

## **December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 KRVN Resource Report**

I'm Mike Clements, Manager of the Lower Republican Natural Resources District in Alma, NE, and this is the Natural Resources Report.

I would like to take a few minutes to talk about flow meters and how they play a significant role in helping us manage water use in the Lower Republican NRD. We first began installing flow meters back in 1998 in the alluvial portions of our District. Later in 2002 we began metering the remainder of the District and that was completed by the end of 2004.

We have had over 10 years to see and track the positive benefits that flow meters provide as an essential management tool. I have heard from numerous producers, some of whom were opposed to meters to begin with; say that they can not believe how much water they save. Many have said I didn't realize how much water I was using.

Since we have allocations, obviously flow meters are an essential part of our overall water management plan. Yes they are expensive and sometimes getting them installed properly can be a challenge, but the end result is a valuable management tool. It's difficult to assign a value to water. You can talk to 20 people and get 20 different answers. I believe over time the water savings provided by the meter will easily pay for it's self.

Thank you for listening. This is Mike Clements, keeping you informed about your natural resources.