Lower Republican NRD Scholarship Recipients

The Lower Republican NRD awards 3 college $1000 scholarships to district students attending a Nebraska college and majoring in a natural resources related field. Congratulations to the 2020-2021 Lower Republican NRD post-high school scholarship recipients.

Ethan Baker, a 2020 graduate of Alma High School, is the son of Jared and Michelle Baker. Ethan is planning on attending the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in Curtis and majoring in Ag Business.

Olivia Leising, daughter of Phillip and Nina Leising and Theresa Lesing, from Arapahoe is currently attending Concordia University. She is majoring in Agricultural Science and Environmental Science.

Our third recipient is Taylor Sayer. Taylor is from Cambridge and is the daughter of Jared and Julie Sayer. Taylor is currently attending the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in Curtis where she is majoring in Agronomy.

Congratulations to these students. We wish them success in college and in achieving their future goals.

Terry Hoit—2020 Tree Planter of the Year

Terry Hoit from Red Cloud has been selected by the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) as the 2020 Tree Planter of the Year. Terry is a farmer that employs tree plantings as a significant effort to enhance the land on his farm. The tree plantings serve multiple purposes including soil protection, livestock shelters, and wildlife enhancements. Terry has planted over 10,000 trees and put down nearly 13 miles of fabric mulch. The annual success rate on Terry’s conservation grade trees purchased from the Lower Republican NRD averages 90% or better. However, he recognizes that success is not simply achieved by placing down fabric mulch and walking away. You have to keep the weeds out! Terry continually monitors and cares for all of his tree plantings, both old and new. It is also important to remove the fabric mulch after the trees and shrubs are established. The mulch doesn’t biodegrade fast enough and it’s possible that the base of the tree can get choked off, which can kill them. Because of his effort, dedication, commitment and passion, Terry is a very deserving recipient of this award. Congratulations Terry!
The Lower Republican NRD, Tri-Basin NRD, and Central Platte Rangeland Alliance conducted a prescribed burn on the Platte Republican Diversion (PRD) pasture west of Smithfield, NE on Monday, April 20, 2020. The goal was to reduce the number of Eastern Red Cedar, and clear old grass thatch to restore the native grassland.

Fire is a natural feature of native prairie, however as people have settled the plains, wildfires have been suppressed to protect property and life. Without natural fire, some species of plants dominate and take over the land. Prescribed burning is a technique used to improve grasslands. It suppresses certain undesirable plants, such as Eastern Red Cedars, and improves the environment for better plants. Prescribed burns are done for specific purposes, under predetermined weather conditions.

There is a great deal of planning that goes into a prescribed burn. Factors to consider include the amount and distribution of fine fuel, desired weather conditions, preferred wind velocities, direction to burn, and the location of highways and buildings. You must have proper weather conditions and obtain a burn permit from your local fire chief to be allowed to conduct a prescribed burn. Specialized equipment and trained people are required to safely execute a fire plan.

The PRD pasture is land to be used for diverting water from the Platte River to the Republican River. Below is a photo taken April 21st, the day after the approximately 400 acre burn. The bottom photo was taken a month after the burn.

Additional updated drone footage is available at nebraska.tv (NTV) or tribasinnrd.org.
**Free Tire Recycling**

**Wednesday, August 12 from 8am-Noon**

Alma: Corner of John & South St (One block South of Hogeland’s Market) **Harlan County Residents Only**

**Friday, August 14th from 8am-Noon**

Hildreth: Fire Hall, 248 Commercial St, **Franklin County Residents Only**

Guide Rock: East Elevator, **Webster County Residents Only**

Here are some things to keep in mind.

* No early or late drop-offs
* Not Accepted—tire rims & inner tubes
* No commercial operations or dealers

* Bring accurate count or scale tickets
* Pre-weigh large loads
* Front-end Loader Available

For more information on this clean-up, contact the Lower Republican NRD at 308-928-2182.

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

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**The LRNRD is in a NON-Compact Call Year**

How much can we pump in a non-Compact Call Year?

In a non-Compact Call Year, you can pump as much as your allocation balance will let you. There is no limit or penalty but remember, whatever you pump will be deducted from your current allocation balance and then that balance will need to carry you through the rest of the allocation period.

Example: we are in year 3 of the 5-year allocation period

Your allocation balance shows after two years—34.5 inches

You pump in the third year—14.0 inches

Your balance—20.5 inches left

This balance will need to last for the final two years of the allocation period.

If you have any questions, please contact the Lower Republican NRD at 308-928-2182.

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**Irrigation Season—Flowmeters**

Please check flowmeters on your wells periodically throughout the irrigation season. Making sure they are working correctly benefits both the Lower Republican NRD and you, the irrigator, for accurate irrigation records. It is your responsibility to make sure the flowmeters are functioning correctly during the irrigation season. If you have a problem with a meter, please contact our office.

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**NSWCP Funding**

The Lower Republican NRD will be receiving funding for the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program (NSWCP) in July. Please check with your local NRCS office to find out more about this program.
UPCOMING EVENTS

August 12—Tire Recycling, Harlan County, Alma
August 13—Board Meeting 7 pm, LRNRD Meeting Room, Alma
August 14—Tire Recycling, Franklin County, Hildreth
August 14—Tire Recycling, Webster County, Guide Rock
August 28-Sept. 7—Nebraska State Fair, Grand Island
September 7—Labor Day, Office Closed
September 10—Board Meeting 7 pm, LRNRD Meeting Room, Alma
September 22—Range Judging Contest-Area 3, MRNRD
October 7—Land Judging Contest-Southwest Area, TBNRD
October 8—Board Meeting 7 pm, LRNRD Meeting Room, Alma
October 12—Columbus Day, Office Closed

This is a publication of the Lower Republican Natural Resources District
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