

\*Measurements compared to Spring 2016 levels – 240 irrigation wells measured

## LENRD Spring Static Water Level Measurements



### Natural Resources District

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*"Strive 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](http://www.lenrd.org)

Protecting Lives - Protecting Property - Protecting the Future

To:

## First "Life on the Farm" event held in Knox County

Introducing students to the importance of agriculture was the focus of the first Ag Literacy Festival "Life on the Farm" event held in Knox County.

The UNL Extension from Pierce, Antelope, and Knox Counties teamed up with Farmers Pride, the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District (LENRD), Farm Credit Services, and the Nebraska Farm Bureau to host the event in Bloomfield at the Knox County Fairgrounds on Friday, April 7th. Over 300 third and fourth graders from Antelope, Knox, and Pierce Counties came to learn more about the Ag industry.

Bailey Carpenter with Pierce County UNL Extension said, "It's important to help them understand agriculture. Some of them are so far removed that they don't realize their milk comes from a cow rather than the grocery store."

The event is modeled after a similar event the UNL Extension in Madison County has been hosting for 15 years. The committee is already planning next year's event.



Students from Pierce Elementary were excited to pet the animals at the first "Life on the Farm" event for Pierce, Antelope, and Knox County schools.

Spring 2017

LOWER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

# Directions

## Sign-up by June 30th for flow meter cost-share

Due to changes made in the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District's (LENRD) Groundwater Management Area rules and regulations, flow meters are required on all active irrigation wells within the district by **January 1, 2018**.

The LENRD has cost-share available to assist producers with the installation of flow meters on their irrigation systems. Funding is limited, and the deadline to apply for the cost-share is:

**Friday, June 30th.**  
LENRD Projects

Manager, Curt Becker, said, "This change also incorporates a certification process for flow meter installers, which requires anyone who wants to install a flow meter within the LENRD to attend an installation training session."

The LENRD has approved seven meters for installation. A list of the approved meters as well as a list of the LENRD Certified Flow Meter Installation Contractors can also be found on the district's website. These contractors have already

completed the required flow meter installation training. Becker added, "If you do not want to become certified to install your own meter, you must select a certified installer from the list. This list will change as additional contractors become certified by the LENRD and will be updated when necessary on the LENRD website."

If you would like to be trained to install your own flow meter, please contact the LENRD.

Visit [www.lenrd.org/flow-meters](http://www.lenrd.org/flow-meters) for more information.



Contact your local NRCS office or the LENRD office for more information on cost-share to fund flow meters as well as other program options and additional incentives by **June 16th**.

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Sign up to receive emails from the

Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District

[www.lenrd.org](http://www.lenrd.org)



# Karen Hansen & Ken Berney retire

This spring, two long-time employees for the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District (LENRD) decided to retire.

Karen Hansen, of Wayne, was the LENRD's Programs Assistant in the Wayne County NRCS office for almost 20 years.

She retired in March. Hansen said, "I think I've been blessed to work with an agency who believes in its employees and has offered me a job where I can work with a great group of people, see the positive aspects of conservation at work and participate in helping with all the great youth educational programs the LENRD is involved with."



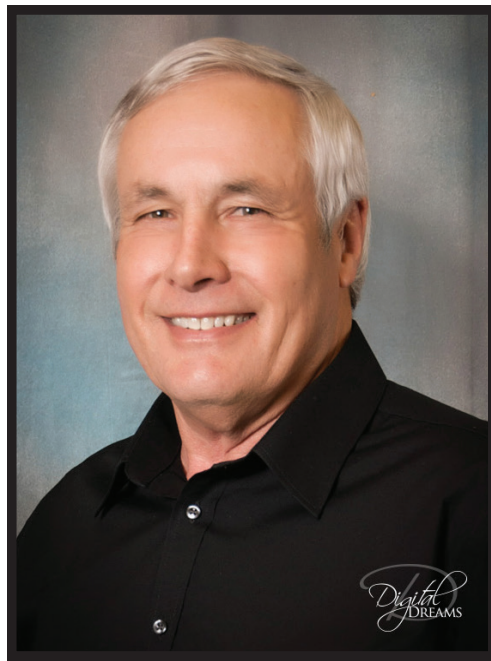
**Karen Hansen**

Ken Berney, of Stanton, was the LENRD's Assistant General Manager. He began his career in the Norfolk office in 1977. Ken wore many hats through the years. He was the first Information & Education Specialist for the district.

He later became the Projects Manager, and then the Assistant General Manager.

For nearly 40 years, Ken established relationships with many landowners, producers, and agencies across the district and the state.

Berney said, "It has been amazing to watch projects take shape over the last 40 years, and observe how



**Ken Berney**

our conservation practices have changed. I have enjoyed working in the unique, NRD system. The people I have met along the way hold a special place in my heart, as I look forward to the next chapter of my life."

Mike Sousek, LENRD General Manager, said, "We wish Karen and Ken the very best in their retirement, and thank them for their commitment to the protection of our natural resources, and for their constant support of our projects and programs."

*Margaret Brugger of Wayne is the new LENRD Programs Assistant in Wayne County, and Curt Becker of Dodge is the new LENRD Projects Manager at the Norfolk office.*

## The Great Park Pursuit

Maskenthine Lake Recreation Area, north of Stanton, is part of the Great Park Pursuit this year! To be a part of the adventure, you can register online at:

[www.NEGPP.org](http://www.NEGPP.org)

# Cost-share available for various conservation programs

In establishing the Conservation Cost-Share Programs for each calendar year, the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District's (LENRD) Board of Directors must consider cost sharing on practices that will help attain the district's conservation goals.

The LENRD works very closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to provide incentives for practices that provide adequate land treatment on more acres for less cost. The NRCS offices across the district provide the technical assistance to design and construct the projects.

The board has authorized cost share on the following practices:

- Grade Stabilization Dams
- Water Impoundment Reservoirs

- Terrace Rebuilds
- Terraces
- Terrace Outlets (tile and/or waterways)
- Waterways without Terraces
- Water and Sediment Control Basins
- Planned Grazing Systems
- Pasture and Rangeland Seeding on highly erodible land

Other incentives include:

- Cover Crop Program
- Nebraska Buffer Strip Program
- Corners for Wildlife
- Conservation Tree Program
- No-till Incentives Program
- Well Sealing Program

- Nutrient Management Program
  - Irrigation Water Management Program
- If you're interested in applying for cost-share or learning more



about what's available in your county, contact your local NRCS office or the LENRD office.

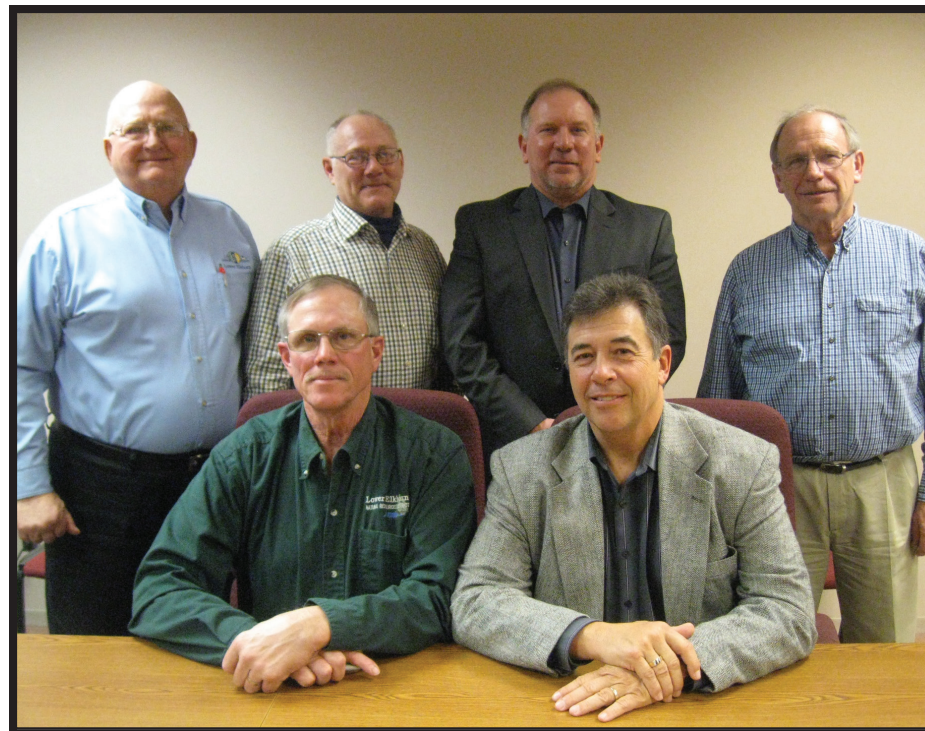
For more information on available cost-share, visit our website at: [www.lenrd.org/conservation/](http://www.lenrd.org/conservation/) or [www.lenrd.org/water-resources/](http://www.lenrd.org/water-resources/)

## Camp Hosts still needed

Are you interested in becoming a camp host? The LENRD is looking for campground hosts for Maskenthine Lake, north of Stanton, and the Maple Creek Recreation Area, northwest of Leigh.

Camp hosts are volunteers who desire to share their camping knowledge and love of the outdoors with others. They welcome visitors and acquaint them with park facilities and regulations. Contact the LENRD for more information at 402-371-7313 or [lenrd@lenrd.org](mailto:lenrd@lenrd.org)

# 2017 Officers of the LENRD Board



The Lower Elkhorn NRD has a 15-member Board of Directors. The officers elected for 2017 are (back row, left to right): Bob Huntley of Norfolk - Treasurer; Mark Hall of Norfolk - Secretary; Kurt Janke of Wayne - NARD Voting Delegate; Gary Loftis of Craig - NARD Alternate. Front row, left to right: Dennis Schultz of Wisner - Chairman; and Mike Krueger of Pierce - Vice-Chairman.

# Nucor partners with LENRD to sponsor recycling contest

Nucor and the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District (LENRD) have teamed up to create further awareness in the schools about the importance of recycling. They developed a contest a few years ago called, "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle & Beyond."

Students in grades K-4 are invited to tell their story about how they recycle, in the form of a poster, video, radio spot, coloring book, song, news column, or any other creative way.

The 2017 contest winners were Susan Fehringer's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading group from Pierce Elementary, and Stacie Baumgart's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class from Humphrey St. Francis. They

created videos showing how they learned about preserving nature's resources by reusing and recycling. Both classes won a trip to the Tree Adventure at Arbor Day Farm in Nebraska City.

On May 11<sup>th</sup> a chartered bus took the winning classes and staff to Arbor Day Farm for a fun-filled day of learning. They toured parts of the farm and were able to enjoy the Tree Adventure as well as the guided trails and tree houses. They also received t-shirts from the sponsors that they wore on the trip.

LENRD Information & Education Specialist Julie Wragge said, "Taking the students to Arbor Day Farm is always inspiring for me. Not only did the students learn about J. Sterling Morton and his legacy, but they were able to use their 5 senses to understand how important trees are for our future."

Fehringer said, "We had a TREE-mendous day. We felt so lucky to be able to win your contest and go on this exciting field trip. We spent some time talking about our favorite things and what we learned. It was a wonderful experience."

Baumgart said, "It was truly the best field trip I have ever been on. My students were fascinated with our tour, the immensity of it all, and the



countless outdoor nature activities they got to explore and play on all

become greener and be prepared to tell us in next year's contest."



day. It was one of the best learning experiences for my kids and so fun for myself to experience through their excitement."

Grace McPhillips, 2<sup>nd</sup> grader at Humphrey St. Francis, said, "I loved all the trees that J. Sterling Morton planted. He wanted to help the earth have clean air and families have trees. It was really, really fun with the hammocks in the tree forts and my friends and I played house."

Wragge added, "I am very excited about our partnership with Nucor. This has been an awesome opportunity for the students across Northeast Nebraska. We encourage our teachers and students to start thinking about ways they can help their schools and communities