



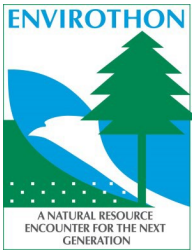
Lower Republican NRD Review

Spring 2018
Volume 54

Protecting Lives, Protecting Property, Protecting the Future

Envirothon State Qualifiers

Teams from Arapahoe and Southern Valley are two of 14 teams who will be competing at the State Envirothon Competition on April 25th at Niobrara State Park. Only one team from Nebraska goes on to compete at the National Envirothon in Idaho. Nebraska will have the honor of hosting the 2020 National Envirothon.



Congratulations to all the area teams who competed this year in area and state competitions. The Lower Republican NRD (LRNRD) is proud to support natural resource education!

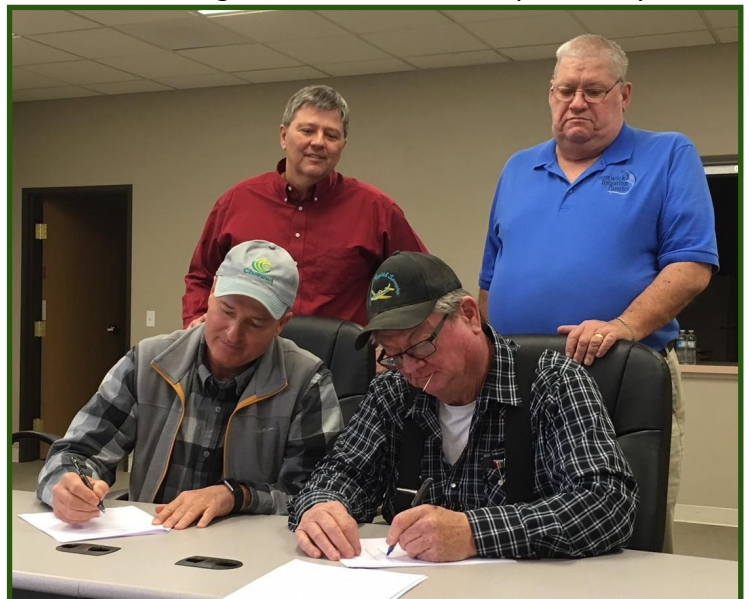
Manager's Message By Todd Siel, General Manager

As I navigate through my first spring here at the LRNRD, there are numerous projects, programs, and services we are attending to, but here are three current areas of interest I want to highlight:

1. **Nebraska Bostwick:** the signing of our agreement supporting the installation of automated gates on the Franklin Canal was a truly historic moment. (See photo below.) This joint effort is hopefully just the beginning of further cooperative relationships leading to future projects benefitting irrigators in the LRNRD.
2. **NCORPE – Republican River Compact:** we are not pumping this spring from our augmentation wells south of North Platte and it's possible no pumping will be needed at all in 2018 for compact compliance. Also, groundwater levels have risen across the NCORPE property since we last pumped in May 2017.
3. **Harlan County Lake:** for the fourth consecutive year, the lake is storing more water than the previous year. In terms of elevation, the lake has risen from 1,927.81 in January 2014 to the current level of 1,940.08 (as of April 1, 2018).

It's nice to have some positive water news as we prepare for this year's irrigation season!

Back Row: Todd Siel, General Manager, LRNRD, Tracy Smith, General Manager, NE Bostwick Irrigation District (NBID). Front Row: Marlin Murdoch, Board Chairman, LRNRD, Walt Knehans, Board Chairman, NBID.



DEADLINE: JUNE 1, 2018
Chemigation Renewals
Occupation Tax Exemption
Pooling Deadline

CREP ENROLLMENT OPEN FOR IRRIGATED GROUND!

Are you looking for an alternative option for your irrigated acres, but CRP rates don't stand up? There has never been a better time to enroll your irrigated acres into the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). This is a joint program between the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR) that pays irrigated rental rates to plant CRP on pivots and gravity irrigated fields (pivot corners can also be included).

CREP fields are planted into a CRP warm season grass mix and can be enrolled at any time throughout the year. To qualify, the fields must have been farmed and irrigated 4 out of 6 years between 2008-2013. The land does **NOT** have to be highly erodible (HEL) to qualify. CREP contracts are 10 or 15 years in length and allow managed haying and grazing with FSA approval.

What does it pay? CREP pays an annual rental payment every October (see table). In addition, FSA provides 50% cost-share on grass and forb establishment, which the NDNR matches (these combine for 90-100% cost share).

CREP ANNUAL RENTAL RATES		
County	Pivot (\$/acre/year)	Gravity (\$/acre/year)
Franklin	245	215
Furnas	215-245	170-205
Harlan	230-245	200-215
Nuckolls	245	215
Webster	245	215

Are there additional incentives available? CREP enrollments within Franklin, Furnas, and Harlan Counties are eligible for additional incentives: **CREP Signup (\$50/acre)** and **CREP Establishment (up to \$25/acre)**. Incentives are offered by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) and Pheasants Forever (PF). These counties are within the South-Central Focus on Pheasants (SCFOP) Area, a priority area identified by the NGPC's Berggren Pheasant Plan as an area of important habitat for up-land game birds.

Additionally, public hunting access is **NOT** required to participate in CREP or to receive SCFOP incentives. For those willing to allow walk-in hunting access, additional incentives (CRP= \$8/acre/year) are available through NGPC's Open Fields and Waters (OFW) Program.

If you would like to learn more about CREP contact your local USDA office or Logan Shoup, NGPC Biologist based in Alma (phone: 308-920-0336, email: Logan.Shoup@nebraska.gov)

Nebraska Youth Range Camp

Nebraska Youth Range Camp at the State 4-H Camp near Halsey, NE, is full of opportunities for hands-on experience, leadership, and teambuilding as well as lectures and field activities geared toward the management of our native range lands. June 11th-15th, high school students with interests in conservation, animal science, wildlife or other related topics will have a unique opportunity to become educated on concerns facing our state.

The LRNRD grant program pays the camp fee of \$200 for two students. The two most qualified applicants will be selected to receive these grants. Priority will be given to first time applicants.

Mail your completed grant application to Lower Republican NRD, PO Box 618, Alma, NE 68920. Applications must be postmarked no later than May 4th. For more information about Range Camp or to get a copy of an application form contact the LRNRD at 308-928-2182, go to our website at www.lrnrd.org, or on Facebook at Nebraska Youth Range Camp.



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Adventure Camp about the Environment

Nebraska middle school students are invited to attend Adventure Camp about the Environment (ACE). ACE, hosted by Nebraska's NRDs, is held at the State 4-H Camp near Halsey, NE, from June 10th-13th. Camp Cost: \$215.00. The LRNRD awards two grants to students within the district. Grants are awarded to the first two applications received.

Students experience the great outdoors while exploring and learning about the environment. They will learn outdoor survival skills, interpret weather maps, identify tree species and animal tracks at camp. Campers will also get the opportunity to go tubing, try archery, zip line, build water rockets, and much more. They will take home a better awareness of possible careers in natural resources.

To apply, mail your completed registration form, prior to May 14th, to Lower Republican NRD, PO Box 618, Alma, NE 68920. For more information about ACE or to get a copy of a registration form contact the LRNRD at 308-928-2182, go to our website at www.lrnrd.org, or on Facebook at Adventure Camp about the Environment.



Welcome New LRNRD Employee

Patsy Ord is the new Field Office Secretary in Nelson. She and her family have a 3rd generation farm east of Red Cloud that they own/operate. Patsy is very passionate about Agriculture and feels extremely blessed to be able to raise her family in a rural/farming community where they have the opportunity to be involved in 4-H and FFA. Stop in and welcome her.

2018 LRNRD Cap Set At 13"

The 2018 district-wide allocation has been set at 13" for All certified effective irrigated acres. These inches can only be used if you have 13" of allocation to use. **Penalties will be applied for over usage.** The LRNRD Board of Directors has established a 13" hard cap for years designated as a compact call year by the Department of Natural Resources. This is the first year for the new allocation period. You are allowed to carry over up to 9 inches.

Chemigation

June 1st is the deadline for chemigation permit renewals. The renewal fee is \$15. After June 1st they will be considered a new permit and will be charged \$50. All pivot irrigated fields that utilize chemigation are required to have a permit.

Pooling

Pooling arrangements must be completed by June 1st for the 2018 irrigation season. Existing arrangements will continue unless written cancellation is received by June 1st. For more information about pooling arrangements or agreements, contact Kristi at our office 308-928-2182 or go to our website and view the ground water rules and regulations at www.lrnrd.org.

June 1st Deadline for Occupation Tax Exemption

LRNRD Occupation Tax Exempt forms need to be completed if you are paying irrigated taxes on certified irrigated acres and don't plan to irrigate part or all of these acres in 2018. If you do not have irrigated acres or you plan on irrigating all of your irrigated acres in 2018, you do not need to complete this form. If you would like to exempt acres, the form must be submitted by **June 1, 2018**.

Board of Directors

Subdistrict 1	Clark Andrews, Holbrook
Subdistrict 1	Toby tenBensel, Holbrook
Subdistrict 2	Bill Bose, Orleans - Vice Chair
Subdistrict 2	Marlin Murdoch, Orleans - Chair
Subdistrict 3	Tim Kahrs, Franklin - Treasurer
Subdistrict 3	Matt Harrison, Naponee
Subdistrict 4	Nelson Trambly, Campbell
Subdistrict 4	David Bartels, Riverton - Secretary
Subdistrict 5	Terry Hoyt, Red Cloud
Subdistrict 5	Roger Nelson, Superior
At-Large	Bradley Wulf, Red Cloud

LRNRD Staff

Todd Siel	General Manager
Scott Dicke	Assistant Manager
Shirlee Poyser	Administrative Assistant
Kristi Heft	Water Resources Administrator
Sasha Hahn	Water Secretary/Info. & Edu.
Lonnie Knehans	Rural Water Superintendent
Scot Lennemann	Water Resources Technician
Maclane Scott	Water Resources Technician
Colt Livingston	Water Resources Technician
Mary Goebel	Franklin County Office Secretary
Jennifer Helms	Furnas County Office Secretary
Brittney Nurnberg	Harlan County Office Secretary
Patsy Ord	Nuckolls County Office Secretary
Lynetta Snelling	Webster County Office Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 1—LRNRD Scholarship Application Due
April 12—Board Meeting 7 pm, LRNRD Meeting Room, Alma
April 14—NRD 5k Run, Cowboy Trail, Norfolk, NE
April 24-25—Water Jamboree, Harlan County Reservoir
April 25—State Envirothon, Niobrara State Park, Valentine, NE
May 4—Youth Range Camp Application Postmark Deadline
May 10—Board Meeting 7 pm, LRNRD Meeting Room, Alma
May 14—ACE Camp Application Postmark Deadline
May 28—Memorial Day, Office Closed
June 1—Deadline for Pooling, Chemigation & Occupation Tax
June 10-13—ACE Camp, State 4-H Camp, Halsey, NE
June 11-15—Youth Range Camp, State 4-H Camp, Halsey, NE
June 14—Board Meeting 7 pm, LRNRD Meeting Room, Alma
July 4—Independence Day, Office Closed
July 12—Board Meeting 7 pm, LRNRD Meeting Room, Alma

This is a publication of the Lower Republican NRD
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E-mail: lrnrd@lrnrd.org website: www.lrnrd.org

Permit No. 55

Alma, NE 68920

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Non-Profit Permit

Lower Republican Natural Resources District
PO Box 618 - 30 North John Street
Alma NE 68920

