

Natural Resources News



December 2014

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www.tpnrd.org

How Changes to Chemigation Rules and Regulations May Affect You

Public Hearing

January 8, 2015 - 3:15 p.m. CT - Great Western Bank - 2nd Floor - 111 So Dewey St - North Platte

The Nebraska Legislature in 2014 approved changes to the Nebraska Chemigation law. The standard fees set in law have been eliminated and replaced with a requirement of each NRD to set the fees sufficient enough to cover the ongoing administrative costs and the costs of annual inspection programs by the NRD. The law specifically requires each NRD to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations establishing a fee schedule. The proposed changes to the permit fees in the Twin Platte NRD are as follows:

Renewal permit: \$20 - New permit: \$40 - Special permit: \$40 - Emergency permit: \$100

These are the only Twin Platte NRD recommended changes to the program that will otherwise operate as it has in the past. Inspections will continue to be made on a three year cycle; new and modified systems still must have an inspection prior to injecting fertilizer or pesticides; applicators are required to be certified every 4 years; and signed renewal permits and fees are due in the office of the Twin Platte NRD no later than 5 pm CT on June 1st.



The public is invited to express their views at the public hearing on the proposed changes to the Chemigation Program. The proposed Chemigation Rules and Regulations can be found in their entirety at the Twin Platte NRDs website at www.tpnrd.org or you may stop by the office for a copy of the proposed changes.

NOW is the time to order trees for next spring and next generation!!

Tree Prices

Farmer hand plants \$0.89/each

Sold in bundles of 25

25 trees = \$22.25

Small Acreage Package

50 trees (5 species 10 trees each)

50 trees = \$44.50

Now that the harvest is over and the equipment is all put away, the time to think about planting trees next spring is now. There is no time like the present to begin that windbreak out back. Whether it is to protect livestock or your property from the howling winds and blowing snows, trees are a great natural barrier from mother nature. The Twin Platte NRD has limited cost-share available on trees and fabric with a maximum of 200 trees and 2,000 feet of water conservation mulch. Cost-share is limited to first come, first served participants.

Small Acreage Packages are available for landowners that want to plant trees but don't want 25 of one kind and want to start out small. These packages include 50 total trees—5 different species, 10 trees of each. The cost is \$44.50 per package. There are 2 different packages.

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Small Acreage Packages:

Wildlife Package: American Plum, Red-osier Dogwood, Elderberry, Gambel Oak, Cotoneaster

Western Package: Colorado Blue Spruce, Rocky Mountain Juniper, Cottonwood, Native, Cotoneaster, Gambel Oak

How to Order Trees: Contact Dave Slattery at (308) 535-8080 at the TPNRD office

When to Order: By **March 1, 2015**

Why: Because there is no time like the present, and trees don't plant themselves!

When and where to pick up trees: If you order trees you receive a postcard with **all** the detailed information about when and where to pick up trees (early spring)



Occupation Tax 2014

Most of you are familiar with the “Occupation Tax” that was and will again be assessed to all irrigated acres in the Twin Platte NRD. Last year was the first time in history the TPNRD assessed an occupation tax. Occupation Tax statements will be mailed out mid-December from the county treasurer's offices and will look very similar to your real estate taxes. If you have any questions on these statements please call our office first before contacting the treasurer's office or paying it. It could make your life much simpler if changes need to be made prior to paying the tax.



One Project, Two Very Different Reasons

A Status Update on the N-CORPE

(Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement) Project

For information on the N-CORPE project, please go to the newly established N-CORPE website at

<http://www.ncorpe.org/>

This one unique project serves two very different requirements. The four NRDs (Upper, Middle, Lower Republicans, and the Twin Platte) combined forces to make this project possible, with each NRD having 25% ownership. The Republican River Basin NRDs needed this project for requirements with an interstate compact with Kansas. The three Republican River Basin NRDs portion of the project constructed a pipeline that carries water south to the Medicine Creek which flows into the Republican River. The Twin Platte NRD will be building a pipeline that carries water north to the Platte River to be in compliance with our Integrated Management Plan which requires returning the Platte River to 1997 water level conditions that will benefit downstream surface water users and the Platte River Recovery and Implementation Program.

South Pipeline: Construction was completed and became operational late March 2014.

North Pipeline: Waiting for legislation on funding for the project—easements and pipeline placement on-going, environmental assessment completed. Construction is anticipated to begin late 2015.



Wildlife Habitat Cost-Sharing Available

Two Twin Platte NRD programs are designed to enhance wildlife habitat on private land. Contact Bill Carhart for more information on how one or both of these programs may help you accomplish your wildlife habitat goals.



Corners for Wildlife (CFW) provides generous cost-sharing on materials and \$100 per acre annual payments to convert cropland into grass, wildflower, and shrub cover near center pivot systems. We should know soon if a CFW grant will be renewed. Until then we are accepting “notification of interest” forms from those who wish to be considered for the program as funds become available. Contracted sites will receive an annual payment for each of the five years enrolled, and public access is NOT a program requirement.

WILD Nebraska (WILD NE) is more versatile than CFW as it can apply to virtually any land, not just near center pivot systems. WILD NE can be used to enhance wetlands, grasslands, woody areas, and to establish buffer strips along streams or draws. WILD NE provides excellent cost-sharing on habitat materials but annual payments are not provided unless public access is included. However, public access is NOT a program requirement to receive cost sharing on habitat materials. Agreements are enrolled for five or ten years, depending on the nature of habitat improved.

Twin Platte NRD Offers Landowners Cost-Share to Plant Trees Within City Limits

Homeowners in North Platte, Ogallala, and Sutherland can improve their home landscapes while contributing to their city’s urban forest through a cost-share program funded by the Twin Platte NRD.

To participate, homeowners must submit an application to their respective city office. The city inspector and Twin Platte NRD representative will examine the planting site prior to application approval or denial.

Trees must be planted on private property in a location that is visible from the street. Rebates will be given for no more than two trees per year. Trees must be a minimum of six feet in height with a three-quarter inch caliper. Rebates are 50% of the total purchase price of each tree, not to exceed \$50 per tree, and rebates will be paid upon meeting the guidelines.



For more information contact Dave Slattery on this program.

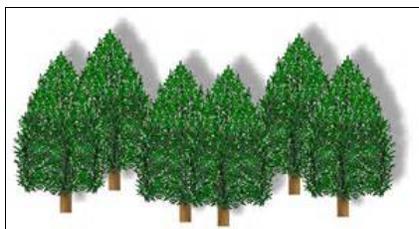
AWARD WINNER!

Congratulations to the winner of the

2014 TREE AWARD FOR LINCOLN-MCPHERSON COUNTIES

— Frimann Family Farm — Stapleton, Nebraska—

The Twin Platte NRD presented the Frimann Family Farm of Stapleton the 2014 Tree Award at the 51st Annual Farmer/Rancher Appreciation Banquet held on November 17, 2014. The Twin Platte NRD enjoys showcasing producers who go the extra mile while taking care of our natural resources for the next generation.



The Frimann Family Farm was recognized for their outstanding efforts in tree planting and tree management. They planted over 2,000 trees and shrubs; incorporated over 30,400 feet of conservation mulch; a drip tape watering system; and grow tubes to protect the trees and shrubs from wildlife. Congratulations on your hard work and dedication. Thank you!

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**Twin Platte Natural Resources District**

**Board of Directors**

**Sub-District**

|                               |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Dennis Schilz (Chairperson)   | 5        |
| Doug Stack (Vice-Chairperson) | 3        |
| Jerry Weaver (Secretary)      | 3        |
| Jim Meisner (Treasurer)       | 5        |
| Robert L Petersen             | 2        |
| Joe Wahlgren                  | 2        |
| Shane Storer                  | 1        |
| Dale Margritz                 | 4        |
| Bob Wiseman                   | 4        |
| Eric Hansen                   | 1        |
| Judy Pederson                 | At-Large |

**Staff Members**

**Position**

|                          |                                           |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Kent O. Miller, P.E..... | General Manager                           |
| Dave Slattery.....       | Conservation Programs Coordinator         |
| Bill Carhart.....        | Grasslands Stewardship Coordinator        |
| Glen Bowers.....         | Water Programs Field Coordinator          |
| Ann Dimmitt.....         | IMP Manager                               |
| Landon Shaw.....         | Hydrologist                               |
| Phil Heimann.....        | GIS Coordinator                           |
| Amy Mapes.....           | Administrative Assistant                  |
| Noelle Turner....        | Field Office Secretary, North Platte NRCS |
| Kristy King.....         | 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:

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 North Platte, NE 69103-1347  
 Phone: (308)535-8080  
 e-mail: afisher@tpnrd.org

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Nebraska is the only state to have Natural Resources Districts (NRDs)? There are 23 NRDs across the state. The NRDs size and names are determined by the watersheds they represent. For example, the Twin Platte NRD is named after both the North and South Platte Rivers and is made up of Arthur County, Keith County, the western 2/3 of McPherson County, and northern 3/4 of Lincoln County. Each NRD is as unique as the land it represents.



The Twin Platte NRD would like to welcome our newest employee, Kristy King! Kristy is the new Range Programs Technician at the NRCS office in North Platte. She and her husband live in Hershey. Next time you are in the NRCS building in North Platte stop by and say “hi”.



**Upcoming Events:**

**January**

- 1 New Year Observed - Office Closed
- 8 Board of Director’s Meeting - 3:00 pm CT\*
- 19 Martin Luther King Day Observed - Office Closed

**February**

- 5 Board of Director’s Meeting - 3:00 pm CT\*
- 16 President’s Day Observed - Office Closed

**March**

- 12 Board of Director’s Meeting - 3:00 pm CT\*

\* Board Meetings are held in the Great Western Bank Center-North Platte



**TWIN PLATTE**

**NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT**  
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 North Platte, NE 69103-1347

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