

UPPER ELKHORN The Oracle

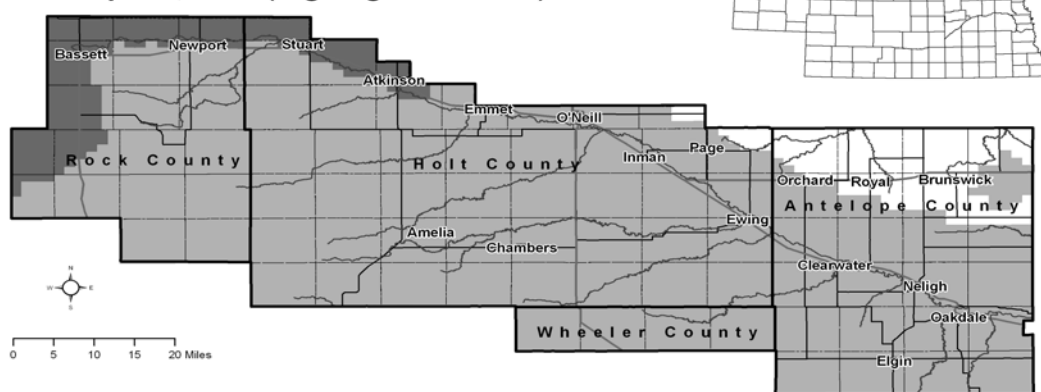
"Making Wise Decisions Concerning Our Natural Resources"

<http://www.uenrd.org>

Sign-Up for the Expansion of New Groundwater Irrigated Acres to be Held in January 2012 for the Niobrara River Basin and Lower Platte River Basin in the UENRD

The Nebraska Supreme Court ruled on June 3, 2011 to reverse the fully appropriated determination of the Niobrara River Basin by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources in January of 2008. On June 30, 2011, the Upper Elkhorn NRD received official word from DNR that they were reversing the over-appropriated determination which affected 233 square miles of the UENRD in extreme north western Holt County and northern and western areas of Rock County. Since the Nebraska Supreme Court's ruling current stays on new development were lifted as long as the Natural Resources District developed rules and regulations to monitor new groundwater uses. The NRD immediately began updating the districts Groundwater Management Plan Rules and Regulations to address the possible expansion of new irrigated acres in the UENRD portion of Niobrara River Basin.

Upper Elkhorn NRD
Moratorium and Stay Designations
as of April 6, 2009 (Signing of L.B. 483)



Niobrara River Basin 10/50 (Expansion of Irrigated Acres to be Determined)
 Lower Platte Basin 10/50 (2500 Acres/Year of New Irrigated Acres)
 Not Fully Appropriated

On January 3, 2012, the Upper Elkhorn NRD will have approximately 2,500 acres available for the expansion of new irrigated acres in both the Niobrara River Basin and the Lower Platte River Basin. Applications will be accepted during the entire month of January during regular office hours (8-12 & 1-5). Cooperators with approved acres will be notified by mid February. Once the acres have been approved, Cooperators will have until October 1, 2012 to irrigate their new acres. Acres not meeting the criteria by October 1, 2012 will be revoked.

**PHASE II REPORTS ARE
DUE FEBRUARY 1, 2012**

Reminder: Storage Requirements and Secondary Containment

Secondary Containment for Fertilizer and Chemigation: On November 14, 1992, title 198, the Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Agricultural Chemical Containment became law. The regulations require secondary containment of bulk liquid fertilizers and bulk liquid pesticides, and loadout facilities for loading, rinsing, etc. These regulations are administered by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ).

Secondary containment is required for bulk pesticide storage when the total storage capacity exceeds 500 gallons. Secondary containment is

required for bulk fertilizer storage when (1) the storage capacity of a single container exceeds 2,000 gallons, (2) the storage capacity of two or more containers exceeds 3,000 gallons, or (3) when storage exceeds 25 percent of the capacity of a container larger than 500 gallons anytime from November 1 through March 15. Only containers larger than 55 gallons are considered bulk storage. Any container (including trailers) larger than 55 gallons used in chemigation is considered bulk storage and subject to the secondary containment requirements based on the capacity limits just described. There are

additional requirements in the regulations. For more information contact the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, www.deq.state.ne.us P O Box 98922, Lincoln NE 68509 or call (402) 471-0096.

Farm Tanks: A one-time registration of farm or residential motor fuel tanks (1,100 gallons or less) is required. Also included in this one-time registration are small heating oil tanks (1,100 gallons or less) and tanks permanently abandoned as of January 1, 1974.

NEW REQUIREMENT for LB 483 Expansion of New Irrigated Acres January 2012 Sign-up! January 2012 an Official Highly Erodible Land Determination is required for the expansion of new irrigated acres criteria form to sign-up! Contact your local USDA-FSA office to obtain your HEL determination prior to expansion sign-up! This is for new applications beginning January 2012!

Natural
Resources
District

Fall/Winter 2011

Newsletter Highlights

- ◆ Expansion of New Irrigated Acres
- ◆ UENRD Report Card
- ◆ Storage Requirements
- ◆ Chemigation Update
- ◆ 2012 Trees
- ◆ Water Resources Report
- ◆ Poster Contest
- ◆ Scholarships

10-11 Upper Elkhorn NRD Report Card

- ◆ Approved the expansion of 4,065 new irrigated acres
- ◆ Revoked 673 acres of expanded irrigation due to non compliance of LB 483 Rules and Regulations and transfers
- ◆ Planted 79,185 conservation tree seedlings
- ◆ Installed 230,991 feet or 43.75 miles of conservation weed mulch
- ◆ Sold 25 weed mulch squares for seedling protection
- ◆ Sold 225 feet of drip irrigation hose
- ◆ Sold 1930 pounds of poison barley
- ◆ Grass Seed Available
- ◆ Distributed \$107,774 in NSWCP/NRD Cost Share for Windbreaks, Planned Grazing Systems, Irrigation Water Management, Pasture Planting & Range Seedings, Domestic Water Quality
- ◆ Distributed \$5,944 in Water Well Decommissioning funds to properly abandon 13 wells
- ◆ Distributed \$61,431 to cooperators participating in the Buffer Strip Program
- ◆ Distributed \$5,000 to cooperators participating in the Corners for Wildlife Program
- ◆ Distributed \$889 to cooperators participating in the Wild NE Program
- ◆ Issued 79 water well permits (greater than 50 gpm)
- ◆ Certified 322 cooperators in nitrogen management
- ◆ Sampled approximately 600 irrigation wells for water quality parameters
- ◆ Measured static water levels in approximately 148 irrigation wells & 54 dedicated monitoring wells across the district
- ◆ The District maintains 54 dedicated monitoring wells at 24 different locations for quality and quantity parameters
- ◆ Inspected 273 New Chemigation sites and 1056 Renewal Sites
- ◆ Approved 2402 Chemigation Permits
- ◆ The District maintains a private drinking water sampling program which includes testing for bacteria and other household contaminants
- ◆ The District maintains a vadose zone sampling program to analyze nitrates in the soil
- ◆ Fund weather stations in the Brunswick, Elgin, O'Neill and Newport areas
- ◆ Continue monitoring Phase I and Phase II Groundwater Management Areas (GWMA)

UENRD Offers Scholarships to Graduating High School Seniors

Each year, the Upper Elkhorn Natural Resources District offers three \$500 scholarships to graduating High School Seniors from the District. These scholarships are available for students who are planning to further their education in a field related to natural resources or agriculture. Seniors who are interested should contact the Upper Elkhorn NRD or visit the website at www.uenrd.org/education.html for further information, eligibility requirements and applications. The deadline for all scholarship applications is April 6, 2012.

Regional Envirothon Scheduled

The Northeast Nebraska Regional Envirothon is scheduled for February 29, 2012. The competition will be held in conjunction with the FFA District CDE contests at Northeast Community College in Norfolk.

Attention Chemigators

There seems to be some confusion with the updates to the UENRD Chemigation Program. Anyone who permits a chemigation site this year will receive pre-printed renewal permit for the 2012 chemigation season. These forms will contain the landowner information, certified chemigator and legal description. Cooperators receiving these forms will need to make sure the pre-printed information is correct, list any fertilizer or chemicals used the previous year (2011) through the system, sign and return with the proper fee. **Renewal permits sent out are nontransferable. If you rent different quarters**

from year to year, you will need to fill out new permits for the rented quarters with your information; however, this does not mean it would be a new fee. If the quarter was permitted the previous year it would still be a renewal. If you are not sure of the status of a quarter you can contact the NRD office for this information. If you are no longer farming a quarter, you may either return the form with a notation that you are not farming that quarter this year or completely disregard the form in question. **Also, cooperators should not alter the pre-printed permits with a different legal description because this**

will not match the chemigation permit number contained on the permit. Pre-printed renewal forms may be returned to the NRD office anytime from the time they are received to the June 1 deadline to maintain their renewal status.

Anyone found to be out of compliance in regard to the Chemigation Act may be subject up to \$1,000 civil penalty or Class II misdemeanor and ineligible for UENRD cost share programs.

If you have any questions please contact the NRD office at 336-3867.

Reminder: Storage Requirements and Secondary Containment

Farm tanks continued...A fee of \$5 per tank must accompany the registration. Additional information on farm tanks can be found in the publication, Installation and Use of Farm Tanks Regulated by NFPA 395.

Aboveground Storage Tanks:

Hazardous Substances Beginning January 1, 1986, the owner or operator of permanently located aboveground storage tanks dispensing hazardous substances must register such tank with this office. Storage tanks of 1000 gallons or less are exempt from this requirement.

Hazardous substances are defined in Subsection 14 of Section 101 of the

C o m p r e h e n s i v e Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 as it existed on January 1, 1985, but not including any substance regulated as a hazardous waste under Subtitle C of such act (list is available through the State Fire Marshal's office). Anhydrous ammonia is excluded from this list.

A registration form must be completed for each tank and sent to this office with a check or money order for the registration fee - \$10 per tank. Any changes in the registration require a new registration form to be submitted with a check or money order for \$10 per tank that is to be changed.

P e t r o l e u m P r o d u c t s - Owners/operators of aboveground storage

tanks storing petroleum products must obtain an installation permit to install new and replacement tanks and piping installations.

An application must be submitted to this office and be accompanied by a detailed site plan and \$50 inspection fees at least 10 working days prior to the proposed installation date. The fee is per installation regardless of the number of tanks to be installed. Once the permit is issued, at least 72-hour notification of the date and time of installation must be given to the Fuels Division – FLST Section. Further information on storage requirements can be found on the State Fire Marshalls website at <http://www.sfm.negov/programs-services/fuels/flst/index.html>

Nitrogen Certification Classes to be held in February and March...Watch for Dates!!

Cost Share Eligibility Requirements

Any person who fails to comply with any of the Upper Elkhorn Natural Resources District's Rules and Regulations shall not be eligible to participate in any programs or receive payments that are administered by the District. Programs requiring compliance include but are not limited to the following: UENRD Groundwater Management Plan - Phase I and Phase II Rules & Regulations; Nitrogen Certification Program, LB

483 Rules and Regulations Chemigation Act; Irrigation Runoff and Erosion and Sediment Control. Cost share programs that may be affected due to lack of compliance include but are not limited to the following: Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program; Upper Elkhorn NRD Conservation Program - Land Treatment Fund; WILD Nebraska/Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program; Nebraska Buffer Strip

Program; Corners for Wildlife; Liquid/NH₃ Application Program; Livestock Manure Analysis Program; Domestic Water Quality Program; Nitrogen Management Program; and, the Water Well Decommissioning Program. Anyone who is already a participant in any of these programs or may be a participant will not receive any payments as long as they fail to comply with any District rules and regulations.

Irrigation Development Pushes Trees Aside!

Due to the passage of LB 962 in 2004, its association with well moratoriums and growing commodity prices over the past few years, a number of trees have been removed to develop areas for crop production. The Upper Elkhorn NRD would like to encourage all those landowners who removed trees to consider replacing them this upcoming spring. There are several incentive programs to help offset the cost of installing a new windbreak on the federal, state and local level. Federal programs include the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP); Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP); Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP-limited to appropriate wetland sites); and, Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP). State programs include Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program (NSWCP); individual NRD programs; Nebraska Buffer Strip Incentives Program; and, WILD Nebraska. Private organizations also offering assistance to promote tree planting are Corners for Wildlife, Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever chapters.

The Upper Elkhorn NRD will be taking orders from now until March 1st. Trees are available on a first come first serve basis and are available in a variety of species consisting of conifers, broadleaves and shrubs. Hand plant trees should be ordered in bundles of 25 while machine plant orders will be based on the windbreak design. The NRD can also provide technical assistance to cooperators who would like help designing a new windbreak or renovating an old one. The technician will suggest the type of trees best suited for your soil type and design a layout beneficial to your area.

The NRD also offers two practices to help increase the survival rate of new seedlings, drip irrigation and conservation weed mulch. Drip irrigation is a flat hose installed at the time the trees are planted and is used when there is a water source at the site. Conservation weed mulch is installed over the seedlings to help control weeds and retain moisture. Both practices can be very beneficial to young windbreaks and should be considered when placing your order.

Remember, the Upper Elkhorn NRD is also your one-stop shop to order trees and weed mulch. The NRD can plant and install the trees and fabric as we have for the past 30+ years. Trees and mulch purchased from the Upper Elkhorn NRD could be eligible for local or state funds. For further information or to place an order contact your local NRCS office or the Upper Elkhorn NRD at 301 N. Harrison Street, O'Neill or (402) 336-3867.

Available Tree Species

Conifers	Broadleaves	Shrubs	
Eastern Red Cedar	Native Cottonwood	Caragana	Manchurian Apricot
Rocky Mountain Juniper	Swamp White Oak	Nanking Cherry	Skunkbush Sumac
Colorado Blue Spruce	Bur Oak	American Plum	Diamond Willow
Black Hills Spruce	Black Walnut	Cranberry	Sandcherry
Scotch Pine	Kentucky Coffee	Black Cherry	Elderberry
Jack Pine	Hackberry	Buffaloberry	Redosier Dogwood
Ponderosa Pine	Honeylocust	Chokecherry	Harbin Pear
Austrian Pine	Amur Maple	Cotoneaster	Lilac
Southwestern White Pine	Aspen		
Norway Spruce	Green Ash		

Cost for Trees & Materials

Handplant Trees, Handling & Tax	\$ 92.33 per 100
Machine Plant Trees, Storage & Tax	\$ 150.81 per 100
Drip Irrigation	\$ 0.15 per foot
Weed Mulch - Installed	\$ 0.65 per foot
Weed Mulch - by the roll	\$ 186.38 for 500 foot roll
Weed Mulch Squares	\$ 2.00 each

Prices Subject to Change

Budgetary Issues May Impact

Funding for Cost Share Programs

Due to State and local budgetary issues, limited funds may be available for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. Anyone wishing to participate in an Upper Elkhorn NRD cost share program should contact the Upper Elkhorn NRD office or their local NRCS office. Cost share is available for the installation of the practice itself and will not include any sales tax on the materials or labor. Cost share programs are based on available funding and include:

NSWCP/NRD: The UENRD in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources offers cost share practices to landowners wishing to install conservation practices. Some practices included in the program are: windbreaks; planned grazing systems; irrigation water management; pasture planting and range seeding; grade stabilization; and, windbreak renovation. Cost share is available at a rate of 50%.

Water Well Decommissioning: The UENRD in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources offers cost share funds at a rate of 75% to landowners who wish to properly decommission an abandoned well.

Domestic Water Quality: The UENRD offers cost share to cooperators whose drinking water is contaminated with nitrates over the federal health standard of 10 parts per million. Cost share is available at a rate of 50% or a maximum of \$800.

Anhydrous Ammonia Application: The UENRD offers 50% cost share to landowners for the purchase of a flow control monitor not to exceed \$900; and, \$200 for the purchase of a vertical dam manifold.

Livestock Manure Analysis: The UENRD offers 50% cost share not to exceed \$200 for manure analysis to credit useful materials into the soil.

Nitrogen Management: The UENRD offers 50% cost share not to exceed \$200 to cooperators to encourage producers to manage fertilizer application better by accounting for residual nitrate-nitrogen which already exists in the soil root zone and irrigation water.

Cost share applications are approved by the Upper Elkhorn NRD Board of Directors and available on a first come first serve basis and Do Not include sales tax.

NeRAIN

Volunteers Needed!!!

If you are a weather enthusiast and would like to volunteer for the NeRAIN Program contact the Upper Elkhorn NRD at 402-336-3867! Volunteers will receive a new quality rain gauge, installation and brief training (on internet) to record data. All you need is a computer with internet access and a few minutes each day to report readings from your gauge! NeRAIN is sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Trust and the UENRD.

The Oracle is the official publication of the Upper Elkhorn Natural Resources District. It is produced for the purpose of educating the public regarding natural resources issues. Any comments or questions should be sent to Beth Walsh, Upper Elkhorn NRD, 301 N. Harrison Street, O'Neill, NE 68763 or e-mailed to bwalsh@uenrd.org.

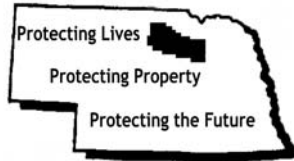
Elections Scheduled for NRD Board of Directors

Current Board Members

- Subdistrict 1** Roy Stewart - Newport
Subdistrict 2 Curtis Gotschall - Stuart
Subdistrict 3 Gregg Felker - O'Neill
Subdistrict 4 Mike Russman - Chambers
Subdistrict 5 Reg Green - Brunswick
Subdistrict 6 Ted Hughes - Neligh
Subdistrict 7 Jerry Heithoff - Elgin
Filing deadline for incumbants is February 15, 2012 and March 1, 2012 for non-incumbants.



**SIGN-UP FOR
THE
EXPANSION
OF NEW
GROUND
WATER
IRRIGATED
ACRES TO BE
HELD DURING
JANUARY
2012!!**



*Happy
Holidays*

Upper Elkhorn NRD Announces Annual Poster Contest Winners

The 20th annual Upper Elkhorn NRD Poster Contest was held this fall with 31 students from two area schools participating in the competition. Each year the NRD invites Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade students throughout the District to participate in the poster contest giving them an opportunity to showcase their artistic talents regarding our soil, water and other natural resources. This year students were asked to incorporate the "Forests for People-More Than You Can Imagine" theme into their posters, which were judged in mid November. This years winners were in the 4th-6th Grade Category Chance Engel - First Place, Wyatt Paxton - Second Place and Alissa Gubbels - Third Place. In the 7th-9th Grade Category; Brody Hupp - First Place, Gracie Bullock - Second Place and Miles Schrage - Third Place.

All first place posters were forwarded on to the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts State Poster Contest where they will compete against student posters from all across Nebraska. The Upper Elkhorn NRD Directors and Staff would like to thank everyone who participated in this years Poster Contest.

UENRD Water Resources Report Precipitation and Evapotranspiration (ET)

The 2011 growing season was characterized by below normal average temperatures and normal or above normal precipitation. Crop water use is estimated in terms of evapotranspiration (ET). This term describes the movement of water to the atmosphere from surfaces, such as the soil (evaporation), and from vegetation (transpiration). Crop growth is dependent upon water availability and solar inputs, or latent heat. A certain number of 'heat units' are required for the plant to move through the development process to full maturity. Heat units are calculated for each crop as the difference between the daily maximum and minimum temperatures. Plant growth slows if daily temperatures fall outside the minimum or maximum threshold limits. For corn the thresholds are between 86.0 F and 50.0 F. Summation of daily heat units for corn in 2011 suggests that there was sufficient energy to reach full maturity.

The chart below depicts growing-season precipitation totals, percentage of precipitation received compared to the 30-year average, and estimated evapotranspiration of corn from 2007-2011.

	2007			2008			2009			2010			2011		
	Precip. April 1 - Sept. 30	%of Normal Precip.	Estimated Corn ET	Precip. April 1 - Sept. 30	%of Normal Precip.	Estimated Corn ET	Precip. April 1 - Sept. 30	%of Normal Precip.	Estimated Corn ET	Precip. April 1 - Sept. 30	%of Normal Precip.	Estimated Corn ET	Precip. April 1 - Sept. 30	%of Normal Precip.	Estimated Corn ET
Brunswick	20.20	106	22.27	18.55	97	24.29	15.44	81	23.98	21.86	114	23.54	18.95	99	21.85
Elgin	23.74	124	21.31	22.90	120	23.86	16.60	87	25.67	22.77	119	22.62	21.33	111	21.71
Newport	15.63	87	24.75	17.60	98	26.83	18.08	101	23.94	23.06	129	26.01	20.54	115	23.50
O'Neill	17.73	96	22.39	17.76	97	25.47	16.38	89	23.39	22.06	120	24.79	20.19	110	22.05

Precipitation and ET in Inches

Upper Elkhorn Natural Resources District Board of Directors

Tim Knuth - Chairman	Subdistrict 5 ~ Brunswick	(402) 358-5430
Gregg Felker - Vice Chair	Subdistrict 3 ~ O'Neill	(402) 336-2864
Dale Wiles - Treasurer	Subdistrict 3 ~ O'Neill	(402) 336-1805
Ted Hughes - NARD Rep	Subdistrict 6 ~ Neligh	(402) 887-4942
Jerry Childers	Subdistrict 4 ~ Chambers	(402) 482-5688
Chris Dierks	At Large ~ Ewing	(402) 485-2618
James Dvorak	Subdistrict 2 ~ Atkinson	(402) 925-5776
Scott Beckman	Subdistrict 7 ~ Elgin	(402) 843-2334
Curtis Gotschall	Subdistrict 2 ~ Stuart	(402) 925-2504
Reg Green	Subdistrict 5 ~ Creighton	(402) 358-5479
Jim Keller	Subdistrict 1 ~ Newport	(402) 244-5448
Jerry Heithoff	Subdistrict 7 ~ Elgin	(402) 843-2467
Jeff Krebs	Subdistrict 6 ~ Neligh	(402) 887-5215
Mike Russman	Subdistrict 4 ~ Ewing	(402) 485-2638
Roy Stewart	Subdistrict 1 ~ Newport	(402) 244-5360

**UENRD Board Meetings are held the 4th
Monday of every month.**

**March through October at 8:00 P.M. and November through
February at 2:30 P.M.**

UENRD Staff

Dennis Schueth	General Manager e-mail: dschueth@uenrd.org
Marsha Hart	Administrative Assistant e-mail: mhart@uenrd.org
Tom Riley	Water Resources Manager e-mail: triley@uenrd.org
Kelly Kloppenborg	Water Resources Technician e-mail: kloppenborg@uenrd.org
Don Caouette	Assistant Manager e-mail: caouette@uenrd.org
Beth Walsh	Information & Education/Chemigation Coordinator e-mail: bwalsh@uenrd.org
Joy Knapp	NRCS Clerk, Neligh
Mary Zakrzewski	NRCS Clerk, O'Neill

Upper Elkhorn NRD Crop Water Use Report 2011

BRUNSWICK	Total Inches	Emergence	Maturation
Corn Total ET	21.85	5/10/2011	9/18/2011
Soybean Total ET	16.14	5/18/2011	9/3/2011
Potato Total ET	15.81	5/15/2011	9/30/2011
Precipitation from 5/10/2011	15.79		

ELGIN	Total Inches	Emergence	Maturation
Corn Total ET	21.71	5/10/2011	9/18/2011
Soybean Total ET	15.15	5/18/2011	9/3/2011
Potato Total ET	15.04	5/15/2011	9/30/2011
Precipitation from 5/10/2011	19.35		

NEWPORT	Total Inches	Emergence	Maturation
Corn Total ET	23.5	5/10/2011	9/18/2011
Soybean Total ET	17.48	5/18/2011	9/3/2011
Potato Total ET	16.98	5/15/2011	9/30/2011
Precipitation from 5/10/2011	19.22		

O'NEILL	Total Inches	Emergence	Maturation
Corn Total ET	22.05	5/10/2011	9/18/2011
Soybean Total ET	16.48	5/18/2011	9/3/2011
Potato Total ET	16.03	5/15/2011	9/30/2011
Precipitation from 5/10/2011	17.68		