

Chemigation Permits

By state law, a chemigation permit **MUST** be obtained before any person can legally chemigate. Chemigation refers to the injection of any ag chemical, including fertilizer, into irrigation water.

PERMITS EXPIRE JUNE 1ST THAT WERE ISSUED THE PREVIOUS YEAR

- Renewals can be obtained by submitting permit applications by that date.
- Renewal permits for each site can be issued without an inspection; however, the Lower Niobrara Natural Resources District is required to re-inspect systems in operation on a regular basis.
- To renew, enclose \$10.00 with your completed application form sent to the Lower Niobrara Natural Resources District, PO Box 350, Butte, NE 68722-0350.
- Renewal applications received after the permit expires on June 1 must comply with provisions for new permits, including a fee of \$30.00 and a required inspection before the permit can be issued.

NEW PERMITS

- The fee for a new permit is \$30.00, which must be enclosed with the application to the Lower Niobrara Natural Resources District, PO Box 350, Butte, NE 68722-0350. Permit application forms can be obtained from the same office address.
- Lower Niobrara Natural Resources District will review completed applications, then conduct an inspection of the system. Approval (or denial) of the application is required within 45 days after the application is filed.

EMERGENCY PERMITS

-An emergency permit, costing \$100.00 and valid for 45 days, may be issued by the Lower Niobrara Natural Resources District, which has 48 hours to act on an application for such a permit. Such permit holders must comply with all chemigation rules and regulations.

INSPECTIONS

A chemigation system must be inspected before a new permit may be issued, and periodic inspections are required for systems under a renewal permit to ensure compliance with the Chemigation Act.

NEW PERMIT INSPECTIONS

- The system is required to be started, brought to normal operating pressure, and shut down.
- A permit holder or applicator must be present during the Lower Niobrara Natural Resources District inspection. The Lower Niobrara Natural Resources District staff will not operate any irrigation or chemigation equipment, nor will they open any electrical control box.

PERIODIC RE-INSPECTION

- To meet the Chemigation Act requirements that each Natural Resources District conducts area-wide for both selective and periodic inspections, the Lower Niobrara Natural Resources District requires a full inspection, which involves a start-up and shutdown of the chemigation system, to be performed a minimum of once every four years.

NON-PERMITTED CHEMIGATION SYSTEMS

- The Lower Niobrara Natural Resources District is also required by law to make area-wide selective and periodic inspections of non-permitted irrigation systems. The Lower Niobrara Natural Resources District will also investigate complaints concerning non-permitted systems.
- In cases of non-compliance and subsequent lack of cooperation by an irrigator, the Lower Niobrara Natural Resources District may apply to the district court or county court in which the irrigation system is located, for an inspection warrant to allow the Lower Niobrara Natural Resources District's employees entry onto the irrigator's property to carry out duties under the Chemigation Act.