



Tri-Basin Topics

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NRDs Celebrate Half-Century of Conservation



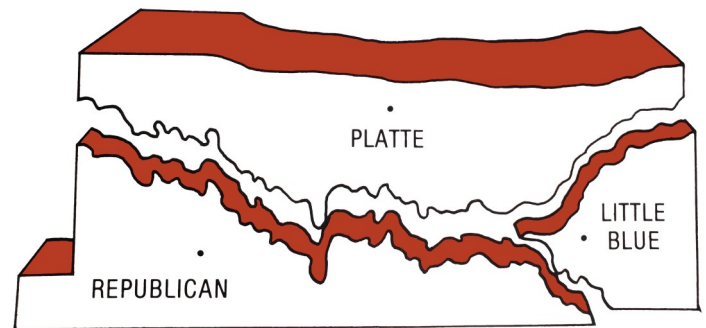
Above: Irrigation Management Field Day, Phelps County 1977
Below: Tim Davidson TBNRD Employee driving tractor and Seasonal helpers planting trees, Kearney County 1975

Tri-Basin NRD and Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) are celebrating 50 years of protecting lives, property and the future of Nebraska. Throughout the year, NRDs will commemorate breakthroughs and achievements in conservation.

"In the past 50 years, NRDs have adapted while facing changes in technology, funding, legislation, agencies and society,"



Tri-Basin NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT



said Jim Eschliman, Nebraska Association of Resources Districts president. "Nebraska's locally led conservation model has been a successful legacy because of our ability to adapt to the local needs of our communities."

After the devastation of the Dust Bowl, special purpose districts were developed to solve local soil and water-related problems. But the puzzle of overlapping authori-

"Dedicated to Conservation of our Natural Resources"

<http://www.tribasinnrd.org>

ties and responsibilities created confusion.

In 1969, Senator Maurice Kremer introduced Legislative Bill 1357 to combine Nebraska's 154 special purpose entities into 24 Natural Resources Districts by July 1972. In 1989, Middle Missouri Tributaries NRD and Papio NRD merged to become the Papio-Missouri River NRD, resulting in today's 23 Natural Resources Districts.



Above: Newly elected NRD Directors (1979) Left to Right: Del Kopf, Charles Tomsen, Allen Steinbrink, Gary Lindstrom, Rick Anderberry, Doyle Lavene
Right: Elwood Reservoir Construction—1976

Nebraska's unique system of locally controlled, watershed-based conservation is widely admired throughout the nation. In recent years, at least eleven states ranging from Washington to Arkansas and Illinois to California, have inquired about developing similar systems for natural resources management. Despite being the number one irrigated state in the nation, Nebraska's statewide groundwater levels have been sustained at levels averaging less than a foot below pre-irrigation development levels in the 1950s. In many areas, groundwater levels are higher. "Many states are facing massive groundwater declines with almost depleted aquifers," Eschliman said. "NRDs

work with irrigators to monitor water use, establish groundwater recharge projects, and implement water-wise programs."

Across the state, NRDs construct projects, implement programs and offer assistance to landowners in conservation and natural resources management. When necessary, they enact regulations to protect our resources. While all NRDs share the 12 main responsibilities, each district sets its own priorities and develops its own programs to best serve and protect Nebraska's natural resources. Eschliman noted that Nebraska's NRDs will continue to build upon, refine, and adapt as they look to the future.

"Conservation is something that impacts us all and we need to pitch in and be good stewards of our land and water," he said. "Locally elected NRD boards across the state are uniquely positioned in their communities to help manage our natural resources for future generations."

To join in the 50th anniversary celebration and follow the Natural Resources Districts' special activities throughout 2022, visit nrdnet.org and follow #Since1972 on social media.



NEBRASKA'S NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICTS

PROTECTING LIVES. PROTECTING PROPERTY. PROTECTING THE FUTURE.



Arbor Day Open House & Tree Give-Away

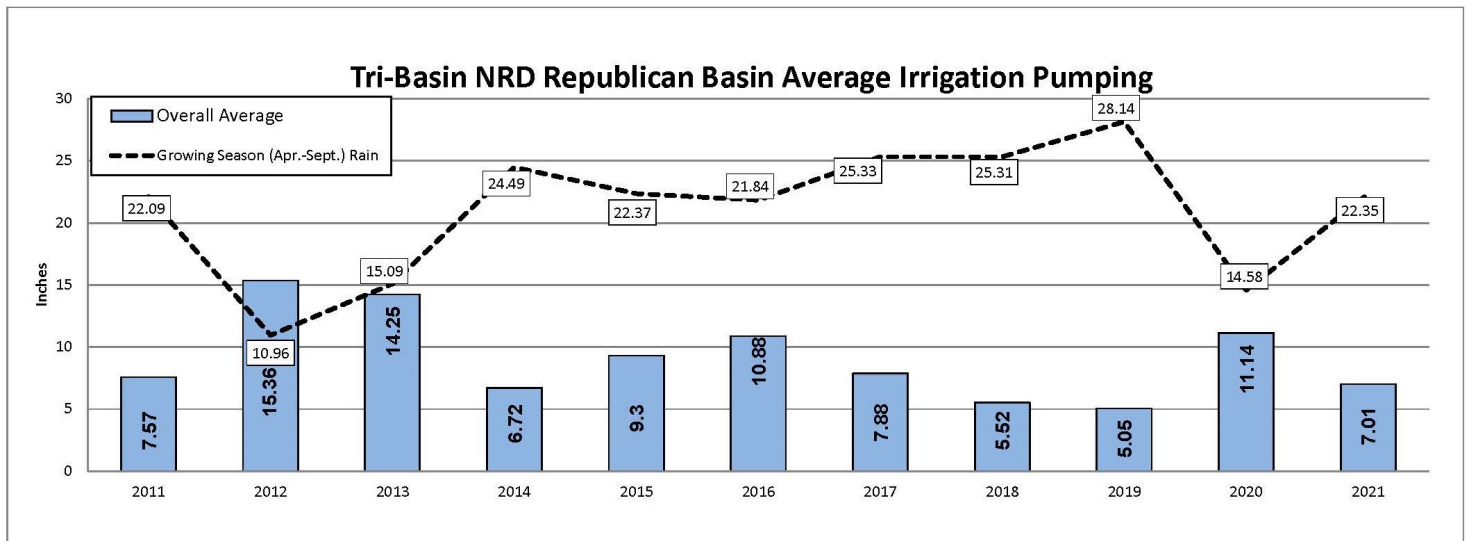
Arbor Day is Friday, April 29th. Tri-Basin NRD is hosting an open house to celebrate 150 years of Arbor Day from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Holdrege area residents are invited to stop in the Tri-Basin NRD office during the open house for refreshments and to receive a free tree seedling.

Tri-Basin NRD will also provide free tree seedlings in other communities throughout the district on Arbor Day. Times and locations will be posted in local media outlets and the Tri-Basin NRD website (www.tribasinnr.org)



Check Meter Readings Before Starting Irrigation

As you are getting equipment ready for irrigation season this spring, we'd like to remind you to record the meter readings on your irrigation flowmeters before you begin irrigating crops. We have your ending readings from 2020 in our records and will use those as the beginning readings for 2021 on our Irrigation Water Management (Water Use) Forms. However, in the event of a discrepancy in readings or a broken meter, your recorded beginning reading can be extremely helpful in tracking down a problem or estimating water use!



Chemigation

Chemigation renewal forms and payments are due in the Tri-Basin NRD office by **June 1, 2022**. The renewal forms were mailed out in February to producers. Anyone who plans to apply fertilizer or ag chemicals through an irrigation system needs to apply for a chemigation permit for the 2022 season. Landowners and operators should contact Tri-Basin NRD toll-free at 1-877-995-6688 regarding chemigation permits. All newly permitted chemigation systems must be inspected before use. A person who is certified as a chemigation applicator must supervise injection of fertilizer and ag chemicals in irrigation water.

NRD staff do routine inspections on chemigation systems from June until August. Inspections are required every three years. If your system is due for inspection we will contact you to schedule it. Routine inspections must be completed for permits to be eligible for renewal the following year. Renewal permits are \$15 and new permits are \$50.

ET Data Texting Service

Signup for ET Data texting. Five days a week you will receive a text message with the daily and future three days water use for both corn and soybeans. The plant date will be sent at the beginning of the season so you can adjust as needed for your crop. This year we plan to add a weekly text with precipitation and growing degree days. To sign up, text START to 855-743-2457 or contact Sasha at the Tri-Basin NRD for more information.



Spring 2022

Tri-Basin Topics

Non-Profit Permit
U. S. Postage
PAID
Holdrege, NE 68949
Permit No. 220

Tri-Basin Natural Resources District
1723 Burlington St. Holdrege, NE 68949
(308) 995-6688
email: tribasin@tribasinncrd.org
www.tribasinncrd.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Nebraska's NRDs: Protecting Lives, Protecting Property, Protecting the Future

Calendar

April 26-27 Water Jamboree
April 29 Arbor Day, Coffee Connection
May 10 NRD Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.*
May 30 NRD Closed for Memorial Day
June 14 NRD Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.*
July 3 NRD Closed for Independence Day
July 12 NRD Board meeting, 1:30 p.m.*
August 9 NRD Board tour and meeting, 1:30 p.m.*
*Location to be determined
September 5 NRD Closed for Labor Day
September 13 NRD Board meeting, 7:30 p.m.*
September 22 Rainwater Basin Conservation Day
* Times are tentative. All meetings are at TBNRD office in Holdrege unless otherwise noted.

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