



## Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts

[www.nrdnet.org](http://www.nrdnet.org)

Protecting Lives • Protecting Property • Protecting the Future

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For More Information Contact: Alyssa Smola, 402.471.7672 or E-mail  
to: [asmola@nrdnet.org](mailto:asmola@nrdnet.org)

### **NRD's Save Taxpayer Dollars**

The Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) are saving taxpayer dollars by keeping health insurance premiums for natural resources district employees low with an increase of only 1.5% for the next fiscal year with no change in coverages.

“While most health plans are seeing double-digit increases and also reductions in coverages, the natural resources districts’ plan has seen remarkable improvement in the program primarily due to the hard work of the local NRD employees and board members to control costs,” said Dean Edson, Executive Director of the NARD

In the previous fiscal year, the districts were able to hold the premiums to a 3.5% increase, or about one-fourth of the state average increase in 2007.

The lowered costs have helped the local natural resources districts keep property taxes down. According to reports by the Nebraska Department of Revenue, in 2008 the NRDs reduced property taxes by over \$1.1 million from 2007 levels. The NRDs were the only political subdivision to reduce property taxes in 2008.

Local district employees also embarked on a wellness program in the past year, which has gone beyond the local NRD office in many cases. Many of the districts and employees have partnered with public and private entities across the state to promote wellness to all Nebraskans. The NRDs are members of Workwell, a wellness organization that includes public and private entities.

“Nebraska’s natural resources districts are known for protecting people’s lives and property and protecting the future of our state’s natural resources, while also protecting the taxpayer’s pocketbook” Edson said. “

The Nebraska Association of Resources Districts is the trade association for Nebraska’s 23 natural resources districts. The association works with the individual Natural Resources Districts (NRD) to protect lives, protect property and protect the future. These districts are unique to Nebraska. NRDs are local government entities with broad responsibilities to protect our natural resources.

Major Nebraska river basins form the boundaries of the 23 NRD's, enabling districts to respond best to local conservation and resource management needs.

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Nebraska Association of Resource Districts  
601 So. 12 St., Suite 201  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
Office 402.471-7672  
Cell 402.416.3988  
Fax 402.471.7677  
Website [www.nrdnet.org](http://www.nrdnet.org)