



# Upper Loup Scoop

Upper Loup NRD

July 2023

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## Calendar of Events

### July

- 4** Independence Day  
ULNRD Office Closed
- 13** Board Meeting @  
ULNRD Office 7PM CT

### August

- 10** Board Meeting:  
ULNRD Office 7PM CT
- 23** Jr High Field Day-  
ULNRD Office

### September

- 4** Labor Day  
ULNRD Office Closed
- 10** Budget Hearing &  
Board Meeting:  
ULNRD Office 7PM CT

## Seeking Bids for Recycling Hauling Services

The Upper Loup recycling program has been in operation since 2010 and has grown from four trailers in four communities to 20 trailers, along with numerous collection bins in nine communities. Since the beginning of the program, the NRD has diverted over 1,105 tons from our local landfills, averaging 200,000+ pounds annually. The NRD is seeking bids for help in collecting, baling, and transporting our recyclable materials and collection trailers from their point of origin to end market, across the entire NRD District. If you have any interest or questions about submitting a bid please contact our General Manager, Anna Baum, prior to July 19, 2023.

## Directors Approve Expansion of Acres for 2024

With no substantial changes in groundwater levels across the NRD, the Directors voted to allow up to 2,500 new acres to be developed throughout the District for 2024. Each of the five sub-districts has been allotted 500 acres. Interested landowners must apply for any new irrigated acres on an Expansion of Irrigated Acres Application form which can be found on the ULNRD website. The application period is now through September 30, 2023. Along with the application form, the landowner needs to submit an aerial photo depicting the new acres as well as a one-time non-refundable administrative fee of \$100.00 per application of 25 acres or less, or \$500.00 for applications over 25 acres. A minimum score of 15 points on the Upper Loup NRD Irrigated Acre Ranking Sheet is required for an application to be considered for approval. Each application will be ranked according to the following criteria: density of irrigated acres within the vicinity, NRCS soil classification, stream depletion factor, needing to drill a new well, groundwater quality, slope, removal of trees and any other criteria deemed relevant by the NRD District. Acres approved for expansion must be certified with the Upper Loup NRD as well as have a flowmeter installed.



## Sub-District 3 Domestic Wells in Line for Testing Rotation

In Nebraska, about 95 percent of rural residents get their household water supply from private or domestic wells. If they are not properly protected, these wells are at risk of being contaminated from several sources. Potential sources of groundwater contamination which may be present near your home include septic tanks, animal waste, pesticides, fertilizers, fuel storage tanks, household chemicals, used motor oil, etc. The potential for contamination in our area is also increased because of the sandy soil.

The only way to determine if nitrates are present in your drinking water is by testing a sample because this contaminant is colorless, odorless, and tasteless. A water test for nitrates is highly recommended for households with infants, pregnant women, nursing mothers, or elderly people, as these groups are most susceptible to this contaminant.

The potential for water contamination, especially in our sandy soils, is always present, therefore; water quality requires long term monitoring. The



Upper Loup NRD recommends that all domestic wells, either registered or unregistered, get tested at least once every five years. Wells in Sub District 3, which includes all of Thomas County west of Highway 83 and the south third of Cherry County adjacent to Thomas County and east of Highway 97, are on schedule to be tested this year. We are glad to offer this important safety service to you AT NO CHARGE. Samples are most often collected from an outside faucet so there is no need for you to be present at collection time. If you have any questions or want to ensure you are on our test list you can contact our water technician at



Ispurlin@upperloupnrd.org or by calling our office.

## Hazard Mitigation Kick-Off Meeting Held

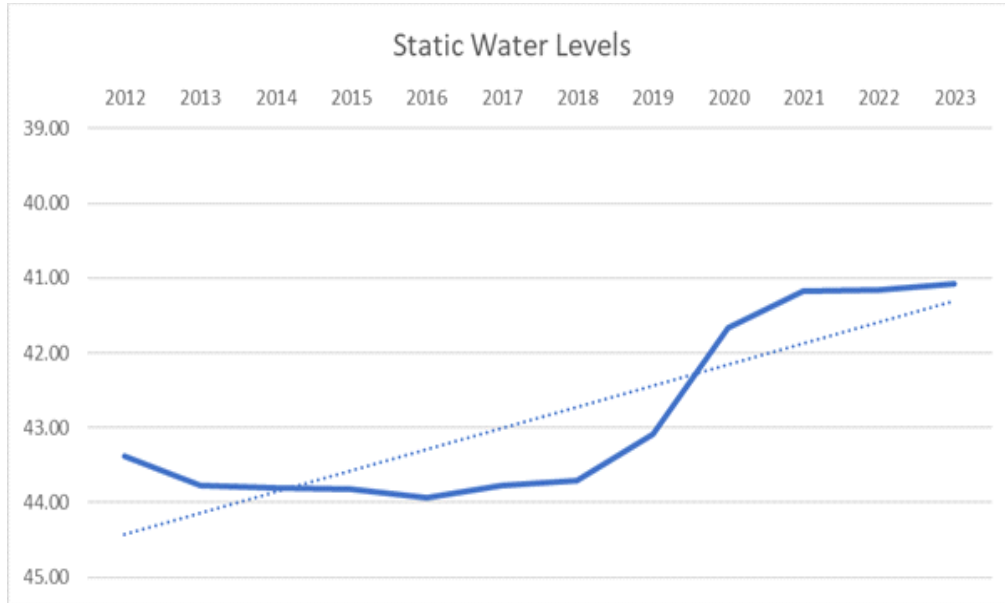
Good food, good company and good discussion was held Thursday June 16<sup>th</sup> at the Upper Loup NRD Learning Center. Several jurisdictions were represented at the meeting and discussed with JEO staff the scope of the project, roles and responsibilities of the planning team members, project goals and objectives, general project schedule, and preliminary data used for plan development.

The Upper Loup Natural Resources District (NRD) is beginning the process to update the regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) with the assistance of JEO Consulting Group (JEO). HMPs identify vulnerabilities and possible impacts and losses within participating jurisdictions to various natural and man-made hazards (e.g., flood, drought, wildfire, winter storm, dam failure, etc.). The HMP also identifies projects and strategies aimed at enhancing community resilience and preparedness by reducing local vulnerabilities for area-specific hazards. These plans are required to be updated every five years with the current effective plan expiring in 2025.



## District Groundwater Levels

Groundwater levels continue to maintain across the NRD District despite last year's drought. Over 110 wells representing all the sub-basins across the Upper Loup NRD are monitored yearly. The graph represents average levels (solid line) and the trend level for the past 12 years. The vertical axis shows the depth in feet – 0 represents ground level.



## Adventure Camp about the Environment to Return in 2024

Due to the Bovee Fire that occurred on October 2, 2022 at the Nebraska National Forest, Adventure Camp about the Environment was canceled for the 2023 season.

Good news! Camp will be returning in full force in the Summer of 2024! Adventure Camp about the Environment will be held June 26th-29th, 2024 at Kamp Kaleo located near Burwell.

Youths will be able to learn about our state's natural resources in a hands on exciting atmosphere. Sessions cover topics relating to water quality,



soil, forestry, wildlife, range, and more. Individuals will get the opportunity to learn from industry professionals while also experiencing all the fun of summer camp! Be sure to mark your calendars for next year and don't miss out on the comeback of ACE!

## In Other News..

### Spring Tree Numbers

This year the ULNRD planted 9,765 trees with our machine planter and sold 6,145 trees as hand plants. Executive Travel donated around 3,000 hand plants throughout the district. Thank you to every one who purchased trees!

### Chemigation

Justin will be out and about around the District conducting chemigation inspections. These inspections are on a 3 year rotation.

### Newsletter Subscriptions

Reminder: The Scoop has transitioned into an online platform. However, the NRD will be mailing out an Annual Report at the conclusion of each fiscal year. If you would like to receive our E-Newsletter please call the office to leave your email address or you can sign up at [upperloupnrd.org/newsletters](http://upperloupnrd.org/newsletters)



## ULNRD Staff

Anna Baum  
*General Manager*

Lexi Spurlin  
*Information & Education,  
Resources Technician*

Kyon Neal  
*Resources Technician*

Justin Sprague  
*Resources Technician*

Jamie Green  
*Administrative Secretary*

Spud Rowley  
*Recycling Coordinator*

Pam Petersen  
*Field Office Secretary*

## ULNRD Board of Directors

*Sub-District 1*  
David Vinton  
Rebecca Connealy

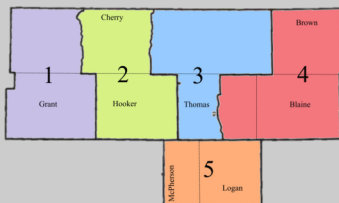
*Sub-District 2*  
Judy Ridenour  
John Kraye

*Sub-District 3*  
Chris Higgins  
Miles Maseberg

*Sub-District 4*  
Max Fay  
Tony Ruhter

*Sub-District 5*  
Tom Johnson  
Richard Burnside

*At Large*  
Patrick Wright



For the latest news check out  
[www.upperloupnrd.org](http://www.upperloupnrd.org)

## Thedford Fire Hall Arboretum

If you find yourself driving down Highway 2 through the Village of Thedford and need to stretch your legs, the NRD invites you to check out the Fire Hall Arboretum. It is located north of the highway behind the Thedford Fire Hall.



*Blue False Indigo*



*Catalpa in bloom*

Public parking is reserved at the western edge of the parking lot in front of the railroad ties. Please do not park in the spots reserved for the emergency service vehicles.

Over 3 years ago, the NRD decided to take a barren section of ground and create an aesthetically pleasing, conservation minded green space. This space provides an educational landscape with trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers.

There are over 30 species of conifer trees, deciduous trees, and shrubs; as well as a wide variety of native grasses and a pollinator garden. Test your tree and shrub identification skills by reviewing the wooden markers or enjoy a break at one of the picnic tables.



*Saskatoon Serviceberry*



## Summertime Trivia

1. The Serviceberry has other common names, what is another alias for this fruit?

- A. Blueberry      B. Juneberry      C. Summerberry      D. Servicecherry

2. The first Nebraska State Fair was held in what year?

- A. 1865      B. 1866      C. 1868      D. 1864

3. Where was the first Nebraska State Fair held?

- A. Omaha      B. Grand Island      C. Brownville      D. Nebraska City

4. A Guinness World Record was broken at the 2012 NE State Fair for the Largest Parade of Classic Tractors. How many tractors were in this parade?

- A. 500      B. 964      C. 356      D. 1,013

5. The Sandhills are one of the only remaining places to find this endangered plant species:

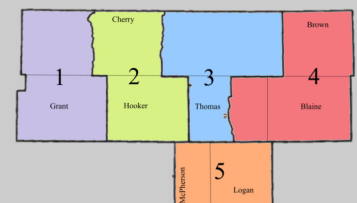
- A. Narrowleaf Penstemon      B. Blowout Penstemon  
C. Shell Leaf Penstemon

## Trivia Answers

1. B) Juneberry    2. C) 1868    3. D) NE City    4. B) 964    5. Blowout Penstemon

## Services Overview

- Recycling
  - Glass
  - Cardboard
  - Tin
  - Aluminium
  - Paper
    - shredded should be bagged
  - Plastics
    - must have numbered triangle on container
  - Electronics
- Tree Planning and Planting
  - Weed Barrier
  - Drip Irrigation
- No-Till Drill Rental
  - 10 ft Great Plains
    - \$8/acre
  - 15 ft Great Plains
    - \$10/acre
- Gopher Machine and Bait
  - Machine rental
    - \$15.83/day
  - .5% Strychine 50 lb bag
    - \$165.00
- Learning Center
  - Seating for up to 50
  - Kitchenette, tables, chairs, wifi, etc.
- Notary Services
- Field Guides
- Classroom presentations
- Cost-share Programs



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