



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. Check the expiration date for your applicator's license located on the right side of the permit. If it says, 2025, 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 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 2025. 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 2025, you **do not** need to complete the Occupation Tax Exemption form.

Pooling—Pooling arrangements must be completed by June 1st for the 2025 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, and view the ground water rules and regulations.

Compact Call Year in 2025

2025 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 hard cap.

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. New or modified pooling applications are due by **June 1st** for the 2025 irrigation season.

New Board Member

Brian Ballou has replaced Clark Andrews as the Lower Republican NRD Subdistrict 1 Board Representative. Brian was sworn in at the January Board Meeting. Brian and his wife McKenna have three children—Taylor, 6; Boone, 4; Henley, 1. Brian farms in southern Furnas County and raises corn, soybeans, sorghum, wheat and alfalfa. In his spare time, Brian enjoys hunting and spending time with his family.



Adventure Camp About the Environment

Adventure Camp about the Environment, ACE Camp will be held June 22nd through the 25th 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 2024-2025 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 at www.lrnrd.org/what-we-do/programs, or on the Adventure Camp about the Environment Facebook page. Registration deadline is **June 9th**. 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 on June 9th through June 12th. 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. Students will also 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.



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 23. 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.lrnrd.org/what-we-do/programs, or on Facebook at Nebraska Youth Range Camp.

Lower Republican NRD 2022-2024 Groundwater Use By County

COUNTY	AVERAGE (Acre-Inch)		
	2022	2023	2024
FURNAS	10.96	7.33	6.79
HARLAN	10.67	7.58	7.76
FRANKLIN	9.19	7.53	6.76
WEBSTER	8.97	8.65	7.76
NUCKOLLS	6.75	8.32	7.68
Average District Usage	9.86	7.69	7.25

NSWCP Funding

The Lower Republican NRD has received funding for the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program. The program has three major categories: range, erosion, and water conservation and water quality. Some eligible conservation practices include range seeding, critical area plantings, planned grazing systems, irrigation water management, terrace systems, impoundment dams, grade stabilization structures, diversions, grassed waterways and water and sediment control basins. The projects must be designed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service in your area. The Lower Republican NRD cost shares on 50% of the average or actual cost of the project, whichever is less with a maximum of \$5,000 per year. For more information on this program, please contact your local NRCS office.

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. Casey Conway, Gage Booe and Alex Casper were this year's recipients. They were selected from several exceptional applicants. We wish them all a bright future.



Casey Conway

Casey Conway graduated from Silver Lake Public School and plans to attend Southeast Community College—Milford. He will be majoring in electrical technology/precision ag. Casey is the son of Bob and Kelli Conway.



Gage Booe

Gage Booe, son of Jared and Haley Booe, will be attending Southeast Community College—Beatrice. He will be majoring in agronomy. Gage graduated from Southern Valley.



Alex Casper

Alex Casper is a Wilcox Hildreth Public School graduate. Alex plans to attend the University of Nebraska—Lincoln and major in ag systems technology. Alex is the son of Seth and Tiffany Casper.

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 29-May 1 near El Reno, Oklahoma. Alma FFA had a team place first at the State competition in October and qualify for Nationals. The team placed 35th out of 93 teams from across the nation. Leading the team was Austin Barwick who tied for 57th individually, followed by West Bennett 110th, Josie Nech 190th and Alea Shicksnider 250th.

Congratulations to these contestants!



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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
Lynetta Snelling	Webster County Office Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS
May 26 —Memorial Day, Office Closed
June 1 —Deadline for Occupation Tax Form, Chemigation & Pooling
June 9—12 —Nebraska Youth Range Camp, Chadron State College, Chadron
June 12 —Board Meeting, LRNRD Meeting Room, Alma
June 15 —Father’s Day
June 22-25 —ACE Camp, Kamp Kaleo, Burwell
July 4 —Independence Day, Office Closed
July 10 —Board Meeting, LRNRD Meeting Room, Alma
August 14 —Board Meeting, LRNRD Meeting Room, Alma
August 22—September 1 —Nebraska State Fair, Grand Island
September 1 —Labor Day, Office Closed

This is a publication of the Lower Republican Natural Resources District

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