Free Tire Recycling Events

Tuesday, August 29 from 8am—Noon
- Guide Rock: 102 N University, Webster County Residents Only

Tuesday, September 19 from 8am—Noon
- Franklin: Franklin County Fair Grounds, Franklin County Residents Only
- Alma: Corner of John & South St (One block South of Hogeland’s Market), Harlan County Residents Only

No rims, tubes, or commercial businesses. No early or late drop offs. Scale tickets for big loads are appreciated and are required for semi loads.

This event is sponsored by the County Commissioners and Supervisors, Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE), Lower Republican Natural Resources District (LRNRD) and Trailblazer RC&D.

NSWCP FUNDING

The Lower Republican NRD has received funding for the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program. The program has three major categories: range, erosion, and water conservation and water quality. Some eligible conservation practices include range seeding, critical area plantings, planned grazing systems, irrigation water management, terrace systems, impoundment dams, grade stabilization structures, diversions, grassed waterways and water and sediment control basins. The projects must be designed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service in your area. The LRNRD cost shares on 50% of the average or actual cost of the project, whichever is less with a maximum of $5000 per year. For more information on this program, please contact your local NRCS office.

Volunteers Needed—NeRAIN

The Nebraska Rainfall Assessment and Information Network, NeRAIN, is a special project designed to include volunteers in a study of the complex patterns of rain, hail, and snow from our weather here in Nebraska. The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources in collaboration with the Nebraska Natural Resources Districts initiated this program.

Volunteers for NeRAIN spend a few minutes each day recording precipitation measurements along with outstanding weather events and uploading them to the website. Anyone can participate in this project—from children first learning about weather patterns to adults—interested in the phenomenon that is Nebraska weather. The data that is provided help in the daily decision-making for utility providers, agricultural producers, resource managers and educators.

To sign up to become a volunteer and receive a free rain gauge, please visit the Ne-Rain website at https://nednr.nebraska.gov/NeRain/. The Lower Republican NRD is looking for volunteers specifically along Highway 4 east of Highway 10 and also around the Oxford area.
Flowmeter Reading and Maintenance

As irrigation season is winding down, this is a quick reminder that our technicians will begin to read flow meters soon. If you have noticed your flow meter is not working correctly, please contact our office as soon as possible. Properly functioning flow meters benefit both you the irrigator, as well as the Lower Republican NRD by providing accurate irrigation records.

Calculating Irrigation Water Usage

Our Irrigation Meter Calculator, located on our home page at www.lrnrd.org, is pictured below. It is very simple to use. All you need to do is type in your beginning meter reading, ending meter reading and the number of acres irrigated. Make sure you select how your flow meter reads (example: gallons X 100) then press calculate. It will show the water usage for that field.

Rebates on Reverse Osmosis Systems

Is water from your private well safe to drink? If your drinking water test levels are above 10 PPM of nitrates, you may be eligible for a rebate on a reverse osmosis system to remove nitrates from your private well. Private wells must be registered with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. For well registration information visit: https://dnr.nebraska.gov/. You must also get your well tested by the state laboratory. To request a test kit go to https://www.nebraska.gov/dhhs/water-test-kits/private.html. Funding amounts up to $4,000 per small treatment installations are available. For more information about this rebate, please visit: http://dee.ne.gov/.

Water Resources Technician Areas

The Lower Republican NRD has 3 Water Resources Technicians to cover the district. The western area is covered by Travis Fisher. Dave Bantam covers the central area and PJ Holmes takes care of those in the eastern area. Below is a map that is color coded for the areas along with the technicians name and phone number.
Water Well Decommissioning

Windmills dot the landscape of Nebraska. Did you ever stop to think that this scene could be contributing to groundwater contamination? Not the windmill, but the well below. It is estimated that there may be as many as 150,000 abandoned domestic and irrigation wells within Nebraska. When these wells are not properly decommissioned, they can become a direct source for ground water contamination and also are a safety hazard for humans and animals.

Properly decommissioning water wells must follow certain requirements set forth by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. A licensed water well contractor must conduct all decommissioning activities.

Excavation around the well casing to a depth of 3 to 4 feet is often required. Then the top 3 feet of casing is removed. The well should be disinfected with a chlorine solution and also the material placed in the well during the decommissioning process. Once the well has been disinfected, it is ready to be filled. The well is first filled or grouted from the bottom to a foot below the static water level. A minimum of a 3 foot section of grout/bentonite is then placed at this point. The well casing is further filled with disinfected gravel to within about 3 feet below the top of the cut off casing.

After the well has been filled, it needs to be sealed or capped with an upper plug to prevent surface and near surface contaminants from entering the well casing. There are two options available, either of which can be used if the well records indicate an adequate surface seal, such as a mounded concrete pad sloping away from the well or a watertight cap was installed during construction. The first option includes removing the top 3 feet of the casing and installing a 6 inch grout seal 1 foot beyond the bore hole and at least 1 foot below the top of the cut off casing. Option 2 allows leaving the casing in place, installing a 10 foot thick seal and installing a water tight cover on top of the casing. If a surface seal was not installed during construction or it is not known if a surface seal was installed, only the first option can be used. The excavated hole is then backfilled with native soil.

Once the well has been properly decommissioned, it must be reported to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources so that it can be logged as an abandoned well. The Lower Republican NRD offers cost-share on water well decommissioning. We will pay 75% up to $750 maximum for irrigation, domestic, and livestock wells. The cost-share for a hand dug well is a maximum of $1,000.
UPCOMING EVENTS

August 29—Tire Recycling, Webster County, 102 N University, Guide Rock
September 4—Labor Day, Office Closed
September 12-14—Husker Harvest Days
September 14—Board Meeting 7 pm, LRNRD Meeting Room, Alma
September 19—Tire Recycling, Franklin County, Franklin County Fair Grounds, Franklin
September 19—Tire Recycling, Harlan County, Corner of South & John Street, Alma
September 20—Range Judging Contest, Region 3, TBNRD
September 26-27—State Range Judging Contest, LBBNRD
October 4—Land Judging Contest, South West Region, MRNRD
October 12—Board Meeting 7 pm, LRNRD Meeting Room, Alma
October 25—State Land Judging Contest, LLNRD

This is a publication of the Lower Republican Natural Resources District
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