

Flow meter deadline is January 1st

Flow meters are a beneficial tool to help manage water use. The Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District (LENRD) requires flow meters on all high capacity wells.

Do you own an active high capacity well that pumps over 50 gallons per minute? Is the well used for either livestock, com-

mercial, industrial or public water supply? The LENRD is requiring flow meters to be installed on these categories of wells by January 1, 2019.

The LENRD has a list of approved flow meters and certified flow meter technicians listed on their website.

Financial assistance is available from the LENRD for installation

of any new flow meter on high capacity live-stock, commercial/ industrial, and public water supply wells.

For more information or to obtain the cost-share application, please contact the LENRD at 402-371-7313. You must apply for the cost-share by January 1st, 2019.

This is your last printed edition of the Directions newsletter!

The LENRD will be discontinuing the printing of the *Directions* newsletter. To stay connected with us, log on to our website and sign up for our monthly emails to receive the latest news, agendas, and deadlines on important topics that affect northeast Nebraskans and our precious natural resources.

Visit www.lenrd.org today and submit your email address. The LENRD serves all or parts of 15-counties in northeast Nebraska.

Stay connected with us!

Inside this issue:

Board releases approved irrigated acres	2
LENRD supports Riverfront Project	2
LENRD approves voluntary IMP	2
EAB in Nebraska	3
Conservation Tree Order Form	Insert
Seedlings available for purchase	4

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"Striving to improve the quality of life for all citizens of the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District by promoting and demonstrating sound methods of stewardship which conserve, develop and manage all natural resources."

"Equal opportunity employer and provider."

www.lenrd.org

Protecting Lives - Protecting Property - Protecting the Future

Conservation Trees available for purchase

Each year the LENRD makes available low-cost tree and shrub seedlings to landowners through their conservation tree program.

The LENRD's Conservation Tree Program offers a variety of services to landowners interested in planting wind-breaks, woodlots, or improving wildlife habitat on their property. These include the sale of conservation tree and shrub seedlings, tree planting service, weed barrier mats, and water conservation mulch and installation. The costs of these services are included on the insert in this issue of *Directions*.

LENRD Forester, Pam Bergstrom, said, "The conservation tree program is an important part of the LENRD's commitment to conservation and land stewardship. Through this and other programs we work with landowners to promote the wise use of our natural resources."

Contact the LENRD or your local NRCS office for more information.



www.lenrd.org/tree-catalog

Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District Conservation Tree Program Order Form - 2018-19

Name: _____ County: _____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Will trees be planted by LENRD Tree Planter: YES ___ NO ___

If yes, you must contact the LENRD Forester to develop a planting plan, and pay for the cost of the tree planting at the time you order. If you're interested in CRP plantings, contact your local NRCS office.

If no, please check the location where you prefer to pick up your seedlings.

Lower Elkhorn NRD Residents: Stanton ___ West Point ___
Pappo-Missouri River NRD Residents: Walthill ___ Omaha ___ Blair ___

- Each Species must be ordered in lots of 25**
- | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| CONIFERS | 1. Eastern Redcedar | 9. Kentucky Coffee Tree | FRUIT & NUT TREES | 25. Buffaloberry | SHRUBS |
| 2. Jack Pine | 10. Cottonwood | 18. Crabapple | 19. Bur Oak | 26. Chokeberry (Aronia) | 34. Gray Dogwood |
| 3. Ponderosa Pine | 11. Hackberry | 20. Red Oak | 21. Swamp White Oak | 27. Cranberry | 35. Red-Osier Dogwood |
| 4. White Pine | 12. Honeylocust | 22. Black Walnut | 22. Black Walnut | 28. Elderberry | 36. Cotoneaster |
| 5. Black Hills Spruce | 13. Amur Maple | 23. Hazelnut | 23. Hazelnut | 29. Serviceberry | 37. False Indigo |
| 6. Colorado Blue Spruce | 14. Silver Maple | 24. Black Cherry | 24. Black Cherry | 30. (Juneberry) | 38. Lilac |
| 7. Norway Spruce | 15. Northern Catalpa | | 16. American Sycamore | 31. Chokeberry | 39. American Plum |
| | 16. American Sycamore | | 17. American Linden | 32. Nannyberry | 40. Skunkbush Sumac |
| | | | | 33. Golden Currant | 41. Winterberry (Burning Bush) |

Seedlings in *italics* are recommended for use in Riparian Forest Buffer Projects.

Number of seedlings ordered @ \$22.00/25 seedlings = \$ _____
 Wildlife Package - page 2 bundles x \$22 = \$ _____
 Weed Barrier Mats - \$40/25 bundles x \$40 = \$ _____
 SALES TAX: 7% (West Point pickups), 5.5% (all other locations) Tax: \$ _____
 Total: \$ _____
 A check must be enclosed with this order, made payable to the:
 Lower Elkhorn NRD
 1508 Square Turn Blvd.
 Norfolk, NE 68701
 Signature of Purchaser _____ Date _____



LENRD Board releases approved applications for new irrigated acres

Earlier this fall, landowners within the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District (LENRD) boundaries, had an opportunity to apply for new irrigated acres for 2019.

LENRD Assistant General Manager, Brian Bruckner, said, "The board voted to take applications for standard variances district-wide. We received 139 applications for new irrigated acres during the sign-up period, which was open between September 4th and October 3rd, 2018."

The board voted at their November meeting to approve up to 2428 acres in the Hydrologically Connected (10/50 Area), and to approve up to 2515 new acres in the Non-Hydrologically Connected (Non 10/50 Area), under the district's standard variance process. Bruckner continued, "Staff will now go through the process of contacting the

landowners with both approved and non-approved acres." After the landowners have been properly notified, the approved list will be available to the public, sometime in January.

The board also approved the allocations for the designated Quantity Management Subareas across the district for 2019. Bruckner, said, "Each year, the board must determine the annual groundwater allocation amounts for the Wayne and Madison County Quantity Management Subareas for the upcoming crop year." The board voted to set the 2019 allocation amounts at: 18 acre-inches per irrigated acre for gravity/flood irrigation systems, 13 acre-inches per irrigated acre for subsurface drip irrigation systems, and 14 acre-inches per irrigated acre for all other irrigation systems in the Eastern Madison County Quantity Subarea,

and 17 acre-inches per irrigated acre for gravity/flood irrigation systems, 12 acre-inches per irrigated acre for subsurface drip irrigation systems, and 13 acre-inches per irrigated acre for all other irrigation systems in the Wayne County Quantity Subarea.

Voluntary Integrated Management Plan approved

Being proactive in the conjunctive management of groundwater and surface water is what led the LENRD Board of Directors to implement a voluntary Integrated Management Plan (IMP) to provide the needed framework for wise, long-term protection of the resources. We depend on abundant water resources for domestic, agricultural, and industrial uses, all of which contribute to the economy of the district.

In 2012, the LENRD board took action to initiate development of a joint voluntary IMP with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR). The LENRD continued to move forward with their individual plan, and developed a Stakeholder Advisory Committee to help prioritize goals and action items of the IMP over the next few years.

The NDNR and the LENRD jointly held a public meeting to discuss and answer questions on the IMP in August of 2018, and a public hearing was also held. After reviewing the testimony, the LENRD board voted to approve the IMP at their September meeting.

LENRD Assistant Manager, Brian Bruckner, said, "The purpose of this voluntary IMP is to achieve and sustain a long-term balance between water uses and water supplies. Protection of existing users is also a major factor as the district continues to add new users. This will be achieved through coordinated management of hydrologically connected groundwater and surface water resources. The IMP is a proactive approach to protecting available water supplies for future generations. It also makes the LENRD eligible to apply for grant funding through the NDNR Water Sustainability Fund."

siderable amount of feedback from the people in my Subdistrict in support of this project." At their July meeting, the board voted 8 to 5 to support the

Riverfront Project with the City of Norfolk with a financial commitment of \$1.032 million divided over four years, which is 1/3 of the project cost.



LENRD staff from across the state recently toured the future project location.

LENRD supports river rehabilitation project on the North Fork of the Elkhorn River

The LENRD Board of Directors held many discussions on the City of Norfolk's Johnson Park River Rehabilitation Project along the North Fork of the Elkhorn River.

LENRD Director, Scott McHenry, of Norfolk, said, "The City's plan to develop the Riverfront Project will provide more recreational opportunities close to home. I can't take a lot of time off during the summer months, so it's important to me and my family to find things to do locally." He added, "I have received a con-

Emerald Ash Borer in Nebraska

By: Pam Bergstrom, LENRD Forester

WHERE IS EMERALD ASH BORER?

Emerald Ash Borer or EAB is in Nebraska down by Lincoln, Omaha, and Fremont. It was found in the Omaha area in the spring of 2016. It has **NOT** been identified within the boundaries of the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District as of November of 2018. It **HAS** been found within the communities of Fremont, Lincoln, and Omaha in Nebraska. Just in 2018, EAB was found in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

WHAT IS EAB?

So, what is Emerald Ash Borer or as it is commonly referred to as EAB? EAB is an invasive insect that calls China home and was found in Michigan back in 2002. It is assumed it got into America by hitching a ride on pallets made from ash trees in China and shipped to America and other countries. Since it was first detected in 2002 in Detroit, Michigan, EAB has spread to most of the states east of the Mississippi River of the United States and continues to spread west.

EAB is a small insect and is rather nice to look at with its emerald and copper coloring. EAB is about as long as Abraham Lincoln on the penny. Now, other foresters I have talked to call EAB a lazy bug/insect. It will fly about 2 miles at a time, but that isn't the reason why EAB is spreading like it has been. EAB will hitchhike onto firewood or wood products that aren't treated to get from one place to another. The best way to prevent the spread of EAB is to NOT take firewood with you, but rather buy firewood at your destination and burn it there. **DO NOT BRING ANY EXTRA FIREWOOD HOME WITH YOU!**

What Trees Are at Risk?

Ash trees such as green, white, and all ash trees native to North America

are at risk including cultivars such as Marshall's Seedless Ash and Autumn Purple Ash. Now, if you have what is called a Mountain Ash, you don't have to worry about EAB. For you see, Mountain Ash is not a true ash and is in a separate family all together. Trees in the family *Fraxinus* are the trees that will be killed by EAB.

You can identify true ash trees by their opposite leaf and branching structure. What does this mean? It simply means that branches and leaves are found right across from each other. If you have seeds present on your tree they will be in clusters and they resemble a paddle from a canoe. The leaves are compound meaning they have multiple leaflets (5 - 11) on a single leaf. The bark will have diamond like ridges on mature bark.

What Are the Symptoms of EAB?

To look for the first symptoms, you need to look up into the crown or canopy of the tree. Now, some of these symptoms are also symptoms of our native ash borers that cause problems. With EAB, you will notice that the canopy is thinning and not as thick as it has been in years past. You will



notice some of the branches are bare. If you look at the base of the tree you will notice new branches sprouting out, trying to make up for what has died on top. Also, look up and down the tree for bark stripping from woodpecker activity. You may also notice some of the bark splitting and if you pull off the bark, the EAB larvae will

leave behind zigzag tunnels below the bark. No other larvae will leave zigzag tunnels. The most compelling evidence that you have EAB will be D-shaped exit holes that are 1/8-inch across. This is where the mature EAB will leave the tree and fly to other trees. For more on the symptoms, go to <http://www.nda.nebraska.gov/plant/entomology/eab/>

When Should I Start Treating My Ash Trees?

Good question! Nebraska Forest Service and the Nebraska Department of Agriculture recommends that you start treating your healthy ash trees with EAB has been detected within 15 miles of your location. It is recommended that you only treat ash trees that are in good condition and are healthy. This rules out trees that have split in two, have had main branches broken out of it, has mushrooms growing out of the top of the tree, the tree is in close proximity to buildings or other structures, or is half dead/has bark missing. If you have trees like that the best thing to do is to remove the poor ash trees now and replace them with a variety of trees like oaks, maples, Kentucky Coffee Tree, Sycamore, or Linden just to name a few.

For more information on when and how to treat your ash trees, visit our website, www.lenrd.org. To find out more information on chemicals, hiring an arborist and how to protect your ash trees go to www.EABNE.info

What Should I Do If I Suspect I Have EAB In My Ash Trees?

If you think you have Emerald Ash Borer in your ash trees, contact Pam Bergstrom, LENRD Forester at 402.371.7313, Steve Rasmussen Northeast District Forester with the Nebraska Forest Service at 402.375.0101, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture at 402.471.2351, USDA APHIS at 402.896.8256 or your local county extension agent.

For more information about EAB in Nebraska, go to www.EABNE.info or <http://www.nda.nebraska.gov/plant/entomology/eab/>

Conservation Tree Program

Services and prices

The Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District's **Conservation Tree Program** offers a wide variety of seedlings and services to landowners interested in planting trees and shrubs for windbreaks, living snow fences, livestock protection, forest buffers, woodlots, and wildlife habitat. You can use the order form on the other side to order seedlings. Below is a list of other services available through the **Conservation Tree Program**:

Tree and Shrub Seedlings - page 1

- Seedlings cost \$22.00 plus tax for a bundle of 25
- Each species must be ordered in lots of 25

Machine Planting Service - page 1

- There is a charge of \$0.55/seedling
- There is a minimum planting charge of \$275.00 per project

Weed Barrier Mats - 4x4

- Weed Barrier Mats cost \$40 for a bundle of 25 mats. They must be ordered in lots of 25. The LENRD does not offer an installation service for the mats.
- To order rolls of fabric for the LENRD to install, contact the LENRD Forester.

Wildlife Package

Another option!

The **Wildlife Package** is an option for landowners who want to diversify the trees and shrubs they plant, but do not need to purchase the full bundle of 25. In this package you will receive a bundle of 25 seedlings, 5 each of 5 different species:

Species available for 2018-19:

- ◆ 5 Pin Cherry
- ◆ 5 Buffaloberry
- ◆ 5 Bur Oak
- ◆ 5 Hansen Hedge Rose
- ◆ 5 Skunkbush Sumac

The package of 25 seedlings can be purchased for \$22 plus tax.

There will be no substitutions for any species.

Limited quantities available.

The Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District (LENRD) does not guarantee the growth or survival of the seedlings you are purchasing. We do guarantee that the seedlings are purchased from quality nurseries and are maintained in good condition at our distribution center. Contact the LENRD Forester if you have any questions.

