



# Lower Republican NRD Review

Protecting Lives, Protecting Property, Protecting the Future

FALL 2018

Volume 56

## Free Tire Recycling

**Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 8am-Noon**

**Hildreth:** Fire Hall, 248 Commercial St  
**Franklin County Residents Only**

**Red Cloud:** Lot south of C&D on east side  
of S Hwy 281 (north of RR tracks & old eleva-  
tor) **Webster County Residents Only**

**Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup> from 8am-Noon**

**Alma:** Corner of John & South St (One Block  
South of Hogeland's Market) **Harlan County Resi-  
dents Only**

Here are some things to keep in mind.

- *No early or late drop-offs*
- *Not Accepted—tire rims & inner tubes*
- *No commercial operations or dealers*
- *Bring accurate count or scale tickets*
- *Pre-weigh large loads*
- *Front-end Loader Available*

For more information on this clean-up,  
contact the LRNRD at 308-928-2182.

This event is spon-  
sored by the Coun-  
ty Commissioners  
or County Supervi-  
sors, NDEQ, Lower  
Republican Natu-  
ral Resources District (LRNRD) and Trail-  
blazer RC&D.



## Conservation Funding Available for Irrigation Improvements

The LRNRD is pleased to announce that agricultural producers have the opportunity to receive conservation funding. In 2016, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) awarded the Upper, Middle and Lower Republican NRDs \$2.1 million as part of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program and approximately \$300,000 remain for funding in 2019. Eligible producers have until November 16, 2018 to apply for funding.

Producers in the Upper, Middle and Lower Republican NRDs in southwest Nebraska, which includes all or portions of Perkins, Chase, Dundy, Lincoln, Hayes, Hitchcock, Frontier, Red Willow, Furnas, Harlan, Franklin, Webster, and Nuckolls counties, may apply for funding to make irrigation system efficiency improvements. Eligible conservation practices include: converting gravity systems to subsurface drip with a maximum payment of \$1,000 per acre; permanently retiring end guns on pivots for \$2,000 per acre; and installing high intensity soil moisture sensors for an approximate total of \$5,000 over a three-year period. Priority is given to high water use areas, but all areas within the three NRDs are eligible.

Funding through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program is also available to producers in the Republican NRDs to improve wildlife and pollinator habitat and improve soil health through increasing cover crop and crop rotation activities.

Producers in the Republic Basin NRDs interested in participating in these conservation efforts should contact their local NRCS office and apply for funding by **November 16, 2018**.



## Range Judging & Land Judging Contests

The Area 3 Range Judging contest, one of six statewide, was held on September 18<sup>th</sup> near Elwood. Eleven schools, from Chase County to Red Cloud, participated bringing over 50 teams. The district schools involved were Arapahoe, Red Cloud, and Southern Valley. A total of 189 students and 6 adults competed this year. The participants identified 24 individual plants and evaluated three ecological sites and one ranch map.

Five Senior Division teams from the LRNRD made the top ten with one of the Southern Valley teams placing second overall. The LRNRD also had three Junior Division teams placing in the top ten. A Southern Valley Junior Team placed third. To see the full results from this year's contest, go to <http://www.nesrm.org/RangeJudging>.

The LRNRD hosted the Southwest Region Land Judging Competition on October 3<sup>th</sup> near Franklin. The contestants evaluated soil thickness, texture, and particle size. They looked at the slope of the land and determined erosion and flood potential. Land judging is a great introduction to understanding the balance between the soil, water, and air, and how that sustains the life of plants and animals.



208 students and six adults competed. 56 teams from 15 schools across the region. District Schools who competed include Alma, Cambridge, Franklin, Southern Valley and Wilcox-Hildreth. Seven district teams placed in the top ten with a team from Alma earning first place and a Franklin team placing second. Congratulations to all the students competing. Full contest results will be posted at

<https://www.nrdnet.org/nebraska-land-judging-soil-evaluation>.



Southwest Land Judging Contest Top: Alma-Joseph Felix, Tyson McCurdy, Hunter Dahlgren and Isaac McCurdy. Bottom: Franklin-Joe Kahrs, Emma Goosic, Courtney Meade, and Chase Haussermann (not pictured).

## Spring Tree Planting

It is time to make plans for planting trees next spring. The LRNRD cost-shares trees and shrubs and their planting with minimum orders of 100 trees or \$100.

The benefits of windbreaks are numerous. They protect your home and livestock, and when planted along cropland edges they increase crop production.

Early planning and tree ordering are encouraged. Orders are now being accepted at your county Natural Resources Conservation Service for spring plantings. They will assist you with deciding which tree species will work best for you, draft planting plans, and filling out the cost-share forms. Check with your local NRCS office now. **The deadline for ordering trees is March 8th.**



## NSWCP Funding Available

There is still funding available for the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program (NSWCP). Contact your local NRCS office to apply for cost share. Applications will be approved in order of priority: 1. Water; 2. Range; 3. Erosion.

### #KEEPTHESTUBBLE

Mirrored after the national cancer awareness “No Shave November” campaign, “No Till November” encourages producers keep a different kind of stubble. This fall park the tillage equipment in the shed and leave crop stubble in the field.

There are many benefits to this practice. It improves soil health and allows for more biological activity to continue in the soil. It saves time and money while preserving moisture and reducing erosion.

For more information on protecting or improving soil health, contact your local NRCS office.



### Flow Meter Readings

The LRNRD technicians are currently reading irrigation flow meters in the District. These meter readings will be used to determine water usage from the 2018 irrigation season. If you are not done irrigating or there is a possibility that you irrigated after your meter was read, please contact our office at 308-928-2182.

Please remember that it is the water user's responsibility to have operational flow meters on every well. The LRNRD provides assistance to water users to make sure that flow meters are reading properly. The LRNRD staff is certified and trained by McCrometer to make necessary repairs. Additionally, we can provide ultrasonic testing to assist water users with their water management decisions. Contact our office if you believe your meter is not working properly. Please have your flow-meter serial number handy when you call.



### 2018 Allocation Usage

The LRNRD board set a 13” cap on water usage for 2018. There will be a **3 to 1 penalty** for usage that exceeds the 13” cap. These caps were set to control the amount of water used this year in an effort to stay in compliance with the Republican River Compact. Water used this year will be deducted from the inches remaining for the 2018-2022 allocation period. The new period began with a total of 45” divide over the 5 years, with up to a 9” carry over.

### Board of Directors

Subdistrict 1	Clark Andrews, Holbrook
Subdistrict 1	Toby tenBensel, Holbrook
Subdistrict 2	Bill Bose, Orleans - Vice Chair
Subdistrict 2	Marlin Murdoch, Orleans - Chair
Subdistrict 3	Tim Kahrs, Franklin - Treasurer
Subdistrict 3	Matt Harrison, Naponee
Subdistrict 4	Nelson Trambly, Campbell
Subdistrict 4	David Bartels, Riverton - Secretary
Subdistrict 5	Terry Hoyt, Red Cloud
Subdistrict 5	Roger Nelson, Superior
At-Large	Bradley Wulf, Red Cloud

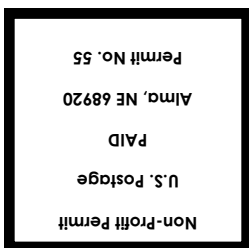
### LRNRD Staff

Todd Siel	General Manager
Scott Dicke	Assistant Manager
Shirlee Poyser	Administrative Assistant
Kristi Heft	Water Resources Administrator
Sasha Hahn	Water Secretary/Info. & Edu.
Lonnie Knehans	Rural Water Superintendent
Scot Lennemann	Water Resources Technician
Maclane Scott	Water Resources Technician
Colt Livingston	Water Resources Technician
Mary Goebel	Franklin County Office Secretary
Jennifer Helms	Furnas County Office Secretary
Brittnay Nurnberg	Harlan County Office Secretary
Patsy Ord	Nuckolls County Office Secretary
Lynetta Snelling	Webster County Office Secretary

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 2**—Tire Recycling Franklin Co. & Webster Co.
- November 4**—Daylight Savings Time Ends
- November 5**—Tire Recycling Harlan Co.
- November 8**—Board Meeting 2 pm, Alma
- November 12**—Veteran’s Day Observed, Office Closed
- November 16**—RCPP Application Deadline
- November 22**—Thanksgiving, Office Closed
- December 13**—Board Meeting, 2 pm, Alma
- December 25**—Christmas, Office Closed
- January 1**—New Year’s Day, Office Closed
- January 10**—Board Meeting, 2 pm, Alma
- January 21**—Martin Luther King Jr Day, Office Closed

This is a publication of the  
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