

Natural Resources News



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A New Automated Platform Launches for Transferring Certified Irrigated Acres in the Twin Platte NRD

The Twin Platte Natural Resources District (TPNRD) has been working closely with Mammoth Trading, a private company, to develop an automated trading platform for transferring certified irrigated acres. Mammoth Trading matches buyers and sellers of certified irrigated acres with a system that is anonymous and confidential. Unlike an auction, this platform simultaneously compares all bids and offers in the market, making transfers easier to happen between buyers and sellers. Mammoth Trading is a neutral market manager: it does not speculate in the market it manages, but instead helps to facilitate the best set of transactions in the market. It treats buyers and sellers equally and splits the gains from transfers between both sides. If they can't meet or beat the price you want, they won't transfer acres for you. Mammoth Trading manages the approval process with the TPNRD on their customers' behalf to make sure that bids and offers follow all TPNRD rules, and that changes in irrigation practices are acceptable.

A summary of how the Mammoth Trading market works:

- Contact them and tell them what you want to do. Their staff will talk to you about the kinds of practices that will work for the approval process, and collect information needed to construct a bid to buy or an offer to sell.
- If you are a buyer, you'll give the maximum price you want to pay per certified acre, which will include all fees associated with the transaction (e.g., title search, notarization of documents, Mammoth Trading's fee, TPNRD fees). If you are a seller, you'll give the minimum price you're willing to accept per certified acre, again inclusive of all fees associated with the transaction. Mammoth Trading keeps all bids and offers anonymous and confidential.
- Next, they'll send you a completed bidding form and a contract to sign, contingent on finding matches that meet or beat your price and contingent on approval by the TPNRD. If you change your mind about your bid, let them know and they can make whatever adjustments you want.
- The market is open now, and runs monthly through April. On April 1st, they will clear the next market cycle and figure out the best possible matches, taking into account everyone's bids and offers, as well as TPNRD rules (such as flow lines, stream depletion factors, slope, closeness to villages, and so on).
- They'll then let you know if your bid or offer has been accepted. If it has, they'll send a completed transfer application that you need to sign and send to the TPNRD, together with a lienholders' consent form (if it's needed). Mammoth Trading will undertake the title search on your behalf.
- Once the TPNRD approves your transfer, Mammoth Trading will work with you on the final paperwork and transfer funds to complete the transaction.



MAMMOTH
TRADING

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The first round of the certified acre market is open now! For more information on how the market works, placing bids or offers, or if you have any other questions, please call Richael Young at (308) 520-9296, email her at richael@mammothtrading.com, or visit the website at mammothtrading.com



The TPNRD does not require you to use this service to complete a transfer of certified irrigated acres.

WILD Nebraska Habitat Program

Landowners with acres they want to enhance for wildlife should consider the WILD Nebraska program. The program provides attractive cost-sharing on improvements such as grass seedings and/or shrub plantings. Other types of enhancements are also available. Hunting access is not required on enrolled acres. Contact the Twin Platte Natural Resources District office in North Platte for more information about WILD Nebraska and other habitat programs.



Status Update on the N-CORPE

(Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement) Project

Construction of a pipeline to convey water to the Platte River for the N-CORPE project is in the beginning phase.

The TPNRD has entered into an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement, with the Upper Republican Natural Resources District, the Middle Republican Natural Resources District, and the Lower Republican Natural Resources District, which provided for the creation, governance, and operation of the N-CORPE project.

The N-CORPE project owns and operates lands in southern Lincoln County consisting of approximately 19,500 acres of agricultural real estate and water transmission and distribution facilities. The N-CORPE project is to regulate/manage water to assist the State of Nebraska with compliance with the Republican River Compact, and to assist with implementation of TPNRD's Integrated Management Plan and the State of Nebraska's responsibilities under the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program.

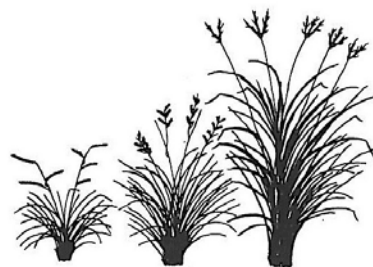
The project consists of a well field and pipelines to convey water to the Platte River and the Republican River. The well field is nearing completion and the pipeline south to the Republican River is completed. The pipeline north to the Platte River is scheduled for construction in calendar year 2014.

The cost of the well field is shared equally by all four NRDs. The cost of the construction of the south pipeline is shared only by the three Republican NRDs. The cost of the construction of the north pipeline is paid for by the TPNRD.

AWARD WINNERS!

Congratulations to the winners of the

**2013 GRASSLAND AWARD FOR LINCOLN—
MCPHERSON COUNTIES** — Brosius Ranch —
Robert & Jennifer Brosius & Family



2013 TREE AWARD FOR KEITH—ARTHUR COUNTIES — Spurgin Family Farm
— Gerald & Jan Spurgin & Family



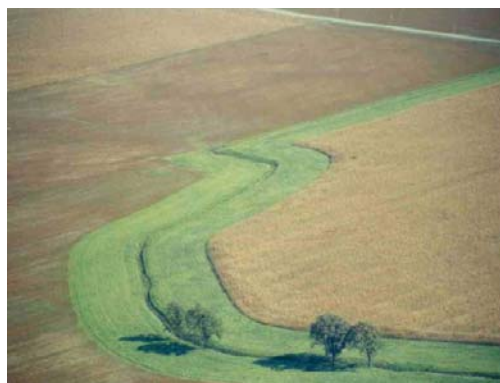
The Twin Platte Natural Resources District is proud to honor producers who go the extra mile while taking care of our natural resources for the next generation; it is never easy but the rewards are many. To those of you who have received one of our awards before, and to the above families, we are glad to honor your hard work and dedication. Thank you!

2014 Chemigation Permits

Chemigation permit holders from 2013 in the Twin Platte Natural Resources District will automatically be sent 2014 chemigation permits for each location they had permitted last year. Those permits should be arriving in mailboxes on March 1st or shortly thereafter. The deadline for returning a renewal permit to our office with the \$10 renewal fee is Monday June 2, 2014. Contact our office with any chemigation questions, or to request a new permit. Also check the calendar page in this newsletter for remaining chemigation certification dates in our area.

The Nebraska Buffer Strip Program

Applications are being accepted by the Twin Platte Natural Resources District for the Nebraska Buffer Strip Program. Annual payments up to \$225 per acre are available in the program. Buffer strips, or filter strips, are areas planted to grasses at a width of 20 to 120 feet, and sometimes wider. Grasses are planted between cropland and waterways since they are effective at filtering sediment and other pollutants that could otherwise reach surface water. Buffer strips can be placed next to seasonal or perennial streams, wetlands, and ponds. Intermittent drainage ways through cropped fields also qualify. Wider “riparian forest buffers” are another program option, where trees are planted in the grass filter strips. Dryland or irrigated cropland is eligible for enrollment. The landowner can choose from five to ten year agreement lengths. Contact the Twin Platte Natural Resources District office for more information about this program.



Twin Platte Natural Resources District

<u>Board of Directors</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Sub-District</u>
Dennis Schilz (Chairperson)	13-16	5
Doug Stack (Vice-Chairperson)	11-14	3
Jerry Weaver (Secretary)	13-16	3
Jim Meisner (Treasurer)	11-14	5
Robert L Petersen	13-16	2
Joe Wahlgren	11-14	2
Shane Storer	13-16	1
Dale Margritz	13-14	4
Bob Wiseman	13-16	4
Eric Hansen	11-14	1
John Williams	11-14	At-Large

<u>Staff Members</u>	<u>Position</u>
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
Jessica Milby....	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
 e-mail: afisher@tpnrd.org

Are you looking to sell extra certified irrigated acres or do you need a few more to complete your pivot???



Call or e-mail Mammoth Trading and see if they can help you.

**Don't Forget to Water Trees
 Going into Spring**

Give your trees an important shot in the limb by watering them going into spring. Recently with the continued dry winter conditions, many trees will need a drink of water this spring. A good goal is to water the trees for several hours once or twice every week when the ground is thawed.



Upcoming Events:

March

- 4 Chemigation Training @ UN-WCREC 1:30 pm CT
- 13 Board of Director's Meeting - 3:00 pm CT*

April

- 10 Board of Director's Meeting - 7:30 pm CT*
- 25 Arbor Day Observed—Office Closed



May

- 8 Chemigation Training @ UN-WCREC 1:30 pm CT
- 8 Board of Director's Meeting - 7:30 pm CT*
- 26 Memorial Day Observed—Office Closed

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

TWIN PLATTE

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