



# Upper Loup Scoop

Upper Loup NRD

January 2023

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## Calendar of Events

### January

- 12** Board Meeting:  
ULNRD Office 3PM CT
- 16** Martin Luther King Jr.  
Day: Office Closed
- 23-25** Legislative Conference,  
Lincoln

### February

- 9** Board Meeting:  
ULNRD Office 3PM CT
- 20** President's Day: ULNRD  
Office Closed

### March

- 9** Board Meeting:  
ULNRD Office 3PM CT

## Tree Orders for Spring

The Upper Loup Natural Resources District continues to sell and plant trees and shrubs to property owners across the district. Anyone wishing to plant trees in the spring should be making plans now. The Upper Loup NRD cost-shares on hand plant orders of at least 100 trees or shrubs and machine planted orders of at least 200 trees.

The benefits of windbreaks are numerous; they provide protection for livestock, crops, wildlife, and your home. Resources Technician, Justin Sprague, will assist you with deciding which tree species will work best for your needs, draft planting plans, and assist in filling out the cost-share forms. Early planning and tree ordering is encouraged for cost-share funds, as they are distributed on a first come, first serve basis. If you are planning on ordering trees, please call our office ASAP to ensure availability and cost-share opportunities.



## New Resources Technician on Staff



The Upper Loup NRD welcomed a new staff member in October. Kyon Neal, has joined the team as part of the Resources Technician team. As a native of the Tryon area, Kyon graduated from McPherson County High School in 2017. He went on to attend the University of Nebraska-Kearney where he received his bachelors in Business Administration with a minor in Environmental Science. In Kyon's free time, he enjoys being in the outdoors whether it be golfing, hunting, or fishing. Welcome Kyon!

## District Water Quality Overview

The District is on a scheduled water quality testing cycle that rotates through each of the sub-districts every five years. During this scheduled cycle, the main focus is testing nitrate levels in domestic wells while also performing bacteria tests when requested. These are all important to test for due to the health risks that they may impose. Nitrates and manganese in high quantities and prolonged exposure may result in adverse health issues to the general public especially infants, elderly, pregnant or nursing women. The EPA has a standard guideline that is considered safe for drinking water; nitrates should remain in the range of 0-10 ppm (parts per million) and manganese should remain under 0.3 ppm.

Over the course of the year, approximately 123 wells were tested in Sub-District 2, which was the sub-district scheduled to be tested in 2022. This Sub-District includes part of Cherry and Grant Counties and the entirety of Hooker County. Our results showed that Sub-District 2 had a manganese average of 0.106 ppm and a nitrate average of 1.025 ppm in domestic wells. Overall, the District averages fall well below the EPA Recommended Guidelines for Drinking Water Safety.



## Local Working Group Meetings Planned

A Local Working Group that provides advice on the priorities for many U.S. Department of Agriculture conservation programs will meet Wednesday, March 15th at 1 pm CT at the Upper Loup NRD in Thedford. In the event of cancellations due to severe weather, the meeting will be held Thursday, March 23rd at 1 pm CT.

The public is encouraged to attend and express their natural resource concerns. Ideas generated from the public will help the U.S. Department of Agriculture tailor their natural resource programs to meet the needs identified locally.

Membership on the Local Working Group includes Federal, State, county, Tribal or local government representatives according to Leah Carson, district conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) whose agency guides the Local Working Group.

“The Local Working Group recommends to the NRCS State Conservationist how conservation programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), or Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) would be used most effectively in their area. This recommendation can include special target areas, cost share rates on conservation programs, which conservation practices should have cost assistance, or how many dollars could be needed,” said Carson. This work group allows local input into how Federal dollars are spent, she said.

Typically, Nebraska NRCS obligates anywhere between \$45 million to over \$75 million dollars to farmers and ranchers statewide through NRCS conservation programs. These programs helped landowners and operator make natural resource improvements to their land, water, or wildlife. This funding was allocated according to the priorities set by the Local Working Group.



**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**

## Drought Mitigation Plan

The Upper Loup NRD has taken meaningful steps toward reducing vulnerability to drought since the NRD's creation in July of 1972. ULNRD leaders have continued to prioritize drought mitigation through efforts such as responsive groundwater management practices and numerous studies examining water quality and quantity. The development of this Drought Mitigation Plan is another effort the NRD has undertaken to better prepare for drought.



The ULNRD Drought Mitigation Plan's purpose is to identify processes to effectively monitor, respond to, and manage future drought events. The Drought Mitigation Plan is a tool that will assist the ULNRD in communicating conditions, engaging stakeholders, and minimizing drought impacts through educational and outreach efforts. A copy of this can also be found on our website. Throughout 2023, the NRD will be looking for drought committee members from each county. If you would like to volunteer please contact our office.

## Pesticide Training Dates

Certification for private pesticide is needed for landowners buying and applying restricted use pesticides on their land. For more information about



pesticides, chemicals, and certification visit the UNL pesticide website at [pested.unl.edu](http://pested.unl.edu). Listed below are the counties that are holding training and testing events. To register for an in person local training, please call the UNL-Central Sandhills Extension office at 308-645-2267.

**January 12:** Grant County Courthouse, Hyannis 1pm CT

**January 13:** Blaine County Courthouse, Brewster, 1pm MT

**January 18:** Thomas County Courthouse, Thedford, 1pm CT

## Projects in Progress

### Static Water Level Readings

Lexi and Kyon will be out this spring conducting annual static water level checks on area wells.

### Learning Center

Don't forget, the ULNRD's Learning Center is available for use! The Center is free to non-profits and schools, donations are appreciated. Call our office to reserve the space.

### Flowmeter Maintenance

Reminder, inspect your flow meters for any odd behaviors such as unusual noises or if the meter has stopped. Producers are responsible for flowmeter maintenance and repairs. If you have recently had your meter repaired please call our office so that our technicians can inspect it.

### Tree Netting

We have tree netting available to help protect young tree tops from hungry scavengers. Netting is available for 5¢/foot at the NRD office.

## State Poster Contest Winner

Healthy Soil, Healthy Life: that was the theme in which participants needed to communicate through their artwork for the National Association of Conservation District's Poster Contest. The NRD chose 2 student's posters from our District wide contest to compete at the state level competition. Those individuals were Myah Glidden (Halsey 4th grader) and Ember Chavez (Dunning 8th grader). After the local contest, Ember Chavez (pictured below with teacher Zeta Greene), went on to be the winner of the 7th-9th grade category at the state competition for the Contest! Her poster will be sent on to the national competition in Washington DC. Congratulations!



## ULNRD Staff

### General Manager

Anna Baum

### Administrative Secretary

Jamie Green

### Information & Education,

#### Resources Technician

Lexi Spurlin

#### Resources Technician

Justin Sprague

#### Resources Technician

Kyon Neal

### Recycling Coordinator

Earl Rowley

### Field Office Secretary

Pam Petersen

## 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

Tony Ruhter

Max Fay

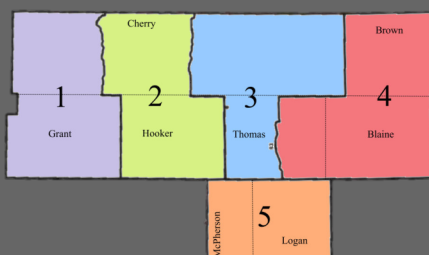
### Sub-District 5

Tom Johnson

Richard Burnside

### At Large

Patrick Wright



## Winter Trivia

- Which fruit has a variety called "Winter Banana"?  
A) Watermelon                      B) Apple  
C) Grapefruit                         D) Cherry
- Which tree loses its leaves in the winter?  
A) Deciduous                         B) Conifer
- The speed in which snow falls can be up to 6 feet per second.  
True                      or                      False
- 70% of Earth's freshwater is locked in glaciers.  
True                      or                      False
- The word *winter* comes from the Germanic word *wintar*; which means:  
A) Dry or Dust                      B) Dark or Night                      C) Wet or Water

## Cozy Comforts

### Cozy French Dip Sandwiches

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 3-4 lb chuck roast       | Combine spices and herbs together and rub over the roast.   |
| 1 can beef consommé      | Sear roast on all sides.  |
| 2 cans French onion soup | Place into a crockpot on low for ~6-8 hours depending on size of roast.   |
| Salt                     | Remove fat, and shred meat.   |
| Pepper                   | Fill hoagie buns with shredded meat and top with provolone slices   |
| Garlic powder            | Place sandwiches in oven on broil until cheese browns and bubbles   |
| Onion powder             | Remove juices from crockpot and simmer until it reduces- enjoy your Au Jus! Add cornstarch for creamier Au Jus. |
| Oregano                  |   |
| Rosemary                 |   |
| Thyme                    |   |
| Hoagie buns              |   |
| Provolone slices         |   |

## Winter Trivia Answers

1. (B) Apple 2. (A) Deciduous 3. True 4. True 5. (C) Wet or Water