Upper Elkhorn NRD Moving Forward with Voluntary Integrated Management Plan (V-IMP)

The Upper Elkhorn NRD is working with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR) to develop a Voluntary Integrated Management Plan (V-IMP) for the District. The V-IMP will assess the balance between water supplies and water uses within the District for the short and long term. The plan will manage and protect water rights of existing users, while allowing for responsible development of surface and groundwater resources in the future. As a part of the planning process, a community based Stakeholder Advisory Committee will be consulted for input and needs from irrigators, municipalities, and other groups who may be affected by future water management decisions. Stakeholder meetings were held in May, June and August to develop the goals, objectives and action items for the plan. Implementation of the UENRD V-IMP is scheduled for January of 2019.

UENRD Approves Groundwater Irrigated Acre Expansion

The Upper Elkhorn NRD is taking applications for the expansion of new groundwater irrigated acres during the month of October for the 2019 growing season. The sign up is not on a first come first served basis; but, on a new ranking criteria based on current water quality and quantity issues within the district. Applications will be accepted from the landowner or their power of attorney from October 1 through October 31, 2018 with a minimum application fee of $125 or $5.00 per acre. Appointments are recommended for the application process. For further information visit the Upper Elkhorn NRD website at www.uenrd.org.

June Stakeholders Meeting
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 statewide 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 2018 growing season to be submitted to us. Please visit our web-site at 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 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.