

For Immediate Release

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Natural Resources Districts Focus on New Studies, New Tools, and New Programs at 2016 Annual Conference; Nebraska Governor Plans to Attend

(Kearney, NE) Protecting the public and Nebraska's water, soil and other natural resources are the Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) top priority. New studies, tools and programs will be presented at the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) Annual Conference on **Monday, September 26th and Tuesday, September 27th of 2016** to assist each District in doing just that. An agenda is attached.

Governor Pete Ricketts plans to speak at the conference on Tuesday, September 27th at Noon in Room: Diamond 3-4 during the Luncheon. Three Nebraska senators are scheduled to attend the Annual Conference on Monday and Tuesday as well. The Annual Conference is being held at the Younes Conference Center at 416 W. Talmadge Road in Kearney, NE.

The media is invited to attend the two-day event. There are several important topics that affect all Nebraskans planned to be discussed.

Here are a few key topics:

- The latest movement of the Emerald Ash Borer, where it is, rate of infestation and prevention tools the public can use. There's a lot of misinformation floating around out there. Here's your chance to get the facts. This little beetle is in Nebraska and has plans to cause millions of dollars in damage. (Monday, 9:30 am – 10:30 am, Room: Diamond 3 - 4)
- The North Platte Natural Resources District has invested in a telemetry project that reads groundwater flow meters remotely. This program not only will help the NRD improve water management practices, but will also have the potential to save tax payers and landowners money and time when managing their own properties. (Monday, 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Room: Diamond 1)
- A Soil Loss Model is being successfully used in Iowa and may be on its way to Nebraska. The Daily Erosion Project (DEP) is an erosion simulation project that predicts daily soil erosion rates across the state. Knowing this information could potentially help the NRDs in retaining vital nutrients in Nebraska's soil for future generations to use. (Monday, 10:45 am – 11:45 am, Room: Diamond 1)
- Topics also include updates on how drones can help ag and natural resources in Nebraska and more information on the Nebraska Silver Jackets group which is a unique group of people from different agencies helping manage potential flooding risks across the state.

Three Hall of Fame inductees and five Conservation award winners will be available for interviews. Conservation award winners will be at the Luncheon at Noon on Monday. Hall of Fame inductees will be at the Banquet at 6 pm on Monday. Both will be in Room: Diamond 3-4.

A live and silent auction will begin around 7:30 pm on Monday to help raise money for the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) Foundation. This foundation assists youth programs involved in natural resources and agriculture. It helps encourage our youth to learn about our environment and care about our land. Once again, media is invited to attend.

For more information or to set up an interview, contact Erika Hill, Public Relations Director for NARD. Office #: 402-471-7672 Cell #: 402-570-2283 Email: ehill@nrdnet.org Note: Please call Erika Hill's cell phone on Monday, Sept. 26 and Tuesday, Sept. 27 if you plan to attend the conference @ 402-570-2283.

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The Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD), the trade association for Nebraska's 23 natural resources districts, works with individual NRDs to protect lives, protect property, and protect the future of Nebraska's natural resources. These districts are unique to Nebraska. NRD's are local government entities with broad responsibilities to protect our natural resources. Major Nebraska river basins form the boundaries of the 23 NRDs, enabling districts to respond best to local conservation and resource management needs. To learn more about Nebraska's NRDs visit www.nrdnet.org. NARD is located at 6601 S. 12th St. Suite 201, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508. Email NARD at nard@nrdnet.org or call NARD at (402) 471-7670.