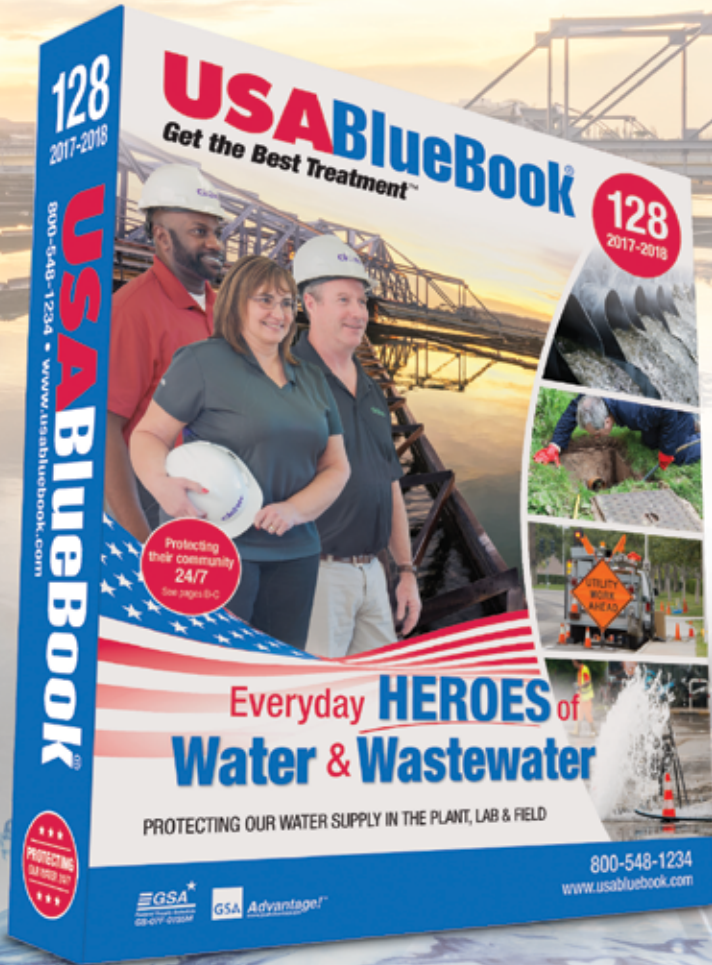


Issue 3/2018

Nebraska Rural Water Association



NEBRASKA GOOD WATER NEWS



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Nebraska Good Water News

Issue 3/2018

"Keeping Our Water Safe"

Board of Directors

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West Point, Nebraska 68788
(402) 372-2466

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Box 353
Valparaiso, Nebraska 68065
(402) 784-2313

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Schuyler, Nebraska 68661
(402) 352-5444

Dennis Hoback
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Union, NE 68455
(402) 235-3077

George Wagner
PO Box 226
Hooper, NE 68031
(402) 654-3649

Tom Grovijohn
226 N. Elm
Dodge, NE 68633
(402) 693-2239

Jordon Bang
PO Box 98
Bennet, NE 68317
(402) 782-3495

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Salli Kemerling, Office Manager
Carol Jasa, Secretary
Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider
Mike Stanzel, Circuit Rider
Barney Whatley, Capacity Development Specialist
Mike Lucas, Wastewater Technician
Pat Petersen, Training Specialist
Ken Halvorsen, Source Water Specialist

Website: www.nerwa.org

"Nebraska Good Water News" is a quarterly publication of the NEBRASKA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION, 3390 Ponderosa, Wahoo, Nebraska 68066. Phone 1-800-842-8039 or (402) 443-5216 or FAX (402) 443-5274. Copies are mailed to all member rural and municipal water operators, Federal and State Legislators, associates and individual members.

The NEBRASKA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION is dedicated to the improvement and assistance of all public water systems in the State of Nebraska.

NOTICE: Nebraska Rural Water Association does not endorse any particular product or company in this publication. Membership and advertising should not be taken as an endorsement.

On the cover:

The Bertrand Water Tower.

"This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer."

How'd We Do and Letters From...

**RURAL WATER DISTRICT NO. 1
PAWNEE COUNTY**
606 G Street, PO Box 263
Pawnee City, Nebraska 68420
Phone and Fax: 402-852-2019

January 19, 2018

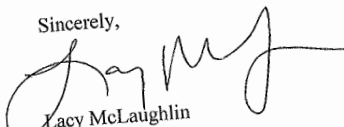
Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa
Wahoo, NE 68066

Good Morning:

Enclosed is our donation to the equipment fund. Although we have been fortunate enough not to have to call on your staff for much assistance this past year, we know that you are always there when we need you. We always appreciate your quick response to all of our needs. Keep up the good work!!!

We have also enclosed our 2018 dues payment. We are so fortunate to belong to such a great organization. Hope you have a wonderful New Year!

Sincerely,


Lacy McLaughlin
Office Manager



Getting Things Done!

P.O. Box 519
Atkinson, NE 68713
PH (402) 925-5313
FAX (402) 925-5780
info@atkinsonne.com

Mayor
Paul Corkle

City Clerk/Treasurer
Nancy Kopejka

Economic Development
Lou Ann Tooker

Council Members
Ken Counts
Stuart Dockter
Rondal Kryst
Gary A. Lech
Jerry Osborne
Leo Seger

City of Rushville
Box 99
Rushville, NE 69360

The City of Rushville and Chuck Hinn of Rushville would like to thank Mike Lucas and NeRWA for smoking the sewer lines in the Dentist office in Rushville, the building which is owned by Chuck Hinn had been having a sewer gas problem for about a year. With Mikes help the problem was found in a matter of minutes.

Thank you,
Kirk Beguin (City of Rushville, Utilities Supt.)

January 9, 2018

Pat Peterson & Mike Stenzel
Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Drive
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear Pat and Mike,

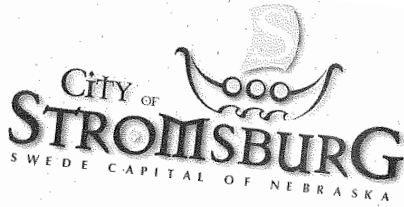
I want to thank you for your prompt attention to our water loss situation here in the City of Atkinson.

It is truly nice to have an organization like Nebraska Rural Water Association to help us when we need it. Thanks again.

Sincerely,



Gary Thurlow
Utilities Superintendent
City of Atkinson



March 7, 2018

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear Nebraska Rural Water Association,

The City of Stromsburg wishes to thank you for the many times in recent years you have offered assistance with various water issues. Your knowledge and assistance is very valuable to all communities in Nebraska! Please accept the enclosed donation of \$200.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Nancy Bryan, MMC

Nancy Bryan, MMC
City Clerk/Treasurer



February 9, 2018

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Drive
Wahoo, NE 68066

Re: Donation

Dear Rural Water Association:

On behalf of the Mayor, City Council and all employees of the City of Springfield, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of the services that you offer to Nebraska communities and for the valuable assistance and support that you provide.

A special note of thanks to Mike Stanzel for all of the advice and assistance he has provided to our city employees.

Please accept the enclosed donation to your equipment fund as an expression of our sincere appreciation for everything that your organization and staff does for us.

We hope that the organization continues to receive funding from the State of Nebraska, so that it can continue to assist Nebraska communities.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Kathleen R. Gottsch

Kathleen R. Gottsch
City Clerk/Treasurer

The Village of Bruno would like to thank Mike for coming out on such short notice. We thanks again

*Kevin Hesse
Board Chairman*

(100⁰⁰)

*Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Dr.
Wahoo, NE 68066*

City of Osceola

350 N. State Street • P.O. Box 701 Osceola, NE 68651
Phone: (402)747-3411 • Fax: (402)747-8191

March 6, 2018

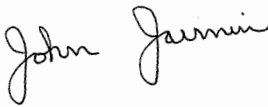
Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Dr.
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NRWA:

Please accept the enclosed \$250 donation in appreciation of all of the help provided to the City of Osceola in the last year. The City Council and employees thank you for your assistance and consulting in leak location, computer system, tapping and reconnection fees, and other services received during 2017.

Your support, knowledge, and advice are priceless to us!

Sincerely,



John Jarmin
Utility Superintendent

Charles Hays
Council President
Renee Johansen
City Clerk/Treasurer

Charles G. Kucera
Mayor

Don Sterup
Donald Graff
Tim Althouse
Councilmen

Village of Diller

Box 157
Diller, Nebraska 68342

February 13, 2018

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Street
Wahoo NE 68066

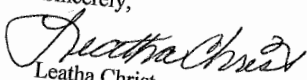
Dear Sirs,

Please find enclosed a check in the amount of \$100 for a donation to the Nebraska Rural Water Association.

It was noted at our Village Board Meeting of February 12, 2018 that the Rural Water Association has been helpful with any water/sewer project that we have had in the past. You were especially helpful to come down and help our Maintenance Person locate all of our water shutoffs. Not only were you prompt in answering questions, but also provided equipment and personnel to assist with the locations.

Thank you for your service, and we look forward to working with you again.

Sincerely,



Leatha Christ
Village Clerk

Thank You ~

Dear Nebraska Rural Water Association,

Thank you for your scholarship gift!
I appreciate those who have given to these programs! Your funding will help me pursue my degree at the University of Nebraska at Kearney!
Thanks again!

Sincerely,

Megan Christen

CITY OF GORDON

City Manager
Chad Edwards
City Clerk
Kim Buchan
Deputy Clerk
Glen Spangh
City Council
Nancy I Russell, Mayor
Kelly Grant, Vice-Mayor
Tom Evans
Tim Bounous
James Paul

311 North Oak Street
PO Box 310
Gordon, NE 69343-0310
Phone: (308) 282-0837
Fax: (308) 282-1431
E-mail: gordon@gpcom.net

Thanks

March 9, 2018

Nebraska Rural Water Association,

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Drive
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NE Rural Water Association:

The City of Gordon would like to thank you for all of the work you have done for our city as well as the cities throughout the area. Your efforts are greatly appreciated! Please accept the enclosed donation on behalf of the City of Gordon and our utility department.

On a personal note, this is my last year with the City of Gordon, as I am retiring on March 30 after almost 44 years. I cannot thank you enough for all of the resources you have provided to me and the city. Mike Lucas has been an invaluable asset to me as I have worked to solve problems in our sewer system. Barney Whatley has contributed greatly to the improvements made in our backflow program.

Thank you again for all of your time and effort!

THE CITY OF GORDON

Mike Winters
Mike Winter
Utilities Superintendent

Thank you for the very generous gift of a scholarship. This scholarship will help me be able to pursue my college education at Northwest Missouri State! I plan to study Biomedical Sciences (Pre-Medicine), as well as, be involved in clubs and the Honors' Program.

Sincerely,
Kia Uermann

P CITY OF PLAINVIEW
209 West Locust Avenue
PO Box 757
Plainview, NE 68769-0757

Phone (402) 582-4928
Fax (402) 582-3939
www.cityofplainviewne.com

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Drive
Wahoo, NE 68066

May 21, 2018

The City of Plainview would like to extend a big thank to Mike Stanzel for all of his continued help. He has done a great job in leak detection for the City over the years. Mike has also helped the City with the valve exercising machine. This has made my job a lot easier!

Thanks again Mike!

Curt Hart

Curt Hart- City Superintendent and Water/Sewer Supervisor
City of Plainview Staff

Cuming County Rural Water District

Box 181
Beemer, Nebraska 68716
Phone 402-528-3405
cucorh2o@gpcom.net

May 8, 2018

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Street
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NeRWA:

Thank you to Mike Stanzel for bringing the valve exercising machine to Cuming County Rural Water and exercising valves for us. Found a valve that wasn't open all the way!

Also, thank you to Randy Hellbush for providing advice on water rates. We greatly appreciated it.

Sincerely,



Mark Petersen
District Field Manager

VILLAGE OF EWING

209 East Nebraska Street
PO Box 333

Ewing, NE 68735-0333
ewingcity@telebeep.com

FAX: 402-626-7739

Phone: 402-626-7718

May 16, 2018

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Street
Wahoo, NE 68066

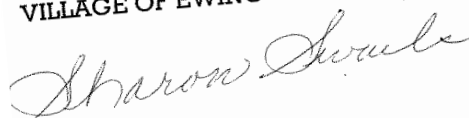
Dear Nebraska Rural Water Association

The Village of Ewing would like to thank your staff for all the assistance they provide our community. The assistance you provide the communities in Nebraska is invaluable.

At the regular board meeting the chairman and board members voted to give a donation to Nebraska Rural Water Association in appreciation for their help.

Sincerely,

VILLAGE OF EWING



Sharon Swails
Village Clerk/Treasurer

VILLAGE OF DORCHESTER

701 Washington Ave., PO Box 287 | Dorchester, NE 68343
Phone: 402-946-3201 | Fax: 402-946-3571 | dorchester@diodecom.net



April 23, 2018

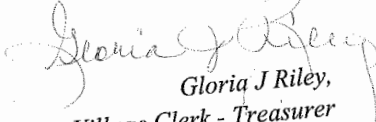
Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Drive
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NeRWA staff,

The Village of Dorchester Board of Trustees and employees would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Nebraska Rural Water Association for the many services you provide to our community. Your organization is always willing to share your knowledge and provides prompt service so that our utilities continue to run smoothly.

Your ongoing efforts to manage and promote safe, clean water for the citizens of Nebraska are commended. Please accept our donation of \$500.00 to continue in your cause.

Best Regards,


Gloria J. Riley,
Village Clerk - Treasurer

Village of Firth
PO Box 38
Firth, NE 68358

Village of Firth

April 10, 2018

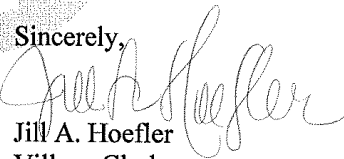
Nebraska Rural Water
3390 Ponderosa Street
Wahoo, NE 68066

Good Morning:

Enclosed is a \$250 donation to your association from The Village of Firth. The Village Board is very grateful for all the services you provide to our village. Your expertise and service over the years is greatly appreciated.

Again, thank you for the services you provide to the Village of Firth.

Sincerely,


Jill A. Hoefler
Village Clerk

Jim Nichols
Head Maintenance
Water and Sewer Operations

Village of Nehawka
P.O. Box 134
Nehawka, NE 68413

April 12, 2018

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Drive
Wahoo, NE 68066

Re: Mike Stanzel

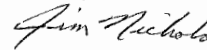
To Whom It May Concern:

I would just like to send a letter of appreciation for Mike Stanzel, I have called upon him numerous times for questions and such regarding the Village of Nehawka and he has never batted an eye and has never failed to come down and help me out. He has a 100% record with us. Each time I have contacted him being unable to find a leak or having issues, he has come down, located the problem and given advice on how to remedy the problem. Our urgency is always important to him.

Mike takes the time out to help us out and it is much appreciated. He never fails to surpass our expectations and always committed to our needs. I just wanted to take the opportunity to pass this along, so Mr. Stanzel is aware that his exceptional work does not go unnoticed and is very much appreciated not only by myself but the Village of Nehawka Board of Trustees as well.

I could not close this letter without also thanking the entire staff at Rural Water. Every one of the staff are always there when I call with a problem or just to bounce something off somebody with the expertise and knowledge to give me feedback and insight. I know Nehawka is not the only community in Nebraska that benefit from these fine people, so again I say Thank You Rural Water.

Sincerely,



Jim Nichols
Village of Nehawka

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Lincoln

May 3, 2018

Mr. Hellbusch,

Thank you for speaking to Dr. Dvorak's class on small community drinking water systems. Your knowledge and experience working as a Circuit Rider for the Nebraska Rural Water Association has provided us with invaluable information in assisting the towns of Liberty and Davey. We understand that it was not necessary for you to take time out of the day and speak with us. We are all very appreciative of the sacrifice made in order to assist us in our reports to these towns. The knowledge that you shared will go beyond this class and assist each of us as we eventually become professional engineers.

Thank you again,



Peter Spinks

Civil Engineering Undergraduate Student

2018 TRAINING

Grade 6 Backflow Prevention Cross-Connection Control Course - 5 Day

October 15-19 Wahoo

Wastewater Certification Course

August 14-17 Wahoo - Mechanical
November 27-30 Wahoo- Mechanical

Wastewater Training

September 27 Wahoo
October 4 Omaha
November 14 Columbus
December 12 Aurora

Backflow Continuing Education Training

September 26 McCool Junction
September 27 Ord
October 23 South Sioux City
October 25 Atkinson
November 8 Wahoo
December 11 Mitchell
December 12 Ogallala
December 13 Cambridge
December 18 Wahoo

Water Operator Training

October 16 Eustis
November 15 Wahoo
December 19 Red Cloud

August 22 Trenching & Shoring, Wahoo

August 23 Confined Space Entry, Wahoo

Fall Western Conference

Sept. 11-13

Gering Civic Center
Gering, Nebraska

Registrations for **all fee-based** 1-day training classes and multiple day training courses will need to be made online, mailed or faxed to our office. We will not be taking phone registrations for **fee-based** training.



Mapping Requirements

By Barney Whatley, GIS/GPS Specialist

Again this year, it has been a hectic time trying to get maps finished in a timely manner for those systems who are utilizing the security grants from NDHHS. The reason for the rush this year comes down to obstructions on several fronts. The grant recipients were notified of their grants in a timely manner, but billable work could not commence until the funding was received by the state, and that left much less than a year to complete the projects. NeRWA worked on three mapping projects funded by security grants, and that placed a deadline on getting the mapping done for all three systems. Although we worked hard to get the maps drawn for the system, the two staff members who work on the GPS projects have other commitments they also have to fulfill. I was finishing up the Capacity Development contract NeRWA had with the state, and that required on-site visits with systems and board trainings to be completed prior to June 30th. Pat Petersen had several classes to prepare for during these months, as well as setting up the majority of the western conference. He also had some wastewater technical assistance requirements that needed to be met.

In addition to the above, we would find that operators would tell us they knew where all of the features they wanted on the map were, but when we arrived at the system, many were not yet located and flagged. We do have personnel that can assist with this process, but we need to know in advance that we will need to assist in locating the map features so we can schedule it. Spending several extra days locating and marking map features causes scheduling issues that are often hard to reconcile. When the system in question is a distance from our office, travel also enters into the equation. It is difficult to travel one day to get to a system and spend two days collecting points and then spend one day driving back if we are not notified enough in advance to schedule the trip to start on Monday or Tuesday. Knowing approximately how much time will be needed to locate and mark features helps us to schedule the actual GPS work accordingly.

When the preliminary mapping has been completed, a draft map is sent to the system to be checked for errors and additions. We cannot progress on the project until we get these corrections and additions back from the system. Often we end up waiting for several weeks or more to get the corrections back. If there are additions that need to be

made to the map, it is most economical to bring the GPS unit back to the system one time to collect points that were overlooked on the first collection. It is very helpful to have the operators carefully examine the draft map for all changes and additions that need to be made.

Finally, our mapping software decided to have a major glitch that would not allow us to print maps using the high definition aerial photography. We consulted with the software manufacturer and spent many hours on the phone trying various methods to correct the issue before they finally got the problem taken care of. Once that problem was corrected, we found ourselves needing to print eight wall maps to take to Omaha to get laminated. We also needed to print, laminate and bind eight map books, each consisting of around twenty pages.

The security grant program offered by NDHHS is a valuable tool that small systems can utilize to get updated accurate maps of their systems. I recommend that small systems consider utilizing this tool if updated maps are something they could use. If you are going to do this, please let the mapping company (I hope it is us) know as soon as possible that the project is being funded with security grant monies so scheduling can be used that will get the project completed by the deadline.

<p>Water & Waste Water Solutions Gurney Relationships • Technology • Service</p>	<p>Chris Johnson Lee Dunn Matt Moul</p>
<p>Location: 4428 South 108th Street Omaha, NE 68137</p>	<p>(402) 551-7995 (402) 553-5879 Fax</p>

FALL CONFERENCE AGENDA

Tuesday, September 11 PRE-CONFERENCE

8:00-9:00	Traffic Control, Signage & Barricades: Bob Hessler, SafetyLine Consultants	1W,1WW
9:00-10:00	Equipment Operation, Backhoe, Loader, etc: Bob Hessler, SafetyLine Consultants	1W,1WW,1WD
10:00-10:15	Break	
10:15-11:15	Personal Protective Equipment: Bob Hessler, SafetyLine Consultants	1W,1WW,1WD
11:15-12:15	Safety. Whose Fault Is it?: Bob Hessler, SafetyLine Consultants	1W,1WW,1WD
12:15-12:45	Lunch	
12:45-1:45	NeWARN Update: Rich Koenig, NDHHS	1W
2:30	Golf	

Wednesday, September 12

8:30	Trap Shoot	
8:30	Poker Run	
10:00-12:30	Conference Registration	
12:30-2:00	Regulatory Update: Andy Kahle, NDHHS	1.5W,1.5WD
2:00-2:15	Break: Tour Exhibits and Drawings for Prizes	
2:15-3:15	Overview of W/WW Certification: Mike Wentink, NDHHS/Mike McBride, NDEQ	1W,1WW
3:15-3:30	Break: Tour Exhibits and Drawings for Prizes	
3:30-5:00	USDA Update/How Well Do You Know Your System?: Marty Norton, USDA/Rich Koenig, NDHHS	1.5W,1.5WW
5:00-6:00	Social in Exhibit Area	
6:00-7:00	Banquet and Awards	

Thursday, September 13

6:30-7:30	BREAKFAST	
7:00-8:30	Conference Registration	
7:30-8:30	A—Trenchless Sewer Rehab: Brett Melson, Johnson Service	1WW
	B—Source Water Protection Plans: Ken Halvorsen, NeRWA	1W,1WD
	C—Backflow Incidents/ Emergency Planning: Rich Koenig, NDHHS	1W,1BF,1WW
8:30-8:45	Break: Tour Exhibits and Drawings for Prizes	
8:45-9:45	A—Sewer Inspection/Maintenance: Brett Melson, Johnson Service	1WW
	B—Contamination Issues: Doug Woodbeck, NDHHS	1W
	C—The Good, Bad & Ugly: Rich Koenig, NDHHS	1W,1BF,1WW
9:45-10:00	Break: Tour Exhibits and Drawings for Prizes	
10:00-11:00	A—Ice Pigging: JD Sullivan, Suez/Utility Service	1W,1WW
	B—Meter Maintenance & Repair: Charles Bausch, Core & Main	1W,1WD
	C—Backflow Knowledge: Rich Koenig, NDHHS	1W,1BF,1WW
11:00-11:15	Break: Tour Exhibits	
11:15-12:15	A—Water Tank Maintenance Plans: Jake Dugger, Maguire Iron	1W
	B—Field Reps/Lab Q&A: Area Reps/Mary Boden, NDHHS	1W
	C—Elements of a Cross-Connection Control Program: Barney Whatley, NeRWA	1W,1BF,1WW
12:15-1:15	Lunch	
1:15-2:15	A—Measurement, Instrumentation & Control: Steve McAlpine, FCX Performance	1W,1WW
	B—Operator Quiz: Field Reps, NDHHS	1W
	C—Testing & Reporting Procedures: Barney Whatley, NeRWA	1W,1BF,1WW
2:15-2:30	Break	
2:30-3:30	A—The Role of the Operator: Mike Wentink, NDHHS	1W
	B—Water Operator Roundtable: NeRWA Staff	1W

Nebraska Rural Water Association

EARLY REGISTRATION

Western Nebraska Fall Pre-Conference and Conference

September 11-13, 2018

Gering Civic Center, 1050 "M" Street, Gering, Nebraska

One name per form. Make sure to indicate all your licenses to insure proper credit hours. There will be a \$25 charge for cancellations and attendee name changes after August 27. PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Certificate numbers: Water # _____ Grade 6# _____ WW # _____ Well Driller _____

System/Company Name _____

Address _____ City, St, Zip _____

If you would like your certificate emailed, please provide email:

EARLY REGISTRATION COST	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER
FULL CONFERENCE WITH PRECONFERENCE— (all meals included)	____ \$180.00	____ \$210.00
FULL CONFERENCE (WED & THURS) (all meals included)	____ \$125.00	____ \$155.00
PRECONFERENCE (TUES) (includes lunch)	____ \$90.00	____ \$120.00
WEDNESDAY ONLY (includes Banquet)	____ \$85.00	____ \$115.00
THURSDAY ONLY (includes breakfast buffet and lunch)	____ \$90.00	____ \$115.00
GUEST BANQUET TICKETS— \$25 x _____	TOTAL \$ _____	TOTAL \$ _____
GUEST LUNCH TICKETS—\$20 x _____	TOTAL \$ _____	TOTAL \$ _____
GOLF TOURNAMENT ON TUESDAY AFTERNOON _____YES		
TRAP SHOOT ON WEDNESDAY MORNING _____YES		
POKER RUN ON WEDNESDAY MORNING _____YES		

Meals are included with the conference registration. Extra meal tickets are available above. The venue needs a count for the evening meal. Please indicate if you will stay for the Wed evening meal: Yes _____

PLEASE DO NOT REGISTER ONLINE AND THEN MAIL YOUR REGISTRATION. REGISTER ONLY ONCE.

<p>EARLY REGISTRATION ENDS AUGUST 27. FEE INCREASES \$25 FOR REGISTRATIONS DATED OR POSTMARKED BETWEEN AUGUST 27 AND SEPT 3. NO REGISTRATIONS AFTER SEPT 3. \$50 increase at the door.</p>	<p>TOTAL DUE \$ _____ Add late charge \$ _____ Total \$ _____</p> <p>BILL ME _____ PO# _____ CHECK ENCLOSED _____ (Note: Certificates will not be mailed until payment is received in NeRWA office.)</p>
---	--

To Register (no phone registrations):
 Fax: 402-443-5274
 Online: www.nerwa.org
 Mail: Nebraska Rural Water Association
 3390 Ponderosa Street
 Wahoo, NE 68066

When making room reservations, mention you are with NeRWA
 Monument Inn, 1130 "M" Street
308-436-1950

DATE REGISTRATION RECEIVED: _____

For NeRWA office use only: Hours: Water _____ BF _____ Wastewater _____ WD _____
 Payment received _____ Check # _____ Certificate mailed _____

Nebraska Rural Water Association

Exhibitor Registration

Gering Civic Center
1050 M Street

Western Nebraska Fall Conference
September 12-13, 2018
Gering, Nebraska

Monument Inn Motel
1130 M Street

Associate Member Registration _____ \$300	Non-Member Registration _____ \$600
---	---

Name of Firm: _____
 Rep(s): (1) _____ (2) _____
 (3) _____ (4) _____
 Mailing Address _____
 City, state, zip _____ Phone: _____
 Email _____

Vendors who would like to attend but not have a booth:

NeRWA Members: Full conference-\$200 _____ Non-Members-\$250 _____
 Members: Wed-\$100 _____ Thurs-\$125 _____ Non-Members: Wed-\$125 _____ Thurs-\$150 _____

Exhibition days are Wednesday and Thursday. Registration includes meals. **WE NEED A COUNT FOR THE CATERER, SO PLEASE INDICATE MEALS AND NUMBER OF REPS WHO WILL BE ATTENDING.** Breakfast on Wednesday morning is complimentary for anyone attending the conference.

MEALS ATTENDING: _____ **Wed Banquet** _____ **Thurs Lunch**

Outside space for trailer _____ Yes _____ No
 Donating a door prize (giveaway) _____ Yes _____ No Item _____
 Donation for outdoor activity \$ _____

FOR THOSE ATTENDING TRAINING SESSIONS: \$80—all 3 days \$50—Wed, Thurs

YOU NEED TO COMPLETE A SEPARATE REGISTRATION FORM FOR EACH PERSON ATTENDING THE TRAINING SESSIONS. PLEASE INDICATE THE LICENSES YOU NEED CEUs FOR.

*Deadline for registering is August 24.
Payment must be included with registration.
 You will not be guaranteed a booth until
 payment is received.*

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 info@nerwa.org

Total enclosed \$ _____

Please indicate how many are participating in the following:

Golf tournament, Sept 11 _____

Trap Shoot, Sept 12 _____

Poker Run, Sept 12 _____

For NeRWA office use only: Date Received: _____ Check# _____

Conference Activities

The golf tournament is Tuesday, September 11, at 2:30 pm at the Riverview Country Club (100928 County Rd 18, Scottsbluff). Bring your own clubs. Golf carts are available.

The trap shoot is Wednesday, September 12, at 8:30 am at the Mitchell Valley Trap Club (3.25 miles south of Mitchell). Bring your own gun and shells.

The Poker run is Wednesday, September 12, at 8:30 am. Meet in front of the Gering Civic Center.

You can call the office if you are interested in any of these fun events or check them on the registration form.

NeRWA WILL PROVIDE A SCAN CARD FOR YOU TO USE IN THE TRAINING SESSIONS.

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Is the Use of Drones in Our Future?

By Mike Stanzel, Circuit Rider

As per our contract with National Rural Water, we are required to attend yearly in-service training every June and this past one was in Tulsa, OK. It is basically like our annual conference with a wide variety of classes on different aspects of water and wastewater minus the vendors.

One particular class I attended really peaked my interest mainly because the idea was brought to my attention a few years ago, but there was not much history and data to prove its usefulness until now.



Two Circuit Riders, one from South Carolina and one from New Jersey, put on a fantastic training session on drones and even brought their drones for "Show 'n Tell" so to speak.

The cost of the drones are surprisingly not too bad, but there are some other expenses acquired with the purchase of one, like an upgraded camera, memory cards, protective



case, charger, landing pad and iPad. You are also required to obtain a license to fly a remote object. (Can't be any worse than the wastewater test right? LOL)

The big question is how can we use this service to benefit our members? Well, here are some tasks that these states have used their drones for:

- USDA projects - to provide updates and high quality photos.
- Water tank inspections - checking hatch, vent rust etc.
- Tank construction updates
- Mapping
- Surveying towns after storms or flooding
- Checking well sites or wastewater plants if roads are impassable

- Search and rescue
- Early jobsite planning for wells or mains
- Searching for leaks or main breaks in towns or rural areas

These are just a few things that these two states have compiled in the past year.

So what I need to do is provide a bundle of information about drones to our beloved Board members and seek their approval to purchase one. So I am asking all of you what ideas and jobs you may have that would justify using a drone. Please contact me at 402-672-9084 or mike@nerwa.org so I can put together a list and present it to our Board. I really think it could be a useful tool and benefit many water systems.

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Reducing the "FOG"

By Mike Lucas, Wastewater Technician

Fats, Oils and Grease, FOG, introduced into the waste stream can cause, or at least contribute to, collection system problems resulting in restricted flow and possible sanitary system overflows (SSO's). FOG in a warm liquid form appears to be harmless. However, as it cools it separates from the liquid waste stream and congeals on the piping walls with any root intrusions into the collection system further restricting flow. I've seen FOG completely block service lines especially when there is a low spot (belly) in the line. One customer's solution was to tap a hot water line into his service to prevent the grease from causing problems with their private-owned line by simply moving the problem to the public-owned main piping. Grease buildup on the float switches are one of, if not the #1 cause of nuisance trouble calls from lift stations, usually, however, only on nights, weekends and holidays. Ultimately it can inhibit the treatment process once it reaches the treatment plant.

Problems caused by FOG have resulted in ordinances and regulations governing the discharge of grease into sanitary sewer systems. Grease traps or interceptor vaults may be required based on the volume of flow and the number of connected fixtures. The size and type will usually also determine the required maintenance schedule w/documentation provided to the system. This results in the costs and responsibilities being appropriately assessed to the major contributors. Suspects often times are food service establishments, such as schools, cafeterias, hospitals, fast food locations, bars, etc. Residential locations with turkey/fish fryers are not exempt, however. I've even seen grease dumped down a convenient storm sewer inlet.

Enzymes and some chemicals may initiate FOG treatment in the collection system. However, catching the grease at the source by the responsible parties may be the most economical.

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We will make examples of Grease and Oil Control Ordinance templates, Best Management Practices (BMP's) Checklists and Maintenance logs available for you to download from the NeRWA website, www.nerwa.org

Always consult with your attorney regarding any ordinances and regulations that you are considering for enforcement.



Review and Nitrates in Our Drinking Water

By Ken Halvorsen, Source Water Specialist

What does review and nitrates in our drinking water have in common? Absolutely nothing, but maybe the title got your attention so you will read the article.

In the last quarterly magazine, our aging workforce and potential hiring problems facing most utilities was covered. A few operators told me this look at the issue was pretty much right on.

So, in review, briefly:

1. It is becoming more difficult to find employees who are willing to be on call 24/7.
2. Many smaller utilities now struggle to pay a livable wage.
3. Increased regulations and requirements are making it difficult for operators to do their jobs, due to time and monetary constraints.

Now on to the problem of nitrates in our drinking water.

When fertilizer is applied to fields, lawns, parks, golf courses and so on, the main ingredient is nitrogen. Bacteria in the soil convert nitrogen to nitrate which is water soluble. This allows the nitrates to leach through the root zone and then find their way into our ground water.

Public water systems are limited to a maximum of 10 ppm (parts per million) of nitrate in drinking water. Nitrates have the potential to cause blue baby syndrome (methemoglobinemia) in infants under six months of age. The stomach acid in infants is not as strong as older children and adults. This results in the nitrate being converted to nitrite. This interferes with the ability of the blood to carry oxygen, resulting in a bluish color around the eyes and mouth. If detected early, this condition is treatable. If not treated, brain damage or death can occur. Pregnant women are also advised to avoid drinking water with a nitrate level above 10 ppm.

Nitrates can also become a health problem for adults. It is possible for the nitrates in our body from food and water to convert to nitrosamine. This substance is a known carcinogen. Adults with reduced stomach acid or impaired enzyme systems could suffer with the same issues as infants.

To address the nitrate issue in a water system, the sources

of nitrates in the wellhead protection area (WPA) must be identified. Fertilizer storage, septic systems, feedlots, farm acres routinely fertilized in the WPA need to be recognized. The (CSI) Contaminant Source Inventory will make sure these are all documented. Here, it needs to be mentioned that lawn fertilizing in towns is a major problem in the loss of wells due to nitrates. This can be difficult to monitor or control.

Managing these sources of nitrates in a WPA can be a challenging task. Purchasing the property around the well is probably the best but not always obtainable solution. Educating the public to be responsible caretakers of the land by using more intelligent fertilizing practices would be a first step. Another way to limit nitrate use in your WPA would be to have more land enrolled in the CRP through their FSA office.

If you have any questions about water protection, please, contact me at 402-607-9750.



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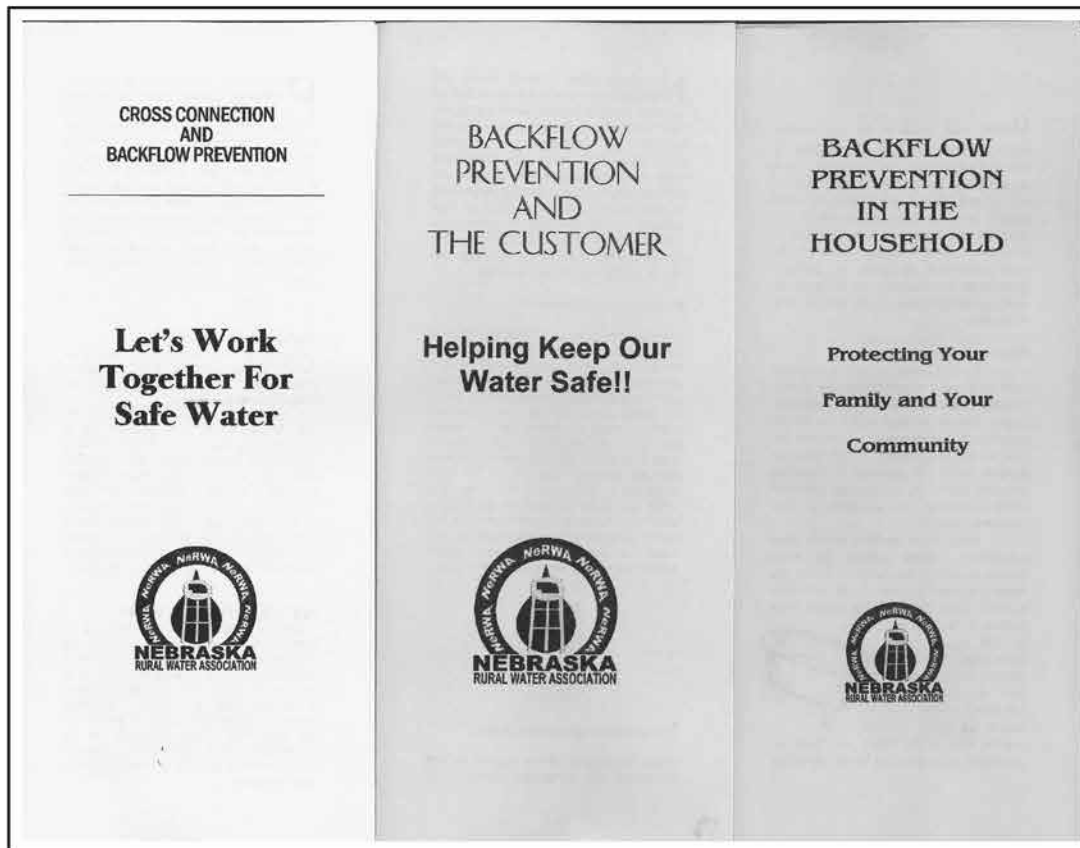
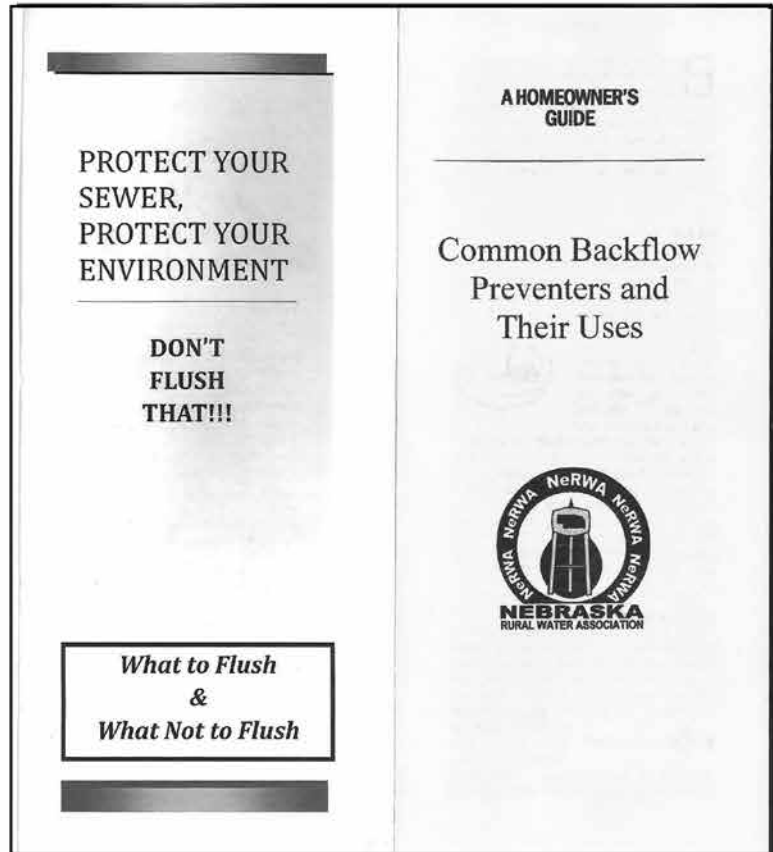
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INFORMATIONAL BROCHURES

NeRWA has five brochures available for your use. There are four backflow and one wastewater and sewer.

You can purchase them for 20 cents each or download them from our website and print them yourself.





Looking Towards Fall

By Pat Petersen, Training Specialist

As we prepare for our annual journey to the fall conference in Gering, the temperature outside right now is 101 degrees. This makes me look forward to the cooler temps and the beautiful landscape of western Nebraska. The dates for this year's Western Conference are September 11-13. Once again it will be held at the Gering Civic Center in Gering, Nebraska.

Tuesday, September 11 will be the "stand alone" pre-conference. The theme of this year's pre-conference will be safety-oriented. Safetyline Consultants will provide safety training for a variety of operator tasks. Safety topics of the pre-conference this year will include: Traffic Control, Equipment Operation, Personal Protective Equipment and a special session entitled "Safety, Whose Fault is it?"

More and more operators seem to be taking more responsibilities in their profession and one thing that must remain is a safe workplace and surroundings. This pre-conference should help operators brush up on their safety skills.

The pre-conference will also include a rundown of what is going on with NeWARN and what it really is. Rich Koenig will moderate this final session of the pre-conference. The annual trip to the Riverview Golf course will follow for some golf, drinks and a whole lot of fun!

Wednesday will take off to sounds of shotguns at the morning trap shoot and roaring motorcycles. For those of you interested in participating in the trap shoot be sure to let the office know or Mike Stanzel if you run into him. He will be in charge of the shoot. The annual poker run will take off in front of the Civic Center. Ken Halvorsen, Doug Woodbeck and Jack Satur will help get you lined up with a route planned for a fantastic ride through the western hills. Hopefully they make it back for the Regulatory Update presented by Andy Kahle. Other presentations on Monday will include Operator Certification Programs on both the water and wastewater side and a USDA/Rural Development Update. Wednesday will finish with a banquet and an awards presentation.

Thursday will kick off with the annual operator breakfast followed by six hours of learning and fun. Some

presentations on Thursday will include contamination issues, field rep and lab Q and A, and at least 5 hours of backflow. The agenda continues to be a work in progress and hopefully will not disappoint when it is finalized. We continue to look for new ideas and presentations but also want to keep the relaxed feel that the Western Conference offers. See you in Gering!

On a more personal note, as I write this article, I am currently finishing up the one day training class in Valentine, Nebraska. Yesterday we spent the day in Chadron for five hours of continuing education, but like today, someone was missing. I have been the training specialist for 5 ½ years and each year I make a trip to the western half of Nebraska to offer the hours needed for recertification. This was the first year that Capacity Development Director Scott Sprague was not a part of the program, or what we used to call the "West Coast Tour." If I had to guess, almost every water operator in Nebraska probably sat through one of Scott's presentations because of how dedicated he was to providing training to everyone in the State of Nebraska. Scott passed away and will be missed terribly, especially in the world of training. Thank you for everything you helped me with Scott, and may you rest well.....

WATER/WASTEWATER UTILITY II

The City of Schuyler, Department of Utilities is accepting applications for Water/Wastewater Utility II. State certification Grade IV Water and Sanitary Sewer Grade I is required. Pay rate \$18.18 - \$22.83 per hour depending on experience and qualifications. Drug test required. Applicants must be 18 years of age and hold a valid Nebraska driver's license. Application and job description may be requested at: Schuyler Department of Utilities office, 204 East 10th Street, Schuyler, Nebraska, 68661 or via email supt@eaglecom.net. Applications accepted until position is filled. City of Schuyler is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



Reflections

When I first started working for NeRWA under a contract with the state for providing technical, managerial and financial assistance to small systems, the job description was vague and the requirements were pretty much unknown. As time went on, the job became more defined as to who was to receive assistance and what assistance they would receive. In 2005, NeRWA lost the state contract, but we got it back in 2007. By that time, Scott Sprague was working for the state and was overseeing the Capacity Development Program and the contract. The job was much more specific and also included completing assessments for system's funding projects through the Safe Drinking Water SRF. What impressed me most about Scott was the way he handled the apparent conflict of being a regulator and wanting to help systems. As a regulator, you are expected to note deficiencies and require them to be corrected, but Scott seemed to take great pleasure in seeing systems correct deficiencies on their own, once they were made aware of them. In attending board meetings where assessment results were presented to the governing body, Scott always seemed to "light up" when a recommendation was made and the board would say, "We already started doing that." Noting deficiencies was not what Scott was all about. He wanted to help systems become better technically, managerially and financially because they would be better for it, not because he would. I will miss working with Scott in the future and hope the small systems in Nebraska realize what a friend they have lost.

Barney Whatley

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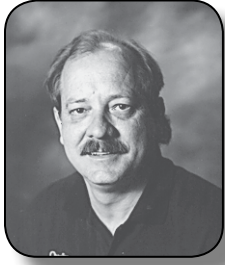
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Meter Changes

By Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider

One of the toughest aspects of conducting a rate study is trying to keep the rates as fair and equitable as possible to all users and still generate sufficient revenues to properly operate the utility. Most of the small water systems in Nebraska that we assist are primarily residential and thus the vast majority of users have the same size meters.

However, it always seems there is one or more users that want a larger meter for one reason or another. Many times it is simply to run more yard sprinklers or more stations of an underground automatic sprinkler system.

The two most common methods of determining the fairest way to charge larger meters are by using **meter cost ratios** or by using **meter capacity ratios**. (AWWA Manuals M1 & M6)

METER COST RATIOS: Using the meter cost ratio a consumer is charged a meter fee based on the cost difference of the meter being installed versus the cost of the standard meter in the system. The chart below is an example of how to properly set meter rates according to costs. **The cost figures are only an example and actual costs should be obtained to properly set the rate.**

METER COSTS	5/8" Meter	1" Meter	1.5" Meter	2" Meter
	\$200.00	\$300.00	\$450.00	\$650.00
Ratio to 5/8 Meter	1.00	1.50	2.25	3.25

METER CAPACITY RATIOS: The meter capacity ratio is based on the availability of water capacity that each user has at their disposal. Example, a consumer with a 2" meter can use up to 8 times the water of a user with a 5/8" meter and thus should pay a minimum bill accordingly.

METER CAPACITY	5/8" Meter	1" Meter	1.5" Meter	2" Meter
GPM	20	50	100	160
Ratio to 5/8 Meter	1.00	2.50	5.00	8.00

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MAGAZINE COVER WATER TOWERS

The following systems have had their water tower on the cover of NeRWA's quarterly magazine.

Amherst	Curtis	O'Neill	St Helena
Arnold	Doniphan	Otoe County #1	St Paul
Atkinson	Dorchester	Palmer	Stratton
Bancroft	Dunbar	Pawnee City	Table Rock
Beaver Lake	Eustis	Pilger	Tobias
Blair	Hickman	Plattsmouth	Uehling
Cairo	Kimball	Randolph	Valley
Cambridge	Lancaster County RWD1	Red Cloud	Wahoo
Cass County RWD1	Maxwell	Riverdale	Wausa/Wal-col
Chambers	Milligan	Schuyler	Western
Culbertson	North Bend	Springfield	Yutan

The following are on the list in the order they signed up, but we do not have a picture of the water tower. Please send a picture if you still want to have your tower used.

Farmland foods	Palmyra	Syracuse	Wynot
Boystown	Friend	Arcadia	Polk
Davenport	Wood River	Long pine	


If any other systems would like to be on the cover, send your picture to us and you will be added to the list.

Pictures can be taken with a smartphone or a camera. We are only taking digital copies. DO NOT mail a picture. Send them to salli@nerwa.org.

Thank you.

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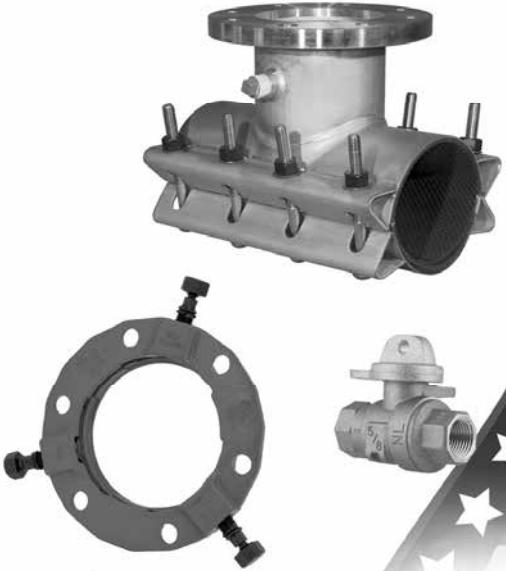
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How many can you crack? The answers are at the bottom...no cheating!

1. What can never be put in a saucepan?
2. I have seas without water, coasts without sand, towns without people, and mountains without land. What am I?
3. What do these words have in common: polish, job, herb?
4. A man shaves several times a day, yet he still has a beard. Who is he?
5. First, I threw away the outside and cooked the inside, then I ate the outside and threw away the inside. What is it?
6. What can travel around the world while staying home?
7. Which word in the dictionary is spelled incorrectly?
8. What's always coming but never arrives?
9. I can be written, I can be spoken, I can be exposed, I can be broken down. What am I?
10. What coat is best put on wet?
11. Forward I am heavy, backwards I am not.
12. What makes this number unique – 8,549,176,320?
13. What occurs once in every minute, twice in every moment, yet never in a thousand years?
14. Feed me and I live yet give me a drink and I die.
15. What do these words have in common: revive, banana, grammar, voodoo, assess, uneven, potato, dresser?

- (This was taken from the internet)*
- Answers:**
1. Its lid
 2. A map
 3. All 3 words are pronounced differently when the first letter is capitalized
 4. A barber
 5. An ear of corn
 6. A stamp
 7. Incorrectly
 8. Tomorrow
 9. News
 10. Coat of paint
 11. Forward I am a ton, backwards I am not.
 12. It contains each number, 0 through 9, in alphabetical order
 13. The letter "m"
 14. Fire
 15. Remove the first letter of each word and the word will spell the same word backwards.

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