



the

VIADUCT

LOWER PLATTE NORTH NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Dedicated to the conservation, preservation and wise use of our natural resources

vol. 16 no. 2
Winter 2006
www.lpnnrd.org

Rural Water Districts Completed in Butler and Saunders Counties

This fall marked a milestone for the Lower Platte North NRD, as the district's first two rural water systems went into operation in Butler and Saunders counties.

Both the 9-mile Butler County water line and the 5.5-mile Saunders County line were certified by the state following completion of construction, allowing the NRD to begin delivering water to Bruno and Colon. The Bruno system went online on November 1, and the Colon system followed a month later on December 1.

The NRD owns both water lines, which link Bruno to David City and Colon to Wahoo. In Bruno, the local water utility continues to operate, purchasing water from the NRD system for delivery to local customers. In Colon, the NRD took over the existing water utility and delivers water directly to Colon customers.

Both communities had been struggling with their water systems for several years. Bruno frequently ran into problems keeping up with demand during the summer months, while Colon had elevated levels of nitrate and arsenic.

"We're happy to finally be able to give Bruno and Colon some relief from their water problems," said Mike Sousek, the

NRD's Rural Water Manager. "It's been a long process but the results are worth it."

The Bruno system cost \$838,100, with \$212,100 in local costs after a \$626,000 grant from USDA. The Colon system cost \$915,000. With a \$250,000 Community Block Development Grant and a \$500,000 USDA grant, there were \$165,000 in local costs.

The NRD has set up a 24-hour phone line for the rural water systems which customers can call for information or emergency contact numbers (during off-hours). The number is (402) 443-3810.

The NRD is continuing to study possibilities for expanding the current systems or building new ones to serve other rural communities in the district, including Abie, Linwood, Richland, Cedar Bluffs, Swedeburg, and others.

For more information about the NRD's Rural Water Systems, contact Mike Sousek at msousek@lpnnrd.org or (402) 443-4675.



LOWER PLATTE NORTH
RURAL WATER DISTRICT

Your Quality H₂O Connection



L-R: NRD General Manager John Miyoshi, NRD Rural Water Manager Mike Sousek, Colon Mayor Al Gruenes, and Wahoo Mayor Daryl Reitmajer at the valve-turning ceremony that marked the official opening of the Colon-Wahoo Rural Water System.

Level One Management Area Effective Jan. 15 for Portions of Butler and Saunders Counties

A Level One Management Area for groundwater went into effect Jan. 15, 2007 in portions of Butler and Saunders Counties.

The Level One area was implemented because of declining groundwater levels. Ten of the district's 16 monitoring wells in the Butler County Uplands region hit the "trigger level" every year since 2004. (The trigger level is defined as a 7% drop in the water level.) Under NRD rules, a Management Area can be declared if 50% or more of the monitoring wells in a region drop below the trigger level for three consecutive years.

A series of public hearings were held in the area in summer and fall 2006, and the NRD board voted to proceed with the Level One designation at their November board meeting.

The affected area encompasses approximately 140 square miles in central

Butler County (including the communities of David City and Bruno) and portions of western Saunders County.

Operators of irrigation, municipal, and industrial wells within the Level One area are required to be certified every four years. The certification process is modeled after the NRD's existing certification program for nitrogen application, and involves attending a one- to two-hour training session focusing on water conservation. The first certification class was held on January 19, and the second will be held Thursday, February 15 at 3 p.m. at the David City Frontier CO-OP.

Permits are also required for all new wells pumping more than 50 gallons/minute in the Level One area. On all new wells (not replacement wells) irrigating new acres, a flow meter or time totalizer will be required. Currently, the district is not considering a well moratorium.

Under Level One, the following practices are also encouraged but not mandatory:

- *Well metering program for all irrigation, municipal, and industrial wells.*
- *Acre-inch allocations per crops planted, dependent on aquifer.*
- *Annual water use report made to NRD before Dec. 31 every year.*
- *Well spacing restrictions observed (varying with percent of decline).*
- *Best management practices used*

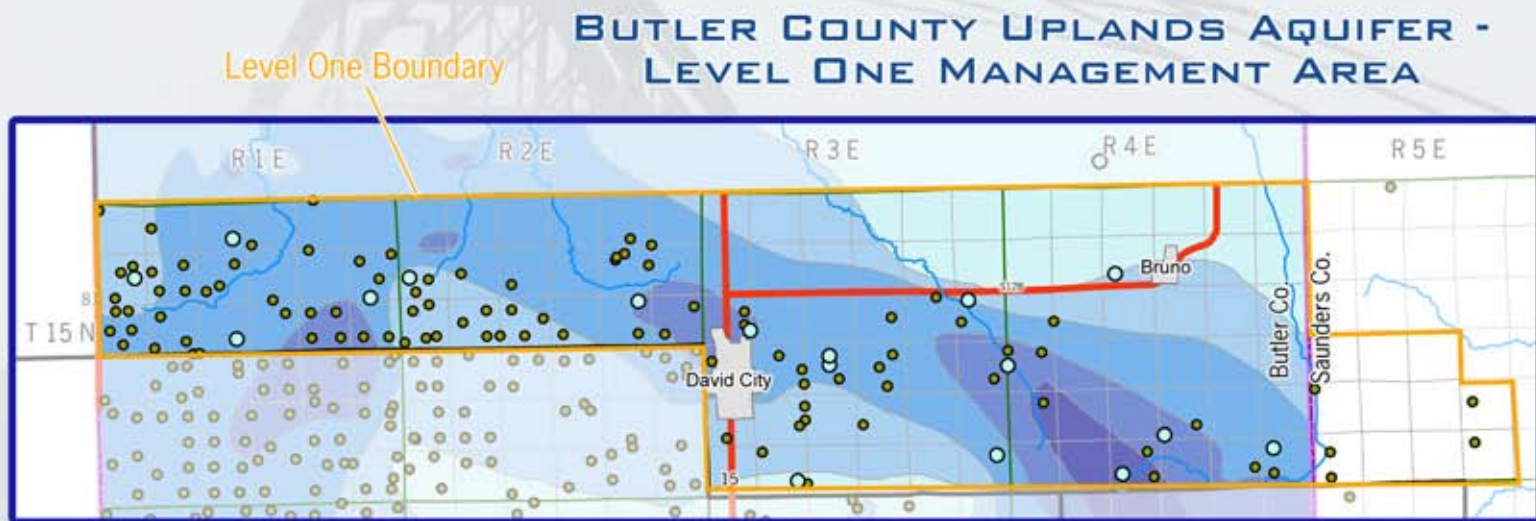
For more information on the Level One area, visit the NRD website at www.lpnrd.org or call (402) 443-4675.

Level One Certification Class

Thursday, Feb. 15

3 p.m. (Following Nitrogen Certification Class)

David City Frontier CO-OP



The Level One Management Area covers approximately 140 square miles in southern Butler County and a portion of western Saunders County. Within the Management Area boundaries, operators of irrigation, municipal, and industrial wells within the Level One area will be required to be certified every four years. Permits will also be required for all new wells pumping more than 50 gallons/minute. On all **new** wells (not replacement wells) irrigating **new** acres, a flow meter or time totalizer will be required. Currently, the district is **not** considering a well moratorium.

Author: L. Bomberger 4/18/06
Sources: LPNDR, NDNR
Hydrogeology of Butler County
published by Marilyn Ginsberg
NEBRASKA WATER SURVEY PAPER 55
UNL, CSD-Published 09/1963
Coord. System: NAD 83 UTM Zone 14N

NRD Hosts 2006 State Land Judging Contest

Teams from Waverly, Heartland, Twin River, Hampton and Falls City came out on top in the State Land Judging Contest, held Oct. 31 near Wahoo.

Eighty-four students on 21 teams from across the state competed in the contest, with the top five teams qualifying for national competition in Oklahoma.

Waverly was the first place team overall, scoring 1,065 out of a possible 1,200 points. Team members included Travis Jones, Ethan Reed, Dan Bulling, and Nick Ryan. Reed, Bulling and Jones also finished in 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in individual competition.

In second place with 985 points was Heartland, with team members Colton Chrisman, Jordan Epp, Trenton Friesen, and Rory Vandenberg. In individual competition, Vandenberg took 5th place, Epp placed 8th, and Friesen was 9th.

Twin River scored 947 points to capture 3rd place, with team members Ashley Melcher, Nick Olson, Kim Nansel, and Craig Schroeder. Olson was 7th in individual competition.

The 4th place Hampton team of Dylan Bamesberger, Aaron Friesen, Brock Kohtz, and Kyle Ediger scored 905 points. Bamesberger placed 4th in individual competition.

Rounding out the top five was the Falls City team of Tessa Way, Joe Scott, Lee Weaver, and Justin Yoesel, with 885 points.

In individual competition, the final top-10 finisher was Molly Papa of Schuyler, coming in at 10th place.

The contest was sponsored by the Lower Platte North Natural Resources District and the Saunders County Natural Resources Conservation Service.

PHOTOS, TOP-BOTTOM:

1st Place (Waverly): L-R Travis Jones, Ethan Reed, Dan Bulling, Nick Ryan

2nd Place (Heartland): L-R Colton Chrisman, Jordan Epp, Trenton Friesen, Rory Vandenberg

3rd Place (Twin River): L-R Ashley Melcher, Nick Olson, Kim Nansel, Craig Schroeder

4th Place (Hampton): L-R Dylan Bamesberger, Aaron Friesen, Brock Kohtz, Kyle Ediger

5th Place (Falls City): L-R Tessa Way, Joe Scott, Lee Weaver, Justin Yoesel





is the quarterly publication of the Lower Platte North Natural Resources District and is edited by Troy Thompson, Information & Education Specialist.

Board Member.....Subdistrict

Vacant.....	1
Wendell Bruner.....	1
Dean Johnson, Treasurer.....	2
Marv Eden.....	2
Dave Saalfeld, Secretary.....	3
Ted Bailey, Vice Chair.....	3
Clint Johannes.....	4
Lumir Jedlicka, Chair.....	4
Ralph Pieke.....	5
John Hannah.....	5
Alan Boyd.....	6
Robert Hilger.....	6
Donald Kavan.....	7
Ronald Sabatka.....	7
Daryl Reitmajer.....	8
Robert Meduna.....	8
Erik Alm.....	9
Ervin Bull.....	9
Dave Vrana.....	at large

Staff Member.....Position

Larry Angle.....	Water Resources Manager
Sam Barlean.....	O & M Specialist
Leah Barkley.....	Water Resources Specialist
Jill Breunig.....	Administrative Manager
Ann Brodd.....	Secretary/Bookkeeper
Eric Gottschalk.....	Projects Coordinator
Bob Heimann.....	O & M Manager
Marla Milliken.....	NRD/NRCS Technician
John Miyoshi.....	General Manager
Tom Mountford.....	Assistant Manager
Mike Murren.....	Lake Wanhoo Coordinator
Russell Oaklund.....	Water Resources Specialist
Chris Poole.....	GIS Specialist
Karen Rezac.....	Secretary/Receptionist
Joe Sabata.....	O & M Specialist
Mike Sousek.....	Rural Water Manager
Troy Thompson.....	Info/Ed Specialist

NRD/NRCS Clerks.....County

Susie Leu.....	Butler County
Brenda Wardman.....	Colfax County
Joan Sawtelle.....	Dodge County
Kelly Bartek.....	Saunders County

To receive The Viaduct, contact:

Lower Platte North NRD
 511 Commercial Park Road
 P. O. Box 126
 Wahoo, Nebraska 68066-0126
 Phone: 402-443-4675
 Toll free 1-888-764-0543
 Fax: 402-443-5339
 E-mail: lpnnrd@lpnnrd.org
 Web site: www.lpnnrd.org

Tree Orders for Spring 2007

The Lower Platte North NRD is now accepting tree orders for spring 2007. Order are taken on a first-come, first-served basis, so order early to ensure that you will be able to receive trees.

Anyone residing in the district is eligible to purchase trees. Seedlings are two years old and approximately 12” to 18” tall. Handplants must be purchased in multiples of 25 and may not be resold with the roots still attached.

Handplant trees are made available for pickup at the nearest Natural Resources Conservation Service office. If you are looking for a machine planting done by NRD staff, please contact Forestry Manager Bob Heimann at (402) 443-4675 or bheimann@lpnnrd.org.

To order handplant trees, fill out the form below and return to the NRD with your payment. Checks should be made payable to the Lower Platte North NRD.



2007 HANDPLANT TREE ORDER FORM

CONIFERS (multiples of 25 only)

- Eastern Red Cedar _____
- Douglas Fir _____
- Austrian Pine _____
- Eastern White Pine _____
- Jack Pine _____
- Ponderosa Pine _____
- Scotch Pine _____
- Colorado Blue Spruce _____
- Norway Spruce _____
- Concolor Fir _____

DECIDUOUS (multiples of 25 only)

- Crab Apple _____
- Manchurian Apricot _____
- Green Ash _____
- Cottonwood _____
- Black Cherry _____
- Hackberry _____
- Hawthorn _____
- American Hazel _____
- Honey Locust _____
- False Indigo _____
- Silver Maple _____
- Bur Oak _____
- Red Oak _____
- Swamp White Oak _____
- Russian Olive _____
- Black Walnut _____
- Diamond Willow _____

SHRUBS (multiples of 25 only)

- Silver Buffalo Berry _____
- Caragana _____
- Chokecherry _____
- Sand Cherry _____
- Cotoneaster _____
- Golden Currant _____
- Elderberry _____
- Honeysuckle _____
- Lilac _____
- Amur Maple _____
- American Plum _____
- Dogwood Redosier _____
- Skunkbush Sumac _____

Total Trees/Shrubs: _____ x.55

Subtotal: \$ _____

Tax @ 7%: _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____

Deliver To:

_____ County NRCS Office
 (Butler, Colfax, Dodge, Platte)

or: LPNNRD Office, Wahoo

RETURN ORDER FORM AND PAYMENT (CHECKS PAYABLE TO LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD) TO:

Lower Platte North NRD, PO Box 126,
 Wahoo, NE 68066



Conservationists Honored at Annual Banquet

Area conservationists were honored at the Lower Platte North Natural Resources District's Annual Banquet on December 3 at the Fremont Golf Club.

Each year, the NRD gives awards for outstanding efforts in conservation, tree planting, water resources management, education, volunteerism, and partnership efforts. Award winners are chosen by NRD staff and directors.

Fred Benesech of Bruno was named Outstanding Conservationist of the Year. Over the years Fred has converted many acres of cropland back to native grasses, implemented numerous rotational grazing practices, and installed four ponds.

The 2006 Tree Planter of the Year Award went to George and Mary Lou Schinker of Fremont. The Schinkers have planted almost 2,000 trees and shrubs on two different properties near Fremont and Wahoo over the past four years.

Larry Peirce of David City was named the 2006 Water Resources Cooperator of the Year. Larry, the editor of the David City Banner Press, was recognized for his paper's extensive and even-handed coverage of the NRD's rural water system, Level One Management Area, and other water programs affecting the David City region.

The 2006 Partner of the Year was Denise Meeks of USDA Rural Development. Denise was an indispensable partner to the NRD throughout the process of building rural water systems in Bruno and Colon.

Eric Smith of the Columbus NRCS office was chosen as NRCS Employee of the Year. In addition to many other duties, Eric acts as the Shell Creek Coordinator and is the first point of contact for landowners and conservation groups seeking NRCS assistance for projects in the watershed.

NRD staff and directors were also recognized at the banquet. The 2006 Director of the Year was Roger Koertner of Fremont. In his tenure on the board, Roger was an active and thoughtful member who always took the time to look at issues closely.

Larry Angle, NRD Water Resources Manager, was the 2006 Employee of the Year. Larry was recognized for his leadership on both local and statewide groundwater issues, including integrated water management in the district, water modeling efforts for the Elkhorn/Loup river basins, the Mead ordnance plant cleanup, the Butler County Level One Management Area, and more.

Other staff awards included:

Customer Service Award – Sam Barlean, O&M Specialist.
NRCS Field Office Award – Kelly Bartek, Saunders County NRCS Clerk.

Circle of Excellence Awards – Leah Barkley, Water Resources Specialist; Eric Gottschalk, Special Projects Coordinator; and Mike Sousek, Rural Water Manager.

Outstanding Conservationist

L-R: Henrietta and Fred Benesch, Outstanding Conservationist of the Year, with NRD Special Projects Coordinator Eric Gottschalk.



Tree Planter of the Year

L-R: George and Mary Lou Schinker, Tree Planters of the Year, with NRD Forestry Manager Bob Heimann.



Water Resources Cooperator of the Year

L-R: Larry Angle, NRD Water Resources Manager, with Larry Peirce, 2006 Water Resources Cooperator of the Year.



Partner of the Year

L-R: Mike Sousek, NRD Rural Water Manager, with Denise Meeks, 2006 Partner of the Year.



NRCS Employee of the Year

L-R: Eric Smith, NRCS Employee of the Year, with NRD Assistant Manager Tom Mountford.



Director of the Year

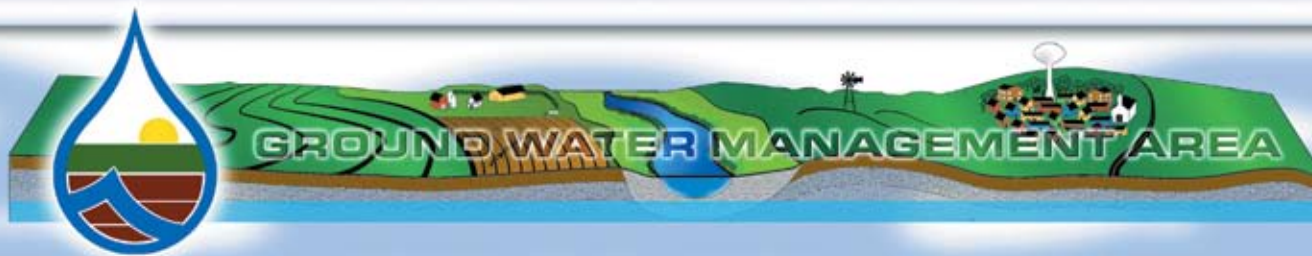
L-R: NRD Manager John Miyoshi with Director of the Year Roger Koertner.



Employee of the Year

L-R: Clint Johannes, NRD Chair, with Employee of the Year Larry Angle.





Dates Announced for 2007 Certification Classes

Nitrogen management certification classes for 2007 will be held at various locations in the NRD in January-March.

Producers who use fertilizer in the NRD must be certified in nitrogen management at least once every four years. Uncertified producers are not eligible for any of the NRD's cost-share programs.

The training teaches producers how to maximize the efficiency of their fertilizer use, so they can save money and protect our groundwater at the same time. The training is conducted by NRD staff in cooperation with University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension staff.

The training sessions are free and no preregistration is required. Producers may attend whichever session works best for their schedule. The training takes approximately two hours. For more information, call the NRD at (402) 443-4675.

UPCOMING NITROGEN CERTIFICATION CLASSES FOR 2007

Thursday, Feb. 8	1 p.m.	<i>Lindsay - City Building</i>
Monday, Feb. 12	1 p.m.	<i>Fremont - Extension Office</i>
Thursday, Feb. 15*	1 p.m.	<i>David City - Frontier CO-OP</i>
Tuesday, February 27	9 a.m.	<i>Schuyler - Benedictine Center</i>
Tuesday, March 13	7 p.m.	<i>Mead/Ithaca - ARDC</i>
Tuesday, March 20	7 p.m.	<i>Columbus - Ag Park</i>

**Level One Certification Class to Follow - see pg. 2*

**LOWER PLATTE NORTH
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 126
WAHOO, NE 68066-0126
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WAHOO, NE 68066
PERMIT NO. 7

