



2018

### Flow Meter Assistance Programs

The purpose of these practices is to encourage the efficient use of groundwater for irrigation. NRD funds will be used to provide cost-share for these practices. The flow meter assistance program consists of flow meter repair cost-share and flow meter maintenance.

#### ***Eligibility For Flow Meter Repair***

Flow meters used in the District are eligible for flow meter repair cost-share. A flow meter is not eligible for repair more than once every four (4) years. Mandatory flow meters are not eligible until the meter has been installed four (4) years. Flow meters are not eligible while under warranty. Repair must include proper installation in accordance with the District's requirements. The District may waive the "proper installation" requirements for flow meters installed voluntarily prior to June 30, 2010, if the District can determine that the meter is recording accurately (plus or minus five percent).

***Cost-Share Rate:*** The cost-share rate is fifty percent (50%) not to exceed \$150 per flow meter repair. The maximum cost-share per landowner for flow meter repair is \$1,000 per fiscal year. The minimum cost-share payment is \$100.



### Flow Meter Maintenance Program

The District is in the mandatory reporting phase of the Groundwater Management Area Rules and Regulations. Proper maintenance is critical to insuring that flow meters accurately measure groundwater withdrawal. Without regular maintenance flow meters will begin to provide inaccurate data and eventually fail. Routine flow meter inspection and maintenance is required for all irrigation flow meters in the district. Mechanical flow meters will be inspected and serviced on a five (5) year rotation. Maintenance and inspection will include an evaluation of the flow meter's current operating condition, compliance with minimum installation requirements, lubrication of bearings and mounting gaskets as needed. A protective cover often referred to as a "canopy boot" may be provided at the District's discretion. Electronic flow meters will be visited every four (4) years. The District will replace batteries. The cost of batteries will be billed to the owner of the flow meter.

#### ***Eligibility***

All flow meters used on irrigation wells are required to be enrolled. ***Cost-Share Rate:*** There is no charge for this service. One-hundred percent (100%) of the programs funding is provided by the District.

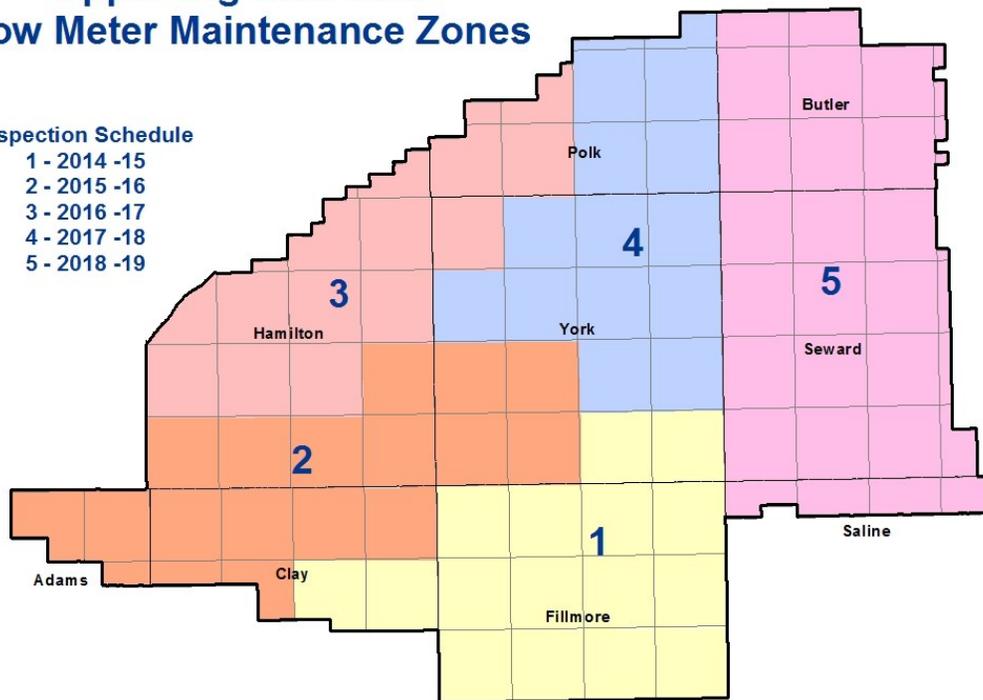
Costs associated with repairs of a flow meter and/or its proper installation, determined by the maintenance inspection, are the responsibility of the well owner. Some flow meters may qualify for cost-share assistance for repairs under the "Water Meter Repair Practice."

# Know Your NRD: District FACTS

## Upper Big Blue NRD Flow Meter Maintenance Zones

### Inspection Schedule

- 1 - 2014 -15
- 2 - 2015 -16
- 3 - 2016 -17
- 4 - 2017 -18
- 5 - 2018 -19



Groundwater irrigated acres: 1.2 million  
2017 irrigation water use averaged  
7.6 acre inches.

Free water tests (1997-2017):  
Nitrate tests: 8,875  
Bacteria tests: 1,072

Irrigation flowmeters District-wide:  
12,206 installed

Wellhead Protection Areas established:  
27 communities

Flood control dams built (1972-2017):  
45 structures

Recreation areas: 5 sites/ 640 acres of  
water and land managed.

Forestry (1975-2017): 1,799,588 trees sold.



### Who is monitoring the safety of our drinking water?

**Dan Leininger is...**

The Domestic Well Testing Program keeps rural residents of the Upper Big Blue NRD apprised of the quality of their drinking

water in regard to nitrate levels. Federal regulations state that nitrate-nitrogen concentrations in drinking water greater than 10 parts per million (ppm) are potentially hazardous to high-risk individuals such as infants and the elderly.

In towns, the city government or water supplier is required to annually inform residents of their water quality. Each year, the NRD tests nitrate levels in 250+ domestic wells.

### Who ensures that my grandchildren will have enough water in the future?

**Marie Krausnick does...**

The purpose for our regulations is to manage groundwater in times of shortage. This will ensure that we can sustain our long-term water supply for future generations and to avoid conflicts between users. Over 500 observation wells are measured in the spring of each year, allowing the water table to rebound from the previous irrigation season.

Reporting and allocation triggers have been proactively put in place should the groundwater levels fall below a certain point.



## Nebraska's NRDs

- Protects lives through flood protection
- Leaders in ground-water management
- Use taxpayer dollars efficiently

Formed in 1972, Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts are local government entities with broad responsibilities to protect our natural resources.

NRDs help Nebraskans respond to natural resource challenges with local control and local solutions. Major Nebraska river basins form the boundaries of the 23 NRDs, each of which is governed by locally elected boards of directors. The Upper Big Blue NRD is governed by a 17-member board of directors. These directors are elected by registered voters within the District. The board sets policy for the District and works closely with the staff through a committee system to carry out the District's goals.

Statewide, NRDs are largely funded by property taxes and make efficient use of those tax dollars; typically a Natural Resources District uses only 1% to 2% of all property taxes collected in a county.

For example, in the Upper Big Blue NRD on a \$100,000 home this would equate to about \$30 of property tax per year; A small investment for peace of mind knowing that your NRD is "Water Conscious."

Protecting Lives  
Protecting Property  
Protecting the Future

Concerned about your natural resources?...So are we!  
Find out more about  
Nebraska's NRDs at  
[www.nrdnet.org](http://www.nrdnet.org)