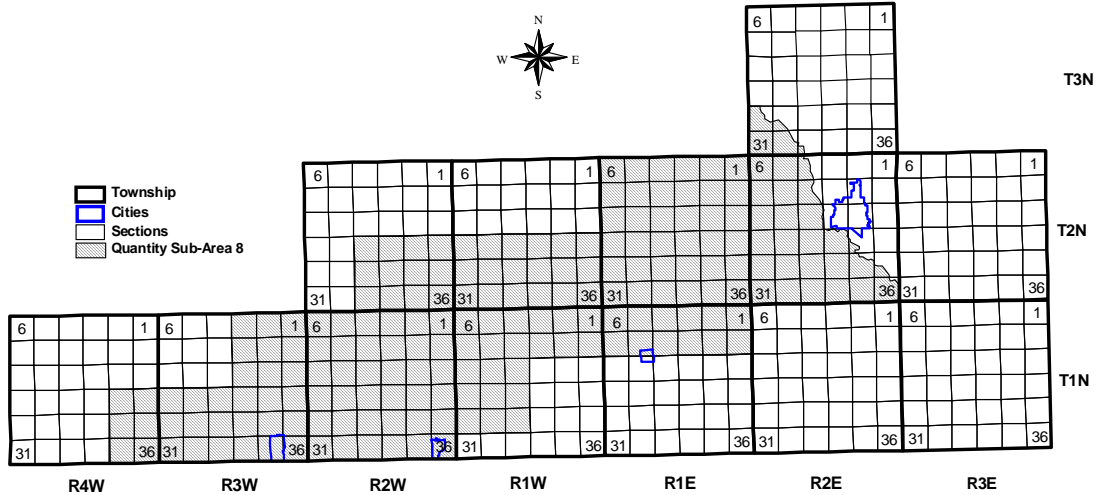


# Little Blue Natural Resources District Quantity Sub-Area 8



The Little Blue NRD, in cooperation with the University of Nebraska’s Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Nebraska Environmental Trust, completed a hydrologic/geologic investigation of Thayer county and portions of Nuckolls and Jefferson counties. Copies of the report and accompanying maps are available at the District’s office in Davenport or can be reviewed at the local Natural Resources Conservation Service or County Extension offices.

From preliminary data collected through the report the District initiated a stay on expansion of irrigated acres and installation of groundwater wells, or series of wells, that produce 50 gallons per minute or more within the cross hatched area located on the map above. **This was done for the long term protection of the groundwater resource.**

The geologist that completed the report visited recently with the District’s Water Resources Committee, when asked about the appropriateness of the stays he said, **“further actions beyond stays may be needed to stem groundwater declines and deter water quality deterioration.”** Crop rotation is a measure he suggested; however, groundwater allocation through metering is more common and is currently being implemented in Nebraska to meet compact compliance with other states. He recommended further monitoring of the aquifer using his report as a baseline for future comparisons.

**Flow meters in Quantity Sub-Area 8 are not required but the District encourages high capacity well owners within its boundaries to take advantage of a special cost share program administered through the Little Blue NRD.** Money has been made available from the Nebraska Environmental Trust for installation of flow meters to assist with proper scheduling of groundwater withdrawals for irrigation. This program has been in place for about one year and grant money availability expires June 30, 2008. However, the grant was originally submitted on a two year cycle and it is hoped cost share availability will be extended for another year when reviewed by the Trust this spring. However, an extension is not guaranteed due to the demand for funds and **by policy, cost share is not available if flow meters become, at some time, a mandatory requirement.**

Please contact the District’s office in Davenport, or your local NRCS, if you would like to take advantage of the cost share program or have questions concerning the study.