

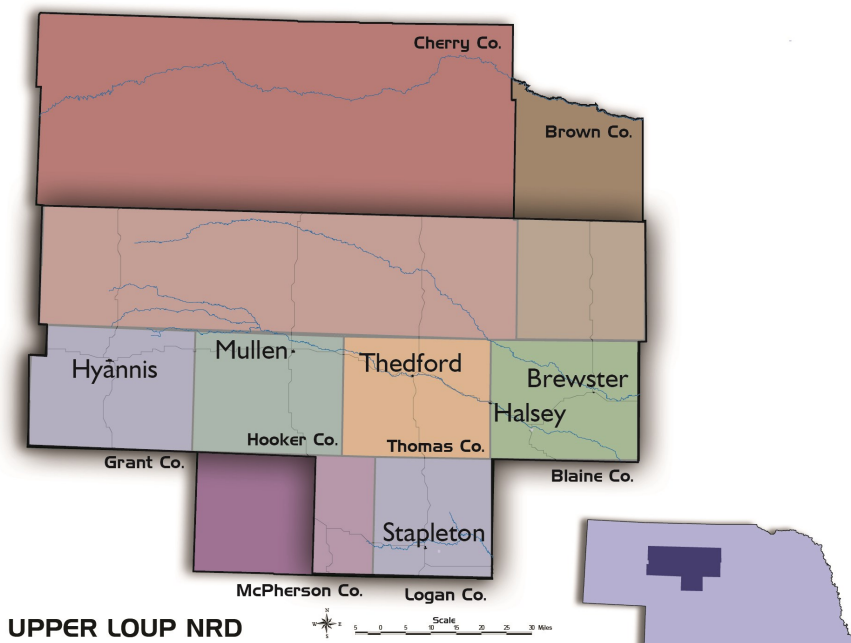
KNOW YOUR NRD



UPPER LOUP
Natural Resources District
Thedford, NE

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

Summer 2013



ULNRD Quick Facts:

- ULNRD encompasses 4,275,000 total acres:
 - 4,199,566 grassland
 - 71,541 irrigated cropland
 - 38,975 lakes and rivers
- Provides free nitrate and bacteria water testing
- 16,630 trees planted in 2013
- 44,335 feet of mulch installed in 2013
- 100+ groundwater wells checked biannually for static water levels
- Nitrate levels tested
 - 200+ domestic wells tested annually
 - 100+ irrigation wells tested
 - 11 wells with continuous recording
- Collected and recycled 230,000 lbs of material since July of 2010

Protecting Lives, Protecting Property, Protecting the Future

Recycling Program

To promote conservation, water quality, and waste reduction within the District, the ULNRD implemented a district-wide recycling program in 2010. With help from the Nebraska Environmental Trust, the ULNRD was able to place eight recycling trailers in the District. The trailers are located in Brownlee, Dunning, Halsey, Hyannis, Mullen, Seneca, Stapleton, and one in the NRD parking lot in Thedford. Materials collected are number 1-7 plastics, aluminum, tin, paper, newspapers, magazines and cardboard.

In 2012, a baling facility was built to house one baler to bale cardboard and paper and one aluminum/tin densifier to crush aluminum and tin. Over the last 2 years, 230,000 lbs of material has been collected and transported to our end market in Broken Bow.

The newest addition to the recycling program is the recycling of electronics. Electronics collected are calculators, cell

phones and pagers, digital and video cameras, eBook readers, GPS and radar detectors, inkjet cartridges, iPads and tablets, iPods and MP3 players, mobile hot spots, PDAs, video games and accessories, video game consoles and handhelds. Some inkjet cartridges are also accepted. Rechargeable batteries and chargers are also accepted with the electronics. Collection boxes are at Security First Bank, Ewoldt's Grocery Store, the Courthouse and the NRD office in Thedford; or Nebraskaland National Bank in Mullen.



Working Together

The ULNRD, along with the Dimensions Foundation, helped initiate the first high school level outdoor classroom in the state. The classroom is located at the Mullen High School.

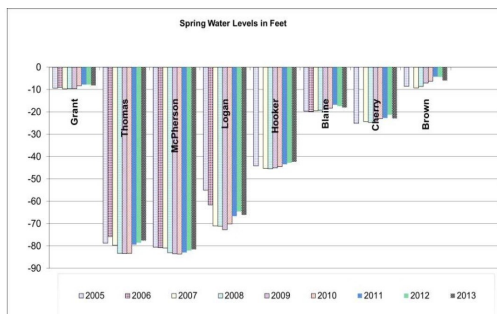
The ULNRD also offers several cost-share programs to ease some of the monetary burdens associated with implementing various conservation procedures. We provide cost share funding for drip wells, WILD NE, Yard Enhancement Plantings, Trees for Newborns, Memorial Trees, Planned Grazing Systems, Shelter Belt Plantings, Leafy Spurge Control, Soil Testing and Corners for Wildlife.

Alongside our cost-share programs, we also offer these services: recycling no-till drill and gopher machine rental, deer and small rodent repellent, tree and shrub planting, weed barrier installation, water testing, and Chemigation permits and inspections.

Programs

Groundwater Quality and Quantity Management

The ULNRD keeps over 200 domestic well users protected by testing their wells annually to ensure the quality of their drinking water. Domestic wells are a primary source of drinking water for many families within the District. Domestic wells are susceptible to nitrate and coliform contamination due to their construction, location, soil type and age. The District's primary soil type is sand. This type of soil allows contaminants to pass through more easily, thus increasing the potential for contamination. Average nitrate levels across the District run 2.8ppm, well below the



EPA's safe level of 10ppm. A district-wide network of a 100 plus observation wells is in place to help monitor static groundwater level changes in the spring and fall. Several soil moisture sensors are located throughout the NRD to help producers see the value of irrigation performance through better scheduling and use of best management practices.

Soil Conservation and Land Treatment

Conservation is vital to ensure the sustainability of our natural resources. The ULNRD offers cost-share assistance for practices that help reduce erosion, improve forage production, stabilize the soil and impound runoff. Such practices include planned grazing systems, critical area planting, range seeding, leafy spurge control and construction of small water impoundment dams. The District also has two no-till drills and a gopher bait machine available for producer use.

Tree Planting

Trees are one of our most important natural resources. They provide home and livestock protection, prevention of soil erosion, and provide wildlife habitat. To encourage tree planting, the ULNRD has low cost tree and shrub seedlings available, as well as, Yard Enhancement and Trees for Newborns programs. We also provide planting and weed barrier services, design, and technical advice for planting sites and windbreaks.



Wildlife Habitat

The ULNRD assists landowners with the enrollment of a variety of wildlife habitat conservation programs that provide incentives to plant native grasses, shrubs and trees. The District cooperates with the United States Department of Agriculture, Pheasants Forever, and the Nebraska Games and Parks Commission to protect our habitat for future generations.

Education

The ULNRD believes that education is the key to protecting the future of natural resources and strives to provide the latest information to both adults and youth. The District provides presentations for any school or community organization. These presentations can focus on a variety of topics such as: water, wildlife, pollution, forestry, land treatment, and other conservation topics.

The ULNRD partners with other districts to hold the Adventure Camp about the Environment (ACE Camp). ACE Camp provides middle school students a fun environment to learn more about our soils, water, forestry, wildlife, and range. The District also provides scholarships along with assisting with the Envirothon, Children's Groundwater Festival, as well as Land and Range Judging contests. Other educational opportunities are available for district students and educators such as: hunter and boater safety classes and a resource library.



Nebraska's NRD'S

- Protecting Your Health through Groundwater Monitoring
- Protecting Our Natural Resources for Future Generations

NRD's were created by the Nebraska Legislature in 1972. They were formed using Nebraska's 13 major river basins. While all NRD's share a common set of responsibilities, each district is governed by its own locally elected board of directors. Each district sets its priorities and develops programs that best serve local needs.

About the Upper Loup NRD

The ULNRD is dedicated to the conservation, preservation, and wise use of natural resources. We are based in Thedford and cover eight counties in the Sandhills with a population under 5,000. We are governed by 11 elected directors. The NRD and its programs are locally funded through property taxes and customer sales. ULNRD continues to maintain a responsible budget to lessen the property tax burdens of its constituents. For example, on a property valued at \$50,000 the ULNRD's share is \$12.50 per year.

Concerned about your natural resources? So are we. Give us a call or stop by our office and visit with us about your needs. Find out more about Nebraska's NRD at www.nrdnet.org