted online. The online test is available at: <https://water.unl.edu/article/agricultural-irrigation/chemigation>

You must complete the video verifications for Chapter 1-9 before the final Chemigation exam will open. Once the final Chemigation exam is completed, an email will be sent to UNL and the Nebraska Department of Environment & Energy (NDEE). NDEE will then issue the Chemigation license by mail.



If you prefer to do an in-person training rather than online training, you will need to contact your local County Extension office to see if there is a pre-registration and if they can accommodate you for in-person training. For further questions contact: Julie Jacobs, UNL (402) 472-9543

Chemigation Permits

Current Chemigation renewal permits expire on June 1st. Renewal permits can be issued without an inspection at a cost of \$20. Applications received after June 1st must comply with provisions for new permits, including a \$60 permit fee and a required inspection before the permit can be issued. Once a system has been inspected, it will be reinspected every three years. If changes are made to any part of the system, such as a new pump or a new pivot, reinspection of that system is required.

Update on Cease & Desist Violations

Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, said with over 850 participants in the NRD's Nitrogen Management Program, the board and staff are pleased with the majority of individuals who are in compliance with the rules. Below are updates on individuals who received Cease and Desist Orders in 2020:

***Richard Urban** – Signed a Consent Decree stating that he will stay in compliance with CPNRD's rules and regulations. Urban was ordered to pay CPNRD \$2,500 to assist in the costs of the enforcement action and Polk County District Court \$1,000 plus court costs.

***Artie Moeller** – Signed a Consent Decree stating that he will stay in compliance with CPNRD's rules and regulations. Moeller was ordered to pay CPNRD \$5,000 to assist in the cost of the enforcement action and District Court of Merrick County \$1,000 plus court costs.

***Bernard Katzberg** – Court date has been postponed.

Two other individuals have cease and desist orders filed against them, but have not violated as they did not irrigate this year. Both orders are still active.

Communities: Recreation Funding Apps Due March 1st

Did you know Central Platte NRD has funding for communities to implement recreation projects? Two cost-share programs are available through the Urban Conservation Program to assist cities, villages and counties with a wide range of conservation recreational opportunities. Below is a brief description of each cost-share program. Applications are due March 1st. Approved projects will be funded in the NRD's next fiscal year budget starting in July 2021.

Recreation Area Development Program

The Recreation Area Development Program is designed to assist sponsors with the acquisition of land or land rights, and to establish, develop, and improve public recreational areas including lake dredging. The cost-share rate is 50% of eligible project costs up to a maximum of \$40,000.



Trails Assistance Program

The Trails Assistance Program is designed to cost-share with sponsors on trails projects that have received approval for funding under the Transportation Enhancement Program administered by the Nebraska Department of Roads or the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. The cost-share rate is 50% of the local share of the costs of the project with a program maximum of \$40,000.

For additional details visit the Urban Conservation page at cpnrd.org or contact Jesse Mintken, Assistant Manager (308) 385-6282 | mintken@cpnrd.org

Yes - Irrigated Acres Can Be Transferred in CPNRD



Applications are being accepted through March 1st to transfer certified irrigated acres. A transfer request (change in the location) may be approved provided that:

- > the same amount of water that would be depleted from the river over a 50-year period from consumptive use of groundwater withdrawals, are retired from use (offset); and
- > the offset occurs at the same time, rate, and location as the depletion identified by the Cooperative Hydrodrology Study (COHYST) model.

The location of the offset is considered the same as the depletion if the offset is:

- * west of the new depletion
- * or no more than one mile east of the area causing the new depletion
- * and within the same basin of influence.

Offsets must be a minimum of one acre and excess water would accrue to the benefit of streamflow. Transfers of irrigated acres into declining Ground Water Management Areas are not allowed.

To learn more about transferring irrigated acres contact Luke Zakrzewski or Angela Warner at (308) 385-6282 luke@cpnrd.org | warner@cpnrd.org