NRD GROUNDWATER QUANTITY REGULATIONS ACROSS NEBRASKA (October 2017)

NRDs Are Managing Water Statewide:
Nebraska’s 23 Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) are uniquely positioned to manage the conservation of the state’s natural resources through local governance. Because of Nebraska’s diverse geology, climatology, and hydrology, each NRD—and its locally elected board of directors—are able to enact rules, regulations, and programs that can address its District’s citizens and protect local natural resources for future generations to share. Water management regulations in particular include allocating groundwater, augmenting surface water, requiring flow meters, instituting well drilling moratoriums, requiring water use reports, and restricting the expansion of irrigated acres. Individual NRDs use these regulations in different combinations and to different degrees depending on their respective geographic areas of concern. Below is a map showing all 23 NRDs and their most recent status of water management techniques.

So why does this matter to you? Quite simply, Nebraska’s NRDs are working to ensure that you and future generations can continue to share in the use and enjoyment of our natural resources, Nebraska’s NRDs: Protecting Lives, Protecting Property, and Protecting the Future...

Pretipidation varies dramatically across the state ranging from 14” to 16” a year in the Panhandle to 34”-36” a year in the most southeastern portion of Nebraska. Therefore, allocation amounts, along with historic water use, take precipitation into consideration.
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In reference to Phase I, II, III and IV areas, NRDs utilize trigger points signifying specific levels of nitrate in groundwater through monitoring well testing. These triggers are in place to protect the drinking water supply. Trigger points may vary within the individual NRD boundary, but are relative to the safe drinking water standards mandated federally. A district may have all, none, or part of its districts designated as Phase I, II, and IV areas, or any combination. The higher the Phase, the more implementation of management efforts for protection is required. It is best to consult with your local NRD to identify which programs. The phases listed here are only the phases currently triggered.