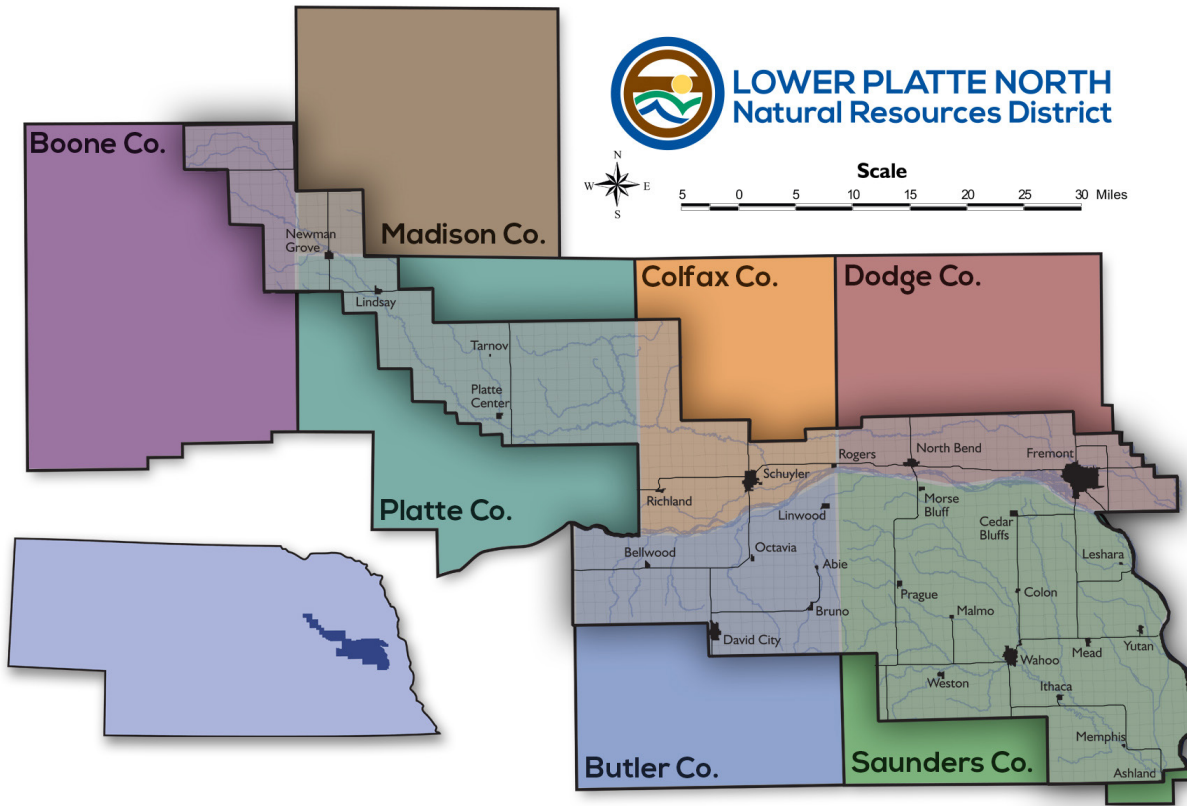
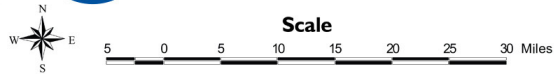




LOWER PLATTE NORTH
Natural Resources District



Abandoned Well Program



County NRCS Offices

Boone County NRCS
2581 State Hwy 14, Albion, NE 68620
(402) 395-2621

Butler County NRCS
317 E Street, David City, NE 68632
(402) 367-3074

Colfax County NRCS
120 W. 16th Suite B, Schuyler, NE 68661
(402) 352-5200

Dodge County NRCS
2450 N Co. Rd 20th Ave, Fremont, NE 68025
(402) 721-8455

Madison County NRCS
115 W. Main Street, Battle Creek, NE 68715
(402) 675-2745

Platte County NRCS
3276 53rd Avenue, Columbus, NE 68601
(402) 564-0506

Saunders County NRCS
611 Commercial Park Rd, Wahoo, NE 68066
(402) 443-3463

MORE INFORMATION

For more information, please contact us:
Lower Platte North NRD
511 Commercial Park Road
P. O. Box 126
Wahoo, NE 68066-0126
Phone: 402.443.4675
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October 2022



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Abandoned Wells

In recent years, abandoned wells have become a concern in Nebraska. There are thought to be 150,000 or more abandoned wells across the state. It is a priority to properly decommission abandoned wells to reduce contamination to the aquifers.

There are two major liability concerns associated with abandoned wells. First, they pose a safety hazard to children and animals, who can fall into unsealed wells and become trapped. Second, they can channel pollutants directly into groundwater, which more than 90 percent of Nebraskans rely on for drinking water.

According to state regulations, an abandoned well is "any water well, the use of which has been accomplished or permanently discontinued." Essentially, this means any well that is no longer used and that is not being maintained.

State law requires that these wells be sealed, or "decommissioned," following Nebraska Department of Health rules.



What is a decommissioned well?

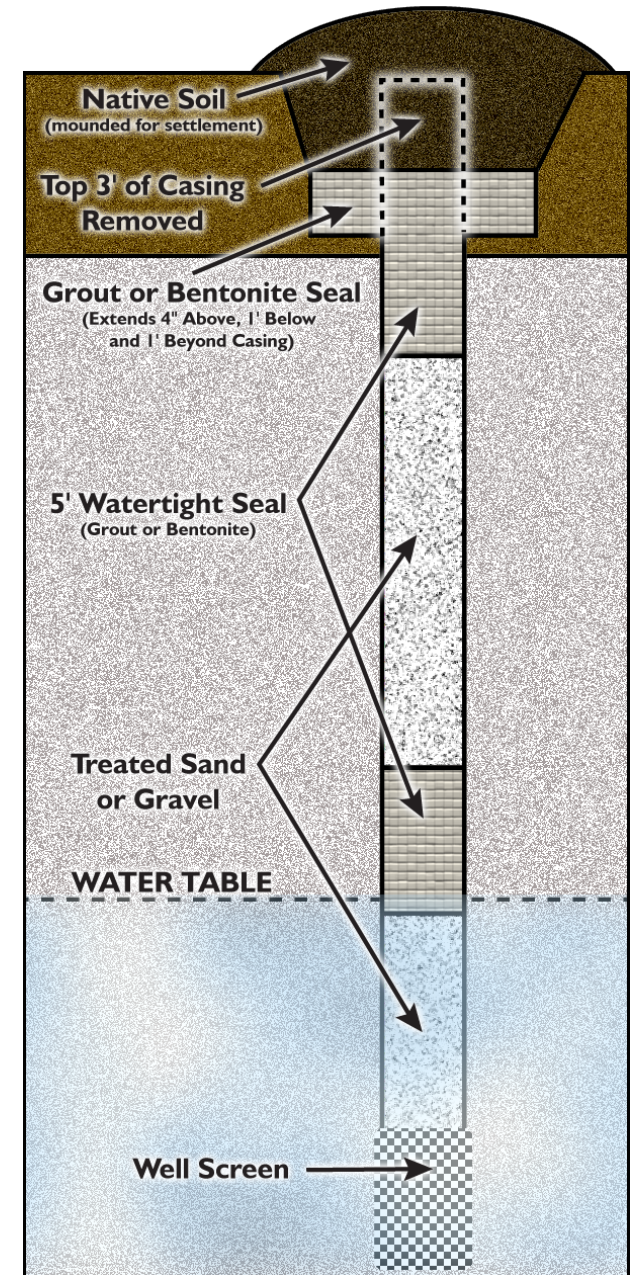
A well is "decommissioned" when all of the equipment has been removed and the casing has been filled and sealed. Treated sand or gravel is the primary fill material. Grout or bentonite is used to create watertight seals at the water table and the top of the well. These seals must be at least five feet long. Also, the top three feet of casing must be removed, and a seal has to be placed on top, extending beyond the casing at least one foot. The hole should be backfilled with native soil and mounded for settlement.

To encourage landowners to decommission abandoned wells, the Lower Platte North NRD will pay up to 75 percent of the cost. The work must be done by a licensed well driller to qualify. For domestic and stock wells, the district will also provide cost-share for removal of pumping equipment and other obstructions.

How do I apply for cost share?

To apply for cost share assistance, well owners should contact the Lower Platte North NRD for an information packet (available to download at www.lpnrd.org, or call 402-443-4675). The packet contains guidelines for the NRD's cost share program and a list of licensed well drillers and pump installers in the area.

To qualify for assistance, the well owner has to get a cost estimate from a licensed well contractor or pump installer and submit it the NRD. An NRD staff member will come out and inspect the well and either approve or deny the cost estimate. If the estimate is approved, work can proceed on the decommissioning. When the work is completed and has been paid for, the well owner must submit a copy of the bill to the NRD for reimbursement. No cost share assistance can be granted unless this procedure is followed.



PROPERLY DECOMMISSIONED WELL
(not to scale)