

IN THE LOUP

New Irrigation Granted in Three River Basins

Landowners in three river basins in the Lower Loup Natural Resources District have been awarded a total of 2,015 new irrigated acres. The Lower Loup NRD Board of Directors approved the new irrigation at its meeting October 22nd.

New acres were granted in the Middle Loup, the North Loup, and the Beaver Creek/Plum Creek/Loup River Basins. The NRD had made 2,750 new acres available for 2021.

NRD General Manager Russell Callan said that the new irrigation development was approved after a review of studies that showed a “surplus” in the water budget

created for the approved sub-basins of the Loup River Basin. Water quality was also a consideration.

Callan said that there were 49 applications for new irrigation - 21 in the North Loup River Basin, 12 in the Middle Loup River Basin and 16 in the Beaver Creek/Plum Creek/Loup River Basins. Callan said the average application for the new irrigation development requested 61.67 acres and the average application ranking was 260.17 points.

Special consideration was given to applications for new irrigation in an area of rising groundwater

County	New Acres
Boone	510.08
Garfield	199.41
Greeley	85.8
Howard	424.82
Loup	50.38
Nance	68.15
Platte	111.08
Sherman	165.09
Valley	400.81

New Irrigated Acres by County

in southern Loup, northeastern Custer, and Valley Counties.

LLNRD Flooding Projects Move Forward

The Lower Loup NRD continues to make progress in its work with two central Nebraska communities with flooding and drainage issues.

The North Loup Village Board has approved \$41,400 in funding, its share of the project to combat flooding issues inside the community. The Lower Loup NRD Board of Directors had previously approved \$71,700 to tackle issues outside the village limits, including the Mira Creek Basin.

Two projects in the Sargent Area are moving forward as well. City of Sargent officials and NRD staff will meet with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) representatives to discuss potential funding opportunities to remedy flooding issues that have plagued the community.

The Sargent East Improvement Project Area (IPA) continues with surveyors collecting data in the area in November. The project consultant

is working on project design and is developing a means to determine landowner benefits from the proposed project.

Those with questions on the projects can contact the NRD, 308-728-3221.

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Chemigation Dos And Don'ts Are Important

The Nebraska Chemigation Act specifically states that any time a chemical is mixed with irrigation water, both a chemigation permit and a licensed applicator is required. Assistant General Manager Tylr Naprstek said that in early 2020, due to COVID-19, all trainings being held across the state were cancelled.

Fortunately, Naprstek stated, there is now online certification training for both those who are seeking their first applicators license as well as those attempting to recertify. Naprstek reminds producers that to have a valid chemigation permit, an applicator must be listed with a non-expired chemigation license. The online training can be found

through the UNL website: <https://water.unl.edu/article/agricultural-irrigation/chemigation>.

Additionally, Naprstek said there have been some misconceptions regarding the applicability of chemigation requirements to surface water, specifically regarding water pumped from an irrigation canal. The Nebraska Chemigation Act states that any irrigation distribution system (groundwater or surface water), must have an approved chemigation permit prior to the application of agricultural chemicals to land or crops. Failure to obtain a



Surface water chemigation requires permit.

chemigation permit or be licensed for chemigation is a violation of the Chemigation Act and Lower Loup NRD regulations. Call the LLNRD at 308-728-3221.

Directors Re-elected to Lower Loup Board

Ten members on the Lower Loup Natural Resources District Board of Directors were re-elected to their seats in the 2020 General Election. Each ran unopposed in the balloting.

In Subdistrict 1, which covers part of Custer County, Jim Adams of Merna retained his seat with 3,027 votes. In Subdistrict 2, Alan Petersen of Burwell was re-elected with 3,273 votes. Subdistrict 2 covers parts of Custer, Garfield, Loup, Rock, Valley, and Wheeler Counties.

Todd Nitsch of Boelus received 2,932 votes to retain his Subdistrict 3 seat, which represents parts of Buffalo, Custer, Hall, Howard, and Sherman

Counties. In Subdistrict 4, which covers parts of Greeley, Howard, Sherman, and Valley Counties, Randy Kauk of Farwell received 2,475 votes.

Matt Lukasiewicz of St. Paul totalled 2,863 votes and will again represent Subdistrict 5, which includes parts of Greeley, Howard, Merrick, and Nance Counties. Jerry Smith of Spalding received 2,991 votes as the director for Subdistrict 6, which covers portions of Boone, Nance, Platte, and Wheeler Counties.

Larry Mohrman of Columbus was re-elected to the Subdistrict 7 seat. He received 2,731 votes from balloting in Nance and Platte Counties. Chad Podolak of Columbus will again

represent Subdistrict 8, parts of Platte and Butler Counties, receiving 2,416 votes.

Bob Bauer of Columbus tallied 2,064 votes and will represent Butler and Platte County residents in Subdistrict 9. In Subdistrict 10 in Platte County, Darwin Anderson of Columbus tallied 2,922 votes for re-election.

The Lower Loup Natural Resources District Board of Directors is made up of 21 members. Two are elected from each of the ten subdistricts and one is elected from the entire District at large. The four-year terms are staggered, so that one director is elected from each subdistrict every two years.

A Message From The Manager

Welcome to the latest edition of “In The Loup.” This publication allows us to share the work of the Lower Loup NRD.

I am pleased to report a special honor for my predecessor in the District. Former NRD General Manager Leon “Butch” Koehlmoos has been named to the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts’ (NARD) Hall of Fame. Butch served as the Assistant Manager of the LLNRD for over 23 years and as the General Manager from 2001 to 2017.

Koehlmoos led the NRD through numerous advancements, including the creation of groundwater management areas and development of phases of management for each. He also

oversaw the adoption by the NRD Board of a district-wide two-year suspension on the drilling of high-capacity wells.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the official ceremony for induction into the NARD Hall of Fame has been delayed.

Another District resident has been honored by the NARD as the “Educator of the Year.” Boyd Bowder is an Agricultural Educator at St. Paul High School.

Bowder teaches numerous ag classes, including Plant Sciences, Introduction to Agriculture, and Natural Resources. His students have been purple ribbon winners at numerous range judging contests and, in 2019, his St. Paul Envirothon



*LLNRD General Manager
Russell Callan*

team was crowned state champions.

The Lower Loup Natural Resources District is proud to have nominated these men for their honors. They represent the best in the people of the lower Loup River Basin.

Cover Crop Study Looks at Irrigation Use

In April, 2019, the Lower Loup and the Central Platte Natural Resources Districts entered into a partnership with EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc (EA). The partnership followed the Districts being awarded a Water Sustainability Grant from the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources to conduct a three-year project to study the impact of cover crops on soil moisture and recharge.

Producers were selected who had corn/soybean rotations in addition to planting cover crops in northern Buffalo County, an area that has shown historical declines in the water table. Cover crops have been

used for improving soil health and reducing erosion, but there is limited information available that quantifies the impact on groundwater recharge. This was the finding of an in-depth Literacy Review conducted by EA in 2017.

To look further into the impacts of cover crops, three fields were selected where traditional row crops were planted. After harvest, one-half of the pivot is to be planted to a cover crop, while the other half will be left unplanted. Soil samples have been collected and analyzed for nitrate, texture, and soil moisture content. Field monitoring equipment was installed in Fall,

2019, and will stay in the field for the three-year study. Moisture sensors will record data continuously and be stored remotely on a website.

Ultimately, participants will gain an understanding of the impacts of cover crops and how they influence water infiltration and deep percolation throughout the soil profile. This will aid in long-term management decisions as well as establish a baseline for common cover crop management practices.

For more information about the project, contact Jason Moudry, 308-728-3221.



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Protecting Lives, Protecting
Property, Protecting the Future.

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Conservation Tree Sales Are Underway

Conservation tree sales have begun in the Lower Loup NRD. Planning for trees can start at your local NRCS office. You may also order trees on-line at www.lnrd.org. For more information, call 308-728-3221.

Lower Loup Natural Resources District Tree Order Form

Conifers

- Eastern Red Cedar
- Ponderosa Pine (6 cu. in. container)
- Ponderosa Pine (bare root)
- Austrian Pine
- Colorado Blue Spruce (bare root)
- Colorado Blue Spruce (6 cu. in. contain.)
- Jack Pine
- Norway Spruce
- Rocky Mountain Juniper
- South Western White Pine
- Black Hills Spruce (bare root)
- Black Hills Spruce (6 cu. in. contain.)

Broadleaves

- American Elm
- Amur Maple
- Black Cherry
- Black Walnut
- Bur Oak
- Catalpa
- Cottonwood (Hybrid)
- Cottonwood (Native)
- Green Ash
- Hackberry
- Honeylocust
- Manchurian Apricot
- Manchurian Crabapple
- Red Oak
- Silver Maple
- Swamp White Oak

Shrubs

- Buffaloberry
- Caragana
- Common Lilac
- Chokecherry
- Cotoneaster (Centennial)
- Cotoneaster (Peking)
- Elderberry
- False Indigo

Shrubs (Cont.)

- Golden Currant
- Hazelnut
- Manchurian Apricot
- McKenzie Chokeberry
- Nanking Cherry
- Red Osier Dogwood
- Sandcherry
- Serviceberry
- Skunkbush Sumac
- Woods Rose

Small Acreage Packages (\$65 per package)

- West
- East
- Flowering
- Wildlife

Total trees ordered x \$1.00
Small Acreage Packages
An invoice with order total, including state and local sales tax, will be sent when order is received.

All trees and shrubs are \$1 per seedling plus sales tax. Each species must be ordered in lots of 25. Container trees should be ordered in lots of 20. Payment for handplant trees must be made when the order is placed.

The machine planting charge is \$75/100 (minimum charge \$200) plus sales tax. Orders for machine planted trees must be received by April 1st. Spraying is \$35.00 plus \$2.00/100 foot of row. Conservation tree seedlings are not guaranteed.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
Zip Code _____ Phone _____

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