



## REMINDER:

## DEADLINE FOR CHEMIGATION, POOLING AND OCCUPATION TAX EXEMPTION FORM IS JUNE 1, 2023.

### Chemigation

The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) requires all applicators of fertilizer or pesticide to land or crops through an irrigation system to be licensed and obtain a permit. The LRNRD's renewal permits have been mailed. Please review the application and update any of the bulleted items below.

- \* Any errors (name, address, etc.),
  - \* Missing applications from last year,
  - \* Chemicals applied, and acres irrigated in 2022,
  - \* Signature for **both** the Permit Holder and Applicator are **required** on all application forms.
- \* **NOTE:** Please indicate the application in **pounds**, not gallons \*

Completed applications must be received in our office on or before **June 1, 2023**.

The NDEE requires Chemigation systems to be inspected every four years. However, Chemigation in or near Well-head Protection areas may be inspected at any time.

The LRNRD appreciates your attention and time for getting inspections completed. Scheduled appointments are prioritized by new permits then renewal permits. You will be notified by the LRNRD if you are due for an inspection and a technician will set up an appointment to inspect your site. All permit fees and replacement parts must be paid for prior to or at the time of inspection.

If you did not renew your Chemigation permit last year, or you have a new site in which you will be applying chemical, you must apply for a new Chemigation permit and have it inspected by a LRNRD technician before chemical can be applied. Permits are available on our website at: [www.lrnrd.org](http://www.lrnrd.org).

Please contact the LRNRD if you have any questions or need to apply for a new Chemigation permit.

### Pooling

LRNRD irrigators have two methods of pooling water. Pooling Arrangements involve a single landowner while Pooling Agreements are between two or more owners of land under common management. Penalties apply for overuse. The LRNRD Groundwater Rules and Regulations are posted on our website at: [www.lrnrd.org](http://www.lrnrd.org). If you have any questions, please feel free to call our office. Pooling Agreement(s)/Arrangements(s) must be filled out at the District office and notarized signatures are required for both owners and operators. Forms must be completed by June 1st to be effective for the 2023 irrigation season. Pooling shall stay in place until written cancellation of the Arrangement/Agreement is received.

### Occupation Tax Exemption

To be exempt from 2023 Occupation Tax, state statute requires that you must complete an exemption form that identifies the amount and location of the certified irrigated acres that will not be irrigated in 2023. The exemption form is available at the LRNRD office or on our website: [www.lrnrd.org](http://www.lrnrd.org). Forms must be received by **June 1st, per state statute**.

Exempted groundwater acres will not receive an allocation for that year. **Land that is enrolled in EQIP, AWEP, or CREP must have an exemption form filed out each year it is in the program.** Strict penalties will apply to any violators.

## Compact Call Year in 2023

2023 has been designated as a Compact Call year. What does that mean? In the Lower Republican NRD there is a hard cap set at 13 inches for all ground water irrigated acres. There will be penalties for anyone pumping over the hard cap. 2023 is the beginning of a new allocation period in the Lower Republican NRD. You should have received allocation sheets from our office showing your 2023-2027 total allocation.

Pooling your acres can be extremely helpful during Compact Call years. If you are not currently pooling your acres across your fields, you may want to contact the office and consider this option. You will need signatures from all parties, landowners and operators, that are connected with any acres in the pool. It is best to start early if you need to obtain several signatures. New or modified pooling applications are due by **June 1st** for the 2023 irrigation season.

## Lower Republican NRD Scholarship Recipients

The Lower Republican NRD is proud to support Natural Resources education. Three students within the district were awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to the Nebraska college of their choice. Callie Minnick, Chase Bunker and Ryan Brugh were this year's recipients. They were selected from several exceptional applicants. We wish them all a bright future.

Callie will be graduating from Red Cloud High School and plans to attend Central Community College in Kearney. She will be majoring in Agriculture Management. Callie is the daughter of Rick Minnick and Kim Goebel.



Callie Minnick

Chase, son of Nick and Tonya Bunker, will be attending Southeast Community College in Milford. He will be enrolled in the John Deere Tech program. Chase is graduating from Wilcox—Hildreth Public School.



Chase Bunker

Ryan Brugh will be an Alma Public School graduate. Ryan plans to attend the University of Nebraska in Lincoln and major in Agribusiness. Ryan is the son of Allen and Teri Brugh.



Ryan Brugh

Congratulations to these students. We wish them success in college and in achieving their future goals.

## Nebraska Youth Range Camp



Nebraska Youth Range Camp at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in Curtis, NE, is full of opportunities for hands-on experience, leadership, and team-building as well as lectures and field activities geared toward the management of our native range lands. **June 5th to June 8th**, high school students interested in conservation, animal science, wildlife or other related topics will have a unique opportunity to become educated on concerns facing our state.

The Lower Republican NRD grant program pays the camp fee of \$75 for up to two students. The two most qualified applicants will be selected to receive these grants. Priority will be given to first time applicants.

Mail your completed grant application to Lower Republican NRD, PO Box 618, Alma, NE 68920. Applications must be postmarked no later than **May 12th**. For more information about Range Camp or to get a copy of an application form contact the Lower Republican NRD at 308-928-2182, go to our website at [www.lnrnd.org/what-we-do/programs](http://www.lnrnd.org/what-we-do/programs), or on Facebook at Nebraska Youth Range Camp.

## New Board Member

The Lower Republican NRD has a new Director for Subdistrict 2. Troy Fletcher, from Oxford, has replaced long time board member Bill Bose. Troy grew up on the family farm northwest of Oxford. He and his wife Cacy have three children—Caden 15, Jaxen 13, and Josslyn 9. Troy and his dad raise corn, soybeans, wheat, alfalfa, and prairie hay. They also background steers. He graduated from UNL with a bachelor's degree in diversified ag. Troy is a member of the First Baptist Church of Oxford, serving on various boards. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his family.



## Manager's Message—Todd Siel

For the second straight spring, drought and high winds are creating a dangerous environment where wildfires have popped up across the region. I hope you have noticed (**and thanked**) the men and women that are a part of the many volunteer fire departments that have responded so quickly when the call comes in for them to fight another wildfire. I am guessing most of you are as tired of the dry and windy conditions as I have been, but I am quite certain our firefighters are even more weary. Thank You to all those folks that are literally on the front lines, protecting lives and protecting property.



As always, there are a number of projects and programs we attend to, but I wanted to highlight three particular areas of interest—**1. Compact Call Year:** 2023 has been designated as a Compact Call Year (CCY). As set forth in our Rules & Regulations and Integrated Management Plan (IMP), certain restrictions and management actions will be implemented. For ground water irrigators in the Lower Republican NRD, **a maximum allocation cap, or “hard cap”, on pumping is set at 13 acre-inches** for 2023. The base allocation for ground water irrigators in the Lower Republican NRD remains the same: 45 acre-inches, over the five-year allocation period of 2023-2027, which equates to 9 acre-inches per year. If a part of the allocation is unused at the end of 2027, a maximum of 9 acre-inches can be carried over into the next 5-year period. Also, if the drought continues this summer, we will likely need to augment stream flow this fall; **2. Harlan County Lake:** As expected, considering the lack of precipitation, the lake is storing less water (75,000 acre-feet less) than it was last year. In terms of elevation, the lake is nearly six feet below the conservation pool level of 1945.73. While this reduction in volume is not what anyone wants to see, there is enough for both Nebraska and Kansas Bostwick Irrigation Districts to provide an allocation for their irrigators this season; **3. NCORPE:** We are not pumping water this spring for compact compliance from our augmentation wellfield south of North Platte. It's a common question that has been asked ever since it became apparent that we would be in a Compact Call Year in 2023. Since Harlan County Lake is storing an adequate volume of irrigation supply for this year, no stream flow augmentation is needed until this fall. Even though it's still possible no pumping will be needed at all for compact compliance, it's becoming more likely since we are continuing to experience below average precipitation.

The Lower Republican NRD is working diligently to ensure that there is always enough ground water for the many uses of ground water in our district. The farmers who have managed their irrigation water so effectively when faced with the difficult conditions of the past few years deserve the lion's share of credit for why static ground water levels in the Lower Republican NRD are stabilized.

### Lower Republican NRD 2020-2022 Groundwater Use By County

COUNTY West to East	AVERAGE (Acre-Inch)		
	2020	2021	2022
FURNAS	8.08	7.25	10.96
HARLAN	8.39	6.04	10.67
FRANKLIN	8.39	6.31	9.19
WEBSTER	7.93	5.84	8.97
NUCKOLLS	4.58	6.03	6.75
Average District Usage	8.15	6.32	9.86



### Board of Directors

Subdistrict 1	Clark Andrews, Holbrook
Subdistrict 1	Toby tenBensel, Holbrook—Secretary
Subdistrict 2	Troy Fletcher, Oxford
Subdistrict 2	Marlin Murdoch, Orleans—Chair
Subdistrict 3	Tim Kahrs, Franklin—Treasurer
Subdistrict 3	Matt Harrison, Naponee
Subdistrict 4	Nelson Trambly, Campbell
Subdistrict 4	David Bartels, Riverton—Vice Chair
Subdistrict 5	Lee Fintel, Superior
Subdistrict 5	Don Duffy, Guide Rock
At-Large	Bradley Wulf, Red Cloud

### LRNRD Staff

Todd Siel	General Manager
Nick Simonson	Assistant Manager
Shirlee Poyser	Admin. Assistant/Bookkeeper
Kristi Heft	Water Resources Administrator
Mary Goebel	Water Secretary/Info. & Edu.
Jim Zimmerman	Rural Water Superintendent
PJ Holmes	Water Resources Technician
Dave Bantam	Water Resources Technician
Travis Fisher	Water Resources Technician
Deb Klingenberg	Franklin County Office Secretary
Jennifer Helms	Furnas County Office Secretary
Brittnay Nurnberg	Harlan County Office Secretary
Lynetta Snelling	Webster County Office Secretary

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 11**—Board Meeting 7 pm, LRNRD Meeting Room, Alma

**May 29**—Memorial Day, Office Closed

**June 1**—Deadline for Occupation Tax Form, Chemigation and Pooling

**June 5—8**— Nebraska Youth Range Camp—Curtis

**June 8**—Board Meeting 7 pm, LRNRD Meeting Room, Alma

**July 4**—Independence Day, Office Closed

**July 13**—Board Meeting 7 pm, LRNRD Meeting Room, Alma

**August 10**—Board Meeting 7 pm, LRNRD Meeting Room, Alma

**September 4**—Labor Day, Office Closed

**September 14**—Board Meeting 7 pm, LRNRD Meeting Room, Alma

This is a publication of the Lower Republican Natural Resources District

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308-928-2182—E-mail: [lrnrd@lrnrd.org](mailto:lrnrd@lrnrd.org)— website: [www.lrnrd.org](http://www.lrnrd.org)

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Alma, NE 68920  
Permit No. 55

Lower Republican Natural Resources District  
PO Box 618 - 30 North John Street  
Alma NE 68920

