



# Upper Loup Scoop

Upper Loup NRD

October 2019

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## Calendar of Events

### October

- 10** Board Meeting: ULNRD Office @ 7pm CT
- 14** Columbus Day: ULNRD Office Closed
- 26-27** Hunter Education Course ULNRD Office

### November

- 11** Veteran's Day: ULNRD Office Closed
- 14** Board Meeting: ULNRD Office @ 7PM CT
- 28-29** Office Closed: Thanksgiving

### December

- 12** Board Meeting: ULNRD Office @ 3PM CT
- 25** Christmas: ULNRD Office Closed

## Cost-Share Funds Available for Fall Noxious Weed Control

In Nebraska, you are legally required to control noxious weeds on your property. The common noxious weeds on the Nebraska State list include: plumeless thistle, musk thistle, diffuse knapweed, spotted knapweed, Canada thistle, leafy spurge, purple loosestrife and saltcedar. Fortunately, not all of these weeds are found in our District. Yearly management is key as skipping a year can cause the weed to re-infest rapidly. To help battle those found in our area (leafy spurge, Canada thistle, musk thistle) the Upper Loup Natural Resources District provides cost-share funds for BOTH fall and spring treatment to landowners in the NRD area. Funds are available to cover 50% of the cost of approved chemicals up to \$500 per landowner.

## Firearm Hunter Education Course

On Saturday and Sunday, October 26th and 27th, a Firearm Hunter Education Classroom course will be held at the Upper Loup NRD Office. The class will begin Saturday at 1:00 PM Central Time. The State of Nebraska requires hunters age 12 through 29 who hunt any species to complete the course. Anyone younger than 11 may take the course but will not be certified. They must also be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Anyone under 18 must give the instructor a signed and completed Parental Release Form. Please register online for this event at [outdoornebraska.gov](http://outdoornebraska.gov)

## Field Guides Available

Hunting season has arrived! We have field guides for sale at our office in Thedford. Guides include Field Dressing Game, Wilderness First Aid, and Basic Tracking which can be purchased for \$8. We also have a variety of other pocket guides such as: Edible Wild Plants, Nebraska Wildlife, House & Garden Pests, Nebraska Birds, Invasive Weeds of North America, Trees, and Butterflies and Moths. These pocket guides can be purchased for \$6.



## ULNRD Field Day Another Success for the Eighth Year

The Upper Loup NRD held their annual Jr. High Field Day with area eighth graders. 53 students from Hyannis, Thedford, Sandhills and Stapleton schools attended the field day held at the office in Thedford on Wednesday, August 21st. The presentation topics for the day included wildlife, soils, water quality and quantity, forestry, and range.

Chris Hobza from United States Geological Survey (USGS) taught students about water quality and stream flow in the Middle Loup River. Anna Baum, ULNRD Manager, presented on the importance of pollinators. Individuals were able to create their own bee house using recycled materials. Shane Young, ULNRD Resources Technician, taught students about tree health and how to measure different species at the park in Thedford. Chuck Markley, NRCS Soil Scientist, joined us to discuss local soils. Individuals also had the opportunity to learn about range ecosystems with NRCS Rangeland Management Specialist Julianna Schaeffer, where they covered various topics from grasses, forbs and shrubs.



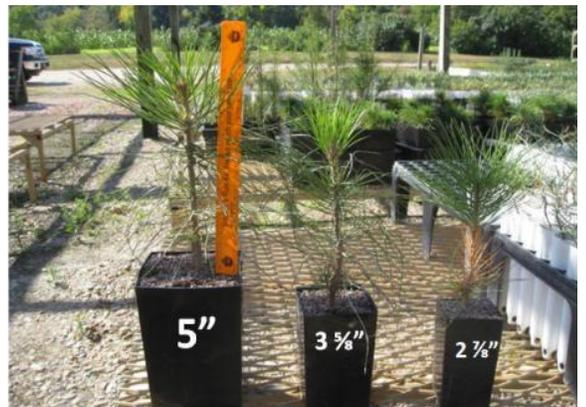
Each year the NRD tries to add new material and new sessions for students to explore the wide range of natural resources topics. The students really enjoy the hands-on learning experience the NRD provides and leave with a better knowledge of natural resources.

## Fall is the Time to Start Tree Planning

Trees provide important benefits such as, protecting homes and livestock from wind and snow, helping to reduce heating and cooling costs, preventing soil erosion, and also providing wildlife habitat. The Upper Loup NRD offers tree program services including: planning, planting, weed barrier installation or weed control, and drip irrigation.

Fall is a good time to think about tree planning. The ULNRD provides a 65% cost share along with free tree planning services. Trees and shrubs (excluding small acreage package), planting, weed mulch, and drip irrigation systems are all eligible for the cost share program.

Fall container trees are available for purchase. Sizes range from: 2  $\frac{7}{8}$ " for \$5.75, 3  $\frac{5}{8}$ " for \$6.75, and 5" for \$8.75.



For more information about these services or to make an appointment for your tree plan, contact Shane at 308-645-2250.

## Autumn Trivia

- 1) The world record for the largest pumpkin weighed in at:  
A) 713 lbs    B) 663 lbs    C) 838 lbs
- 2) The first Jack O' Lanterns were made from:  
A) Beets    B) Turnips    C) Potatoes  
D) All of the Above
- 3) Jelly Belly has not changed the candy corn recipe since around 1900. **T or F**
- 4) Autumn babies are more likely to live to 100 than those born during the rest of the year. **T or F**
- 5) The Arctic Tern makes the longest migration covering \_\_\_ miles.  
A) 30,166    B) 43,496    C) 20,579

Answers on page 4

## **Projects in Progress**

### **Tree Survival Checks**

Shane will be conducting tree survival checks in the District over the next few months and is also working on tree plans. If you are planning on planting trees in the spring, please contact Shane to get on the list and set up an appointment at 308-645-2250.

### **Community Tree Survey**

Shane will be surveying trees around the community. The focus of the survey is to locate Ash trees to determine the presence of ash borers.

### **Flowmeter Reading**

Beginning in October Jake, Shane and Lexi will be out reading flowmeters. You will recognize them by the white pickup with the Upper Loup NRD emblem on the side. Weather permitting, all readings shall be completed by January 1.

### **Flowmeter Maintenance**

Reminder, inspect your flow meters for any odd behavior such as unusual noises. Little to no maintenance is required for most meters. Producers are responsible for flowmeter maintenance and repairs.

### **Hazard Mitigation Plan**

The Hazard Mitigation Plan has concluded the Public Review Phase and was submitted to the State for review and approval. If you wish to review the plan, the HMP can be found on our website at: [upperloupnrd.org/hazard-mitigation-plan-update](http://upperloupnrd.org/hazard-mitigation-plan-update)

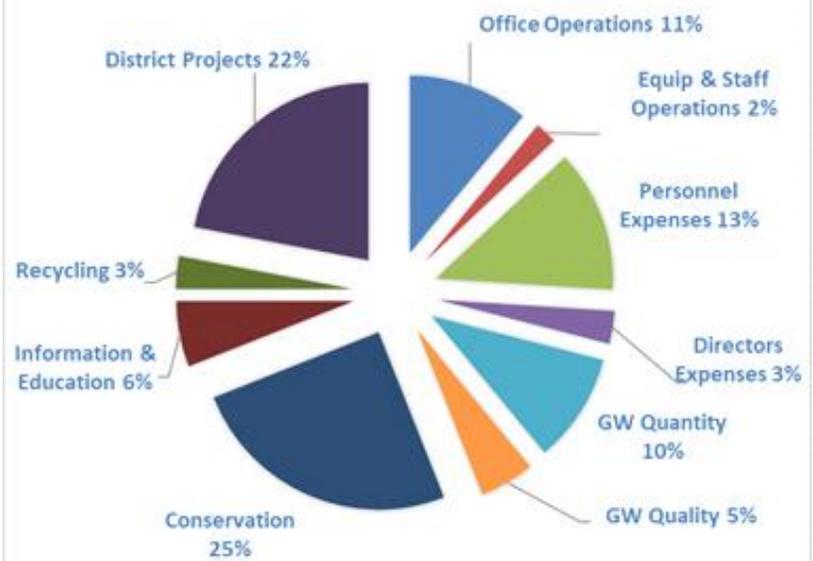
### **Groundwater Use Reports**

Irrigators in Cherry, Grant, Hooker, and Thomas counties! Annual water use reporting letters will be mailed out soon to those who DO NOT have a flowmeter. **Please return the information ASAP to the NRD even if you did not irrigate.** You may report your water use by mail, phone (308-645-2250), or email Jake ([jginkens@upperloupnrd.org](mailto:jginkens@upperloupnrd.org))

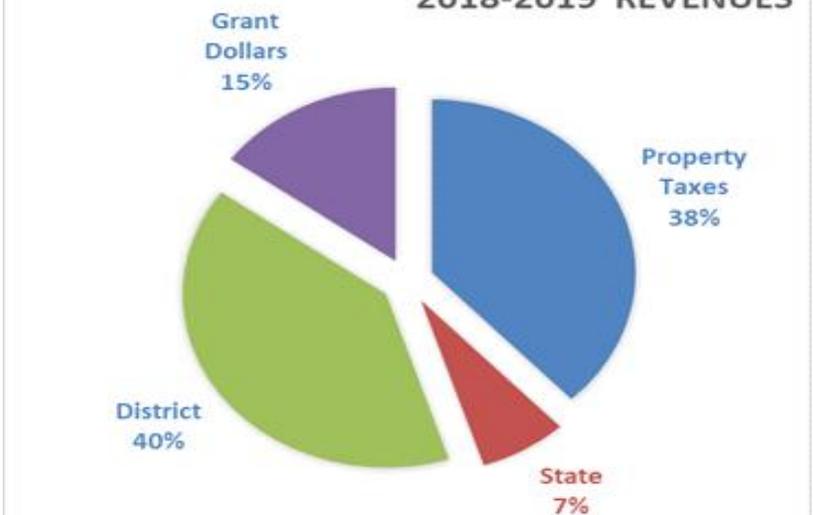
## **ULNRD Board Approves 2019-2020 Budget**

On September 12, 2019 the Upper Loup Board of Directors adopted the budget for fiscal year 2019-20. This year's budget calls for a property tax levy of .019 (1.9 cents per 100 dollars of property valuation). NRD's have the option to levy up to 4.5 cents per 100 dollars of valuation to aid in fulfilling all their statutory responsibilities, which we are well below. With the help of grants and product sales the Upper Loup has been able to provide a wide variety of services including water quality testing, conservation practices, wildlife habitat improvement, soil sampling, noxious weed control, recycling, yard enhancement, and camp scholarships to name just a few. The upcoming annual budget total is \$1,305,550.00 with a tax asking of \$494,900.00, meaning **less than half of our total budget (38%) is supported by tax dollars.**

**2019-20 BUDGETED EXPENSES**



**2018-2019 REVENUES**



## ULNRD Staff

Anna Baum

*General Manager*

Shane Young

*Resources Technician*

Jake Ginkens

*Resources Technician*

Leslie Harvey

*Administrative Secretary*

Jack Brummet

*Recycling Coordinator*

Lexi Hingtgen

*Information & Education,*

*Resources Technician*

Pam Petersen

*Field Office Secretary*

## ULNRD Board of Directors

### Sub-District 1

Eric Storer

Chris Vinton

### Sub-District 2

Judy Ridenour

John Kraye

### Sub-District 3

Chris Higgins

Miles Maseberg

### Sub-District 4

Connie Cox

Eric Schipporeit

### Sub-District 5

Tom Johnson

Richard Burnside

### At Large

Patrick Wright

Cherry 1 Grant	Cherry 2 Hooker	Cherry 3 Thomas	Brown 4 Blaine
	McPherson 5 Logan		

For Latest News check out  
[www.upperlounprd.org](http://www.upperlounprd.org)

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## TO: POSTAL CUSTOMER

### New Recycling Trailer

The ULNRD has been granted a Waste Reduction Grant from NDEQ. This grant was used to obtain a new recycling trailer that will be placed in Purdum for surrounding area residents.



Nebraska Department  
of Environmental Quality

### Attention Irrigators

Irrigators in the counties of Cherry, Grant, Hooker, and Thomas, as a reminder, all active irrigation wells will need to have a flowmeter in place **no later than May 1, 2020.**

## Autumn Trivia Answers

1. C) 838 lbs      2. D) All of the Above      3. True      4. True      5. B) 43,496 miles