

Natural Resources News

Winter 2008 A Newsletter of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Vol. 23

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

Certification of Irrigated Acres in the Twin Platte

The Twin Platte Natural Resources District had 307,496.29 certified acres irrigated by ground water in 2004. On July 1, 2004, the District began limiting new ground water wells pumping in excess of 50 gallons per minute and new irrigated acres, which was expanded to all of the District in 2007.

The District has now completed the process of notifying landowners for certifying 2004 irrigated acres. The process began with the notification of landowners in Keith County, and continued through Arthur, McPherson, and Lincoln Counties in just under a two-year time frame.

During the summer of 2004, the District obtained funding to have high-resolution infrared photography taken from a low flying airplane for the entire District. The certification process was based on this 2004 imagery. For a large portion of the District, this coincided with the District placing stays on new high capacity ground water wells and new irrigated acres. For new irrigated acres allowed after 2004, the District will certify those irrigated acres for 2005 and 2006 as soon as the staff closes the books for the 2004 acres.

Each county was sub-divided into manageable areas of land, with fields analyzed by the crops grown. Irrigated acres for each field were then calculated, and forms and maps were sent to the landowners to either verify or dispute the preliminary proposed irrigated acres.

Beginning in early 2008, the District will again be sending out forms and aerial photos for new irrigated acres added in 2005 and 2006 that the District believes should be certified as irrigated. The form will have instructions on whether the landowner believes the information is correct or not. If any landowner developed irrigated acres during this time and does not receive any paperwork from the District, they should notify the office. These forms and maps will be for acres that were **not** certified in 2004.

No-Till Conservation The Future in Residue Management

No-Till Conference—Paxton NE

Swede's Banquet Hall—Paxton
January 25th - 9:00—3:00 MST

Registration \$7.50

Lunch at Ole's

Please RSVP by January 23rd

308.535.8080



The Nebraska Buffer Strip Program

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture recently announced that annual payments are available for those who enroll acres in the Nebraska Buffer Strip Program. Buffer strips are cropland areas planted to grasses in strips from 20 to 120 feet in width. Buffer strips are effective at reducing the amount of 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 receive annual payments of \$150 per acre for buffer strips on irrigated cropland. Dryland crop ground is also eligible, although the payment rates will be less and determined by soil type. "Riparian forest buffers" are also an option through the program. The landowner chooses the duration of the agreement, which can be from five to ten years in length. Contact Bill Carhart at the Twin Platte Natural Resources District office for more information about this program, or to enroll acres.

Chemigation Applicator Training 2008

February 12	1:00 pm MT	Keith Co. Fairgrounds, Ogallala, NE
February 14	1:00 pm MT	Community Bldg, Paxton NE
February 19	1:00 pm MT	Perkins Co. Fairground, Grant NE
February 20	9:00 am CT	Logan Co. Courthouse, Stapleton, NE
March 7	1:00 pm CT	WCREC, North Platte, NE
April 3	1:00 pm CT	WCREC, North Platte, NE
May 1	1:00 pm CT	WCREC, North Platte, NE

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Conservation Trees

Need a windbreak for your home, farmstead, or livestock? Plant your own little forest! Protect your crop ground with field windbreak systems. Control snow with a living snow fence. Increase wildlife habitat. Reduce stream erosion and soil erosion. Extend your existing windbreak. Whatever your planting needs, the Twin Platte Natural Resources District would like to help you have a successful tree planting.

Now is the time to plan your tree planting and to order trees for next spring delivery. The Twin Platte Natural Resources District, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, or the District Forester would be glad to help you with your plan.

A variety of species of conifers, hardwoods, and shrubs will be available. The minimum tree order is 25 seedlings for bare-root species, and 30 seedlings for large and small containerized species.

For more information or to order trees, call Dave at the Twin Platte Natural Resources District at (308) 535-8080 today. Orders will be taken through the middle of February.





Corners for Wildlife Program

The Twin Platte Natural Resources District is currently signing up acres for landowners looking for alternatives to farming their dry cropland “corners” adjacent to center pivots. The Corners for Wildlife program improves wildlife habitat and provides program participants up to \$75 per acre in annual payments for the 5-year enrollment period.

In addition, cost-share funds provided by the Natural Resources District and Pheasants Forever will cover or significantly reduce the landowner’s cost for installing habitat materials. The minimum improvement for a \$40 per acre payment is the seeding of a grass mixture to enhance wildlife cover. Tree and/or shrub plantings are required in addition to the grass seeding to receive \$75 per acre.

The Corners for Wildlife program is administered by the Natural Resources Districts in cooperation with the Nebraska Environmental Trust and Pheasants Forever, Inc. The program does not require hunting access on enrolled sites. Contact Bill Carhart at the District office for more information.

2007 Grassland Conservation Award Winner



Pictured from left, Bill Carhart of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District, Karen Sawyer, Ken Sawyer, Edna Peterson, Larry Sanger, Marilyn and Jim Rubenthaler. The award was sponsored by Nebraskaland National Bank.

Photo courtesy of Jeff Headley

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!!

Pictured from left Bruce Luehrs of Adams Bank and Trust of Ogallala, Tom Kalkowski, Sheila Jorgensen, Jerry Jorgensen, and Dave Slattery of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District.



2007 Tree Award Winner

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
Dale Margritz.....(H)532-6711.....	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
Kevin Spelts.....	Ground Water Modeler
Phil Heimann.....	Conservation Technician
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
 C/O Ann Dimmitt, Water Programs Regulatory Coordinator
 P.O. Box 1347
 North Platte, NE 69103-1347
 Phone: (308)535-8080
 Fax: (308)535-8207
 e-mail: tpnrd4@nponline.net

Chemigation Continued from page 2

WCREC stand for West Central Research & Extension Center. For WCREC sessions, contact **Dave Boxler** at (308) 696-6721. For Ogallala and Paxton sessions, contact **Doug Anderson** at (308) 284-6051. For Grant session, contact **Doug Anderson** at (308) 352-4340. For Stapleton session, contact **Bethany Johnson** at (308)645-2267

Come visit us at the.....

Buffalo Bill Farm and Ranch Expo

Wednesday & Thursday

February 6 & 7, 2008

9am-6pm - 9am-4pm

North Platte, NE

D & N Event Center



Upcoming Events:



January

- 10 Board of Director's Meeting - 3:00 p.m. CST*
- 14 TPNRD Stakeholder's Meeting - 7:00 p.m. CST at Holiday Inn Express in North Platte
- 25 No-Till Conference at Ole's in Paxton—RSVP

February

- 6 & 7 Farm & Ranch Expo at the D & N Event Center South Hwy 83 & Walker Road—North Platte 9am-6pm on Wednesday and 9am-4 pm on Thursday
- 11 TPNRD Stakeholder's Meeting - 7:00 p.m. CST at Holiday Inn Express in North Platte
- 14 Board of Director's Meeting - 3:00 p.m. CST*

March

- 13 Board of Director's Meeting - 3:00 p.m. CDT*
- 17 TPNRD Stakeholder's Meeting - 7:00 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
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 111 South Dewey Street, 2nd Floor
 North Platte, NE 69103-1347

Postal Patron