

North Platte Natural Resources District Irrigation Newsletter

Issue 9

Surface Water Registration

The North Platte NRD is currently mailing surface water registration paperwork to landowners who irrigate with surface water only. If you receive a packet, please review the materials carefully and follow the instructions to complete your registration and return the signed forms.

This registration process is part of the NRD's effort to improve nitrate management and maintain accurate, up-to-date records. Beginning January 1, 2025, all surface water irrigated acres must be registered and approved by the NRD under updated rules and regulations. This registration will not impact your existing water rights or any agreements with your Surface Water District.

Registering your acres ensures they are associated with annual nitrogen sample data in the NRD's database, supporting better groundwater protection and resource planning.

As of September, Farmers Irrigation District, Gering-Fort Laramie Irrigation District, Lisco Irrigation District, and Enterprise Irrigation District have mailed out registration paperwork. The next district to be mailed out is Pathfinder Irrigation District. We hope to have it mailed out in February. If you have not received any paperwork for these irrigation districts, please reach out to the North Platte NRD.



Welcome to Issue #9 of the Irrigation Newsletter! This newsletter is intended to inform **groundwater and surface water irrigators** within the District. The information included in this newsletter is made possible with the help of the University of Nebraska Extension and USDA-NRCS.

Visit or Contact Us

100547 Airport Road

Scottsbluff, NE

308-632-2749

www.npnrd.org



Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Programs

Applications are open for the 2026 Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program (NSWCP). This cost-share program helps cover a portion of expenses for approved soil, water, and rangeland conservation practices.

Landowners in Banner, Garden, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, and southern Sioux counties are eligible. Applications are being accepted at local NRD or NRCS offices through February 13, 2026.

2026 Conservation Award Nominee

The North Platte NRD is hosting the third annual Ag Symposium on Tuesday, February 10, 2026. As part of the Ag Symposium, we are presenting an award for outstanding conservation of water and soil. We are asking the public to submit nominations for these awards.

For the Outstanding Conservation Award, individuals, groups, businesses, and communities are eligible. A nominee will demonstrate proper management of natural resources in a manner prescribed to be in accordance with the capabilities and economics of the resource. Nominees exemplify the use of practices that protect and enhance long-term sustainability, including both quality and quantity of natural resources.

Nominations should include:

- Nominee name, address, and telephone number
- Supporting Information:
 - Operation Overview: crops, livestock, wildlife habitat, business overview, services, etc.
 - Background on management techniques; planting techniques; inputs used and changes in fertilizer, herbicides, and insecticides; changes in practices that protect the resource; etc.
 - Outreach: Seminars, field plots, test plots, education provided to others, publications and/or presentations highlighting the protection of the resource

Nominations must be submitted by **Wednesday, January 21**, either by mail to the North Platte NRD at 100547 Airport Rd, Scottsbluff, NE 69361, or by email to npnrd@npnrd.org.

Tree Orders Now Open for 2026 Planting Season

Tree orders for the 2026 planting season are now being accepted. Seedlings are sold in bundles of ten on a first-come, first-served basis, with a variety of species available, including evergreens, broadleaf trees, and shrubs.

Two planting options are offered:

- Bare-root seedlings at \$1.20 per tree
- Plugs at \$2.20 per tree

This is a great opportunity to plan windbreaks, wildlife habitat, or general property enhancements. A full list of available species is posted at www.npnrd.org.



NORTH PLATTE NRD AG SYMPOSIUM

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

9.00-3.00

Gering Civic Center

Speakers

- Robb Dedman, AgroTech USA
- Tyler Kroupa, Midwest Labs
- Jesse Bell, Ph.D., University of Nebraska Medical Center

Topics

- Importance of Sampling
- Soil Sample Analysis
- Nitrates in the District
- Effects of Nitrates on Health

**Free Admission
Free Lunch**



For more information, call 308.632.2749 or go to www.npnrd.org

Chemigation

To legally chemigate in Nebraska, a person who applies chemicals through their irrigation system must complete a chemigation safety course and pass a written exam, offered through the University of Nebraska Lincoln and Nebraska Department of Water, Energy and Environment (DWEE). The chemigation certification program serves as an important tool to educate producers about the Nebraska Chemigation Act, chemigation rules and regulations set by the DWEE, and as an overall tool on safe chemical application practices. You can find training materials and links to dates and locations for in-person events at pested.unl.edu/training-and-certification/chemigation. Local dates are listed below.

February 18, 2026: Sidney
March 11, 2026: Scottsbluff

March 4, 2026: Bridgeport
March 11, 2026: Alliance

March 4, 2026: Alliance



100547 Airport Road, P.O. Box 280
Scottsbluff, NE 69363-0280

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NORTH PLATTE NRD
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Water Use Reports

The North Platte NRD is currently processing the 2025 ground water use reports. These reports show previous year water usage and outline water availability for the new Allocation, which started October 1, 2024, and ends September 30, 2029. There will be a small percentage of reports that will have to be calculated using power records and flow tests and will be delayed. The reports will be mailed out in early February.

Board Meetings

The public is welcome to attend all Board meetings and the Committee meetings. The North Platte Natural Resources District conducts its Board Meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 3 pm. Committee meetings are held as needed. The meetings are held at the office located at 100547 Airport Road, Scottsbluff. We welcome your thoughts and opinions on upcoming projects.

This is part nine of an ongoing series designed to provide education and information to the Landowners and Operators irrigating within the North Platte Natural Resources District boundaries.

Information found in this Newsletter has been reproduced from "Irrigation and Nitrogen Management, User Education/Certification Program" a Nebraska Extension Circular EC2008. If you would like more information, please contact the North Platte Natural Resources District.