

Central Platte NRD’s New Website Has Launched!

Have you seen our new website? We designed it with you in mind to be more user-friendly so you can find the information that you need.

Visit the **Water Resources** pages to learn about groundwater levels, nitrate and irrigated acres management, recharge canals, wells and chemigation.

Learn about the NRD’s **Land Management** efforts on soil health, rangeland, research demonstration projects and the prescribed fire program.

You’ll find information on our 30+ **Flood Reduction** projects that have been built from Gothenburg to Columbus and projects in the works.

Discover how CPNRD provides **Wildlife Habitat**. See maps of the NRD’s crane viewing decks and other viewing opportunities in central Nebraska.

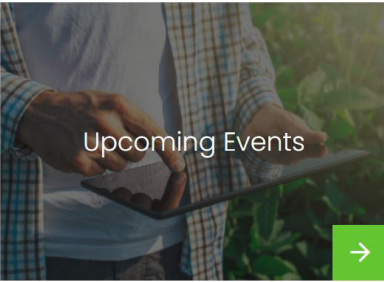
The **Education** page provides information on the groundwater festival, high school contests and other educational events. Learn about the outdoor classroom program. Find links for virtual learning activities.

Easily locate **Cost-Share** applications, **Forms** and **Permits**.

Find contact information for our **Board** and **Staff** and see action that the NRD board takes each month.



New look - same address....visit cpnrd.org



Also follow Central Platte NRD on:



Important Dates

* January 1	Nitrogen Certification test due
* March 31	Crop Report forms due for Groundwater Management Program
* April 1-June 1	Nebraska Children’s Groundwater Festival- Virtual Event
* 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. <i>Limited quantities remaining.</i>

Board of Directors

Subdistrict

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

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

Students to Learn About Groundwater Virtually



The Nebraska Children’s Groundwater Festival will be held virtually this year. All schools in Nebraska are invited to participate by accessing the Festival’s YouTube channel. Although activities will be online, the Festival’s presenters have developed hands-on and interactive activities for students to learn about groundwater.

VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS

Teachers will have access to the presentations from April to June. Since each presentation is 15 to 25 minutes in length, offering the activities online for two months will allow teachers time to incorporate them into their curriculum. The virtual format will also allow teachers to pause the presentations and have in-depth discussion about the activities.

The activities are all taught at fifth-grade science standard level; however, teachers of all grade levels are invited to participate. Each of the presentations have a groundwater connection such as watersheds, aquifers, wetlands, wildlife, water use, products made with groundwater, recycling, etc.

The Groundwater Festival ordinarily has 35 presenters in classrooms throughout the Central Community College and College Park campuses in Grand Island. With the virtual Festival, students will enjoy the same hands-on activities that create fun and memorable educational experiences and enable students to better understand the concepts the groundwater professionals are teaching.

2021 ACTIVITIES AND PRESENTERS

- A Crumpled Watershed- Nebraska Extension
- Bottle Bee Hotels- Central Community College
- Groundwater: It’s In What You Drink- Ensign Beverage
- How Wetlands Work- Ducks Unlimited
- Seed Bombs for Meadow Pollinators- The Crane Trust
- Water Cycle Bingo- Hall County 4-H
- Awesome Aquifers- NRCS
- Critter Cube Count- Izaak Walton League
- H2O and the 3 Rs- Keep Loup Basin Beautiful
- Rain Stick Rattles- Noyes Art Gallery
- Raptor Connection- Raptor Conservation Alliance

FUNDING FOR SUPPLIES

The Festival is offering up to \$150 reimbursement for schools to purchase materials for the activities with donations from local and statewide sponsors.

Has your school registered for this free event?
There’s still time to register!

Your CPNRD contacts: Marcia Lee or Brody Vorderstrasse
(308) 385-6282 | lee@cpnrd.org | brody@cpnrd.org

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Producer Spotlight - Rattlesnake Boys



The Rattlesnake Boys of Wood River recently competed and won the top award in UNL’s Testing Ag Performance Solutions (TAPS) program. TAPS is an innovative program developed by University of Nebraska research and extension specialists and educators in 2017 that facilitates a number of interactive real-life farm management competitions.

The Rattlesnake Boys won the Most Profitable in the Subsurface Drip Irrigation (SDI) corn category. The team consisted of Kevin and Amy Harsch, Jay Johnson and Jeremy Gewecke. The SDI contest had 16 teams compete.

Kevin Harsch said his team decided to enter after being introduced to TAPS at a planter clinic. TAPS appealed to them because it allows teams to use newer technology that smaller producers don’t have access to. He said it gives the “smaller and younger producers the chance to collaborate, network and share ideas.”

The Rattlesnake Boys decided to use the new Climate FieldView app; which is a software platform that analyzes, collects and stores field data to help producers optimize yield and maximize profit. They also used a plant-based water sensor which measures stock diameter to determine the plant’s water content; as opposed to soil moisture probes that they use on all of their own fields.

And the contest category that they won, subsurface drip irrigation, is a newer technology that they don’t utilize on their own farms. SDI involves burying the drip irrigation line permanently in a field below the tillage layer. It supplies water directly to the crop root-zone via buried polyethylene drip lines and emitters. The irrigation laterals are buried below the soil surface; typically between 13-20”.

Kevin emphasized the team aspect is very important because decisions have to be made for both the TAPS program, as well as for their personal fields. Each team member had their own part: Kevin did crop inputs and fertilization, Amy managed irrigation scheduling, Jay made the marketing decisions, and Jeremy selected the crop insurance. The team does plan to compete again in 2021 to learn about and try other new technologies.

Central Platte NRD has provided \$1,000 annually toward the TAPS program since 2018. The TAPS team continues to develop the contests in Nebraska and Oklahoma; while expanding knowledge-sharing by producers, extension educators, technology companies and service providers in Colorado and Kansas.

For information on how to participate in the TAPS program in 2021, contact Krystle Rhoades, TAPS Program Manager at (970) 560-0601 or email: krystle.rhoades@unl.edu.

New Officers & Members on CPNRD Board

New Officers

In January, the Central Platte NRD elected a new chairman and vice-chairman for the board of directors. Mick Reynolds of Wood River, was elected as chairman. Reynolds replaces Jim Bendfeldt who served two full terms. Jerry Wiese of Grand Island, was elected as vice-chairman. Officers are eligible to serve two, two-year terms.

New Board Members

Two directors were appointed to the board for two-year terms. Tom Downey of Lexington, was appointed to Sub-District 2 and Ryan Kegley of Kearney, was appointed to Sub-District 4. The two vacancies were due to directors recently moving out of their subdistricts. Chris Henry of Cozad, moved out of Subdistrict 2 and resigned from the board. Eric Davis of Kearney, was elected to replace Keith Stafford in Subdistrict 4. Davis moved to a new location in Kearney and inadvertently moved into Subdistrict 3.

Irrigators: Spring To Do List

HURRY... Annual Crop Report is Due

Producers in Phases II/III of the NRD’s Nitrogen Management Program are reminded to complete their Crop Report Form 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.

Producers who do not submit a completed form by the deadline will receive a Cease and Desist letter following the board of directors meeting to be held on April 22nd. 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 located at: <https://water.unl.edu/article/agricultural-irrigation/chemigation>.

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 Due June 1st

Current Chemigation renewal permits expire on June 1st. Renewal permits can be issued without inspection at a cost of \$20. Applications received after the deadline 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.

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

Project Spotlight: Platte Valley Industrial Park

Platte Valley Industrial Park (PVIP) is a growing neighborhood of industry. Its close proximity to Interstate 80, US Highways 281 & 34 and multiple rail lines makes PVIP an ideal location for businesses. Currently home to manufacturing, distribution, commercial, and industrial businesses, PVIP is seeing economic growth; however, the area is also prone to flooding.

In February, the Central Platte NRD (CPNRD) board approved a contract with Olsson Inc. to design a drainage ditch from Wildwood Drive to Locust Street for the Platte Valley Industrial Park. The project will consist of grading existing county road ditches from Blaine Street to Schimmer Drive, easements, and installation of a 36” storm sewer pipe that will drain into the south channel of the Wood River Flood Control Project. CPNRD will manage construction and acquisition of all right-of-way and/or easements within city limits.

The estimated \$650,000 project cost will be shared by the partners including CPNRD, Grand Island Economic Development Corporation, and the City of Grand Island. Hall County is a partner in the project through in-kind services with easements and ditch work. Central Platte NRD’s cost is estimated to be \$180,000 and will be funded over two fiscal budget years. The final design is scheduled to be completed by August 1, 2021.



Crane Viewing Opportunities

The Sandhill Cranes are here in big numbers this year. There are several places to safely view the Sandhill Crane and waterfowl migration. Typically over one million cranes travel through central Nebraska at the peak of migration. The Central Platte NRD has two sites with elevated viewing decks along the Platte River with free parking.

- **Richard Plautz Crane Viewing Site** Located 1.5 miles south of 1-80 at Exit 285 (Gibbon)

- **Alda Crane Viewing Site** Located 2 miles south of 1-80 at Exit 305 (Alda)

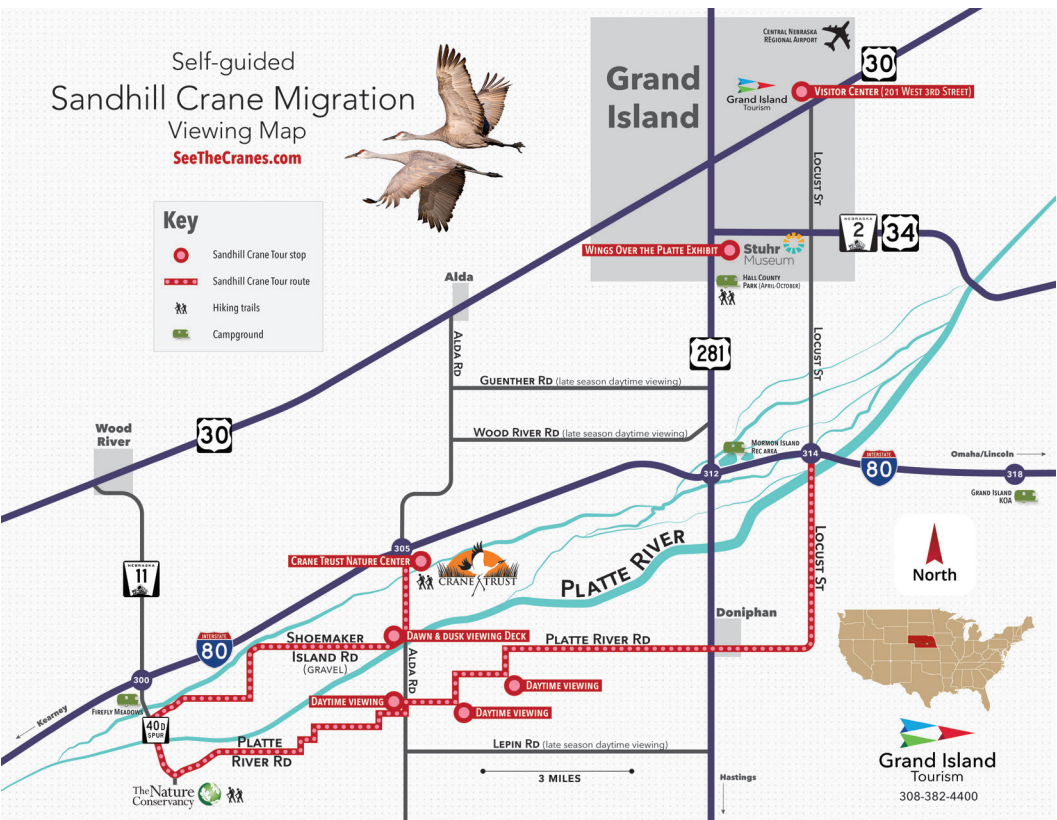
Three additional roadside turnouts are located south and east of the Alda interchange on Platte River Drive and west of Rowe Sanctuary on Elm Island Road.

Self-guided tour maps can be found on our website and at both of the NRD viewing decks.

You may also view the cranes and waterfowl from your own home:

Visit cpnrd.org and select Wildlife | Crane Viewing.

There you’ll find a link to the National Audubon Society’s LIVE CAM located on the Platte River near Gibbon, Nebraska.



College Scholarships Available

Central Platte NRD provides educational support for all students including college students. The CPNRD-Ron Bishop College Scholarship Program provides \$1,000 to five junior and senior college students pursuing degrees in the natural resources field.

Applications for the 2021-2022 academic year must be postmarked by April 15, 2021. Students or parent(s) must reside within the Central Platte NRD.

Career fields that qualify are agriculture, natural resources, hydrology, natural science, geography, field biology, environmental education and wildlife.

Download an application at cpnrd.org and select **Education | Scholarships**. Your CPNRD contact: Marcia Lee (308) 385-6282 | lee@cpnrd.org.

