

# Lower Republican NRD Review



Spring 2024

Volume 75

Protecting Lives, Protecting Property, Protecting the Future

## Occupation Tax Exemption—Chemigation Permits—Pooling June 1st Deadline

**Chemigation Permits**—The chemigation permit renewal fee is \$25. After June 1st they will be considered a new permit and will be charged \$75. Also, check the expiration date for your applicator's license located on the right side of the permit. If it says, 2024, your license has expired. If you don't have a current license, you will be charged the new permit fee. All irrigated fields that utilize chemigation are required to have a permit. Chemigation Forms can be found on our website at [www.lrnrd.org](http://www.lrnrd.org) under the News and Information Tab. If you have questions, please contact Shirlee at 308-928-2182.

**Occupation Tax Exemption Form**—The Lower Republican NRD Occupation Tax Exempt form needs to be completed if you do not plan to irrigate part or all of your certified irrigated acres in 2024. **New this year**, if your certified irrigated acres are enrolled in a government program, i.e. EQIP, CREP, etc., these acres will automatically be exempted. If you do not have certified irrigated acres or you plan to irrigate all of your certified irrigated acres in 2024, you **do not** need to complete the Occupation Tax Exemption form.

**Pooling**—Pooling arrangements must be completed by June 1st for the 2024 irrigation season. Existing arrangements will continue unless written cancellation is received by the June 1st deadline. For more information about pooling arrangements or agreements, contact Kristi at 308-928-2182 or go to our website, [www.lrnrd.org](http://www.lrnrd.org), and view the ground water rules and regulations.

## Rural Water Superintendent

The Lower Republican Natural Resources District is accepting applications for the Full-Time position of Rural Water Superintendent. Job responsibilities include but are not limited to the following: Perform routine maintenance on a public water supply system, reading meters, installing new hook ups, taking water samples, pump station and water tower maintenance, and being on call to respond to emergency situations. Must have a current valid driver's license in Nebraska. Must either have or be willing to obtain a Grade 4 water operator license. A company pick-up will be provided for work use. Applications may be obtained by calling the District office at 308-928-2182 or on our website—[www.lrnrd.org](http://www.lrnrd.org). Applications should be mailed to the District office located at 30 North John Street, PO Box 618, Alma, NE 68920 and must be received at the District office no later than the close of business on Wednesday, May 15, 2024.

The Lower Republican NRD is an equal opportunity employer.

## Compact Call Year in 2024

2024 has been designated as a Compact Call year. What does that mean? In the Lower Republican NRD there is a hard cap set at 13 inches for all ground water irrigated acres. There will be penalties for anyone pumping over the 13 inch hard cap. 2024 is year two in the allocation period in the Lower Republican NRD. You should have received allocation sheets from our office showing your 2023-2027 total allocation.

Pooling your acres can be extremely helpful during Compact Call years. If you are not currently pooling your acres across your fields, you may want to contact the office and consider this option. You will need signatures from all parties, landowners and operators, that are connected with any acres in the pool. It is best to start early if you need to obtain several signatures. New or modified pooling applications are due by **June 1st** for the 2024 irrigation season.

## Adventure Camp About the Environment

Adventure Camp about the Environment, ACE Camp, is back! The Camp will be held June 23rd through the 26th at Kamp Kaleo near Burwell. We encourage middle school students interested in outdoors to sign up for this educational, action-packed camp. To qualify, students should have completed sixth or seventh grade in the 2023-2024 school year.

The 4 day adventure camp provides students an opportunity to dive into different hands-on activities with a natural resources focus. Sessions educate youth on Nebraska's water resources, wildlife, soil, trees, range and grasslands, technology and more. ACE Camp gets students outdoors to explore the world around them.



Fees and registration are \$235 per camper. Campers can complete online registration on our website [lnrd.org/what-we-do/programs](http://lnrd.org/what-we-do/programs) or on the Adventure Camp about the Environ-

ment Facebook page. Registration deadline is **June 10**. Space is **limited**, so campers are encouraged to register early.

## Nebraska Youth Range Camp

Chadron State College in Chadron, NE, will host this years Nebraska Youth Range Camp. Students attending this camp have opportunities for hands-on experience, leadership, and team-building as well as



lectures and field activities geared toward the management of our native range lands. **June 3rd to June 6th**, high school students interested in conservation, animal science, wildlife or other related topics will have a unique opportunity to become educated on concerns facing our state.

The Lower Republican NRD grant program pays the camp fee of \$75 for up to two students. The two most qualified applicants will be selected to receive these grants. Priority will be given to first time applicants.

Mail your completed grant application to Lower Republican NRD, PO Box 618, Alma, NE 68920. Applications must be postmarked no later than **May 10th**. For more information about Range Camp or to get a copy of an application form contact the Lower Republican NRD at 308-928-2182, go to our website at [www.lnrd.org/what-we-do/programs](http://www.lnrd.org/what-we-do/programs), or on Facebook at Nebraska Youth Range Camp.

## Lower Republican NRD Scholarship Recipients

The Lower Republican NRD is proud to support Natural Resources education. Three students within the district were awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to the Nebraska college of their choice. Kayla Rupe, Samuel Gruwell and Hunter Perks were this year's recipients. They were selected from several exceptional applicants. We wish them all a bright future.



Kayla Rupe will be graduating from Wilcox-Hildreth Public School and plans to attend the Nebraska College Of Agriculture in Curtis. She will be majoring in livestock management/production. Kayla is the daughter of Chad and Sheri Rupe.

Samuel Gruwell, son of Roger & Lynette Gruwell, will be attending Southeast Community College in Beatrice. He will be majoring in Agriculture Production and Management. Samuel is graduating from Wilcox-Hildreth Public School.



Hunter Perks will be a Cambridge Public School graduate. Hunter plans to attend Southeast Community College in Beatrice and major in natural resources, wildlife and land management. Hunter is the son of Brian and Helena Perks.



Congratulations to these students. We wish them success in college and in achieving their future goals.

# National Land Judging

National Land Judging was held April 30—May 2, 2024 in El Reno, Oklahoma. Alma FFA had a team place third at the State competition and qualify for Nationals. Members of the team were Karsten Bradley, Nolan Pfeil, Isaiah Neal and Wyatt Isaacson.

During land judging, contestants evaluate the soil's thickness, texture, and particle size. They look at the slope of the land and determine the possible erosion and flooding potential. They classify the soil based on those and many other factors.

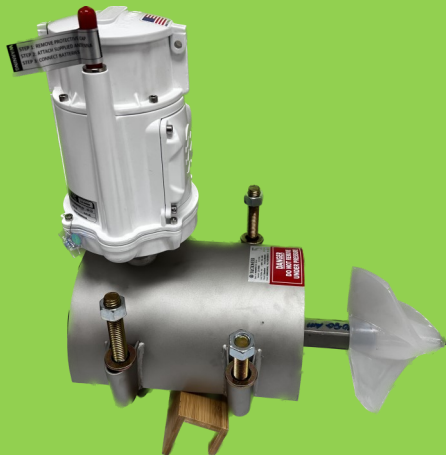
Congratulations to these contestants!



## Telemetry Flow Meter Project

The Lower Republican NRD is moving forward with Phase 1 of installing telemetry enabled flow meters across the district and have already installed approximately 400 of the new meters. This first phase is targeting the Rapid Response Area wells and then subsequent phases of the project will expand to those meters outside of that area.

The District has contracted directly with McCrometer to install and implement these meters according to specifications. If a system needs additional pipe work or a check valve needs to be installed, the District will be asking those producers to get that work done before installing the new meter. These modifications to the pipe or other parts of the system are required for compliance with our current rules and regulations so they will be at the expense of the landowner or irrigation system owner. The new meters do not have installation requirements beyond the current mechanical meters, so if the system is currently "in spec" it should not need to have any additional modification. We ask you to evaluate your current systems and if there is a possibility of replacing 2 meters with 1 telemetry meter, please contact us so we can review your setup.



Also, we would like to ensure the old mechanical meters are either returned to the proper owner or we can dispose of them if they are at the end of their useful life or will not otherwise be used. These meters were specifically calibrated to the pipe on the system. Using them on other systems or allowing someone else to use them may result in improper usage readings and possible non-compliance with the rules and regulations.

## Lower Republican NRD 2021-2023 Groundwater Use By County

COUNTY West to East	AVERAGE (Acre-Inch)		
	2021	2022	2023
FURNAS	7.25	10.96	7.33
HARLAN	6.04	10.67	7.58
FRANKLIN	6.31	9.19	7.53
WEBSTER	5.84	8.97	8.65
NUCKOLLS	6.03	6.75	8.32
Average District Usage	6.32	9.86	7.69



### Board of Directors

Subdistrict 1	Clark Andrews, Holbrook
Subdistrict 1	Toby tenBensel, Holbrook—Secretary
Subdistrict 2	Troy Fletcher, Oxford
Subdistrict 2	Marlin Murdoch, Orleans—Chair
Subdistrict 3	Tim Kahrs, Franklin—Treasurer
Subdistrict 3	Matt Harrison, Naponee
Subdistrict 4	Chris Grams, Upland
Subdistrict 4	David Bartels, Riverton—Vice Chair
Subdistrict 5	Lee Fintel, Superior
Subdistrict 5	Don Duffy, Guide Rock
At-Large	Bradley Wulf, Red Cloud

### LRNRD Staff

Todd Siel	General Manager
Nick Simonson	Assistant Manager
Shirlee Poyser	Admin. Assistant/Bookkeeper
Kristi Heft	Water Resources Administrator
Mary Goebel	Water Secretary/Info. & Edu.
Jim Zimmerman	Rural Water Superintendent
PJ Holmes	Water Resources Technician
Dave Bantam	Water Resources Technician
Travis Fisher	Water Resources Technician
Deb Klingenberg	Franklin County Office Secretary
Jennifer Helms	Furnas County Office Secretary
Brittnay Nurnberg	Harlan County Office Secretary
Lynetta Snelling	Webster County Office Secretary

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 9**—Board Meeting, LRNRD Meeting Room, Alma  
**May 27**—Memorial Day, Office Closed  
**June 1**—Deadline for Occupation Tax Form, Chemigation and Pooling  
**June 3-6**—Nebraska Youth Range Camp—Chadron State College, Chadron  
**June 13**—Board Meeting, LRNRD Meeting Room, Alma  
**June 23-26**—ACE Camp, Kamp Kaleo, Burwell  
**July 4**—Independence Day, Office Closed  
**July 11**—Board Meeting, LRNRD Meeting Room, Alma  
**July 30**—Harlan County Tire Recycling  
**August 6**—Webster County Tire Recycling  
**August 8**—Franklin County Tire Recycling  
**August 8**—Board Meeting, LRNRD Meeting Room, Alma  
**August 24-September 3**—Nebraska State Fair, Grand Island  
**September 2**—Labor Day, Office Closed  
**September 10-12**—Husker Harvest Days, Grand Island  
**September 12**—Board Meeting, LRNRD Meeting Room, Alma

This is a publication of the Lower Republican Natural Resources District  
30 North John Street, PO Box 618, Alma, NE 68920  
308-928-2182—website: [www.lnrnd.org](http://www.lnrnd.org)

Non-Profit Permit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Alma, NE 68920  
Permit No. 55

Lower Republican Natural Resources District  
PO Box 618 - 30 North John Street  
Alma NE 68920

