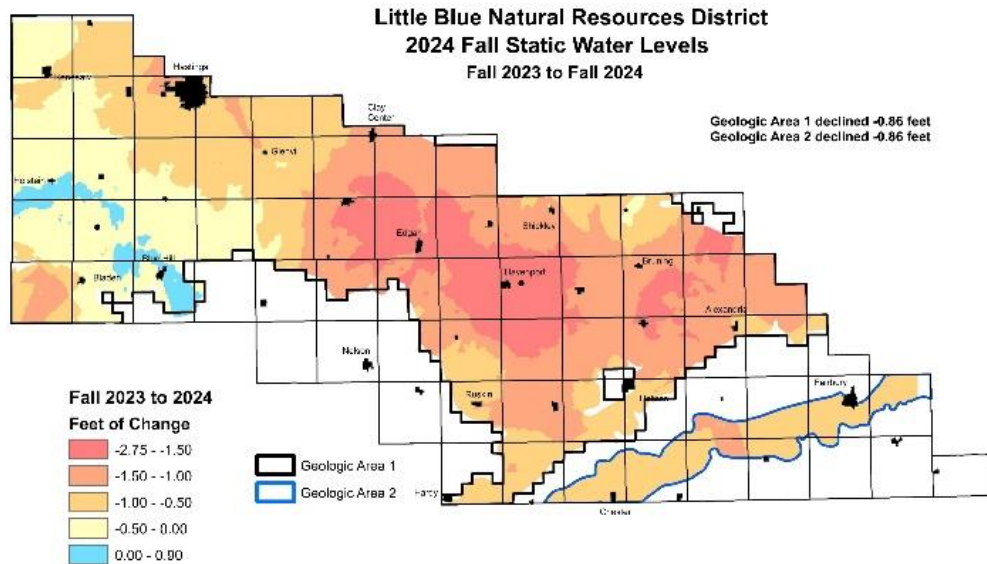


## Fall Water Static Levels



Fall static water levels are measured annually for informational purposes only. All decisions concerning stays on new well development and allocations of irrigation are determined from the Spring static water level measurements.

Comparing fall 2023 static water levels to 2024 fall level there was an average decline of -0.86 (a little over 10 inches) in Geologic Area 1 and Geologic Area 2. The map above represents those changes in the varying colors from red to blue. Western portions of the district actually had a few levels that were higher than last year and several wells declined less than a foot. The eastern portions of the district had sections that declined 1.5 feet and more.

Groundwater allocations go into effect only if the Spring static water measurements stay below the trigger level for two consecutive years, meaning that an allocation could go into effect beginning in the 2025 growing season in Geological Area 1. Geological Area 2 did not hit the trigger level in the spring of 2024, but a stay on wells/acres has been in effect west of Fairbury since 2006. If levels do drop below the trigger in 2025 there would be a stay implemented on high-capacity well construction & expansion of irrigated acres in the irrigatable lands to the east of Fairbury.

But as the 2024 spring levels in Geologic Area 1 initiated a stay, the question is will levels stay below the trigger level for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year and allocations for irrigation begin in 2025? If we look at changes from spring of 2024 to fall of 2024, the average drop across the district was -2.30 feet. For the last 3 years water levels have risen over the winter months by 1.79, 1.61, and 1.77 feet; but, in 5 years from 1975 to present the water levels have rebounded more than 2 feet over winter. 2025 Spring levels will begin in April and will provide the answer to allocations and stays.

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