

NEWS RELEASE

Marlene K Faimon
PROGRAMS MANAGER
1/18/18

DISCUSSION CONTINUES CONCERNING LITTLE BLUE NRD'S GROUNDWATER RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Little Blue Natural Resources District Board has been working on adopting new Guidelines for the Groundwater Rules and Regulations. They have made progress and have agreed on some of the key water strategies. The board would like to see producers eliminate water waste and encourage them to eliminate gravity systems to more efficient systems, like pivots or subsurface drip irrigation. Managing your water applications and knowing what your soil moisture availability is with soil moisture probes, are great management tools to adopt to your systems.

The LBNRD Board has agreed to some rules and regulations, adopted in 2014. Flowmeters are required on all high capacity wells producing 50 gallons per minute or more. If producers do not have meters installed please contact the NRD for a list of approved meters and proper installation procedures.

Annual pumpage reports are due each year by December 31st. Also, staff is currently requesting certain areas of the district to submit their certified irrigated acres documents. All areas will need to complete this by January 1st, 2019.

Allocation trigger will be the 2016 water levels as the baseline. If the District water levels fall 1 foot below 2016 levels for two consecutive years allocations will be activated.

The first-year allocation is currently set at, 60" over a 5 year period with a 5" bank to begin the period (one time only, 5 inch bank) and then a 8 inch carry over to the next allocation. The reason for such a user-friendly allocation is that it will give producers time to convert to a more efficient watering system.

A Groundwater Committee meeting is set for February 6th at the Little Blue NRD to continue to discuss and modify language and goals for the new rules and regulations.

The goal is to have a complete set of rules and regulations for a public hearing by late winter and an approved set prior to spring planting.

Matters still being discussed are pooling of certified acres, transfer of irrigated acres, and water quality regulations.

*Little Blue Natural Resources District
P.O. Box 100
Davenport, NE 68335 Phone: 402-364-2145 Fax: 402-364-2484
E-mail: mfaimon@littlebluenrd.org
WEBSITE: www.littlebluenrd.org*

