

KNOW YOUR NRD

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Summer/Fall 2009

Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts
Making the Good Life Better Since 1972

TPNRD QUICK FACTS:

Chemigation 2008- Total permits: 1,373, inspections: 550

Trees sold or distributed in the last 10 years: 725,125

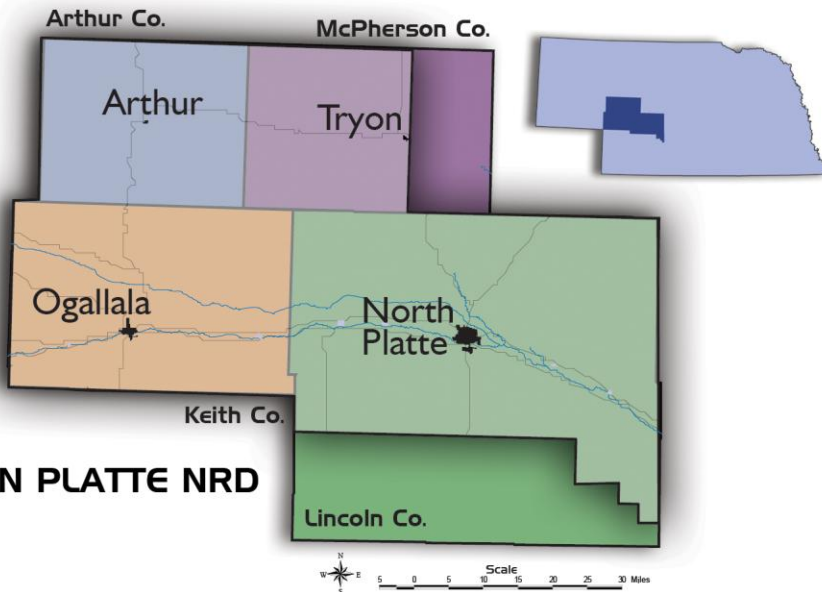
Ground water wells sampled each year for water quality: 193

Ground water wells measured for water levels each year: 281

Certified ground water irrigated acres: 317,947.4

K-12 students educated in the last 10 years: 5,082

Irrigation wells in the TPNRD: 3,117



TWIN PLATTE NRD

Protecting Lives

Protecting Property

Protecting the Future

Clean Water Supplies

The Twin Platte NRD helps protect ground water as a drinking water sources for over 43,000 people living in the Twin Platte Natural Resources District.

The TPNRD has been monitoring ground water since 1982. Annually, the TPNRD take samples from 193 wells to test for nitrates. TPNRD also works in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture to test the ground water for atrazine and other chemicals. Samples tested have not detected atrazine in any sample since this program began. This allows the District to educate constituents and to help protect and maintain our abundant supply of good quality drinking water for future generations.

(Continued on the back page)

Maintaining Safety through Flood Control Structures

The TPNRD owns, operates, and maintains the Brule Watershed project in Keith County. This flood control structure has been protecting town residents, rural landowners, and their property in the Brule area since the early 1970's. The NRD continues to work with the City of Ogallala to protect residences and property.



Ground Water Management

The LRNRD is working to preserve and protect an adequate supply of water for future generations. In order to accomplish this task, we are acting on the following ideas, but not limited to: 1) Ground water monitoring program - An annual inspection of wells leads to better data, and educated decision making; 2) In 2004, the district placed stays in effect to help sustain ground water levels for the future; 3) The District is continually looking for new water supplies, or ways to get more water to river systems; 4) The TPNRD is developing and implementing an integrated management plan (IMP).

Enhancing and Protecting our Natural Habitat

The Twin Platte NRD has partnered with Pheasants Forever on the Corners for Wildlife

program since 1997. During that time, over 100 pivot corner projects have been enrolled in this program. As part of this program, the NRD oversees planting of trees and shrubs, as well as grass/legume/wildflower seed mixtures. These sites provide plant diversity that naturally attracts a variety of game and non-game wildlife species. This

program has also stabilized highly erodible land, improving air and water quality in the District for future generations.



Water Banking

The TPNRD is in the beginning stages of developing a water bank for the District. It is envisioned that through this process the District will be working toward fully appropriated status. We are hopeful that by acquiring water rights voluntarily to put in a water bank, we can reduce the need for stricter regulations district-wide.

Federal programs, state funding, and other possible resources may be able to assist us in increasing incentives for producers to permanently retire their irrigated acres. These programs allow us to maximize the impact of the NRD's financial resources.

Clean Water Supplies (continued)



The TPNRD is committed to protecting the quality of our ground water for the long-term by taking a pro-active management approach. In the last 10 years, 120 wells that are no longer used have been decommissioned through our well abandonment program. By properly decommissioning these wells now, the chance of pollutants entering into our water supply is considerably less.

NeRAIN Program

The TPNRD coordinates over 50 volunteers who report daily rainfall readings across the District. These daily rainfall maps for our District and the entire state can be found on our web site at www.tpnrd.org.

NRDs

The NRDs have been around since 1972

- Protecting your quality of life.
- Working for the sustainability of natural resources.
- Managing ground water effectively.

The Twin Platte NRD is governed by an 11 member Board of Directors who are elected by voters within the District. The Board sets policy for the District, and then works with the staff to carry out the District's goals.

The Twin Platte NRD received its' name from the North and South Platte Rivers flowing into the District. The two rivers join together just east of the town of North Platte to form the Platte River.

YOUR Investments in LOCAL Natural Resources

The Twin Platte NRD is a local government agency that operates a portion of your annual property taxes. The Twin Platte NRD uses less than 1% of the total property taxes collected. For example, in the Twin Platte NRD, on a \$100,000 home, this would equate to \$32.59 per year. To help fund programs, the Twin Platte NRD utilizes funds available from grants and from state and federal agencies.

Find out more about Nebraska's NRDs at www.nrdnet.org and more specifically about the Twin Platte NRD at www.tpnrd.org