

# SPRINKLES & SPLASHES

The Quarterly Newsletter of the  
Middle Republican Natural Resources District

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 4 ::: FALL 2006

## Order Your Trees Through the NRD

It's time again to order your trees from the NRD!

### MACHINE-PLANTED WINDBREAKS

Contact the district or your county NRCS for help in determining the type and number of trees needed. The technician will make arrangements for the tree order and planting service. The trees will be planted according to the plan. The district will have contracted planting services available. Trees are planted in the spring as soon as conditions are suitable. The NRD tree coordinators will notify land-owners as to the approximate date and time of the planting.

### PLANTING YOUR OWN TREES

Trees to be planted by the cooperator (hand-plants) can be ordered at the NRD office. The minimum order for hand-plant trees is 25 per species.

### WEED CONTROL

Proper weed control is vitally important to successful tree planting. Weed control in the form of conservation mulch is available through the Middle Republican NRD. This woven material is installed over the trees after planting. Slots are then cut for the trees. Conservation mulch not only eliminates weeds but also helps to preserve soil moisture. Conservation

mulch is laid at the time the trees are planted.

### SITE PREPARATION

The Middle Republican NRD offers a tilling service for anyone who wants their tree planting site properly tilled by the District. The technician assisting in planning the windbreak can advise you of the type of site preparation needed. The technician can also help you determine if herbicide carryover will be a problem.

### COST SHARE

Cost share at a rate of 50% will be provided on trees and mulch purchased from the district. There is a 25% cost share rate for tree and mulch put on CRP acres. No cost-share is available on Continuous CRP. Trees must be planned by the NRD, the NRCS or the District Forester and must be planted by the district. Eligible rows for cost-share on mulch are those with an in-row spacing of 12 foot or less. District crew may refuse

to plant trees or install mulch on sites without adequate site preparation. Contact the district for a cost share application, due by the fourth Friday in March. The Middle Republican NRD will cost share on a minimum of 200 trees.

### DEADLINE TO ORDER

Deadline for placing these orders is the fourth Friday in March. Keep in mind, however, that a later order date may mean the trees you want are not in stock. Customers are notified when their trees are available.

### BILLING ON NRD PLANTINGS

Trees will be paid for at the time the order is placed at the NRD office. The Middle Republican NRD will bill for tree planting service and conservation mulch after the project is completed. Full payment is due upon receipt of the billing. Cost share forms will not be finalized until payment is received at the NRD Office.

### Available Species

#### Conifers

Red Cedar      Ponderosa Pine  
Scotch Pine      Jack Pine  
Col. Blue Spruce      Austrian Pine  
Black Hills Spruce  
Rocky Mountain Juniper

#### Broadleaves

Hackberry      Honeylocust  
Black Walnut      Green Ash  
Russian Olive      Red Oak  
Bur Oak      Black Cherry  
Cottonless Cottonwood

*Special order prices and quantities determined by NRD and supplier. Tree orders are subject to availability at the nursery. Other species and tree sizes may be available, prices may vary. Contact the NRD Office.*

#### Shrubs

Cottoneaster      Lilac  
Honeysuckle      American Plum  
Skunkbush Sumac      Cargana  
Chokecherry      Crabapple  
Manchurian Apricot      Mulberry  
Nanking Cherry      Sand Cherry  
Buffaloberry      Elderberry  
Amur Maple      Euonymus

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## From Dan's Desk

Our technicians have been busy reading and servicing flow meters. While we don't have enough readings in the computer to make a prediction for this years use, power records indicate that it will be 10-15% higher than last year. Many of you are already aware of this trend. Even with that kind of increase, our average use will be below the average allocation of 13 inches. Last year usage was about 9 inches. This year it may be above 10 inches but still less than the 13 inches average yearly allocation. We should have all the readings taken and entered into the computer by January. We will send out the reports after all of the meters have been read, serviced and the data recorded.

While reading these meters, our technicians often discover problems that must be fixed. We pull these meters and bring them into the office for maintenance or recommend that the producer send their meter back to the manufacturer if

it is still under warranty. We continue to note improper or marginal installations and have been recommending that a different location for installation be found. Many times the choices are limited, but if you are not getting accurate readings from your

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**"The upcoming legislative season will be a challenge for all NRDs with more than 20 new senators in Lincoln. The need to make sure they are informed of district issues will be more important than ever."**

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meter you are hampered in making the management decisions that you must consider. More often than not improper location results in higher use readings. Our technicians are knowledgeable in meter installation and can help you make choices for proper location.

By leveraging both state and federal funds we were able to come up with a program that retired irrigated acres in the basin. This EQIP special initiative required a permanent reduction in

irrigated acres. Producers will receive a total of \$675 per acre and a conservation easement will be filed on their deed. Funding was limited and of the nearly 6,000 acres in applications only 2,600 were funded. About 1,100 of those acres were in the

MRNRD. We may look to similar programs in the future if funding is available. Programs like this EQIP incentive, the EQIP from 2 years ago and the CREP program allows producers to voluntarily participate and help in the long term goal of compact compliance.

The upcoming legislative season will be a challenge for all NRDs with more than 20 new senators in Lincoln, the need to make sure they are informed of district issues will be more important than ever. I am not aware of any major effort to introduce legislation on water issues but something always comes

up. We will continue to track any legislation and take appropriate action to support or oppose it.

Late winter or early spring of 2007 will see us reviewing existing rules and regulations and formulating any changes that will need to be considered for the new allocation in 2008 and beyond. Data gathering, committee meetings and public input will take up a great deal of the board's time.

Congratulations to Josh Frieson, Benjie Loomis, Dan Nelson, Brad Randel, and Marty Schurr. Those five and incumbent Kevin Fornoff have been elected to the Board of Directors and will take office in January. Their challenges will be great and their mission important. We say goodbye to Duane Dodson and Mike Peters and thank them for their years of service to this district.

*-Dan Smith, General Manager*

Visit us on the web at:  
<http://www.mrnrd.org>

## District Headlines

### Election Results

The November 7th ballot listed eleven candidates running for a seat on the Middle Republican NRD Board. Elected to the board were Josh Frieson (Wallace), Benjie Loomis (Maywood), Dan Nelsen (Moorefield), Brad Randel (Indianola), Marty Schurr (Maywood), and Kevin Fornoff (Hayes Center, incumbent).

### 5th Grade Conservation Craze Held

Nearly 87 students attended the Middle Republican NRD's 5th Grade Conservation Craze. Students came from the following five schools: Hayes Center, Maywood, Wauneta-Palisade, Southwest, and Medicine Valley. 5 students from NCTA volunteered as part of their "Learning Communities" class. Students participated in hands-on activities such as Wildlife CSI, Dripial Pursuit, Oak Tree: Our National Tree, Land Treatment, Well Done Wells, and Soils. 5th Grade Conservation Craze takes place each fall and is sponsored and presented by the Middle Republican Natural Resources District, in partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Common Scents Greenhouse and Nursery, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture, Nebraska Well Drillers Association, and Nebraska Raptor Recovery. Schools in the NRD's portions of Frontier, Red Willow, Hayes, and Hitchcock counties are eligible to attend.

### Bruning Provides \$69K for Environmental Education to Nebraska's NRDs

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning presented \$69,000 for environmental education efforts to the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts today at their annual conference in Kearney. The money was made available through the Attorney General's Environmental Court Ordered Settlement Fund. The fund is comprised of voluntary payments collected in court-approved settlements from entities that have violated state and federal environmental regulations.

"The NRDs are a main provider of environmental education in the state, particularly in our schools," Bruning said. "Helping prevent environmental problems in the future and investing in the health and well-being of our children is an ideal way to use these funds."

Ted Hughes, President of the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts, said, "Attorney General Bruning's support of environmental education will help the NRDs educate Nebraskans about the importance of protecting our natural resources."

The NRDs currently provide numerous environmental education programs, including educator workshops, the Leopold Education Project, Project Wild, Natural Resources Educator of the Year and many other environmental education programs. Each individual district will receive \$3,000. The Middle Republican NRD is currently developing proposals to best utilize this funding in its educational programming.

### Grants Approved

The Middle Republican NRD is participating as a partner in two projects funded by the Interrelated Water Management Plan Program. One 3-year project will physically remove excessive native and invasive plant species from a study/demonstration area of at least one mile of river frontage in each of the three Republican NRDs and process trees into wood chips. The other project seeks to identify potential augmentation water supplies to the Republican River and to conduct a technical appraisal of an augmentation project utilizing those supplies determined to be practical for the purpose of achieving and maintaining compliance with the Republican River Compact and the Republican River Compact Settlement Agreement when considered in conjunction with other ongoing activities in the basin. ♦

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for the  
environment,  
public health,  
and YOUR  
bottom line.**



**Look for your free copy  
in the mail next Spring**

Good irrigation management means applying the right amount of water at the right time, and making efficient use of water and energy. Good daily management decisions increase both irrigation efficiency and conserve groundwater, with the goal of growing a profitable, high quality crop.

All irrigators in the Republican Basin will be mailed a copy of the guide by Spring 2007. The guide includes instructions on irrigation scheduling, information on flow meter repair or replacement, conversion formulas, watering requirements, chemigation, pump efficiency, and contact information for local organizations and agencies.

To learn more, contact your local NRD, NRCS office or local UN-L Extension office.

**800 873 5613**

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

November	1	Tree Ordering Begins
	10	Veteran's Day, Office Closed
	14	Board of Directors Meeting, McCook, 7:00 PM
	23	Thanksgiving Day, Office Closed
December	12	Board of Directors Meeting, Curtis, 1:30 PM
	25	Christmas Holiday, Office Closed
January	1	New Year's Day, Office Closed
	9	Board of Directors Meeting, McCook, 1:30 PM
	15	Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Office Closed
	22-24	Legislative Conference, Lincoln
	31	Envirothon Training
February	13	Board of Directors Meeting, Curtis, 1:30 PM
	19	President's Day, Office Closed

## EQIP Sign-up Deadline Nears

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) assists farmers and ranchers with improving soil, air, and water quality on private working lands. Ground and Surface Water Conservation improvements help producers conserve water by altering present irrigation systems to improve water efficiency and a reduction in water used.

All EQIP applications must be received at the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office by January 31, 2006 (tentative deadline). They will then be ranked to determine which applications will receive approval based on their cost per environmental benefit achieved.

Farmers and ranchers interested in soil, water and wildlife conservation or wetland restoration funds are encouraged to make an application at their NRCS office.

The maximum cost-share is 50%.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joseph Anderjaska	Hayes Center
Duane Dodson	Maywood
Kevin Fornoff	Hayes Center
Gayle Haag	Bartley
Dennis Hoyt	Culbertson
Stanley Moore	Bartley
Jerry Mustion	Culbertson
Michael Peters	McCook
Donald Roberts	McCook
Rick Spencer	Culbertson
Kelly Wertz	Trenton

## STAFF

Daniel Smith	General Manager
Kara Gall	Information and Education Coordinator
Tom Hansen	Technician
Richard Karre	Technical Supervisor
Robert Merrigan	Assistant Manager
Christy Peterson	Office Supervisor & Board Secretary
Dennis Peterson	Technician
Mary Tidyman	Secretary/Receptionist

### NRCS Field Office Clerks:

Kathy Barger	Hayes County NRCS
Kathy Clark	Lincoln County NRCS
Betty Fritsch	Red Willow County NRCS
Carol Lashley	Hitchcock County NRCS
Kim Smith	Frontier County NRCS

**SPRINKLES & SPLASHES** is the official publication of the Middle Republican Natural Resources District. It is published quarterly by the MRNRD, 220 Center Av., PO Box 81, Curtis, NE 69025. We can be reached at 800-873-5613, 308-367-4281, Email: [office@mrnrd.org](mailto:office@mrnrd.org) or [www.mrnrd.org](http://www.mrnrd.org).

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