

# IN THE LOUP

## Keep Irrigated Acres Certification Current

In order to maintain up-to-date records regarding irrigated acres, the Lower Loup NRD reminds landowners to report any new information for their “Certification of Irrigated Acres.” This applies to land irrigated with groundwater and/or surface water.

There are many instances that would lead to a certification update being required. Examples include when all or a portion of a certified field is sold, a change in how land is deeded

(including land placed in a trust or LLC), or when a field boundary is changed.

To begin the updating process, the landowner or their representative (lawyer, land broker, etc.) should contact the LLNRD. A staff member will prepare the certification form, a map of the parcel, and explain any further action needed to complete the process. By updating the “Certification of Irrigated Acres” with

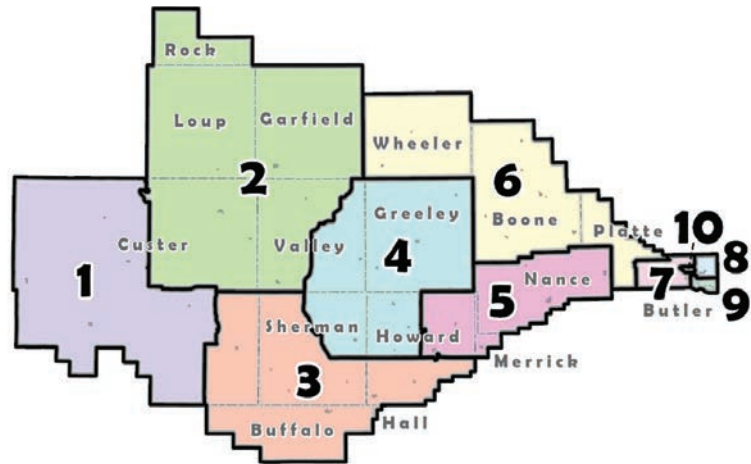
the LLNRD, your irrigation well data is automatically updated with Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and it verifies the actual acres certified with the LLNRD.

After the LLNRD has processed and approved the certification, a copy will be provided to the landowner. Another copy will be filed with DNR. For more information, contact the Lower Loup NRD at (308) 728-3221.

## Directors Approve New Subdistrict Boundaries

The Lower Loup NRD Board of Directors approved new subdistrict boundaries at their November, 2021, meeting.

The new boundaries were created using data from the 2020 U.S. Census. Visit [www.llnrd.org](http://www.llnrd.org) for a more detailed version of this map, including a population chart and close-up of the Columbus and northern Butler County area.



## LLNRD Launches Photo Contest

If a picture is worth a thousand words, the stories to be told through beautiful photos taken within the Lower Loup Natural Resources District are endless. Officials with the LLNRD hope that the contest will inspire photographers to explore the District, including its recreation areas, and get people

talking about LLNRD. The contest runs through May 15. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded in June, 2022. More information about the contest can be found at [www.llnrd.org](http://www.llnrd.org). Questions can be emailed to [abartels@llnrd.org](mailto:abartels@llnrd.org).

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# Lower Loup NRD Welcomes New Staff

**Alan Bartels** came to the LLNRD in mid-September as the organization's new Information Specialist.



**Information Specialist  
Alan Bartels**

Before that, Alan worked for *Nebraska Life* magazine – most recently as the publication's editor – while simultaneously working as the assistant editor of *Colorado Life* and *Utah Life* magazines. He is currently writing a travel guide.

Alan's photos have appeared in national publications such as *USA TODAY*, the Smithsonian Institution's *Air & Space Magazine*, and *National Geographic*. Alan lives in Farwell.

**Eleanor Berger** is the new District Secretary at the Spalding Field Office. Before coming to the Lower Loup NRD in October, she worked for the online agricultural equipment and real estate company, Big Iron.



**District Secretary-Spalding  
Eleanor Berger**

Eleanor grew up on a Boone County ranch near Petersburg and now lives in Greeley County near Spalding. She enjoys riding horses and spending time outdoors. Eleanor and her husband, Eric, are the proud new parents of an infant son born in January, 2022.

**Jordyn Duffek** is the Lower Loup NRD's new Conservation Technician for the Spalding area. She was hired in early November. Jordyn is a talented team roper and competes in her spare time.

The McCool Junction native lives near the Wheeler County community of Bartlett. When not working or rodeoing, Jordyn spends time with her horses and crafts Indian loom beaded art.



**Conservation Technician  
Jordyn Duffek**

Clay County native **Harold Benton** landed in Valley County after retiring from the U.S. Air Force. He joined the LLNRD in mid-November as a Water Resources Technician.



**Water Resources Technician  
Harold Benton**

Harold and his wife, Lisa, are the parents of son, Harrison, and daughter, Megan. Both children are students at the University of Nebraska-Kearney. Harold enjoys fishing, woodworking, and fixing up his family's cabin at Sherman Reservoir near Loup City.





# A Message From The Manager

Welcome to the Winter, 2022, edition of “In The Loup,” the LLNRD’s quarterly newsletter. This publication allows us to share the important work of the Lower Loup NRD with the District’s residents.

The Lower Loup NRD, along with Nebraska’s 22 other NRDs, is celebrating 50 years in 2022. At nearly 8,000 square miles in size, and encompassing more than 10 percent of the land in Nebraska, the Lower Loup NRD is the state’s largest Natural Resources District.

Since 1972 we’ve partnered with other agencies and worked with communities and landowners to protect our state’s natural resources. Nebraska’s NRD system is a model

of resource management for the rest of the nation. Nebraska is the No. 1 irrigated state in the U.S. Groundwater levels across the state have been sustained near levels recorded before widespread irrigation development in the 1950s, and in parts of the LLNRD, groundwater levels are higher.

## CHEMIGATION PRICE CHANGE

The Lower Loup NRD’s Directors approved an increase in the price of a new chemigation permit at a public hearing during their January 27, 2022, meeting. The fee will now be \$100. Renewals will remain the same price of \$30. No members of the public spoke for or against the price change during the public hearing held at the LLNRD headquarters in Ord. No



**LLNRD General Manager  
Russell Callan**

written comments were received.

As always, feel free to reach out to me or my staff with questions and concerns, and have a happy, safe, and productive 2022.

# Field Trip Fun at LLNRD’s Aagaard Farm at Ord

Mother Nature’s outdoor classroom was in session on November 16 when Ord Elementary School third graders, and teachers Mrs. Karla Callan and Mrs. Elizabeth Staab, spilled from their school bus and out onto the autumn prairie of the Lower Loup NRD’s Aagaard Research Farm.

Water Programs Specialist Jason Moudry and Rangeland Management Specialist Dan Ruterbories led the 41 students to the top of a tall hill to get the lay of the land of the 480-acre farm. After a hike, the children viewed a video of trail camera wildlife images. Their favorite was the final image captured by one camera as a persistent woodpecker finally pecked out the camera lens. After lunch, a tour of a food/habitat plot, and a craft activity where the

children made birdfeeders out of milo seedheads and string, the students embarked on a scavenger hunt. Items to look for included animal tracks, a bird’s nest, and a spider web. Laughter erupted when



**Ord Elementary School students  
explore the LLNRD’s Aagaard  
Farm.**

in response to the category of “find something from an animal,” one of the five teams showed up with deer droppings in hand.

“Not all of the children came from a farm background,” Moudry said. “For some of them, this was the first time they had the opportunity to run around and explore an actual working farm.”

Teachers interested in scheduling a customizable, guided field trip at the Aagaard Research Farm can contact the Lower Loup Natural Resources District at (308) 728-3221.



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**Protecting Lives, Protecting**  
**Property, Protecting the Future.**

IN THE LOUP is a publication of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District. It is published quarterly by the LLNRD and is distributed to the residents of the 16 counties that make up the District. IN THE LOUP is edited by Larry Schultz and Alan Bartels, NRD Information staff.

# 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 online at [www.llnrd.org](http://www.llnrd.org). For more information, call (308) 728-3221.

## Lower Loup Natural Resources District Tree Order Form

### Conifers

- Austrian Pine
- Black Hills Spruce (6 cu. in. contain.)
- Black Hills Spruce (20 cu. in. contain.)
- Colorado Blue Spruce (bare root)
- Colorado Blue Spruce (6 cu. in. contain.)
- Eastern Redcedar
- Jack Pine
- Norway Spruce
- Ponderosa Pine (6 cu. in. container)
- Ponderosa Pine (20 cu. in. container)
- Ponderosa Pine (bare root)
- Rocky Mountain Juniper
- South Western White Pine

### Broadleaves

- Black Cherry
- Black Walnut
- Bur Oak
- Bur Oak (20 cu. in. cont.)
- Catalpa
- Cottonwood (Hybrid)
- Cottonwood (Native)
- Crabapple
- Hackberry
- Honeylocust
- Manchurian Apricot
- Red Oak
- Silver Maple
- Swamp White Oak

### Shrubs (Cont.)

- Elderberry
- False Indigo
- Golden Currant
- Hazelnut
- McKenzie Chokeberry
- Nanking Cherry
- Red Osier Dogwood
- Sandcherry
- Serviceberry
- Skunkbush Sumac
- Woods Rose
- Vilosa Lilac

### Small Acreage Packages (\$65 per package)

- West
- East
- Flowering
- Wildlife
- Total trees ordered x \$1.05
- Small Acreage Packages
- An invoice with order total, including state and local sales tax, will be sent when order is received.

### Shrubs

- American Plum
- Amur Maple
- Buffaloberry
- Caragana
- Common Lilac
- Chokecherry
- Cotoneaster (Centennial)
- Cotoneaster (Peking)

All trees and shrubs are \$1.05 per seedling plus sales tax. Each species must be ordered in lots of 25. Container trees should be ordered in lots of 20. Container tree pricing: 6 cu. in. \$1.05 and 20 cu in. \$2.60. 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 \$45.00 plus \$3.00/100 foot of row. Conservation tree seedlings are not guaranteed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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