

SOUTH PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

PIPELINE

NEWSLETTER

Courtesy Photo

N-TIME ON-FARM DEMONSTRATION

The South Platte Natural Resources District (SPNRD), in partnership with regional and state experts, is proud to announce a demonstration of N-Time, an image-based nitrogen management tool.

What is N-Time? N-Time is a precision agriculture tool that helps producers make informed, data-driven nitrogen application decisions. Using satellite imagery and real-time crop monitoring, the software identifies when and how much nitrogen is needed—improving yield potential and minimizing unnecessary inputs. Its flexibility allows it to work across multiple crops and diverse geographies.

When & Where. The technology is being put to the test during the 2025 corn season on a two-pivot plot located south of Sidney, Nebraska. One pivot will utilize the producer's standard nutrient management practices while the test pivot employs the Sentinel N-Time application, providing an excellent side-by-side comparison.

Join us for a field tour on August 7, 2025, where producers, landowners, and partners can see the system in action and gain valuable insights into its performance. Additional details will be announced via a press release and on our website later this summer.

Why It Matters. Nitrate levels in Nebraska's groundwater—especially in the Ogallala Aquifer—continue to be a growing concern. This demonstration is part of a broader effort to promote environmental stewardship while supporting producers' bottom lines. Proper nitrogen application is vital not just for the health of our water, but also for sustaining profitable farming operations.

As Sentinel Fertigation puts it: "We must be very diligent in creating solutions that empower confidence, that ensure yields, ensure productivity and ultimately provide the most profitable outcomes for producers."



The Team. Chris Meyer-Producer, Colten Salm-Account Manager, Sentinel Fertigation, Paul Safford-Source Water Protection Specialist, NRD/NRCS and Seth McMillen-Soil Conservationist, NRCS.

Project Support. This initiative is made possible with grant funding from the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment, with support from Kent Zimmerman and Alexa Davis.

Looking Ahead. A follow-up workshop is scheduled for December 2025, where we'll share data and reflections on crop yields, costs, growth patterns, and lessons learned. We invite landowners and producers across Kimball, Cheyenne, and Deuel counties to follow along—and join us in this important step toward smarter, more sustainable farming.

BOARD MEETINGS

Board of Director Meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month at the South Platte NRD Office located at 551 Parkland Drive, Sidney, NE.

BOARD MEETING DATES

August 12, 2025

September 9, 2025

October 14, 2025

COST-SHARE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

FLOW METER PROGRAM - REPLACEMENT & MAINTENANCE SUPPORT

Flow meters are essential tools for today's irrigators. These devices accurately track how much water is being applied and help identify inefficiencies or mechanical issues—such as pump or well problems. Staff reads flow meters annually, October 1 through December 31. Flow meter data plays a critical role in the South Platte NRD's efforts to monitor aquifer withdrawals across the district, build accurate ground water models, and help inform long-term water management decisions (e.g., conservation planning).

If your well pumps more than 50 gallons per minute, a flow meter is required—and it must be installed by a SPNRD Board-approved contractor. These professionals are trained to install meters correctly and understand all the district's regulations.

COST-SHARE OPPORTUNITIES

Replacement

- Cost-share available once every 10 years per meter location
- Existing meter must be out of warranty and either:
 - Failed twice in the past 3 years, or
 - Requires repairs costing $\geq 50\%$ of a new meter
- SPNRD will reimburse up to 50% of the county average value, based on NRCS guidelines

Maintenance & Repairs (by a certified contractor, once every 3 years)

- \$35 per meter for routine maintenance
- 50% of the repair cost, up to \$150 in a three-year period

Approved Meters: McCrometer, Seametrics, Sparling, GrowSmart, and Valley 3000.

Questions? Contact Tyler Sanders, our Water Resources Coordinator, or visit www.spnrd.org/flow-meter to learn more and for the list of approved contractors.



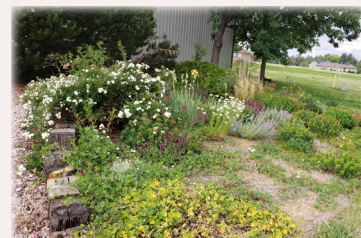
LANDSCAPING, RAIN GARDEN & TREE HAVEN-COME TAKE A STROLL!



SPNRD headquarters and tree plantings.



Rain garden in early spring.



Native flower plants.


Looking for a little outdoor inspiration? Stop by the South Platte Natural Resources District headquarters! We invite the public to explore our beautifully maintained landscaping, peaceful rain garden, and—true to Nebraska style—plenty of trees.

Planning ahead for tree planting season? It's closer than you think—running from October through March. If you're wondering what kind of trees might thrive, take a look at the variety we've planted right here. Our staff has selected species that do well in our dry climate and the unique conditions of the Nebraska High Plains.

Whether you're dreaming of a windbreak, a shady backyard, or just want to add some greenery, we encourage you to plant a tree next spring. The 2026 tree order form will be available in our next newsletter, on our website, and at our office.

Need help deciding what to plant or how to get started? Chris Kaiser, our Natural Resources Conservationist, is your go-to expert. He can assist with windbreak designs, tree care tips, cost-share opportunities, and all things tree-related.

 551 PARKLAND DR, SIDNEY, NE

 (308) 254-2377

 WWW.SPNRD.ORG

THIS & THAT...



SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT: SHAWNEE GAMBLE

We're proud to announce that Leyton High School Senior Shawnee Gamble has been awarded the 2025 South Platte NRD \$500 Scholarship.

Shawnee, daughter of Cody and Julie Gamble of Sidney, plans to attend the University of Nebraska—Lincoln this fall, where she'll major in Animal Science. From an early age, observing wildlife near her home sparked a passion for animals and their habitats—a passion that has grown into a clear goal: to contribute to animal conservation, protection, and education through research and development.

Each year, SPNRD awards a scholarship to a graduating senior pursuing a career in natural resources, environmental science, agriculture, or a related field. Shawnee was selected for her strong academic record and her commitment to environmental stewardship.

We wish her all the best as she begins her next chapter. Congratulations, Shawnee!

WELCOME KIMBALL'S NEW FIELD OFFICE SECRETARY – LINDA TOTH!



The South Platte NRD and Kimball NRCS office welcome Linda Toth as the new Field Office Secretary serving Kimball and the surrounding area. Her duties include receptionist, carrying out day-to-day administrative matters, clerical, and maintaining records and reports. Originally from Colorado, Linda and her husband, Joe, made the move to the Nebraska Panhandle in July 2022 in search of a slower-paced lifestyle — and they found just that, along with plenty of wide-open spaces and friendly faces.

They now call Harrisburg home, where they enjoy an incredible view of the Wildcat Hills. Family is at the heart of everything they do. Linda and Joe have been married for nearly 44 years and are parents of three sons and grandparents to eight wonderful grandchildren. Having their oldest son and his family nearby in Kimball keeps them busy — whether it's cheering from the sidelines at school and sporting events or lending a hand with 4-H projects, they're always on the go and wouldn't have it any other way.

Linda and Joe love spending time outdoors, hiking, exploring new areas, and enjoying all the natural beauty the region has to offer. "We've met some amazing people here in Nebraska," Linda shared. "We love it here and are excited to be part of the community." Please join us in welcoming Linda to the team!



NRD Recreation Exploration—Discover Nebraska's Natural Wonders—And Win a Prize While You're At It!

Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) invite you to get outside and explore! With more than 80 NRD-managed recreation areas across the state, there are countless ways to enjoy the outdoors—and even win prizes while doing it.

The Recreation Exploration contest runs from March 1 through September 19, 2025.

Here's how to join the fun: 1. Visit a NRD recreation area, 2. Snap a photo with a sign or landmark, 3. Submit your photo at www.nrdnet.org/recreation.

One local spot we recommend—Oliver Reservoir Recreation Area, located just eight miles west of Kimball on U.S. Highway 30. It's a favorite for fishing, boating, camping, and peaceful walks through nature. Plus, it's a great place to snap that photo!

To learn more about Oliver Reservoir, visit www.spnrd.org/oliverreservoir. For contest details—including the list of recreation areas and the prize info—visit www.nrdnet.org/recreation or scan the QR Code.



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of the South Platte Natural
Resources District.

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