Assistant Manager's Report

November 9, 2026

The drought monitor shows that drought has moved west out of the district and only a very small portion of Gosper County indicates 'abnormally dry'. I did a quick glance at the past 6 months of precipitation in Holdrege, August was the only month that didn't meet or exceed the monthly average rainfall since April 2026. The much-needed precipitation has been a welcomed relief to many months of drought!

While the rainfall has created muddy conditions that have slowed harvest, the forecast is calling for a drier stretch of weather in the near-term, which will be a nice relief for those anxious to finish up fall work. On the bright side, the increased rainfall is showing up in static water measurements. Pat, Amanda, and I have been inputting data and updating hydrographs. Generally, we are starting to see some relief from the downward trend we have seen in recent years from fall measurements. However, there are still areas that showed no indication of easing the downward trend. We're still working on analysis of the data and updating hydrographs, so it's premature to make any conclusions. We'll give an update at our December board meeting.

Thinking about static water, we were able to drill the observation well near Wilcox the day after our October board meeting. That process went well and we are looking forward to installing the datalogger in the well this winter.

The Tuesday before our October board meeting, I was in Chadron to attend the fall managers meeting. I encountered my first snowfall of the season as I approached Chadron on Monday afternoon – maybe a little too early for my liking! The snow was fully melted by Tuesday for my trip home though. The fall colors and sugar beet harvest was in progress as I made my way from Alliance to the North Platte River valley. I don't find myself traveling in the Panhandle during the fall too often, so seeing the sugar beet harvest was something new for me. The manager's meeting wasn't overly exciting, as far as topics went. The highlight of the meeting was Dean Edson talking about his career with NARD and his coming retirement. Dean provided a nice history of where NARD was when he was hired and many of the things he has accomplished while at the helm. That document is in your packet; it's good bit of history for those not familiar or a good refresher for those who remember. Congratulations and happy retirement, Dean!

I'll wrap up my short report with a quick mention that we are back to our regularly scheduled board meeting for November. Our new Administrative Secretary, Breanna Houdek, will start on Monday, so we'll have a new face at our meeting. Welcome Breanna!

That's all I have for this month. See you at 1:30 on November 18.