

Out of the Blue

Newsletter for Little Blue Natural Resources District



This Issue:

- Fall Water Levels| Pg. 1
- LBPWP| Pg. 1
- Farming the Blue River| Pg. 2
- Land Judging| Pg. 2
- Pumpage Reports| Pg. 2
- Water Jamboree | Pg. 3
- Tree Sales | Pg. 3

Fall Static Water 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.

This fall, Geologic Area 1 (see map at www.littlebluenrd.org/2023-spring-static-water-levels/ or scan the QR code below.) measured 18.6 inches below the trigger level. Geologic Area 2 measured 1.8 inches below the trigger level. This means that Geologic Area 1 will need to recharge more than 18.6 inches and Geologic Area 2 will have to recharge more than 1.8 inches over the winter months to avoid triggering a stay on new well development or a restriction on additional certified acres.

Groundwater allocations go into effect only if the Spring static water measurements stay below the trigger level for two consecutive Springs, meaning that the absolute earliest an allocation would go into effect would be the 2025 growing season.

The last three winters have seen recharge amounts of 21.5", 19.3", and 21.2" so the likelihood of triggering a stay in Spring of 2024 is not out of the question, but staff are hopeful that recharge will be adequate this winter to avoid a stay.

For any questions, please contact Kevin Orvis at korvis@littlebluenrd.org or call at 402-364-3695.



Little Blue Public Water Project

At the request of rural water users, the Little Blue NRD is progressing with the construction of a new wellfield and water supply system for the 400+ customers that the project serves. Construction of this \$10 million dollar project is planned to begin in the fall of 2024. The goal of the project is to provide a clean, reliable and affordable drinking water supply to rural residents for the next 50 years. The anticipated monthly cost for a customer using 6,000 gallons of water per month will be \$65.

Recent accomplishments include the following:

- Secured Land Rights for a Wellfield
- Completed Engineering Design & Construction Cost Estimate
- Secured Funding for the Project (\$6,608,000 Grant - \$3,600,000 Loan)
- Working with Jefferson County and Landowners to Secure Easements for Water Distribution Line

For additional Information, please contact Scott Nelson at snelson@littlebluenrd.org

CONNECT WITH US



Little Blue Natural Resources District



@littlebluenrd

www.littlebluenrd.org



@littlebluenrd

lbnd@littlebluenrd.org



Farming For The Blue River

The Farming for the Blue River project is a partnership between the Little Blue Natural Resources District (NRD), Lower Big Blue NRD, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Nature Conservancy.

The goal of this project is to co-learn with farmers to develop nutrient management plans to reduce nitrogen losses and improve nitrogen use efficiency. Project partners will work with farmers to create a nutrient management plan in line with the plant's nitrogen needs, provide farmers technical assistance in adopting precision nutrient management, and participation in a peer-to-peer learning network to scale practices regionally.

Farmers can enroll up to 160 acres per year, up to three years, and will receive \$10/acre per year for each acre enrolled in the program. Additional financial assistance is available for annual soil sampling throughout the timeline of the project to inform the revised nutrient management plan. Additionally, the Farming for the Blue River partners encourage farmers to layer additional cost-share incentives by enrolling in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) with NRCS. (Find the Application Here)

Interested parties can contact Tyler Goeschel at Little Blue NRD at tgoeschel@littlebluenrd.org or call at 402-364-3172. Signing up is easy and Tyler will happily assist you!



2023 South Central Land Judging Contest

The South Central Area Land Judging competition was held Wednesday, October 4th, near Glenvil, NE. 450 students and 12 adults from 24 different schools participated in the event.

During the competition students visit four different soil formations on an agricultural field. They are challenged to interpret physical soil properties such as depth, texture, permeability, slope, thickness, and susceptibility to erosion. Students are also asked to determine a soil's land capability class that indicates land use limitations and to make land treatment recommendations.

The team winner was the team from Hampton! Making up that team was Macy Miller, Wyatt Dose, Wyatt Shaw, and Bryce Joseph, (see photo below.) The second-place team was from Deshler Public School. Third place was claimed by the team from Palmer High School. Due to the high admissions rates this year, our area was able to send a total of six teams to the state competition. Not only do the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams gain entry, but also, so do teams from Heartland (fourth place), High Plains (fifth place), and Adams Central (sixth place.) Congratulations to all of the winners!

This event promotes agriculture education across the state. So not only did these students enjoy a beautiful day outside but they also were able to learn something while having fun!

The Pumpage Report Deadline Is Now December 15th, 2023!!!!

To turn in your Pumpage Report please mail them to the LBNRD Office, or contact Alicia or Kevin.

Kevin Orvis: 402-984-3130
korvis@littlebluenrd.org
Alicia Epps: 402-364-3473
aepps@littlebluenrd.org



2023 Water Jamboree

Over 275 students from 10 schools participated in this year's Water Jamboree at Liberty Cove Recreation Area near Lawrence, Nebraska on September 20th & 21st.

The water jamboree is an educational fun day for fifth and sixth-grade students from schools located in the Little Blue Natural Resources District. Students were able to attend sessions on the power of water, life in Liberty Cove, bird migration, food chain fails, invasive weeds, and trivia about Nebraska's water.

The event wouldn't have been such a great success if it weren't for the numerous volunteers from the LBNRD, University of Nebraska – Lincoln Extension office, Trailblazer RC&D, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, and U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The overall goal of the Water Jamboree is to teach water resource concepts early with hands-on activities.



Little Blue NRD 2024 Tree Program

Tree sales for 2024 Spring Tree season are now underway. Trees and shrubs provide important benefits from protecting homes and livestock from wind and snow to preventing soil erosion and providing wildlife habitat.

LBNRD offers a hand plant program and a machine plant program. We offer a variety of trees and shrubs. This list can be found on our website under the trees tab on the hand plant order form or you may call our office. If you are interested in a machine plant of 100 or more trees you may contact your local NRCS office. They can assist you in developing a tree planting plan free of charge. They can help you determine how many trees or shrubs you will need, the best location to plant and which species best fits your specific needs.

Sales for both the hand plant program and machine plant program run through March 15, 2024, but you will want to get your orders in sooner rather than later for the best selection! For more information or to place and order call Kathy Boysen at the LBNRD office at 402-364-2145.



Dec

Dec 12th: LBNRD Board Meeting
Dec 15th: PUMPAGE REPORT
DEADLINE
Dec 22nd: Office Closed @ 12pm
(Christmas eve)
Dec 25th: Office Closed (Christmas)

Jan

Jan 1st: Office Closed (New Year's Day)
Jan 9th: LBNRD Board Meeting
Jan 15th: Office Closed (MLK Day)

Feb

Feb 8th: Operator Training (Hastings)
Feb 9th: Operator Training (Superior/Hardy)
Feb 13th: LBNRD Board Meeting
Feb 19th: Office Closed (President's Day)

Mar

Mar 4th: Scholarship Deadline
Mar 12th: LBNRD Board Meeting
Mar 15th: Tree Order Deadline



P.O. Box 100
100 E 6th Street
Davenport, NE 68335
lbnrd@littlebluenrd.org
littlebluenrd.org
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 & Communications Specialist
Kevin Orvis - Project Manager
Jim Oltmans - Water Resources Technician
Vacant - Natural Resources Technician
Tim Hecke - Operations Supervisor

FIELD OFFICES

Adams County NRCS Secretary - Rita Peshek
402-462-5412
Clay County NRCS Secretary - Vacant
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

Sub-District 1: Mason Hoffman, Roseland
Sub-District 1: Glen Bonifas, Roseland
Sub-District 2: Brent Hoops, Hastings
Sub-District 2: Courtney Luebben, Hastings
Sub-District 3: Jessi Hoeft, Hastings
Sub-District 3: Glen Bredthauer, Hastings
Sub-District 4: Lyle Schroer, Lawrence
Sub-District 4: Warren Taylor, Glenvil
Sub-District 5: Jesse VonSpreckelsen, Clay Center
Sub-District 5: Aaron Paus, Fairfield
Sub-District 6: Steve Shaw, Edgar
Sub-District 6: Kyle Knight, Clay Center
Sub-District 7: Alan Wiedel, Hebron
Sub-District 7: Alan Kenning, Hebron
Sub-District 8: Bill Glenn, Fairbury
Sub-District 8: Jay Meyer, Daykin
At Large: Russ Ochsner, Roseland

“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.