

March 2, 2010

KRVN Natural Resources Report

I'm Heather Francis of the Upper Republican Natural Resources District in Imperial, Nebraska and this is the Natural Resources Report. The Middle Republican NRD is hosting the 24th Annual Southwest Nebraska Water Conference Thursday March 4th, 2010 at the Red Willow County Fairgrounds Community Building in McCook. The conference begins at 9 am.

The Southwest Nebraska Water Conference began in 1987 as a means to educate irrigators who had water quality problems. During the late 1990s, the conference served to update people on the progress of the Kansas v. Nebraska lawsuit. In the coming years, the conference will focus on integrated management, bringing to the table the combination of information and practical application suggestions that irrigators and professionals can implement in their businesses.

The 2010 Southwest Nebraska Water Conference kicks off the decade by "Learning From the Past and Looking to the Future." This year's conference focuses on current challenges facing agricultural producers and the future outlook for irrigators in the Republican Basin.

Conference topics and speakers will include integrated management plans with the Nebraska Dept. of Natural Resources; an update on Republican River Basin surface water supplies with the US Bureau of Reclamation; the relationship between public power and irrigation, with representatives from area public power districts; and preliminary study findings regarding riparian vegetation water use with Dr. Derrel Martin. The day will close with a question and answer forum of the two District 44 senate seat candidates.

Thank you for listening. This is Heather Francis keeping you informed about your natural resources. Nebraska's NRDs protecting lives, protecting property and protecting the future.