

Natural Resources News

Winter 2006 A Newsletter of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Vol. 21

Come visit our web page to find out more about what we can do for you: <http://www.tpnrd.org>

Certification of Irrigated Acres is Underway!!!!!!!

The Twin Platte Natural Resources District is beginning the process of notifying landowners for certifying irrigated acres within the District. We are starting the notification in Keith County and will work our way through the other counties. During the summer of 2004, the Twin Platte Natural Resources District obtained funding to have high-resolution infrared imagery taken for the entire District. The certification process is based on the 2004 infrared imagery. For a large portion of our District, this coincided with the District placing a temporary stay on new irrigation wells and new irrigated acres.

Each county has been sub-divided into manageable areas of land (ranging from four to eight townships—depending on the number of irrigation wells). Each of these areas have been analyzed and geo-rectified. Crop types have been separated into two categories of irrigated or non-irrigated, with fields further analyzed by the crops grown. Irrigated acres for each field were then calculated. If a center pivot was in place, we sometimes had to establish what had the potential to be irrigated. This could be due to geographic constraints for that area, or for the 2004 year a different crop type was farmed, that could lead to a difference in what was actually irrigated. We have compared our figures with the county assessor's office and to date the figures are very comparable.

Beginning in February we will be sending out forms and aerial photos stating how many acres we believe should be certified as irrigated. The form will come with instructions on what to do if you feel this is a correct assessment, and what your options are if you believe it is incorrect. We may see a lot of traffic in our office within the next 12 to 18 months, so please call ahead and schedule an appointment so that we can help everyone as quickly as possible.

We obtained landowner names and addresses for each tract of land from the assessor's office. If you are a renter or a farm manager and would prefer to have the forms sent to you, we ask that you let our office know ahead of time so that we can get those addresses entered into the computer before being mailed.

We plan to use the information received to update the Department of Natural Resources Registered Water Well Database. Many of their records are outdated and wells are incorrectly located. It is in your best interest to make sure your wells are properly located and registered. It is amazing how many well locations are incorrect. Prior to 1993, it was the landowner's responsibility to fill out the forms and figure footages of wells. Since that time, a law was enacted providing that it is the well driller's responsibility to register wells they drill, and the accuracy has greatly improved. When you receive the forms from us, please take the time to carefully review them, sign and then return them. **Depending on where you live, you may not hear from us for awhile, but we have not forgotten you.** If you have any questions, please feel free to give us a call or stop by the office.



Twin Platte Natural Resources District Integrated Management Plan (IMP)

The TPNRD and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources have begun the Integrated Management planning process for the TPNRD and for the Platte River Basin.

The TPNRD has formed a group of stakeholders to advise the Department and the TPNRD on the development of the TPNRD Integrated Management Plan. This group of stakeholders will also address, in part, the requirement that the TPNRD and the Department consult with certain entities during the preparation of an Integrated Management Plan for the fully appropriated river basin. The stakeholder meetings are advertised, open to the public, and include an opportunity for members of the public to provide comments. The following is a list of the entities that are represented on the Stakeholders group: Economic Development; Counties; University of Nebraska; Municipalities; Irrigation Districts; Chambers of Commerce; Financial Institutions; Public Power and Irrigation Districts; Recreation; Ground Water Users; Rangeland Representatives; Nebraska State Agencies; Well Drillers; and Education.

The purpose of the consultation and collaboration process is an attempt to obtain the agreement of all parties on the basin-wide plan and the TPNRD plan. The stakeholders have been meeting monthly since March 2005 and have made great strides. We are nearing the end of the informational/educational phase for the group, and are beginning to get to the “meat” of the Integrated Management Plan by working on goals and objectives. To follow the progress of the stakeholders, please feel free to come to a meeting or go online and check meeting notes and agendas on our web page at www.tpnrd.org. The link is under the regulatory button.

District-wide Ground Water Management Quantity Area

The Twin Platte Natural Resources District held a public hearing on January 19, 2006 to consider designating a District-wide Ground Water Management Area and the adoption of Rules and Regulations. Current law imposes a stay on the issuance of water well construction permits at the time the District is designated as a Management Area, and upon adoption of the necessary Rules and Regulations. The Rules and Regulations do not restrict the construction of water wells that pump less than 50 gallons per minute. The changes involve only high-capacity wells, which is any well with the capacity to pump more than 50 gallons per minute. Domestic wells and livestock wells generally pump less than 50 gallons per minute. The Rules and Regulations also identify several exceptions to the stay on the issuance of permits for the construction of new wells, including replacement wells, test holes, dewatering wells, and water wells for range livestock, among others.

Following the public hearing on January 19th, the Twin Platte Natural Resources Board of Directors voted in favor of a District-wide Ground Water Management Area. **The effective date is February 24, 2006.**

The move is a “time-out measure” until the Integrated Water Management Plan is developed, approved, and adopted. One of the primary reasons for designating the District as a Management Area, while recognizing that the result will be a stay on the issuance of water well construction permits, is to attempt to protect existing water users from being required to mitigate or replace the water use associated with newly-permitted wells.

Funding Available for Buffer Strips

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture recently announced that funding is available for those who sign up by February 10, 2006 to enroll acres in the Nebraska Buffer Strip Program.

Buffer strips are cropland areas planted to grasses in strips 20 to 100 feet wide. Buffer strips are an effective means of reducing sediment and other pollutants from reaching nearby surface water when placed next to seasonal or perennial streams, wetlands, and ponds. Significant drainage-ways through cropped fields may also qualify.

The landowner will then receive annual payments of \$150 per acre for buffers on irrigated cropland. Dryland cropland is also eligible, though the payment rates will be less. Riparian forest buffers are also an option through the program. The landowner chooses the duration of the agreement, which can be anywhere from 5 to 10 years in length. Contact the Twin Platte Natural Resources District office for more information.



2006 Chemigation Certification Trainings In the Twin Platte Natural Resources District vicinity

Natural Resources Districts cannot approve chemigation permits annually without a current certified chemigation applicator (yellow card holder) listed on the permit. This certification lasts for four years. Attending one of the training sessions listed and passing the exam will result in becoming a certified chemigation applicator.

Note: "Pesticide Applicator" (blue card) training is a separate certification accomplished at a different training session than those listed.

The Extension Service will charge \$15 for first time chemigation certification, or \$10 to renew a certification. You will receive a chemigation notebook to keep for future reference. Please bring a calculator and a pen or pencil to the training session. Please plan to attend one of the sessions listed if your "yellow card" certification is not up to date. For more information, please contact the Extension Service person at the phone number listed.

Date	Time, Location, and Contact Person
Feb 13	9:00 a.m. CST Logan County Courthouse Stapleton Contact: Bethany Sitz, 308-645-2267
March 2	1:00 p.m. CST West Central Research & Extension Center, North Platte Contact: Dave Boxler, 308-696-6721
March 7	1:00 p.m. MST Keith County Fairgrounds Ogallala Contact: Doug Anderson, 308-284-6051
March 9	1:30 p.m. MST Perkins County Fairgrounds Grant Contact: Doug Anderson, 308-352-4340
April 6	1:00 p.m. CDT West Central Research & Extension Center, North Platte Contact: Dave Boxler, 308-696-6721
May 4	1:00 p.m. CDT West Central Research & Extension Center, North Platte Contact: Dave Boxler, 308-696-6721

Did you know?

How much water does an acre of corn give off per day in evaporation? 4,000 gallons
How much water does it take to process a quarter pound of hamburger? Approximately 1 gallon

Twin Platte Natural Resources District

Board of Directors.....	Sub-District
Jim Rubenthaler.....(H)584-3578.....	At-large
(Chairperson)	
Doug Stack.....(W)535-8308.....	3
(Vice-Chairperson)	
Jerry Weaver.....(W)534-9240.....	3
(Secretary)	
Jim Meisner.....(H)284-6509.....	5
(Treasurer)	
Bob Petersen.....(H)532-2689.....	2
Joe Wahlgren.....(H)537-3136.....	2
Shane Storer.....(H)764-2343.....	1
Jeff Baldrige.....(H)534-7780.....	4
Bob Wiseman.....(H)368-5866.....	4
Eric Hansen.....(W)532-6244.....	1
Dennis Schilz.....(W)287-2341.....	5

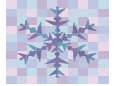
Staff Members.....	Position
Kent O. Miller.....	General Manager
Dave Slattery.....	Conservation Programs Coordinator
Bill Carhart.....	Range Programs Coordinator
Glen Bowers.....	Water Programs Field Coordinator
Ann Dimmitt.....	Water Programs Regulatory Coordinator
Sudheer Chadalavada.....	GIS Coordinator
Amy Mapes.....	Administrative Assistant
Kathy Clark.....	Field Office Secretary, North Platte NRCS
Brad Carlson.....	Range Programs Tech, North Platte NRCS

Natural Resources News is the official publication of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District. If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or would like to be placed on our mailing list, please feel free to submit them to:

Twin Platte Natural Resources District
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 P.O. Box 1347
 North Platte, NE 69103-1347
 Phone: (308)535-8080
 Fax: (308)535-8207
 e-mail: tpnrd4@nponline.net

**Come visit us at the.....
 16th Annual Buffalo Bill
 Farm and Ranch Expo
 Wednesday & Thursday
 February 8 & 9, 2006
 9am-6pm - 9am-4pm
 North Platte, NE
 D & N Event Center**

Upcoming Events:



February

- 1 OA Basin Wide Meeting - 10 a.m. CST at the Quality Inn in North Platte
- 8 & 9 Farm & Ranch Expo at the D & N Event Center South Hwy 83 & Walker Road—North Platte 9am-6pm on Wednesday and 9am-4pm on Thursday
- 9 Board of Director's Meeting - 3:00 p.m. CST*
- 13 TPNRD—Stakeholder's Meeting - 6:30 p.m. CST at Holiday Inn Express in North Platte

March

- 9 Board of Director's Meeting - 3:00 p.m. CST*
- 20 TPNRD—Stakeholder's Meeting - 6:30 p.m. CST at Holiday Inn Express in North Platte

April

- 13 Board of Director's Meeting - 7:30 p.m. CDT*
- 24 TPNRD—Stakeholder's Meeting - 6:30 p.m. CDT at Holiday Inn Express in North Platte

* Board Meetings are held in the TierOne Bank Center-North Platte

TWIN PLATTE

NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

PO Box 1347
 111 South Dewey Street
 North Platte, NE 69103-1347

Postal Patron