

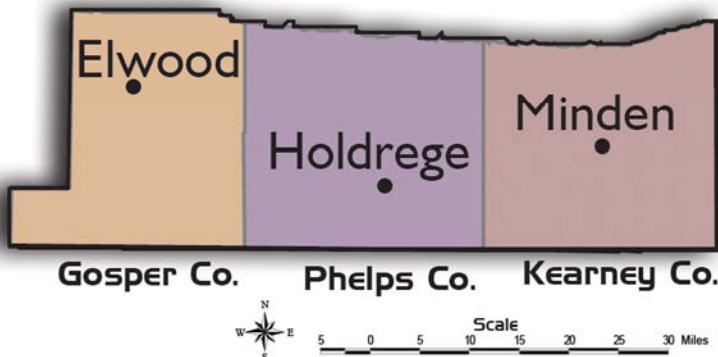
# KNOW YOUR NRD

**Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts**  
Making the Good Life Better Since 1972

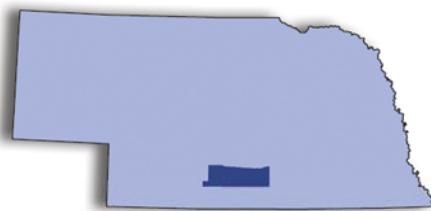


**TRI-BASIN**  
Natural Resources District  
Holdrege, NE

2013



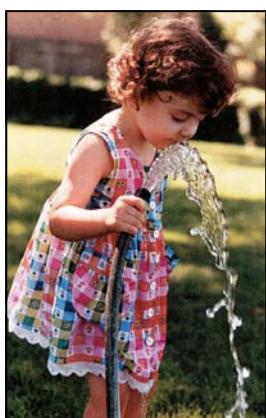
## TRI-BASIN NRD



— Protecting lives —

### Safeguarding Our Drinking Water from Contamination

Tri-Basin NRD is committed to protecting the quality of groundwater in our district. We sample 262 wells throughout the three-county district for nitrate levels. TBNRD has had a Groundwater Quality Management Area in place for 20 years.



Management area rules Restrict application of nitrogen-based fertilizer on crop land to protect our drinking water supplies.

— Protecting property —

### Working Together to Prepare for Storms

Tri-Basin NRD is working with Phelps, Gosper and Kearney Counties to create a district-wide Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan will outline steps that would be taken in an emergency. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires local governments to have a Hazard Mitigation Plan before it will provide federal disaster relief funding. The ice storms of January 2007 demonstrated the need for such a plan.



— Protecting the future —

### Checking the Pulse of Our Aquifers

Making sure future generations have an adequate supply of water is an important part of the mission of Tri-Basin NRD. In order to properly manage our groundwater supplies, we need to regularly measure our aquifers and try to discern trends. In 2003, Tri-Basin NRD initiated a project to drill dedicated observation wells to monitor groundwater levels throughout the district. The intent of the project is to have at least one dedicated observation well (continued on back).



### TBNRD QUICK FACTS:

**Tri-Basin NRD's Vision:** *To work cooperatively with District residents and others to promote good stewardship of land and water resources.*

#### River Basins:

Little Blue (25% of land area)  
Platte (35% of land area)  
Republican (40% of land area)

Students and adults who attended TBNRD educational events in 2012: 1400

Groundwater Quality Wells Sampled: 259

Dedicated Observation Wells: 109

## Project & Program Highlights

### Checking the Pulse of Our Aquifers (continued)

well per township within Tri-Basin NRD. This allows us to continuously monitor groundwater levels and make sure that any significant changes are addressed in a timely manner.

This well (right), drilled in Kearney County, is a cluster well, which measures water levels in two aquifers. Each of the dedicated observation wells has a pressure-transducer data logger, which takes water level readings twice a day. The data is then graphed in order to track changes in groundwater levels. The well-drilling phase of this project has been completed. One hundred nine dedicated observation wells were drilled within Tri-Basin NRD. The project is funded by a combination of Tri-Basin NRD funds and a grant from the Department of Natural Resources Integrated Water Management Plan Program Fund.



### Ensuring the Quality of Rural Domestic Water

State and federal laws require municipal water systems and other public water suppliers to test their water regularly to insure that it is free from contaminants. Tri-Basin NRD wants rural residents in Gosper, Phelps and Kearney Counties to have drinking water that is as safe as public water supplies. Tri-Basin Natural Resources District offers rural residents free household drinking water tests for nitrates and bacteria once a year.

Any district resident who uses a household water well can pick up a free water testing kit from the Tri-Basin NRD office in Holdrege. The kits are also available at the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation District offices in Elwood, Minden and Holdrege. The kits include instructions for obtaining water samples. Test results are sent to the Tri-Basin NRD office, where they are recorded in a water quality database. The results are then forwarded to the home owner, along with information about protecting water quality. For more information on this program, please contact Tri-Basin NRD at (308) 995-6688 or 1-877-995-6688.

### Protecting Natural Habitat

Tri-Basin NRD works with district landowners to enroll their center pivot corners in conservation programs, in which they plant the corners to native grass and "grow" wild game birds, like pheasant and quail. Three conservation programs give farmers incentives to plant native grass for wildlife instead of farming pivot corners. These programs are the Pheasants Forever Corners for Wildlife program, the USDA-EQIP program and the USDA-CREP program. Much of this land is open for public hunting. Maps of public hunting areas are available at the NRD office.



### Nebraska's NRDs:

- Protect lives through flood protection
- Manage groundwater responsibly
- Use taxpayer dollars effectively

Formed in 1972, Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts are local government entities with broad responsibilities to protect our natural resources.

NRDs help Nebraskans respond to natural resource challenges with local control and local solutions. Major Nebraska river basins form the boundaries of the 23 NRDs, which are governed by locally elected boards of directors.

Tri-Basin NRD is unique because it includes portions of three different river basins: the Republican, the Platte, and the Little Blue Basins.

Tri-Basin NRD is governed by a 13-member board of directors, who are elected by voters within the district. The board sets policy for the district and then works with the staff to carry out the district's goals. TBNRD staff work cooperatively with other local and state groups to promote good stewardship of natural resources in the district.

Find out more about Nebraska's NRDs at [www.nrdnet.org](http://www.nrdnet.org) and [www.tribasinnrd.org](http://www.tribasinnrd.org)