

---

Tri-Basin NRD  
1723 N Burlington Street  
Holdrege, NE 68949



Phone: (308) 995-6688  
Fax: (308) 995-6992  
Email: [tribasin@tribasinprd.org](mailto:tribasin@tribasinprd.org)

*Natural Resources District*

---

## **NEWS RELEASE**

October 7, 2011

For Immediate Release

For more information, contact: Nicole Salisbury, Information & Education Coordinator  
Phone 308-995-6688 or email [nsalisbury@tribasinprd.org](mailto:nsalisbury@tribasinprd.org)

### **Tri-Basin Directors to Consider Gosper County's Union Township Groundwater Restrictions at October Meeting**

Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (NRD) directors will discuss the district's groundwater pumping limits in Gosper County's Union Township (5N-22W) at their regular October meeting, which will be held Tuesday, October 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the NRD office in Holdrege. Union Township's three-year groundwater allocation of 27 inches per acre began in the 2009 growing season, so directors must now decide whether to remove or continue the pumping limits, in order to protect the area's groundwater supply.

Tri-Basin NRD's groundwater level data shows that the district has begun to recover from the drought conditions of recent years. Groundwater levels are generally up across the district; they rose an average of about eleven inches district-wide from spring 2010 to spring 2011. However, data from Union Township in Gosper County over the last three years shows the groundwater levels there have remained unchanged, at 3.5 feet below the 1981-1985 baseline levels, despite the pumping limits in that township.

The NRD board's Planning Committee met September 28 and recommended extending the current pumping limits for three more years. Under their recommendation, one year's worth of allocation (nine inches) could be carried over to the new three-year allocation period. Any overuse of groundwater on a parcel of ground in the past allocation period would be deducted from the total of 27 inches per acre over three years that would be available to irrigators at the start of the new allocation period.

Anyone who wants to review Tri-Basin NRD's groundwater level data can contact Tri-Basin NRD at 308-995-6688 or the Gosper County Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office at 308-785-3307. Those who want to express an opinion regarding the matter are encouraged to attend the October board meeting at the NRD office in Holdrege, contact their Tri-Basin NRD director, or call the Tri-Basin NRD office.