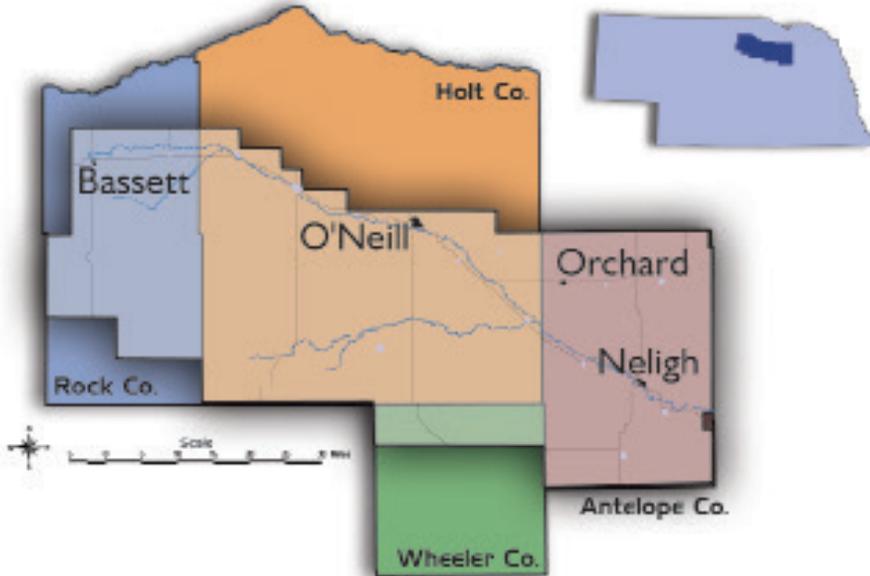


Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts  
Making the Good Life Better Since 1972



**UPPER ELKHORN NRD**

**UENRD QUICK FACTS:**

- UENRD encompasses 3,052 sq miles or 1,953,280 acres
- Niobrara River Basin Designation 233 square miles
- Lower Platte River Basin Designation 2803 sq miles
- District Population - 17,935
- 8149 Registered Wells of which 4793 are for Irrigation
- 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 Co-operators for Conservation Practices throughout the District

Protecting Lives

Protecting Property

Protecting the Future

## Upper Elkhorn NRD Updates Groundwater Management Plan

On 27 day of March, 2017, the UENRD conducted a public hearing, following a public notice in accordance with state law, regarding proposed changes to these rules and regulations. Those rules and regulations are described as:

- Rule 14 added a requirement that before a permit for a water well to be used for irrigation is granted, The intended irrigated acres must first be certified by the UENRD.
- Rule 18 changed reporting requirements for certified operators in areas designated at Phase II and Phase III.
- Rule 20 changed the title of the Rule to "Hydrologic Evaluation Report Required."
- Rule 25 amended language to provide historical context;

changed Phase I Groundwater Quality Management Areas ("GWQMAs") from 0 to 75% MCL (0 to 7.5 ppm of nitrate-nitrogen levels) to 0 to 50% MCL (0 to 5.0 nitrate-nitrogen levels). Existing designated GWQMAs will maintain their present Phase designation; Phase II GWQMAs will change from >75% -95% MCL (>7.5 – 9.5 ppm nitrate-nitrogen levels) to >50% - 90% MCL (>5.0 – 9.0 ppm nitrate-nitrogen levels). Phase III GWQMAs will change from >95% MCL (>9.5 ppm nitrate-nitrogen levels) to >90% MCL (>9.0 ppm nitrate-nitrogen levels). The proposed change also establishes a duration criteria for water quality before Phase changes.

- Rule 26 amended language to be



consistent with the criteria created by the change to Rule 25. The approved change would also require annual deep soil samples for Phase II GWQMAs and reporting to the UENRD.

- Other General changes were made for clarification.

## GWMP Updates continued.....

On March 27, 2017 the UENRD Board of Directors held a public meeting following public notice in accordance with state law to consider adopting the proposed changes to its rules and regulations presented for consideration at the public hearing identified above. The UENRD Board of Directors took comments from the following persons: No testimony was given. After due consideration, proper motion to adopt and a second, the UENRD Board of Directors voted to adopt the proposed changes. In accordance with the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act, it is hereby ORDERED and the proposed changes to the Rules and Regulations of the UENRD are adopted and fully incorporated therein, effective May 1, 2017.

A complete copy of the full text of the adopted UENRD Ground Water Rules and Regulations to implement the UENRD Ground Water Management Plan may be obtained upon request to the UENRD office located at 301 North Harrison Street, O'Neill, Nebraska 68763 or viewed on the UENRD website: [www.uenrd.org](http://www.uenrd.org).

## Volunteers Wanted for NeRAIN Program

If you are a weather enthusiast you should consider volunteering for the Nebraska Rainfall Assessment and Information Network (NeRAIN). The network consists of volunteers from all over the state of Nebraska recording precipitation measurements as well as other noticeable weather events and posting them on the NeRAIN website. The Upper Elkhorn NRD would like to find volunteers scattered throughout the district to represent our area in this state-wide program. Volunteers will receive a rain gauge and are asked to spend a few minutes each day recording their precipitation and/or any noticeable weather events. For further information you can visit the NeRAIN website at <https://nednr.nebraska.gov/NeRain> or you can contact the Upper Elkhorn NRD at 402-336-3867. All you need is a computer with internet access and a few minutes each day to report readings from your gauge!



## Upper Elkhorn Natural Resources Groundwater Management Plan: Phase II Soil Sampling Reminder

Reminder to everyone in the UENRD Phase II areas – Deep soil sampling analysis (mandatory two foot sample) for nitrate-nitrogen content on each field going into corn, larger than 40 acres, with more than 50 pounds per acre of actual nitrogen fertilizer applies. This soil sampling information is required on your Phase II report at the end of the 2017 growing season to be submitted to us. Please visit our web-site at [www.uenrd.org](http://www.uenrd.org) to verify if you are in the Phase II area, or contact the office at 402-336-3867.

## UENRD Certifying GW Irrigated Acres

The Upper Elkhorn NRD is Continuing to CERTIFY ALL Groundwater Irrigated Acres within the district. Historically irrigated acres or acres that have been brought back into production need to be certified for any possibility of future groundwater irrigation. Get started by visiting the UENRD website at [www.uenrd.org](http://www.uenrd.org) for further information on the certification process. Also, landowners who have not responded to the certification letters that were sent to you should do so as soon as possible! To complete the certification process, please contact the UENRD office at 402-336-3867 and schedule an appointment.

- 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 FY 17-18 budget request is only 1.53 cents per \$100 of valuation and a total of \$762,106 in property tax asking. A decrease of \$33,036 from FY 16-17.

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.