

Out of the Blue

Newsletter for Little Blue Natural Resources District

Rules and Regulations Changes

by: Jessica Hedges

As of June 1st, 2023, a change to the water use reporting deadline of the "Groundwater Management Rules and Regulations" and several Recreation Area rules went into effect. We have listed below the rules and changes:

WATER USE REPORTING RULE CHANGE:

Water use reports were previously due on or before December 31st, of each year. However, Water use reports are now due on or before December 15th, of each year.

The New Rule Now Reads:

All agricultural water users, including recreational, fish & wildlife users, shall report to the District the groundwater withdrawal from each high-capacity water well he or she controlled for the calendar year on or before December 15th, of each year.

RECREATION AREA RULE CHANGES:

1. For All LBNRD Recreation Areas:

Previously, The use of flotation devices within designated swimming areas were prohibited, except for such devices approved by the United States Coast Guard.

Now:

The use of flotation devices within designated swimming areas is permitted at your own risk.

2. At Bruning Dam Recreation Area:

Horseback riding is allowed on roadways and throughout the park. Riders should be aware that the area will be open for hunting and archery during the appropriate seasons.

3. At Liberty Cove Recreation Area:

Swimming and wading are permitted. These activities are "at your own risk." No lifeguards on duty. The district is not responsible for any accidents or loss of life.

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 Little Blue Natural Resources District

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2023 Tree Planting Season

by: Jessica Hedges

This year was one of our most productive tree planting seasons yet! We sold a total of 7,552 trees across the district. 4,308 trees were planted by the purchaser. 2,700 trees were planted by district employees.

Adams County planted 1,475 trees, Clay County planted 1,025 trees, Fillmore County planted 125 trees, Jefferson County planted 725 trees, Nuckolls County planted 900 trees, Thayer County planted 2,073 trees, and the LBNRD planted 55 trees at our recreation areas.

The future of our natural resources lies in the hands of our children. Therefore, the Little Blue Natural Resources District feels youth education is a top priority. Earth Day and Arbor Day offer an excellent time for staff to visit elementary aged children and offer them gift – a free tree!

544 trees were distributed to 7 schools, with Blue Spruce being the popular choice this year. Jessica was able to spend approximately ten hours of classroom time interacting with students ranging from pre-kindergarten to eighth grade. The point of focus during the presentations was the different parts of a tree, and what functions those parts provide for the tree.

If you are interested in adding a school to this tree distribution list next year, please reach out to Jessica Hedges, jhedges@littlebluenrd.org or call the office 402-364-2145.



Recreation Exploration

by: Jessica Hedges

Feeling the need to get away from it all? You're in luck! Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) offer numerous opportunities to enjoy and appreciate our natural world. Many of the NRDs build and operate public recreation areas available to all who wish to view wildlife, fish and hunt, take nature walks, use bike trails or participate in other outdoor activities. NRD recreation facilities are built and operated to meet multipurpose needs – combining recreation with flood control, wildlife habitat enhancement, soil erosion and sediment control, or wetland renovation along our rivers and streams to protect lives, property and the future. So, whether you are a visitor to Nebraska or a resident of our beautiful state, get out and enjoy one of the numerous NRD recreation areas!

NRD Recreation Exploration

The Recreation Exploration challenges participants to visit as many Natural Resources District (NRD) recreation areas as they can between March 1, 2023, and Sept. 15, 2023. Visit an NRD recreation area and submit a photo at www.nrdnet.org/nrd-recreation-exploration-entry-form for a chance to win prizes!

- Monthly Drawings: March-September (\$100 Scheels gift card)
- March Winner: Scott from David City
- April Winner: Angela from Elkhorn
- Second Runner-Up: Late September (\$300 Scheels gift card)
- Runner Up: Late September (\$500 Scheels gift card)
- Grand Prize Drawing: Late September (\$1,500 Scheels gift card)

Use the map on the NARD Website (<https://www.nrdnet.org/recreation>) to plan your stop at more than 80 NRD recreation areas across the state!



NeRain Volunteers Needed

by: Jessica Hedges



The Nebraska Rainfall Assessment and Information Network needs your assistance. We are in search of Volunteers to report rainfall daily. We would like an equal distribution of Volunteers of all ages to report rainfall amounts directly to a website from your home. Each participant will get a new quality gauge and reporting forms.

The data compiled by this program can be used by crop

consultants and producers for making local irrigation application decisions. It will also assist in future developments of the models associated with the Platte, Republican, Blue and Loup Rivers and will be available for any additional studies where rainfall data would be needed. Data such as this can be used to better understand the distribution of large-scale storms, very localized storms, and the ability to project more accurate flood warning data.

If you are interested in joining our NeRain Team contact Jessica Hedges at the LBNRD office 402.364.2145 or email her at jhedges@littlebluenrd.org.

Chemigation Notice

by: Alicia Epps

Notice: Little Blue NRD Staff will be out in the fields over the rest of summer performing chemigation inspections.

Upcoming Tire Recycling Dates

by: Jessica Hedges

Nuckolls County - August 4th | 9am - 4pm,
County Road Dept in Nelson

Webster County - August 29th | 8am - 12pm,
102 N University, Guide Rock

Thayer County - September 7th | 8am - 12pm,
873 4th St, Hebron

Clay County - September 14th | 8am - 12pm,
701 N Martin, Clay Center

Fillmore County - November 21st | 12pm -
4pm, Fairmont Air Base

New Employee

by: Todd Leininger

Todd grew up on a farm south of Sutton, Nebraska. He graduated from Sutton High School in 1985. After high school, he went to Central Community College in Hastings, NE.

Todd currently lives on a farmstead southeast of Sutton with his wife, Patty. When Todd isn't busy, he enjoys hunting, fishing, riding his motorcycle and the great outdoors. He also enjoys farming & ranching. Todd is looking forward to being part of the team at the Little Blue Natural Resources District.



FSA

by: Alicia Epps

If you made changes during planting season, please submit an FSA 578 and map to Alicia Epps at aepps@littlebluenrd.org or drop them off at the office in Davenport, Little Blue NRD, PO Box 100 Davenport, NE 68335. Also, make sure to include the legal and irrigation type.

Jul

Jul 4th: Independence Day (Office Closed)
Jul 11th: LBNRD Board Meeting
Jul 13 - 14th: Water Leader's Academy

Aug

Aug 8th: LBNRD Board Meeting

Sept

Sept 4th: Labor Day (Office Closed)
Sept 12th: LBNRD Board Meeting
Sept: Annual NARD Conference
Sept 20th & 21st: Water Jamboree

Oct

Oct 4th: South Central Land Judging
Oct 9th: Columbus Day (Office Closed)
Oct 10th: LBNRD Board Meeting





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LITTLE BLUE STAFF

Scott Nelson - General Manager
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Alicia Epps - Database Specialist
Jessica Hedges - Media & Communication Specialist
Kevin Orvis - Project Manager
Jim Oltmans - Water Resources Technician
Todd Leininger - Natural Resources Technician
Tim Hecke - Operations Supervisor

FIELD OFFICES

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Clay County NRCS Secretary - Allyson Peshek
402-762-3569
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402-759-4017
Jefferson NRD/NRCS Technician - Christine Zabokrtsky
Jefferson County NRCS Secretary - Paula Schultz
402-729-6134
Thayer County NRCS Secretary - Jessica Hynek
402-768-6228
Webster County NRCS Secretary - Lynetta Snelling
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The Little Blue NRD's Out of the Blue is a publication of the Little Blue Natural Resources District. Requests to be placed on the Out of the Blue mailing list and/or comments regarding information in this publication should be directed to Jessica Hedges, Media & Communications Specialist, 100 East 6th Street, PO Box 100, Davenport, NE 68335.