

Chemigation Permits Due June 1st

The goal of the Nebraska Chemigation Act is to protect ground water and surface water from contamination by fertilizers and pesticides. To accomplish this goal, the Act provides the legal requirements for the use of chemigation as a means of nutrient or pesticide application.

Renewal permits expire on June 1st each year. The cost of a renewal permit is \$20 and can be issued without an inspection. 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*.

Systems are inspected every 3 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.

Your CPNRD contact: Tricia Dudley (308) 385-6282 or dudley@cpnrd.org

COVID-19 Office Update

As some of the counties in our District are opening with restrictions, others remain hot spots such as Hall and Dawson counties. CPNRD's physical office will remain closed to the public until at least June 1st to comply with local restrictions.

Our field staff has been busy handing out and planting trees, reading well transects and static water levels. If you see us in your area and would like to visit, please use social distancing guidelines.

The March and April board meetings were held audio/video conferencing, the May 28th meeting will be held the same. Watch for updates on CPNRD's website, Facebook, and Twitter pages for details on how the June 25th board meeting will be held and when our office will open to the public. Central Platte NRD staff will continue to answer phone calls and emails Monday-Friday from 8:00-5:00. Give us a call at: (308) 385-6282 or email cpnrd@cpnrd.org.



Congrats 2020-2021 Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the students selected to receive CPNRD -Ron Bishop Memorial College Scholarships for the 2020-2021 academic year:

Amanda Fay, Grand Island - Civil & Engineering, UNO

Klint Gill, Cozad- Wildlife Biology, UNK

Jason Line, Miller- Ag Economics/Animal Science, UNL

Myles Mendell, Gothenburg- Rangeland/Wildlife Mgmt, Chadron State

Joshua Wiese, Shelton- Master of Environmental Mgmt, Western Colorado State

The students will receive \$1,000 and were selected based on their natural resources major and personal essays. To be eligible for the scholarship, students must also be a college junior or senior and must reside within the Central Platte NRD.



Important Dates

- * **January 1** Nitrogen Certification test due.
- * **March 31** Crop Report forms due for Groundwater Management Program
- * **April 1** Last day to order trees and weed barrier
- * **April 15** CPNRD-Ron Bishop Memorial College Scholarship applications due
- * **June 1** Chemigation applications due
- * **September 1-March 1** Transfer applications for irrigated acres accepted
- * **September 15** Chemigation reinspections must be completed
- * **November 3** Election Day

To receive the
In Perspective Newsletter by email, send
your address to Marcia at: lee@cpnrd.org



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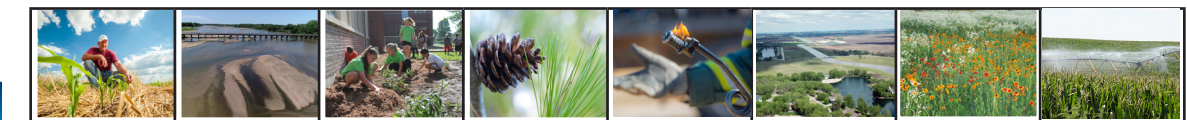
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IN PERSPECTIVE NEWSLETTER

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

CPNRD to Receive Funds for On-Farm Conservation



In April, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced The Nature Conservancy in Nebraska's project, "Resilient Futures for Nebraska Soil," was selected for a Regional Conservation Partnership Project (RCPP) in the amount of \$4.4 million.

"I'm excited to announce the first RCPP awards under the 2018 Farm Bill," said NRCS Chief Matthew Lohr. "Through collaboration and aligning resources toward a common goal, we're making an impact for conservation that could never have been realized on our own."

The five-year award from NRCS, matched by companies in the agricultural supply chain, will provide farmers in central Nebraska with technical and financial assistance to adopt soil health practices on an estimated 100,000 acres. Dr. Hannah Birgé, Director of Agriculture for The Nature Conservancy said, "This project will leverage private and public resources to amplify the good work of Nebraska farmers as they scale up soil health practice adoption."

"Soil health is critical to keeping Nebraska's farm and ranchland productive and profitable," said NRCS Nebraska State Conservationist Craig Derickson. "We are excited to work with The Nature Conservancy and other partners to help improve soil and natural resources in Nebraska."

Central Platte and Upper Big Blue Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) are partners in the project.

"This project exemplifies the importance of teaming up with the public and private sectors to bring greater resources to bear on our district's soil health work," said Lyndon Vogt, General Manager of the Central Platte NRD.

"Area farmers are already experimenting with soil health practices. This collaboration will accelerate their work and spread practices to new operations," added Marie Krausnick, Water Department Manager of the Upper Big Blue NRD.

Eligible producers will have the option to implement three soil health practices: cover cropping, reduced tillage, and diversified crop rotations. The project serves as an Ecosystem Services Market Consortium (ESMC) pilot, connecting farmers to private sector payments for soil health practices adopted. While new, the ESMC provides a way to scale up practice adoption.

Debbie Reed, ESMC director, said "Big companies are looking to improve their environmental footprints in measurable and trackable ways, and farmers can improve the environment in measurable and trackable ways when they adopt soil health practices."

"We're excited to ground-truth our methodologies through this project with central Nebraska farmers."

In This Edition

- ~NeRAIN: Free Rain Gauges to Report Precip
- ~Employee Spotlight: Deb Jarzynka
- ~Prescribed Burn Schools June 24-25
- ~Summer Wildfire and Rural Properties
- ~Coffee Talk: Chemigation- Who Does What?
- ~Chemigation Permits Due June 1st
- ~COVID-19 Office Update
- ~Congrats: 2021 College Scholarship Recipients
- ~Summer Wildfire and Rural Properties
- ~Emergency Animal Mortality Funding
- ~Important Dates

NeRAIN: Free Rain Gauges to Report Precipitation



Would you like to collect precipitation data and receive a high-quality rain gauge? CPNRD is looking for new cooperators for the Nebraska Rainfall Assessment & Information Network (NeRAIN). Tom Backer, projects assistant, will provide training and assistance.

NeRAIN is designed to get citizens involved with monitoring weather across the state. The network consists of several hundred volunteers that spend a few minutes each day recording precipitation measurements and uploading them to the NeRAIN website.

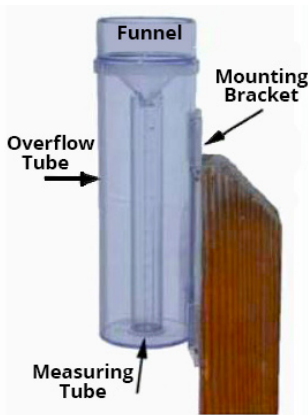
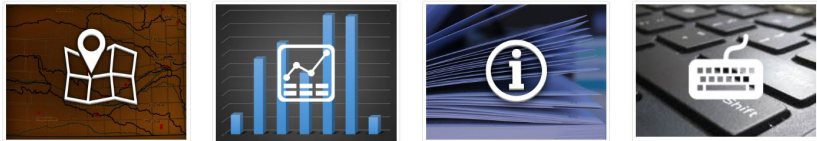
As a NeRAIN volunteer, you will receive a large clear plastic gauge. The gauge should be placed in an area that is protected from strong winds but not bothered by obstacles that could either block precipitation from reaching the gauge or cause precipitation to splash towards it. For example, an ideal location would be a small open meadow surrounded by forest, or an open back yard not too close to buildings or trees.

The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources operates the website. NeRAIN data is updated daily and transmitted to the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS), an international database for precipitation and weather events. It's available for public access and provides decision-making information for agriculture, industry, home water use, utility providers, insurance companies, resource managers, and educators.

You may find out more about the NeRAIN program at <https://nednr.nebraska.gov/nerain>

Rain gauges have been provided to NeRAIN volunteers using funding by Natural Resources Districts, the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, and the Nebraska Environmental Trust.

Current Cooperators: Central Platte NRD has replacement gauges if you need a new gauge.
Your CPNRD contact: Tom Backer (308) 385-6282 or backer@cpnrd.org



Employee Spotlight: Deb Jarzynka

Deb Jarzynka has been employed as the District's secretary since 1988. The last couple of months, she has been receiving your phone calls and relaying messages to staff from home. She enjoys greeting people and directing them to the appropriate staff. Deb maintains the filing system and copy machines, orders office supplies, and distributes staff mail.

She also prepares bank deposits, the monthly board meeting packets, and quarterly travel for the board; and records expense reports and staff leave.

You may contact Deb at cpnrd@cpnrd.org or call (308) 385-6282.



CPNRD Secretary

Prescribed Burn Task Force Schools



The Prescribed Burn Task Force will be hosting two schools this summer for those wanting to learn more about prescribed fire. The focus of this year's schools will be differences of burning in the growing season compared to spring burning. Basics of prescribed fire including safety on the fireline and site preparation will also be taught. The instructor for both schools is Dusty Tacha, NRCS of Hutchinson, KS.

COST: \$15 public. Free for students, emergency personnel, fire board members, and volunteer firemen.
Burn demonstrations will be planned following workshops.

2020 DATES/LOCATIONS

Date: Wednesday, June 24 **Time:** Registration at 8:30 School: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Location: Uncle Bucks Lodge, 455 Brewster Ave, Brewster, NE
Contact: Custer Co Extension (308) 872-6831

Date: Thursday, June 25 **Time:** Registration at 8:30 School: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Location: Monsanto Learning Center, Hwy 47, Gothenburg, NE
Contact: Dawson County Extension (308) 324-5501

RSVP by Friday, June 19th to ensure your meal and materials.

Summer Wildfire & Rural Properties

Are you a rural homeowner with property situated among cedar or pine trees and tall grass? If so, you need to evaluate your property for fire preparedness and be aware that summer wildfires can be destructive to rural properties and rangeland. Destructive wildfires can occur anytime from June to March depending on drought levels, but peak fire season is typically in the hot dry summer months.



The primary fuels for Nebraska wildfires are dry grasses and trees. Hot dry weather allows grasses to cure and trees to dry out. In central Nebraska, wildfires are often caused by careless handling of burning material; while in western Nebraska, they're most often caused by lightning.



The National Weather Service issues Red Flag Warnings advising that a combination of environmental conditions allow for a dangerous wildfire if one is ignited. The conditions include winds over 20 mph, relative humidity under 20%, and predicted potential for dry lightning. If we have a very dry summer and a Red Flag Warning is issued with predicted winds in the 30-40 mph range, do you have a "defensible space" around your home? Below are risk factors that place a rural home at high risk for wildfire damage or destruction:

- **Volatile Fuels:** cedar/pine trees, tall grass, large wooden decks, firewood, fuel tanks, burn piles or burn barrels adjacent to your home.
- **Construction:** Is your home constructed of flammable materials such as wood-shake shingles?
- **Limited Access:** long narrow driveway adjacent to heavy fuels like trees.

Ways to add "defensible space" include clearing out trees and cutting grass for at least 150' from the house to reduce fire intensity as it gets closer to the home. Ensure that large piles of firewood are kept away from the home itself and clean gutters. Heavy grazing or mowing outside a windbreak along with a well-traveled vehicle trail may also reduce fire intensity. Also try to increase the accessibility of your driveway to firefighters.

The Nebraska Forest Service has a "FireWise" Program to provide information and funding to prepare your property to withstand a summer wildfire. NFS provides 75% cost-share grants through the Firewise Defensible Space Grants Program to remove flammable trees and shrubs to create "defensible space" around homes and buildings. To learn more about this funding, visit <https://nfs.unl.edu/fuels-assistance>.

Emergency Animal Mortality Funding

Applications are now being accepted for financial and technical assistance to livestock producers for animal mortality disposal, resulting from impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Agricultural producers, owners of non-industrial private forestland, and tribes are eligible to apply through USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

How to Apply

- Producers facing livestock depopulation should to file an Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) application (Form CPA-1200) and an early start waiver with your local NRCS field office.
- Applicants are not eligible for practice payment if the mortality management practice is implemented prior to signing an EQIP CPA-1200 application and receiving an early start waiver approval letter.
- Financial assistance is limited. Not all applications will be funded.
- There is a \$25,000 payment cap on the animal mortality practice.

- Producers are responsible for proper disposal of animal mortality by following requirements. All Federal, State and Local laws must be followed and are the responsibility of the producer to secure any necessary permits.

Practices Available for Assistance

\$74.28	Burial/animal unit
\$219.88	Forced Air Incineration/animal unit
\$0.05	Disposal at Landfill or Render/pound
\$111.53	Carcass Disposal other than burial, incineration, landfill or render

For more information visit ne.nrcs.usda.gov, contact your local NRCS office listed below, or Nebraska EQIP Program Manager Conor Ward (402) 437-4112 conor.ward@usda.gov.

Local NRCS Offices (Ext. 3)

Central City (308) 946-2251
Grand Island (308) 395-8586
Kearney (308) 237-3118
Lexington (308) 324-6314
Osceola (402) 747-2461



Chemigation Who Does What?

Nebraska Chemigation Act Rules

The Nebraska Department of Environment & Energy (NDEE) developed the rules and regulations for irrigators to chemigate.

(402) 473-2186 deq.state.ne.us

NRDs manage permits that ensure safety equipment is present and functioning properly.

Inspections & Permits

CPNRD inspects required safety equipment on chemigation systems, receives permit applications and fees, and issues permits. Permit fees:

*New Application \$60 *Special Permit \$60
*Annual Renewal \$20 *Emergency Permit \$500
(308) 385-6282 cpnrd.org

Training & Exams

UNL Extension provides training and exams. NDEE issues applicator certifications active for 4 years, thereafter renewals are required.

water.unl.edu/chemigation | deq.state.ne.us