



Upper Loup Scoop

Upper Loup NRD

July 2024

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Calendar of Events

July

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

August

- 8** Board Meeting:
ULNRD Office 7PM CT

September

- 2** Labor Day
ULNRD Office Closed
- 4** Jr. High Field Day
- 12** 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 1,215 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 August 2, 2024.

Directors Approve Expansion of Acres for 2025

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 2025. 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, 2024. 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 4 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 4, which includes Thomas County east of Highway 83 and the south third of Brown County, and all of Blaine County, 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 mschatz@upperloupnrd.org or by calling our office.

It's not too early to be designing your 2024 Youth Poster!

Calling ALL youth grades K-12 you are invited to create original pieces of artwork depicting this year's Stewardship Week theme, "May the Forest Be With You, Always." Students may enter a hand drawn poster or digital poster. Winners of the local contest will be entered into the National Association of Conservation Districts' national competition! The Upper Loup has had local posters win at the national level!



Hand Drawn Poster Contest Rules:

- Contest is open to students entering grades K-12.
- Posters should be drawn on 8.5"x11" or 11"x17" paper.
- Paint, crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, stickers, paper and other materials may be use.
- Posters must be created by an individual student and may not be traced from photos or other artists' work.
- The 2024 theme "MAY THE FOREST BE WITH YOU, ALWAYS" must be included on the front side of each submission.

Digital Poster Contest Rules:

- Contest is open to students entering grades 7-12.
- Posters should be created as 8.5"x11" or 11"x17".
- The 2024 theme "MAY THE FOREST BE WITH YOU, ALWAYS" must be included on the front side of each submission.
- Digital posters must be original work and may not include any copyrighted, trademarked, or branded images or phrases besides the poster theme.
- Posters must be created by individual students.

Submission Information:

- Include the NACD entry form. This form can be found on our website at www.upperloupnrd.org under NACD poster contest.
- Submit poster to the Upper Loup NRD either physically or with a high-quality image emailed to cknoll@upperloupnrd.org
- Entries must be submitted NO later than Thursday October 10, 2024.
- For more contest information please check out our website at www.upperloupnrd.org or contact our office at 308-645-2250.

Adventure Camp about the Environment 2024

This past June 23-26 the overnight environmental camp, geared towards youth that have completed 6th and 7th grades, was a success. The camp found a new home at Kamp Kaleo outside Burwell, due to the Bovee Fire at Halsey in 2022, which served as a great new place for the campers to dive into many hands on activities focused on natural resources. This year's sessions educated campers on the Nebraska's water resources, wildlife, soil, trees and other plants, range, grasslands and more. In addition to the learning sessions campers also took part in fishing, archery, canoeing, swimming, water rockets, and campfires. Campers came from all over the state with 90% of them receiving a scholarship from their local Natural Resources District. For fun pictures and information check out Adventure Camp about the Environment Facebook page.



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

Brent 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

ULNRD Staff

Anna Baum

General Manager

Connie Knoll

*Information & Education,
Resources Technician*

Brent McIntosh

Resources Technician

Matthew Schatz

Resources Technician

Jamie Green

Administrative Secretary

Spud Rowley

Recycling Coordinator

Pam Petersen

Field Office Secretary

ULNRD Board of Directors

Sub-District 1

David Vinton

Jais Connealy

Sub-District 2

Judy Ridenour

John Kraye

Sub-District 3

Chris Higgins

Miles Maseberg

Sub-District 4

Max Fay

Tony Ruhter

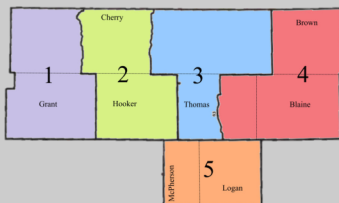
Sub-District 5

Tom Johnson

Richard Burnside

At Large

Patrick Wright



For the latest news check out
www.upperloupnrd.org

New Staff



Connie grew up in Thedford. She worked in the dental field for 20+ years, then had a fencing business before coming to work here at the Upper Loup NRD.

Enjoys spending time with her loved ones and riding and training barrel horses.



Brent went to high school in Thedford. He worked for the Chery County Department of Roads, doing road maintenance. He was the District #2 foreman the last 2 years of employment there. He is enjoying the change of pace and new challenges here at the Upper Loup NRD.

Brent has two kids. Drew is 21 and in college to become a P.E. teacher. Lindsey is 15 and going to be a sophomore here in Thedford.



Matt also grew up here in Thedford. He recently moved back here, from Denver, Colorado. While in Denver he drove a truck for 26 years.

Matt is happy to be back in a small town and close to his family. He enjoys reading, gardening, bird hunting and spending time with his cats.

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:

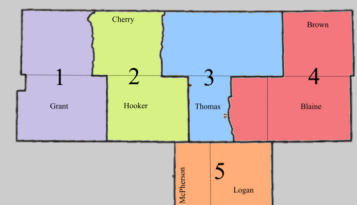
- A. Narrowleaf Penstemon B. Blowout Penstemon
C. Shell Leaf Penstemon

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



For the latest news check out
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