

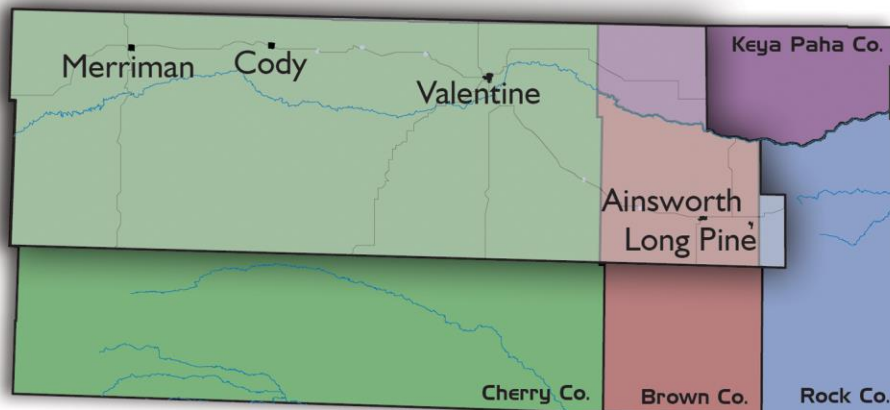
# KNOW YOUR NRD



**MIDDLE NIOBRARA**  
Natural Resources District  
Valentine, NE

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

## Summer Newsletter 2024



**MIDDLE NIOBRARA NRD**



### CURRENT GRANTS

NET LPCW Phase 5: \$1,601,265.25  
USDA-NRCS WFPO – LPCW & 3  
Cherry County: \$239,711.67  
Water Sustainability Funds: \$894,660  
NDEE GPR: \$132,300  
NDNR: -\$26,300



## Protecting Lives

### Static Water Levels

Every Spring and Fall staff measure 225 irrigation and monitoring wells across the District. These measurements track the use and recharge of our groundwater resources. Below are the average changes from the Spring of 2023 to the Spring of 2024 & 2014.

	Average Depth to Water	Change Since 2023	Change since 2014
Brown	56.80'	-.01'	+2.07'
Cherry	97.88'	+.75'	+2.94'
Keya Paha	31.54'	+3.10'	+3.98'
Rock	57.34'	-1.06'	+2.75'

## Protecting Property

### Chemigations

Chemigation Permit Applications were due into the office June 1<sup>st</sup>. Permits submitted after June 1<sup>st</sup> will be classified as new permits. MNNRD Staff will be reaching out to those with permit applications to schedule inspections in June and July if you are due this year.

### New Irrigated Acres

The MNNRD will be accepting applications for up to 3,000 new irrigated acres or equivalent high capacity uses for 2024. Applications will be accepted from August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, to August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, at the MNNRD Office. Applications and Rules & Regulations are available online at [www.mnnrd.org](http://www.mnnrd.org) or at the MNNRD Office. Call the office at 402-376-3241 for more information.

## Protecting the Future

### Water Quality

MNNRD staff annually collects 450 water samples to test for nitrate contamination. MNNRD provides free in-house nitrate testing for domestic, livestock, and irrigation wells. Samples can be shipped from the office to the lab for other water analysis. Call or stop into the office for available services and sample bottles.

If you have a domestic well that has high nitrates, NDEE is still offering a rebate program for up to \$4,000 to install a Reverse Osmosis (RO) system. Please contact the office for details.

## Projects and Programs



### Long Pine Creek Watershed (LPCW) & Cherry County WFPO's A, B, & E

The MNNRD and Houston Engineering are addressing threats to water quality and infrastructure within the Long Pine Creek Watershed. The watershed, approximately 332,000 acres primarily in Brown County is mostly irrigated farming and rangeland around Ainsworth and Long Pine. A Grant from NET along with Federal funding through USDA-NRCS's Watershed Flood Preventions & Operations (WFPO) Program, are helping fund projects in the LPCW. The LPCW WFPO Plan-EA is in the final stages of approval with final design phase to follow.

The MNNRD and E&A Consulting Group Inc. are in the middle of planning efforts through USDA-NRCS's WFPO Program on 3 Watersheds in Cherry County. Planning efforts will help determine structural and non-structural projects through the Plan-EA's. WFPO Feasibility on Schlager/Evergreen Creek Watershed has been completed.



### Tree Program



The MNNRD has conservation tree seedlings available for purchase. Trees are available over the counter from April-June, please get large and custom orders in by November. Staff does custom machine and handplanting, weed barrier installation, dripline irrigation installation, and windbreak design.

The MNNRD is accepting NSWCP cost-share applications for up to \$4,000 for windbreak plantings and \$5,000 for planned grazing and other conservation practices. Please stop into the office ASAP to pickup an application.

- Trees planted in 2024: 29,950
- Trees sold in 2024: 50,887
- Trees sold since 1972: 3,198,431
- Fabric (ft) installed in 2024: 98,950' (18.74 miles)
- Fabric (ft) installed since 1972: 3,758,704' (711.88 miles)



## Equipment Available



- 4 ft No-Till Drill (ATV/UTV),
- 7.5 ft & 10 ft Haybuster No-Till Drill
- 10 ft Great Plains No-Till Drill (Tractor) Ainsworth, NE, please contact Kevin Johnson at (402) 760-1803
- Gopher Machine & Bait
- Composting: Compost Turner and Manure Spreader
- Trailers: 14' – 36'
- Tables & Chairs
- 3PT Tree Planters
- Dripline Irrigation Parts
- Wood Chips: Per Ton
- 3 PT Rototillers (6 foot)

## Services Available



- Custom Tree Planting
- Custom Fabric Removal
- Custom Composting
- Custom Woodchipping
- Custom No Till Drilling
- Custom Tree & Shrub Mulching
- Custom Rototilling & Mowing
- Water Sampling
- Dripline Irrigation Installation
- Static Water Level Measurements
- Ultrasonic Flowmeter