



Spring 2023

Volume 37, Issue 2



# Tri-Basin Topics

A quarterly publication of Tri-Basin Natural Resources District

## 30th Year Educating Students About Water

For three decades the Water Jamboree has educated thousands of students about the value of our water resources. Each year this event brings students from south-central Nebraska and north-central Kansas to Harlan County Reservoir to learn the importance of protecting water quality and quantity in fun and engaging ways.

Around 400 students from 14 schools will attend this year's two-day event. The water festival, which started back in 1992, has reached thousands of students through the years. We now have students sharing that their parents remember



guide students through the event sites.

This program's long-standing success is primarily due to the dedicated group of local agencies working together to plan and host the event: Tri-Basin NRD,

Lower Republican NRD, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Nebraska Extension, Kansas Extension, Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, and US Army Corps of Engineers all play

a key role. In addition, other supporting agencies are committed to sharing the importance of water with the next generation.



attending the same event, as well as volunteers that attended as students.

During their visit, students attend eight in-depth sessions about water. All sessions are taught by water and natural resources professionals from

17 local, state, federal and private organizations, and businesses. The hands-on activities cover a wide range of topics including the water cycle, water physics, agriculture, unpurified water, soil health, wastewater, water safety, facts about water, as well as other species' interactions with water.

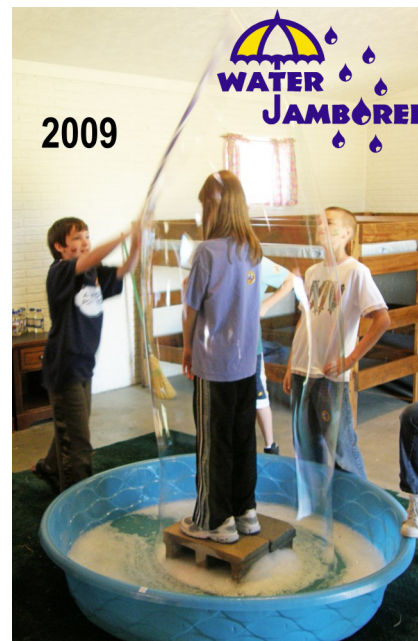
Nearly 100 volunteers help set-up, present, organize, and



We also receive donations from many local businesses and individuals who recognize the im-

portance of educating the next generation about the value of our natural resources.

Their contributions help to keep this event going. Thank you to all of our donors through the years. For more information about the Water Jamboree go to <https://www.tribasinnr.org/water-jamboree>.



Host Agencies:



*"Dedicated to Conservation of our Natural Resources"*

<http://www.tribasinnr.org>



## 2023 Conservation Awards

Tri-Basin awarded several conservation awards at the Biennial Awards Banquet. The Tree Planter Award was given to Pat Haight of Minden. The Doyle Reed Family was given the Soil Stewardship Award for their use of cover crops and buffers. Curtis Scheele was awarded the Friend of Conservation award for his many years of educating producers and promoting conservation practices. The Range Management Award winner was Lance Hilker for his use of multispecies grazing and timed grazing. NRD directors and staff were also recognized for their faithful years of service.



## Welcome Director Joel Grams

Tri-Basin would like to introduce its newest director, Joel Grams of Minden. Joel joined our board of directors on February 21st of 2023.

After graduating from Minden High School in 1982, Joel continued his education at the University of Nebraska where he received a Certification in Agricultural Science in 1986.



Joel is a self-employed farmer in addition to being a Licensed Real Estate agent, working with Ag West Land Brokers here in Holdrege.

He is a member of the National Corn Growers Association. In addition, he holds membership in both the Nebraska Soybean and Corn Growers Associations.

He and his wife Laura have 6 kids, 3 of which are married and have blessed their family with 3 grandkids. His family attends the Bethany Lutheran Church in Minden.

When Joel isn't being a "Papa", he enjoys spending time outdoors golfing, riding his motorcycle, fishing, or goose hunting.

## Arbor Day Tree Give-Away



Friday, April 28th from 9:30-10:30 a.m., Tri-Basin NRD in conjunction with the Holdrege Tree Board is hosting an open house to celebrate Arbor Day. Holdrege area residents are invited to stop by the Tri-Basin NRD office during the open house for refreshments and to receive a free tree seedling.

Tri-Basin NRD will also provide free tree seedlings in other communities throughout the district on Arbor Day. Other Locations:

Axtell Community Building	9:00 a.m.
First State Bank, Bertrand	10:00 a.m.
Loomis Village Office	10:00 a.m.
Elwood NRCS	10:00 a.m.
Minden Cemetery	3:00 p.m.

## Chemigation

Chemigation renewal forms and payments are due in the Tri-Basin NRD office by June 1, 2023. The renewal forms were mailed out in March to producers. Anyone who plans to apply fertilizer or ag chemicals through an irrigation system needs to apply for a chemigation permit for the 2023 season. Landowners and operators should contact Tri-Basin NRD at 308-995-6688 regarding chemigation permits. All newly permitted chemigation systems must be inspected before use. A person who is certified as a chemigation applicator must supervise injection of fertilizer and ag chemicals in irrigation water.

NRD staff do routine inspections on chemigation systems from June until August. Inspections are required every three years. If your system is due for inspection, we will contact you to schedule it. Routine inspections must be completed for permits to be eligible for renewal the following year. Renewal permits are \$15 and new permits are \$50.

# Tips and Check List for Your Flow Meter Read Before Irrigating

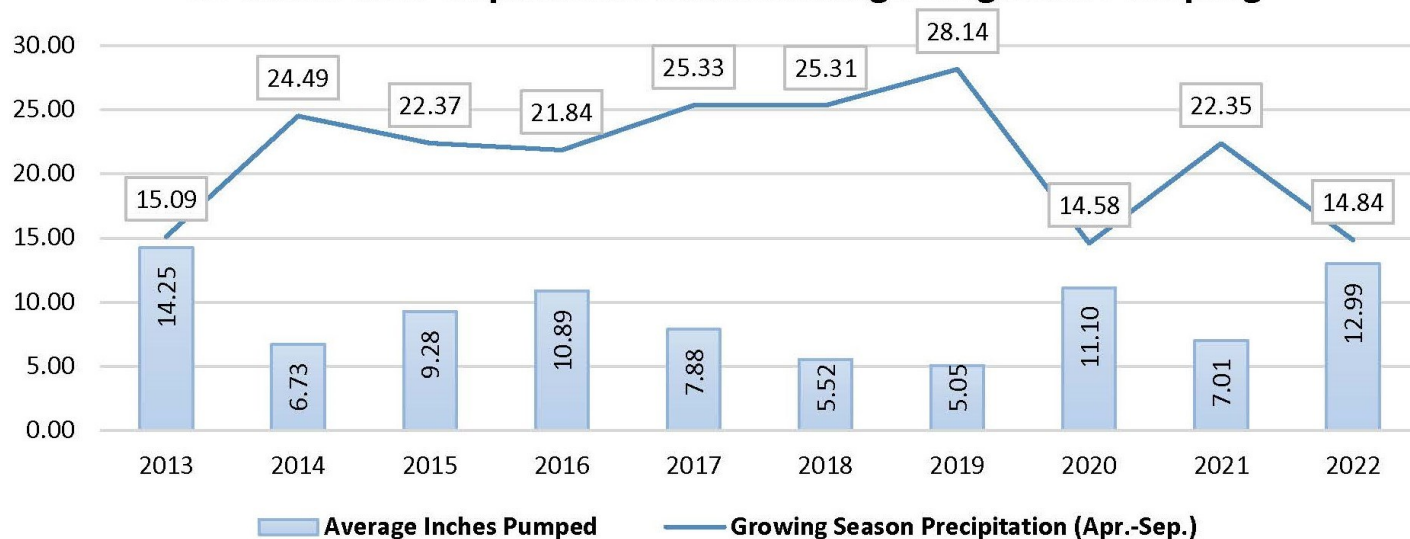
As you are preparing for spring irrigation season, it is important to be sure your irrigation system flow meter is in proper working condition for accurate reporting of your annual water use to Tri-Basin NRD. Be sure to record the beginning reading on your meter before you start watering your crops. Irrigation water meters are especially susceptible to damage due to the harsh environments in which they operate. Additionally, protection and maintenance of the flow meter can help avoid costly repairs in the future.

We have compiled a list of basic flow meter information and some tips for protecting and maintaining your water meter.

- Keep the flow meter register covered and make sure the register canopy lid is closed and not damaged. For added protection, insulated register canopy covers can be purchased for some meters, such as McCrometer meters.
- Check the meter frequently when in use and read and record the meter reading after each irrigated round. If the meter quits working, regular previous readings can be used to determine when the meter broke and how much water was pumped.
- Check the meter register for water damage. Water inside the register canopy, including water droplets or fogging on the inside of the lens is a sure sign of a problem and should be repaired immediately to prevent further damage.
- Never try to service or repair your water meter yourself. Cutting or removing the register seal by an unauthorized person is a violation of metering regulations. Only qualified persons or businesses can service and repair water meters.
- Have the meter serviced regularly. Many water meters need to be serviced every year or two. Additionally, many water meters have electronic registers and the batteries should be checked and replaced when needed by a qualified technician.



## Tri-Basin NRD Republican Basin Average Irrigation Pumping



## Crop ET Data Texting Service

Signup for Crop ET Data texting. Five days a week you will receive a text message with the daily and future three days water use for both corn and soybeans. The plant date will be sent at the beginning of the season so you can adjust as needed for your crop. This year we plan to add a weekly text with precipitation and growing degree days. To sign up, text START to 855-743-2457 or contact Sasha at the Tri-Basin NRD for more information.



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# Tri-Basin Topics

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Permit No. 220

**Tri-Basin Natural Resources District**  
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email: [tribasin@tribasinncrd.org](mailto:tribasin@tribasinncrd.org)  
[www.tribasinncrd.org](http://www.tribasinncrd.org)

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

*Nebraska's NRDs: Protecting Lives, Protecting Property, Protecting the Future*

## Calendar

April 25-26	Water Jamboree
April 28	Arbor Day Tree Give-Away
May 9	NRD Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.*
May 29	NRD Closed for Memorial Day
June 1	Chemigation Renewal Permits Due
June 19	Office Open, Juneteenth
June 20	NRD Board Meeting, 1:30 p.m.*
July 4	NRD Closed for Independence Day
July 11	NRD Board meeting, 1:30 p.m.*
August 8	NRD Board tour and meeting, 1:30 p.m.**
September 4	NRD Closed for Labor Day
September 12	NRD Board meeting, 7:30 p.m.*
September 19	Rainwater Basin Conservation Day

\* Times are tentative. All meetings are at TBNRD office in Holdrege unless otherwise noted. \*\*Location to be determined

### TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bradley Lundeen, Chairman	Wilcox
Todd Garrelts, Vice Chairman	Holdrege
Robin Hinrichs, Treasurer	Axtell
Joe Bilka, Secretary	Holdrege
Brian Bergstrom	Axtell
Joel Grams	Minden
David Grimes	Minden
Ed Harris	Loomis
Joe Larson	Loomis
G. Reed Philips	Bertrand
David Raffety	Kearney
Larry Reynolds	Lexington
Jeff Ryan	Heartwell

### TRI-BASIN NRD STAFF

Dana Christensen	Water Resources Technician
Amy Dutton	Minden Office Secretary
Tammy Fahrenbruch	Water Programs Coordinator
Lori Hagan	Office Clerk
Sasha Hahn	Information & Education Coordinator
Nolan Little	Water Resources Manager
Carie Lynch	Administrative Secretary
Nate Munter	Land Resources Coordinator
Patrick Nott	Water Resources Technician
Nancy Pemberton	Elwood Office Secretary
Tami Reese	Holdrege Office Secretary
Dalton Refior	Land Resources Technician
Esther Smith	Office Assistant
John Thorburn	General Manager
Jeff VanEperen	Water Resources Technician

A mailing list is maintained and requests to be placed on the list should be sent to the above address. Comments and suggestions may be addressed to the General Manager.

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To request an electronic version of this newsletter, send an email [shahn@tribasinncrd.org](mailto:shahn@tribasinncrd.org).