The Upper Elkhorn NRD requires landowners to certify their groundwater irrigated acres. This is to preserve and protect the landowners rights to irrigate. Acres that have not been certified could lose those rights to irrigate by some state legislation or action by your local board. It is in the landowners best interest to get their groundwater irrigated acres certified. If a landowners groundwater irrigated acres are not certified they are out of compliance with the NRDs Rules and Regulations and are not eligible for cost share practices, groundwater irrigated acre transfers or groundwater irrigated acre expansion.

**Lower Niobrara River Basin:** Landowners who own groundwater irrigated acres within the Lower Niobrara River Basin and can show proof that they irrigated them at least once between the years 2003 and October 16, 2007 will be able to certify their acres at 100%. Acres irrigated prior to 2003 will be considered Historically irrigated and with the proper documentation will be certified at 95%.

**Lower Platte River Basin:** Landowners who own groundwater irrigated acres within the Lower Platte River Basin and can show proof that they irrigated them at least once between the years 2004 and December 16, 2008 will be able to certify their acres at 100%. Acres irrigated prior to 2004 will be considered Historically irrigated and with the proper documentation will be certified at 95%.

**Area Outside the 10/50 Line (Northern Antelope County):** Landowners who own groundwater irrigated acres within the area outside the 10/50 line and can show proof that they irrigated them at least once between the years 2008 and October 1, 2012 will be able to certify their acres at 100%. Acres irrigated prior to 2008 will be considered Historically irrigated and with the proper documentation will be certified at 95%.

**Historically irrigated acres:** Historically irrigated acres shall consist of groundwater irrigated acres which were irrigated prior to 2003 for the Lower Niobrara River Basin, 2004 for the Lower Platte River Basin and 2008 for the area outside the 10/50 line or are 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.
Nebraska law requires that all water wells must be registered with the State of Nebraska. Exceptions include test holes in existence for ten days or less, dewatering wells with an intended use of 90 days or less, domestic or livestock wells completed prior to September 9, 1993. Well drillers are now responsible for filing the well registration information within 60 days of well completion. Well owners are responsible for registering existing wells which have not been previously registered.

Landowners should make sure that their wells are registered and in their name to ensure that they maintain their water rights into the future. To check and see if your well information is correct you can logon to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources website at [http://dnr.nebraska.gov/gwr/groundwaterwelldata](http://dnr.nebraska.gov/gwr/groundwaterwelldata) or contact them at (402) 471-2363. Well information will be required when certifying acres within the Upper Elkhorn NRD.

Cooperators who have Expanded or Transferred groundwater irrigated acres since 2009 must re-certify those locations. Documentation should be in the form of a FSA 578 of county assessor tax records and will be based off of the first irrigation season following the approval of the expansion or transfer. Please contact the office if you have any questions.