

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



ELKHORN RIVER BASIN

Elkhorn Basin Facts:

Population: 112,741

Total Acres: 4,481,260

Irrigated Acres: 1,371,546

Registered Wells: 19,490

Active Irrigation Wells: 9,531

Monitoring Wells: 115

Trees Planted 2010: 156,171

Weed Mulch Installed 2010:
337,128 feet or over 63 miles

Protecting Lives

Protecting Property

Protecting the Future

Protecting Property with Flood Control Structures

Protecting communities and rural areas from flooding is a top priority for the LENRD. Working with towns, cities, villages and partner agencies, the LENRD has constructed major flood control dams across the district - *Maskenthine Lake* - protecting the city of Stanton; *Willow Creek State Recreation Area* (Pierce) - providing protection as far downstream as Norfolk; *Pilger Recreation Area* - protecting the Village of Pilger; and the *Maple Creek Recreation Area* - protecting Maple Creek Watershed landowners and the Village of Leigh. The LENRD has also constructed flood control levees in the communities of Pender, Scribner, Howells, Wakefield, and Winslow.



Protecting Water Resources for Future Generations

The Upper Elkhorn NRD adopted changes to its Rules and Regulations to administer the Groundwater Management Plan September 13, 2010. The order for the newly adopted rules and regulations will take effect on October 29, 2010. What does this mean for UENRD residents? The proposed changes to the UENRD Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) Rules and Regulations were drafted in an effort to protect existing water users, the development of ground water models and allow future ground water development while protecting ground water supplies. Rule changes include nitrogen certification; hydrological evaluations; rules for LB 483 irrigated acre expansion; irrigated acre certification; and, the possible transfer of irrigated acres.

The most significant changes to the Rules and Regulations would allow cooperators to complete their Nitrogen Management Certification

by means of a take home test; require any ground water well withdrawals of 500 acre feet to have a hydrological evaluation of the aquifer system in the specific area conducted by the applicant; inclusion of the adopted Rules for LB483 acre expansion and flowmeter requirements; certification of irrigated acres; and, the potential for the transfer of groundwater rights.

A great deal of time and effort by the UENRD Directors and staff went into the evaluation of the Districts Rules and Regulations to implement the Groundwater Management Plan. These changes were adopted to protect ground water rights, to protect the sustainability of ground water and surface water and protect our water resources for future generations. For further information please visit the UENRD website or contact the office.

Planting Trees for the Future

As the prevailing winds blow across the landscape and hits a windbreak, most of the air is forced up and over the tree tops. A certain amount of wind goes through the windbreak (depending upon density) and around the ends, but most of the winds travels up and over. A windbreak will lower wind speeds for a distance of as much as 30 times the windbreak's height. Why slow wind speed? Wind speed lowers the outside temperature, which contributes to the wind chill factor. Increasing the temperature surrounding your home will decrease your heating fuel needs. A well placed windbreak can reduce wind speeds by 50 to 80%. For example, if the outside temperature is 10°F and the wind speed is 20 miles per hour, the wind chill is -24°F. If the wind speed were to be reduced by 50%, the wind chill would only be 3°F. By reducing the wind chill factor, you could save 20 to 40% on your winter heating fuel consumption. Besides saving heating costs, windbreaks provide many other additional benefits. Windbreaks can help control or store snow, improve the work environment of your farmstead, protect livestock, and provide needed wildlife habitat. Windbreaks also provide a more aesthetic environment around your home, which could greatly increase the value of your farmstead. For more information on windbreak design, species selection, weed mulch and cost share programs contact your local NRD or NRCS office.



NRDs Educating for the Future

Each year the Upper Elkhorn NRD and Lower Elkhorn NRD help to sponsor area water festivals and environmental events to promote the awareness of our natural resources to students across Northeast Nebraska.

Our fifth grade festivals focus on laying a foundation for the future caretakers of our natural resources. Children are taught about water quality and quantity and how good clean water can protect lives. They learn about conservation practices to protect property and ways to protect our natural resources for future generations. This year over 500 students attended H2O Daze and the Natural Resources Festival.

The Wonderful World of Water program is a very unique festival because it is the only festival for 9th and 10th grade students in Nebraska. Teams of 3 to 6 students from area schools attend the daylong event and participate in various hands-on activities while working with resource professionals. This allows students the opportunity to explore natural resources related careers.



The Nebraska Envirothon is a program for 9th-12th grade students designed to promote awareness about our natural environment. Students compete in a contest that tests their knowledge on a wide array of subjects consisting of aquatics, forestry, policy, range, soil, wildlife and a special topic selected by the host state of the National competition.

This is just one of the many ways Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts are helping to ensure the protection of our natural resources.

Your Elkhorn River Basin NRD's

Care about what you think!
Stop in or give us a call. We are here to work with YOU!

Lower Elkhorn NRD
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Norfolk, NE 68701
(402) 371-7313
www.lenrd.org

Upper Elkhorn NRD
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The Upper and Lower Elkhorn NRDs along with several other NRDs and state agencies are working together on various projects to further understand the water resources of Nebraska. The ELM model is designed to study the relationship between ground and surface water as well as aquifer recharge. The ENWRA project will study the geophysical characteristics of the aquifers underlying eastern Nebraska.

Created by the Nebraska Legislature in 1969 with the passage of LB 1357, Nebraska's NRDs began operating on July 1, 1972. NRDs were formed using Nebraska's 13 major river basins to offer local solutions to local problems. Locally elected officials establish District policies to address the needs of our specific area. This unique form of local government assures that the concerns of the Elkhorn River Basin are addressed by the people being affected. Locally led conservation for your future.

The NRDs inform Nebraska's young people by supplying information, education and other outreach efforts. It is vital that future generations understand the importance of securing Nebraska's Natural Resources.