

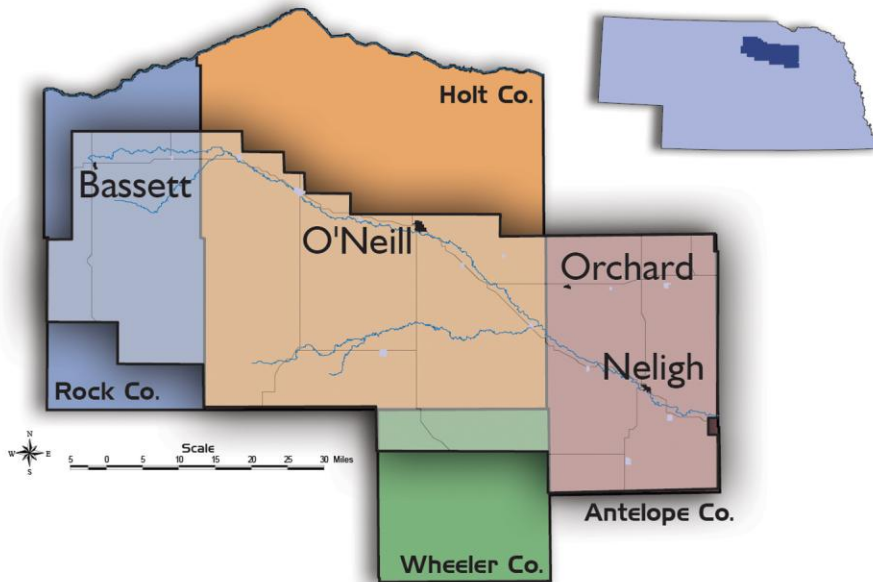
KNOW YOUR NRD



UPPER ELKHORN
Natural Resources District
O'Neill, NE

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

2011



UPPER ELKHORN NRD

UENRD QUICK FACTS:

- UENRD encompasses 3,052 sq miles or 1,953,280 acres
- Niobrara River Basin Designation 233 sq miles
- Lower Platte River Basin Designation 2803 sq miles
- District Population - 18,764
- 7147 Registered Wells
- Collect Data from approximately 600 Irrigation & Monitoring Wells
- Certified over 1,600 Producers in Nitrogen Management
- Maintain a District wide Groundwater Management Area
- Distributed Cost Share to local Cooperators for Conservation Practices throughout the District

Protecting Lives

Protecting Property

Protecting the Future

Supreme Court Reverses Lower Niobrara Basin Designation, Upper Elkhorn NRD Revises GWMP Rules and Regulations & Acre Certification to begin in the Fall

Niobrara Basin Designation - On June 3, 2011, the Upper Elkhorn NRD received word that the Nebraska Supreme Court had reversed the January 2008 fully appropriated designation within the Niobrara River Basin. The original designation 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 may be lifted as long as the Natural Resources District has rules and regulations drafted within 120 days after NDNR notification to monitor new groundwater uses. What does this mean for landowners within the

Upper Elkhorn NRD? When the Rules and Regulations are adopted the affected area may be able to apply for the expansion of new ground water use acres. A public hearing will be held outlining the guidelines in the future. These Rules and Regulations will be posted on the UENRD website at www.uenrd.org once they are drafted.

Acre Certification - The Upper Elkhorn NRD will begin Irrigated Acre Certification in the fall of 2011. Landowners within the recently overturned area of the Lower Niobrara River Basin fully appropriated area will be the first to certify their acres due to the fully

appropriated designation in 2007 by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Final acre certification will be based off of County Assessor and/or FSA records. Landowners will be contacted by mail with letters and information regarding the irrigated acres they have listed with the county assessor for 2010. Landowners with ground water irrigated acres that have been irrigated at least once within the Lower Niobrara River Basin fully appropriated designation during the calendar years of 2003 through October 16, 2007 and the Lower Platte River Basin designation between the calendar years of 2004 and December 16, 2008

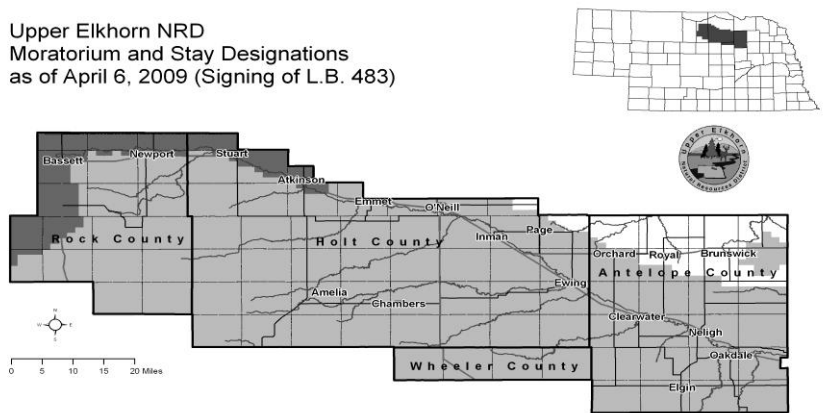
Protecting Our Natural Resources for Future Generations

Your Upper Elkhorn NRD

Acre Certification continued.....

will be certified at 100% with proper documentation. Historically irrigated acres currently enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Environmental Quality Incentive Program or other federal, state or local conservation program must also be certified if there is any possibility of future irrigation. Acres that were not historically irrigated prior to the Lower Niobrara River Basin designation in 2003 but have proper documentation may receive 95% certification for the total amount of irrigated acres should the landowner decide to reactivate a field for irrigation purposes. Any irrigated acres that are not certified during the specified dates would not be allowed to have groundwater applied to them for any purpose.

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



- Niobrara River Basin 10/50 (October 16, 2007)
- Lower Platte Basin 10/50 (December 16, 2008)
- Not Fully Appropriated

Upper Elkhorn NRD Areas
Niobrara Designation: 233 square miles
Lower Platte Designation: 2,803 square miles
Not Designated: 249 square miles
Total District: 3,052 square miles

GW Irrigated Acre Expansion

The UENRD has completed the third expansion of groundwater irrigated acres in the Lower Platte River Basin. This sign up had 4030 acres available due to carry-over and incomplete applications. A total of 8675 acres were requested, 4065 acres were approved with the remaining acres rolling over into the January 2012 sign-up. Information regarding the expansion of groundwater irrigated acres is available on the UENRD website.



Static Water Levels Measured for Future Preservation of Resources

The UENRD has been monitoring static water levels across the district since 1975. There are 157 irrigation wells and dedicated monitoring wells sampled ever spring and fall to ascertain changes in our groundwater levels over time. Static water levels have increased or maintained since 2010 readings.

It's the Law - Secondary Containment!!

In 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 and further information can be found on their website at www.deq.state.ne.us.

Nebraska's NRDs

- Protecting Your Health through Water Quality
- Protecting Your Taxes through Local Control
- Protecting Our Natural Resources for Future Generations

Created by the Nebraska Legislature in 1969 with the passage of LB 1356, 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 upper reaches of the Elkhorn River Basin are addressed by the people being affected. Locally led conservation for your future.

The Upper Elkhorn NRD continues to maintain a responsible budget to lessen the property tax burdens of its friends and neighbors. This has been accomplished by obtaining additional funding through the Nebraska Environmental Trust and the Dept of Environmental Quality 319 Grants. The 09-10 budget requested only 2.54 cents per \$100 of valuation for a total of \$534,025 which is only about one third of the total budget.

The Upper Elkhorn NRD Board of Directors meet on the 4th Monday of every month at the Upper Elkhorn NRD Office in O'Neill, unless otherwise noted in the public notice. Everyone is welcome to attend and share their thoughts or concerns for our natural resources.