

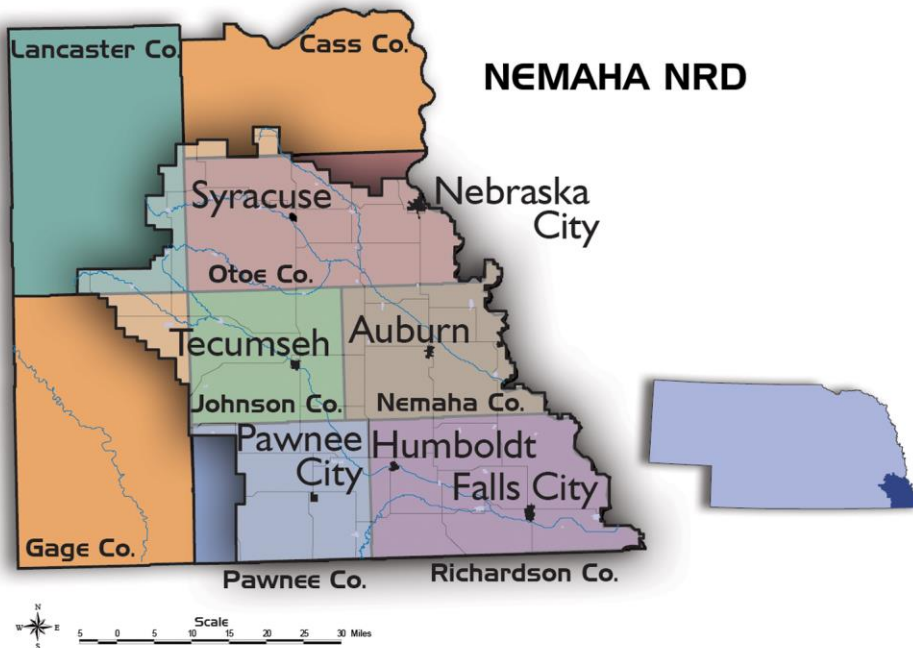
# KNOW YOUR NRD



**NEMAHA**  
Natural Resources District  
Tecumseh, NE

2014

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



### NEMAHA NRD QUICK FACTS:

- Over 470 flood and erosion control dams and structures provide 4,735 acres of permanent water & 96,862 acre feet of flood storage
- Since 1977 over 1.4 million trees and shrubs have been planted to provide wind protection, wildlife habitat, and erosion control
- More than 1,200 abandoned wells have been properly filled and sealed with cost-share assistance
- The Nemaha River basin encompasses all of the Nemaha NRD and a portion of the Lower Platte South NRD in Otoe & Cass Counties

***Protecting Lives, Protecting Property, Protecting the Future***

## Groundwater Rules Updated to Protect Your Water Supply

When the District put its new groundwater quantity rules in place back in May, 2013, they were the first major change to its rules in several years and, therefore, a work in progress. After a year of working within the new rules, it became apparent that a few modifications were necessary to help them to function as originally intended.

With much discussion and public input, the NRD board voted to revise the rules effective December 15, 2014. The main updates were in

the well spacing, which lengthened the distance between new, high capacity wells (pumping greater than 50 gallons per minute) and public water supply wells to 1/2 mile; new, high capacity wells must also keep a minimum distance of 500 feet from any registered domestic or livestock well. Some other changes to the ranking system, permit fees, and transfers were also incorporated. The entire text of the rules is available anytime at the NRD office or on the NRD's website.

Anyone wishing to drill a high capacity well must first obtain a permit from the NRD. Approvals are issued by board action, so permit applications must be submitted no later than the Thursday prior to the NRD's monthly meeting in order to be considered that month. Nemaha NRD board members generally meet on the second Thursday of each month at the NRD headquarters at Tecumseh.



## Future Leaders Compete in Contests



Southeast Nebraska and specifically the Nemaha NRD was the site of both the area Range Judging and Land Judging Contests this year. Held in September and October, respectively, the contests test students in both individual and team settings. This year's range contest was one of the largest hosted by the Nemaha NRD with 171 high school students



competing from 11 schools in a 23-county area. Land judging saw 110 participants from seven schools in a seven-county area. Partners assisting with the contest include the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Cooperative Extension.

## Flood Control/Recreation Site Progresses

Land rights acquisition and plans for road upgrades are moving along as the NRD continues to progress on the Duck Creek watershed project near Peru, Nebraska, in Nemaha County. The multi-purpose project will provide needed protection to county roads, bridges, and cropland while incorporating public recreation opportunities. Much of the funding for the \$1.2 million dam will come from the federal PL566 watershed fund.



When complete the Duck Creek dam & recreation area will sit north of this road (right side of photo).

Tree clearing is set to begin soon with the contract for construction of the dam expected to be awarded in early 2015. Following dam construction work will begin on the RV and tent camping areas, restrooms, and picnic areas. The 62-acre lake will provide for no-wake boating and angler access.

## Older Dams to Receive Safety Assessments

Over 350 of the watershed dams in the NRD were built between 1950 and 1980 with federal funding. Now that the life expectancy of many of these dams has been reached, the NRD is partnering with NRCS to begin assessing their existing condition. Starting with 13 of the oldest structures, JEO Consulting Group working with HDR Engineering will perform the assessment studies, which could result in future rehabilitation plans and funds. Work is expected to be completed on about half of the structures in 2015 with the remainder completed in 2016.

- **Protects lives and property**
  - Free water testing for nitrates & bacteria
  - Continuing efforts to maintain & improve flood control projects
- **Protects our future**
  - Educating youth through workshops, contests, and school presentations
- **Protects taxpayer dollars**
  - Responsible budgeting pairs local tax dollars with other state and federal grants to fund important projects

### The Nemaha NRD:

- is one of 23 NRDs
- serves all or parts of eight counties in southeast Nebraska
- is governed by a 21-member board of directors elected by the voters in 10 subdistricts
- meets monthly on the second Thursday to carry out the responsibilities charged to NRDs by the Nebraska Legislature in 1972

Find out more about Nebraska's NRDs at [www.nrdnet.org](http://www.nrdnet.org) and [www.nemahand.org](http://www.nemahand.org)