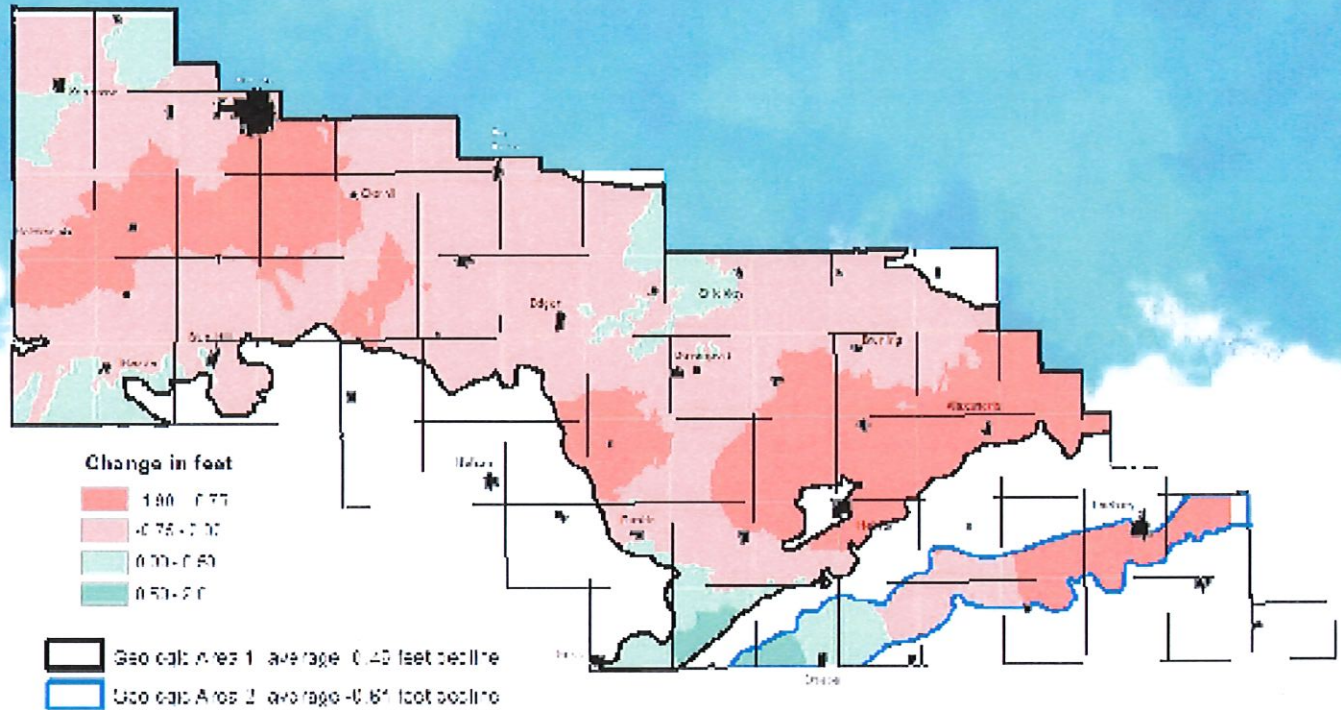


# Out of the Blue

Newsletter for Little Blue Natural Resources District



## 2022 Spring Static Water Levels

by: Jessica Hedges

This spring the water levels were completed in the month of April. The map above shows the changes between Spring 2021 to Spring 2022. This map shows a large majority of the District with declines. Geologic Area 1 was down -0.49 feet on average. Some of the hardest hit towns were Hebron, Alexandria, Carleton, Roseland, and Holstein. Geologic Area 2 was down -0.61 feet on average. The area hardest hit was between Fairbury and Reynolds. However, there were some small rises around Bladen, Kenesaw, and Shickley; with some significant rises by Chester.

In Geologic Area 1 the greatest decline was -3.4 in a well by Oak, the greatest rise was +2.0 in the area just north of Byron. However, about 75% of the wells in Area 1 measured were lower than last spring.

In Geologic Area 2 there was a decline of -1.9 feet in a well by Fairbury, while another well just west of Chester showed the greatest rise of +2.0 feet. About 60% of the wells in Area 2 measured were lower than last spring.

This information compares spring of 2021 to spring of 2022 water levels. Fall 2022 data will be collected beginning in October and will compare water levels to fall of 2022.

## This Issue:

- Water Levels | Pg. 1
- Scrap Tires | Pg. 2
- Free Trees | Pg. 2
- Fire Safety | Pg. 3
- Stay Areas | Pg. 4
- Chemigation | Pg. 5
- FSA's | Pg. 5

## CONNECT WITH US

- Little Blue Natural Resources District
- @littlebluenrd
- @littlebluenrd
- [www.littlebluenrd.org](http://www.littlebluenrd.org)
- [lbnerd@littlebluenrd.org](mailto:lbnerd@littlebluenrd.org)





## Scrap Tire Recycling Event

by: Jessica Hedges

In March, the Little Blue NRD, Trailblazer RC&D, and County Supervisors hosted two Scrap Tire Events, one in Fillmore County and the other in Clay County. These events were funded from a grant with the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy. The Fillmore County Scrap tire event took place on March 17th, 2022 at All Around Landscaping in Fairmont. Even though it was cold and windy the day of the event, we had a great turn out. Fillmore county residents collected 154.63 tons of scrap tires for recycling.

The Clay County Scrap tire event took place on March 31st, 2022 at the Fairgrounds in Clay Center. The day started out with snow on the ground, but people couldn't stay away. Clay County residents collected 186.86 tons of scrap tires for recycling.

Once the tires were collected at both events Butler County Landfill came to collect them. Butler County landfill shreds the tires and uses them as an alternative daily cover in their landfill.

We will be hosting another Scrap Tire Event in



Thayer County on August 16 at the County Road Department in Hebron, from 8am – 12 pm. Nuckolls County has received their own grant for a Scrap Tire Event, which will be taking place on August 5th at the County Road Department in Nelson, from 9am – 4pm.

We would like to give a big thanks to all the volunteers that helped with our events!

## Free Trees for Earth and Arbor Day

by: Jessica Hedges



The future of our natural resources lies in the hands of our children. Therefore, the Little Blue Natural Resources District feels youth education is a top priority. Earth Day and Arbor Day offer an excellent time for staff to visit elementary aged children and offer them parting gifts – a free tree.

Each tree was specially prepared for each event in bundles according to the school's order. Each tree was wrapped in a plastic sandwich bag that contained wet woodchips to keep the roots wet and safe during transport. The schools were also given activities sheets for the children and planting instructions.

Seven hundred and fourteen total trees were distributed to six schools, with the blue spruce being the popular choice of the year. Jessica was able to spend approximately eleven hours of classroom time interacting with students ranging in ages from pre-kindergarten to eighth grade. The point of focus during the presentations was the history of Arbor Day and the importance of trees. Jessica also taught some of the pre-kindergarten students how to plant their trees with a hands-on demonstration.

If you are interested in adding a school to this tree distribution list next year, please reach out to Jessica Hedges, [jhedges@littlebluenrd.org](mailto:jhedges@littlebluenrd.org) or call the office 402-364-2145.



# Basic Fire Awareness & Notice

by: Jessica Hedges

Campfires are an essential part of the camping experience. Stories are told around them, s'mores are roasted on them, bodies are warmed by them and memories are created. The best way to keep those memories from becoming a horror story is to follow some simple and important campfire safety tips. Some fires are ignited by lightning or natural causes, but people cause an overwhelming number of wildfires. Most of these fires are accidental and are due to careless acts. Do your part to stay fire safe! Know Before You Go - Know how to prevent wildfires by properly using outdoor equipment, learning campfire safety, and checking for fire restrictions and closures.

**Practice Physical Distancing** - Give people space, it's crucial to not crowd firefighting efforts. Wildfires are no-drone zones.

**Plan Ahead** - Know what fire restrictions are in place at your destination, and check if campfires, barbecues, and flammables are allowed.

**Play It Safe** - From fireworks to camp stoves, understand the potentially explosive nature of your toys and tools, and that some of these may be restricted in your location.

**Explore Locally** - Impacts from wildfire can change your travel plans. Have a back-up plan, like close-to-home gems that you have yet to explore.

**Leave No Trace** - Keep your campfire small, ensure that it's out completely and cold to the touch prior to leaving or going to sleep.

**Build An Inclusive Outdoors** - Everyone experiences the outdoors differently, and we can work together to keep our communities safe.

## Four Tips for Campfire Safety

**1. Pick Your Spot Wisely:** Use existing fire circles or pits if available. Do not build a fire in dry or windy conditions, especially if there are fire restrictions in place (check with local authorities). Build fires at least 15 feet away from tent walls, shrubs, or other flammable materials.

**2. Prepare Your Pit:** Choose a spot for your campfire that is downwind from your tent and gear and protected from wind gusts. Clear a 10-foot-



wide diameter area around your site, and make sure there are no limbs or branches hanging over your pit. Always circle the pit with rocks or use an existing fire ring.

**3. Build A Small Campfire:** Once you have a prepared pit, you are ready to build a small campfire that stays well within the fire pit. It is recommended to use three types of wood. Tinder, which is made of small twigs, dry leaves or grass, will get the fire started initially. Kindling, consisting of twigs smaller than one inch around, will help to light the larger pieces of wood. Fuel—the large pieces of wood—will provide the heat and sustained flames once the tinder and kindling are consumed.

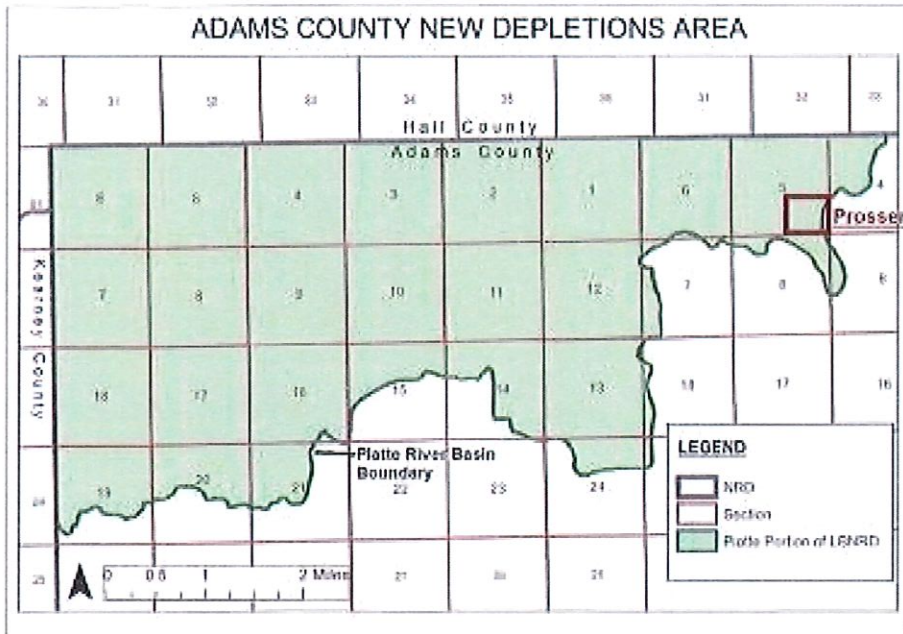
**4. This is the most important step!**  
**EXTINGUISH THE FIRE PROPERLY:** Campers need to properly maintain and extinguish campfires when going to bed or leaving the area. If possible, let the campfire burn down to ashes. Pour water on the fire to drown all embers, not just the red ones. Once this is done, stir everything in the pit with a shovel and test for heat with the back of your hand. Once it is dead, you are safe to go to bed or leave the area.

These tips were provided by: <https://www.recreation.gov/articles/location-spotlight/campfire-safety-tips/807>



## Just a Reminder

by: Alicia Epps



The outlined area, known as Unit 8, has been under a stay since March 16, 2016 (Rule listed below).

A stay means to halt, stop, or delay a well permit, action of development, or the expansion of irrigated acres.

You can find your certified irrigated acres on our website, [www.littlebluenrd.org](http://www.littlebluenrd.org), also, on your Irrigation Pumpage Reporting Form.

2.2.7.1 - The portion of the paleovalley aquifer known as Unit 8, where high-capacity well permits, the expansion of new irrigated acres and the groundwater transfers are prohibited (Effective March 16, 2006). The stratigraphic boundaries for this stay area are from the land surface through the underlying water bearing silts, clays, sands, and gravels, and include the sandstones, siltstones, chalk, and shale formations which may contain groundwater below the unit.

You can contact the office if you have any questions. (402) 364-2145

The outlined area, known as The Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (PPRIP), has been under a stay since May 10, 2018 (Rule listed below).

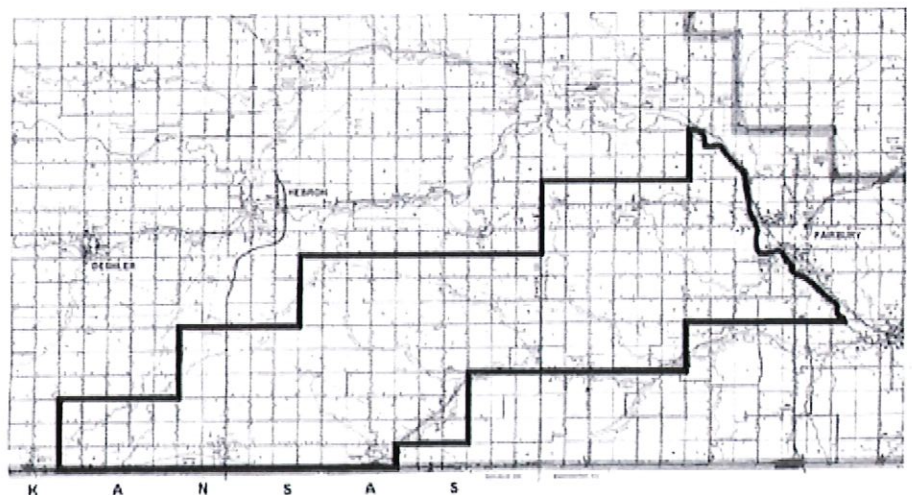
A stay means to halt, stop, or delay a well permit, action of development, or the expansion of irrigated acres.

You can find your certified irrigated acres on our website, [www.littlebluenrd.org](http://www.littlebluenrd.org), also, on your Irrigation Pumpage Reporting Form.

2.2.7 - The Board has imposed stays in the portions of the District shown in the Appendix to these rules in figure 2. The stays imposed, land impacted, and their implementation date include:

2.2.7.3 - that portion of the Platte River Drainage area in Northwest Adams County where groundwater uses have been determined by Nebraska Department of Natural Resources modeling to impact Platte River stream low by 10 percent in 50 years. (Effective May 10, 2018.)

You can contact the office if you have any questions. (402) 364-2145





## Chemigation by: Alicia Epps

The State of Nebraska gives each NRD the task of collecting payments and inspecting and reporting chemigation permits. By state law, a chemigation permit **MUST** be obtained before any person can legally chemigate.

**New Permits:** New chemigation permits cost \$60.00 per injection site. Permits should be paid prior to or at the time of inspection.

**Renewing Permits:** Renewal cost is \$20.00 per injection site. Renewed permits must be received by June 1, along with payment. Any permits not renewed before June 1 will be considered a new permits.

**Inspections:** Chemigation systems for new permits **MUST** be inspected and approved by the Little Blue NRD staff before initial use. System already inspected and have a renewed permit, are on three-year rotation for inspections.

**Contact Information:** Please provide the best contact information on the permits so that we can call you to schedule any inspections that are needed.

Completed application and payments can be remitted to: LBNRD, P. O. Box 100, Davenport, NE 68335. For more information and chemigation permits go to: <https://littlebluenrd.org/groundwatermanagement/chemigation/>.

## FSA by: Alicia Epps

With planting season ahead, please make sure that if you make changes, submit an FSA 578 and map to Alicia Epps at [aepps@littlebluenrd.org](mailto:aepps@littlebluenrd.org), Little Blue NRD, PO Box 100 Davenport, NE 68335 or drop them off at the office in Davenport. Also, make sure to include the legal and irrigation type.



May 10: Regular Board Meeting  
May 18: Blue River Basin Annual Meeting  
May 30: Memorial Day (Office Closed)



June 1: Chemigation Permit Deadline  
June 1: Electronic Recycling Event - Nelson  
June 3: Electronic Recycling Event - Clay Center  
June 6: Electronic Recycling Event - Geneva  
June 7: Electronic Recycling Event - Hebron  
June 14: Regular Board Meeting  
June 20: Juneteeth (Office Closed)  
June 21-22: GMDA Annual Conference



July 4: 4th of July (Office Closed)  
July 12: Regular Board Meeting





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402-364-2145

#### **LITTLE BLUE STAFF**

Scott Nelson - General Manager  
Tyler Goeschel - Assistant Manager  
Marie Herbek - Office Administrator  
Kathy Boysen - Administrative Assistant  
Alicia Epps - Database Specialist  
Jessica Hedges - Media & Communication Specialist  
Erika Brinegar - Natural Resources Coordinator  
Kevin Orvis - Project Manager  
Jim Oltmans - Water Resources Technician  
Tim Hecke - Natural Resources Technician  
Lucas Slieter - Operations Technician

#### **FIELD OFFICES**

Adams County NRCS Secretary - Vacant  
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Clay County NRCS Secretary - Allyson Peshek  
402-762-3569  
Fillmore County NRCS - Sylvia Jividen  
402-759-4017  
Jefferson NRD/NRCS Technician - Christine Zabokrtsky  
Jefferson County NRCS Secretary - Paula Schultz  
402-729-6134  
Thayer County NRCS Secretary - Jessica Hynek  
402-768-6228  
Webster County NRCS Secretary - Lynetta Snelling  
402-746-2268

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Sub-District 4: Warren Taylor, Glenvil  
Sub-District 5: Jesse VonSpreckelsen, Clay Center  
Sub-District 5: Kevin Kissinger, Glenvil  
Sub-District 6: Steve Shaw, Edgar  
Sub-District 6: Lyle Heinrichs, Shickley  
Sub-District 7: Alan Wiedel, Hebron  
Sub-District 7: Vacant  
Sub-District 8: Bill Glenn, Fairbury  
Sub-District 8: Jay Meyer, Daykin  
At Large: Marlin Kimle, Kenesaw

**"Little Blue Natural Resources District is an Equal Opportunity & Provider."**

The Little Blue NRD's Out of the Blue is a publication of the Little Blue Natural Resources District. Requests to be placed on the Out of the Blue mailing list and/or comments regarding information in this publication should be directed to Jessica Hedges, Media & Communications Specialist, 100 East 6th Street, PO Box 100, Davenport, NE 68335.