

# Reconnaissance of Ground-Water Quality in the North Platte Natural Resources District, Western Nebraska, June–July 1991

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## CONVERSION FACTORS AND VERTICAL DATUM

Multiply	By	To obtain
acre	4,047	square meter
foot	0.3048	meter
gallon per minute	0.06309	liter per second
inch	25.4	millimeter
inch per hour	25.4	millimeter per hour
mile	1.609	kilometer
million gallons per day	0.04381	cubic meter per second
pound	453.6	gram
square mile	2.590	square kilometer
ton	0.9072	megagram

To convert degree Fahrenheit (°F) to degree Celsius (°C) use the following formula:

$$^{\circ}\text{C} = 5/9 (^{\circ}\text{F} - 32)$$

**Sea level:** In this report, "sea level" refers to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929—a geodetic datum derived from a general adjustment of the first-order level nets of the United States and Canada, formerly called Sea Level Datum of 1929.

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# Reconnaissance of Ground-Water Quality in the North Platte Natural Resources District, Western Nebraska, June–July 1991

By I.M. Verstraeten, S.S. Sibray, J.C. Cannia, and D.Q. Tanner

## Abstract

This report presents a reconnaissance of the ground-water quality in the North Platte Natural Resources District of western Nebraska. One hundred twenty wells completed in unconfined Quaternary age, Ogallala Group, and Arikaree Group water-bearing units, fractured-bedrock and sand water-bearing units in the Brule Formation, confined Chadron Formation water-bearing units, and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age were sampled during June and July 1991.

Overall, more than 75 percent of the water samples had dissolved nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen concentrations equal to or less than 6 milligrams per liter. Water samples from six wells completed in Quaternary-age water-bearing units and fractured-bedrock water-bearing units in the Brule Formation exceeded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Primary Maximum Contaminant Level of 10 milligrams per liter for dissolved nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen. Conversely, water samples collected from sandstone and conglomerate of the confined Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age had concentrations of dissolved nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen generally less than the detection level, which may indicate the presence of a reducing environment disassociating the dissolved-nitrate ion as supported by the low dissolved-oxygen concentrations detected in the water from these units or reduced leaching at depth due to the presence of confining layers. Water from

several wells completed in Quaternary-age water-bearing units and fractured-bedrock and sand water-bearing units in the Brule Formation had detectable concentrations of alachlor, atrazine, deethylatrazine, or prometon. Insecticides were not detected in ground water in the study area.

Major element concentrations in the water from 44 wells indicated that the water-bearing units had distinct chemistry. Water from the Quaternary-age, Ogallala Group, and Arikaree Group water-bearing units, and fractured-bedrock and sand water-bearing units in the Brule Formation generally was a calcium bicarbonate type with moderate hardness, and water from the Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age generally was a sodium bicarbonate type with soft, mineralized water reflecting the older age of the water. Water samples from Quaternary-age water-bearing units had significantly different distributions of concentrations of calcium, magnesium, potassium, and sulfate than water samples from the other water-bearing units.

Overall, the quality of water from Chadron Formation and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age is not suitable for domestic and irrigation use. High pH and concentrations of calculated dissolved solids, sodium, chloride, fluoride, arsenic, and beryllium that exceeded U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Primary or Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels characterized the water in these units. Water in the Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferen-

tiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age, characterized by a relatively large degree of mineralization and softer water, had significantly different distributions of concentrations of all major ions except potassium, sulfate, and chloride than water from the other units.

Water-quality data from the Quaternary-age water-bearing units indicated that adjusted gross-alpha activities in the units also exceeded U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Maximum Contaminant Levels. In addition, samples from 39 of the 44 wells completed in all water-bearing units, except for the Arikaree Group water-bearing units, had radon activities that exceeded the proposed Primary Maximum Contaminant Level of 300 picocuries per liter. The radon activities were different in water samples from the fractured-bedrock and sand water-bearing units in the Brule Formation than in those from the other water-bearing units. Nine of the 44 water samples from wells completed in Quaternary-age and Ogallala Group water-bearing units had uranium concentrations that exceeded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Primary Maximum Contaminant Level of 20 micrograms per liter.

## INTRODUCTION

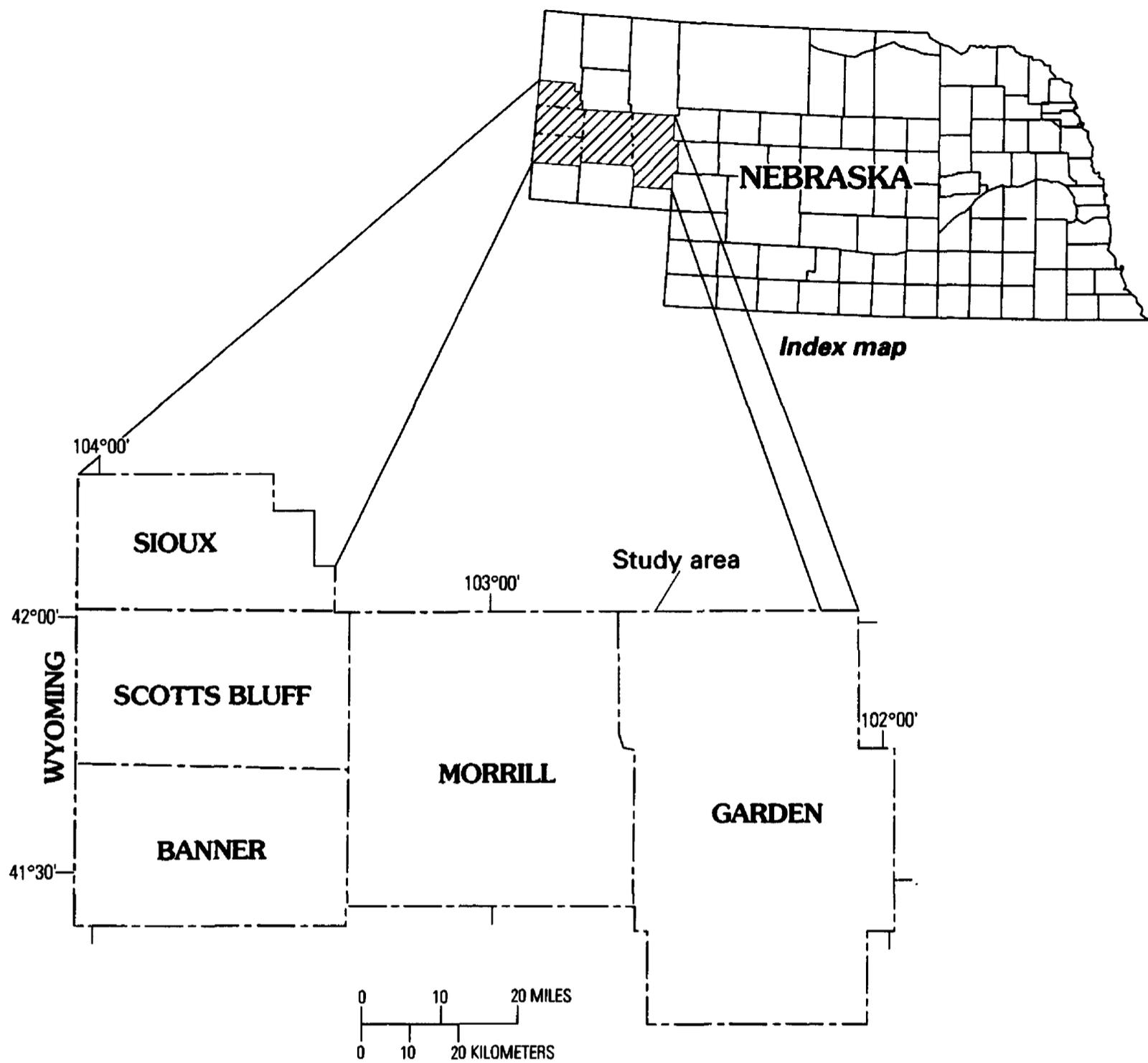
Ground water is the primary source of drinking water in Nebraska, but a common problem is the presence of dissolved-nitrate concentrations in ground water (Conservation and Survey Division, 1980a; 1980b) that exceed the 10 mg/L (milligram per liter) primary Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for dissolved nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) (1988a). The use of herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides, as well as the addition of fertilizer to soil and irrigation water, has affected the ground-water quality in Nebraska (Spalding and others, 1978; Gormly and Spalding, 1979; Exner, 1990; Spalding, 1991). Radionuclides, such as gross-alpha, gross-beta, and radon activities, in ground water have received more recent attention from the Nebraska Department of Health

(A.M. Pour, Nebraska Department of Health, oral commun., 1992).

The State of Nebraska has been divided into 23 Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) to address natural-resource issues of soil and water management. Originally, each NRD was required to submit a ground-water management plan to the Nebraska Department of Water Resources by January 1986. Under Nebraska Law LB 51 (1991), each NRD is required to amend the water-quality section of its ground-water management plan by July 1, 1993. LB 51 (1991) states the amended plans are to "... identify levels and sources of ground-water contamination and to recommend practices that would stabilize, reduce, and prevent to the extent possible additional spread, occurrences, and increases of ground-water contamination." The U.S. Geological Survey entered into a cooperative agreement with the North Platte Natural Resources District (NRD) in 1990 to conduct a water-quality study to determine the chemical character of water in the primary water-bearing units. The study focused on dissolved nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen, agricultural organic pesticides, and radionuclide concentrations.

## Purpose and Scope

This report provides a general description of the water quality of the principal water-bearing units in the North Platte NRD (fig. 1). Constituent concentrations are compared with USEPA Drinking-Water Regulations. Variations in concentration are discussed in relation to water-bearing units. The report emphasizes the spatial distribution of dissolved nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen and selected pesticides, including carbamate insecticides and triazine and acetanilide herbicides. The report also describes the concentrations of major and trace-element constituents, including radionuclides in ground water. Whereas organic industrial compounds associated with landfills, spills, and underground storage tanks were not addressed in this study, the effects of agricultural practices on ground-water quality were evaluated on the basis of the concentrations of organic and inorganic constituents.



**Figure 1.** Location of North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska.

## Acknowledgments

The authors thank well owners in the study area for granting permission to sample their wells and for their assistance in the field.

## DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA

### Location and Landforms

The North Platte NRD covers approximately 5,124 square miles in the central part of the Nebraska Panhandle and includes Banner, Garden, Morrill, and Scotts Bluff Counties and the southern part of Sioux County (fig. 1). Most of the study area lies in the North Platte River Basin. The population of approximately 45,000 in 1990–91 (Clerk of the Legislature, 1991) is concentrated in small towns located along the North Platte River. The largest town is Scottsbluff with a population of approximately 13,700.

The North Platte NRD is located in the High Plains section of the Great Plains physiographic province, as defined by Fenneman (1931). The study area can be divided further by landforms and geographic areas (fig. 2).

The Cheyenne Tablelands, Northern Tablelands, and Wildcat Ridge are erosional remnants of the High Plains, which slope eastward from the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains. Erosion of the Pumpkin Creek and North Platte Valleys has left steep escarpments and ridges adjacent to the valleys. The Sandhills Region, located in northeastern Morrill County and northern Garden County, consists of sand dunes that were deposited within the last 8,000 years (Ahlbrandt and others, 1983) and now generally are covered with grass.

### Climate

The climate of the study area is characterized by extreme temperature ranges and relatively low average annual precipitation, typical of a mid-latitude, continental setting. On the basis of records from 1951 to 1980 at the Scottsbluff weather station, the mean annual temperature is 48.5 °F, the mean maximum temperature in July is 89.2 °F, and the mean minimum temperature in

January is 11.2 °F (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 1982). Mean annual precipitation is 15 to 18 inches on the basis of records from 1951 to 1980 (Lawson and others, 1977). Most of the precipitation is produced by thunderstorms during late spring and early summer. May and June are the two wettest months of the year. Potential evapotranspiration in the area usually is greater than precipitation (Lawson and others, 1977).

### Hydrogeology

Many earlier investigations describe the geology and occurrence of ground water in the study area (Darton, 1903a, 1903b; Wenzel and others, 1946; Smith and Souders, 1975; Souders, 1986). A summary of the hydrogeologic units of the study area is given in table 1. Generalized geologic sections are presented in figure 3. The stratigraphic nomenclature used in this report conforms with the usage as described by Swinehart and others (1985).

In general, sufficient differences in the hydrologic and geochemical characteristics among the water-bearing units in the study area exist to warrant discussion of the water-bearing units separately. However, the sediments of the Ogallala and Arikaree Groups are not sufficiently different within each group from a hydrogeologic perspective to justify further subdivision of the Ogallala or Arikaree Groups in this report. Because of differences in the hydrogeologic characteristics between the fractured bedrock (secondary permeability) and the sand deposits (primary permeability) in the Brule Formation, the Brule Formation was divided into the fractured-bedrock and sand or channel water-bearing units of the Brule Formation, referred to as fractured-bedrock and sand water-bearing units of the Brule Formation in the remainder of the text.

The areal distribution of sediments of Pliocene and Quaternary age is shown in figure 4. The most intensively developed water-bearing units in the study area are the Quaternary-age water-bearing units located in the Pumpkin Creek and North Platte Valleys. The Pleistocene sand and gravel water-bearing units consist largely of granitic and metamorphic material. Depth to the water table is generally less than 50 feet.

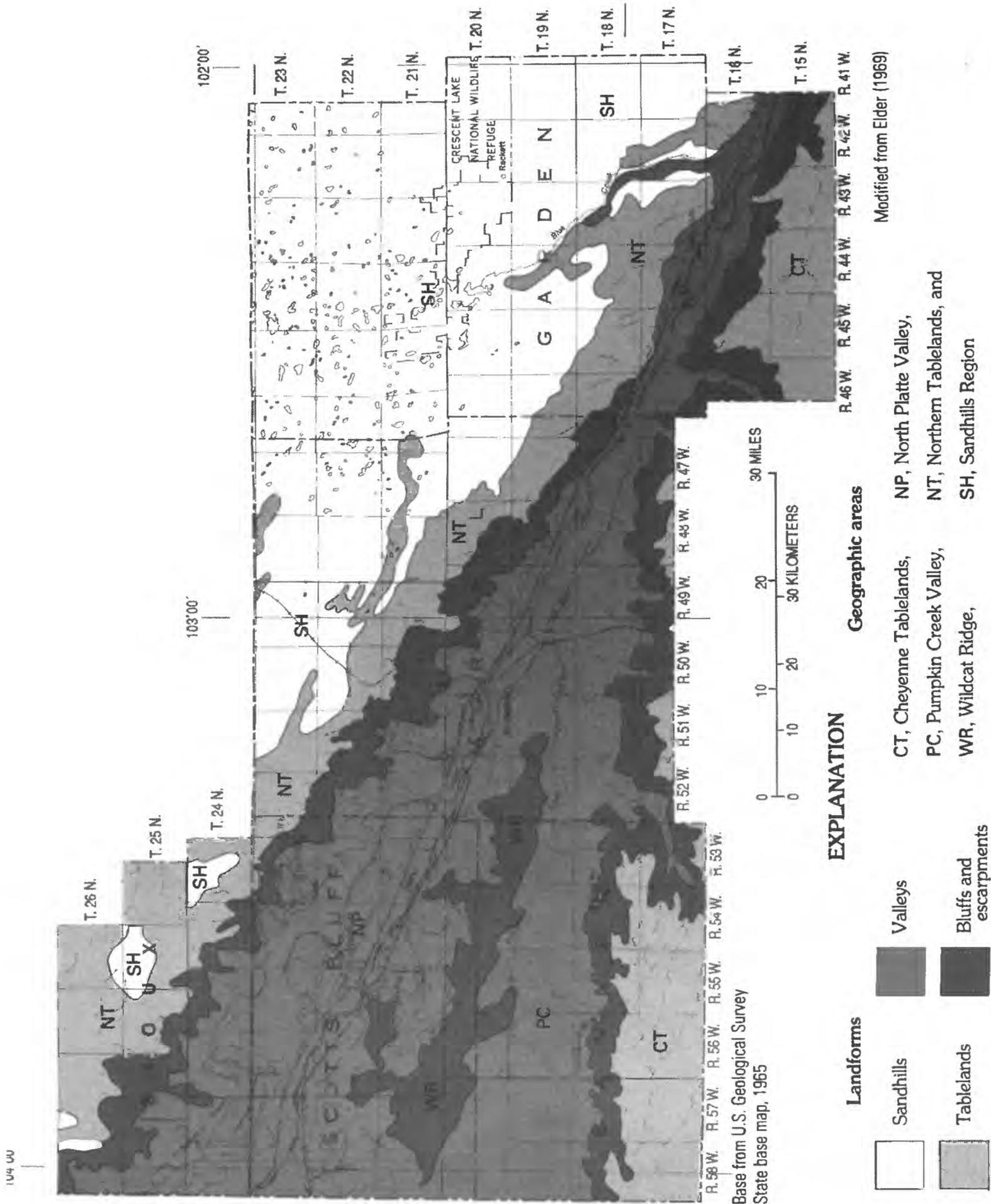


Figure 2. Landforms and geographic areas in the North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska.

**Table 1. Hydrogeologic units, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska**

[stratigraphic nomenclature is from Swinehart and others (1985); gal/min, gallons per minute; <, less than]

System	Series	Geologic unit	Character and description	Hydrogeologic unit	Water-yielding properties
Quaternary	Holocene Pleistocene	Undifferentiated Quaternary alluvial and eolian deposits	Holocene alluvial deposits of sand and gravel, with isolated lenses of silt and clay deposits along the North Platte and Pumpkin Creek Valleys. Eolian sand found in extensive dune fields in the Sandhills Region and in isolated areas of the North Platte and Pumpkin Creek Valleys. Pleistocene alluvial deposits of sand and gravel in the North Platte and Pumpkin Creek Valleys and residuum from sandstone and siltstone near these valleys.	Quaternary-age alluvial water-bearing units	Unconfined water-bearing units with wells potentially yielding more than 1,000 gal/min. Depth to water commonly is shallow. Maximum saturated thickness is about 210 feet.
				Quaternary-age water-bearing units	Unconfined water-bearing units used for stock and domestic purposes, primarily in the Sandhills. Maximum saturated thickness is generally less than 50 feet.
Tertiary	Pliocene	Broadwater Formation	Predominantly alluvial sand and gravel with minor isolated lenses of silt and diatomite. Found in small isolated channel deposits north of the North Platte River from Wyoming east through Garden County. Also present as widespread deposits in southeastern Garden County.	Broadwater water-bearing units	Unconfined water-bearing units usually unsaturated. Basal part of the water-bearing units is saturated locally. Not important water-bearing units.
				Ogallala Group	Fine- to coarse-grained sand and gravel often cemented with calcareous cement. Local ash beds and siltstone lenses are present. Located in Cheyenne and Northern Tablelands, eroded from Pumpkin Creek and North Platte Valleys.

**Table 1. Hydrogeologic units, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska—Continued**

System	Series	Geologic unit	Character and description	Hydrogeologic unit	Water-yielding properties
Tertiary	Miocene Oligocene	Arikaree Group	Silty, very fine- to medium-grained sandstone rich in volcanic glass shards. Local areas of coarse sand. Lenses of carbonate cementation and ash beds are common.	Arikaree Group water-bearing units	Unconfined water-bearing units in Northern Tablelands. Wells yielding only a few hundred gallons per minute are found in Sioux, northern Garden, and northern Morrill Counties. Irrigation wells often are screened in overlying hydrogeologic units and Arikaree Group for increased yields.
		Brule Formation	Brown siltstone and mudstone rich in volcanic glass shards. Regionally correlative ash beds are present. Local lenses of sandstone and gravel are present. The formation occurs throughout the area, except in a small isolated area in western Banner County.	Brule Formation water-bearing units	Generally unconfined water-bearing units may yield large volumes of water with little drawdown along Pumpkin Creek Valley and in localized areas of the North Platte Valley.
	Chadron Formation	Fractured-bedrock and sand confining unit in the Brule Formation	Fractured-bedrock and sand confining unit in the Brule Formation	Sand water-bearing units in the Brule Formation	Localized Brule alluvial sand channel deposits. These water-bearing units, which are generally unconfined, can yield water in small areas.
				Not a source of water; generally considered a confining unit that separates the unconfined water-bearing units from the Chadron confining unit.	
	Chadron Formation	Confining unit in the Chadron Formation	Chadron Formation water-bearing units	Gray to greenish-gray bentonitic mudstone and claystone. Fine- to coarse-grained sandstone and conglomerates occur in major channel systems (fig. 6).	Regional confining layer that separates the generally unconfined water-bearing units from the older confined units.
				Confining unit in the Chadron Formation	Confining unit in the Chadron Formation
Chadron Formation	Chadron Formation water-bearing units	Chadron Formation water-bearing units	Confining unit in the Chadron Formation	Confining unit in the Chadron Formation	Confining unit in the Chadron Formation

**Table 1. Hydrogeologic units, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska—Continued**

System	Series	Geologic unit	Character and description	Hydrogeologic unit	Water-yielding properties
Cretaceous	Upper Cretaceous	Lance Formation	Greenish-gray argillaceous sand and interbedded gray shale and lignite.	Undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age	Confined water-bearing units used for stock and domestic wells in areas where no other source of ground water is available. Used mainly in western Banner and Scotts Bluff Counties.
		Fox Hills Formation	Massive, yellow to yellowish-green, fine- to medium-grained sandstone. Some interbedded dark-gray shale.		
		Pierre Shale (Transitional Zone)	Gray to brown sandy siltstone and shale with fine-grained sandstone layers in the upper part.		

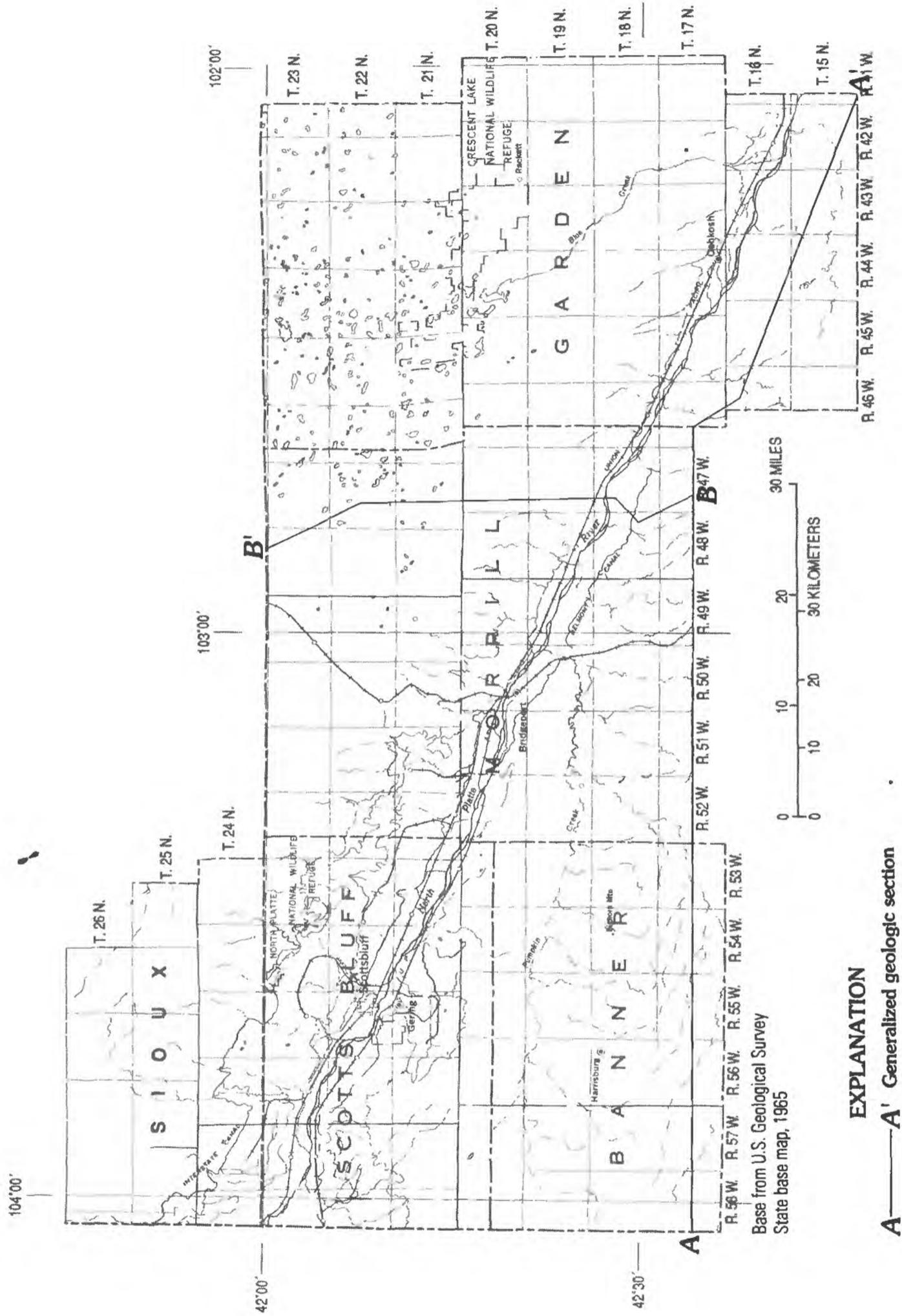


Figure 3. Traces of generalized geologic sections A-A' and B-B' in the North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska.

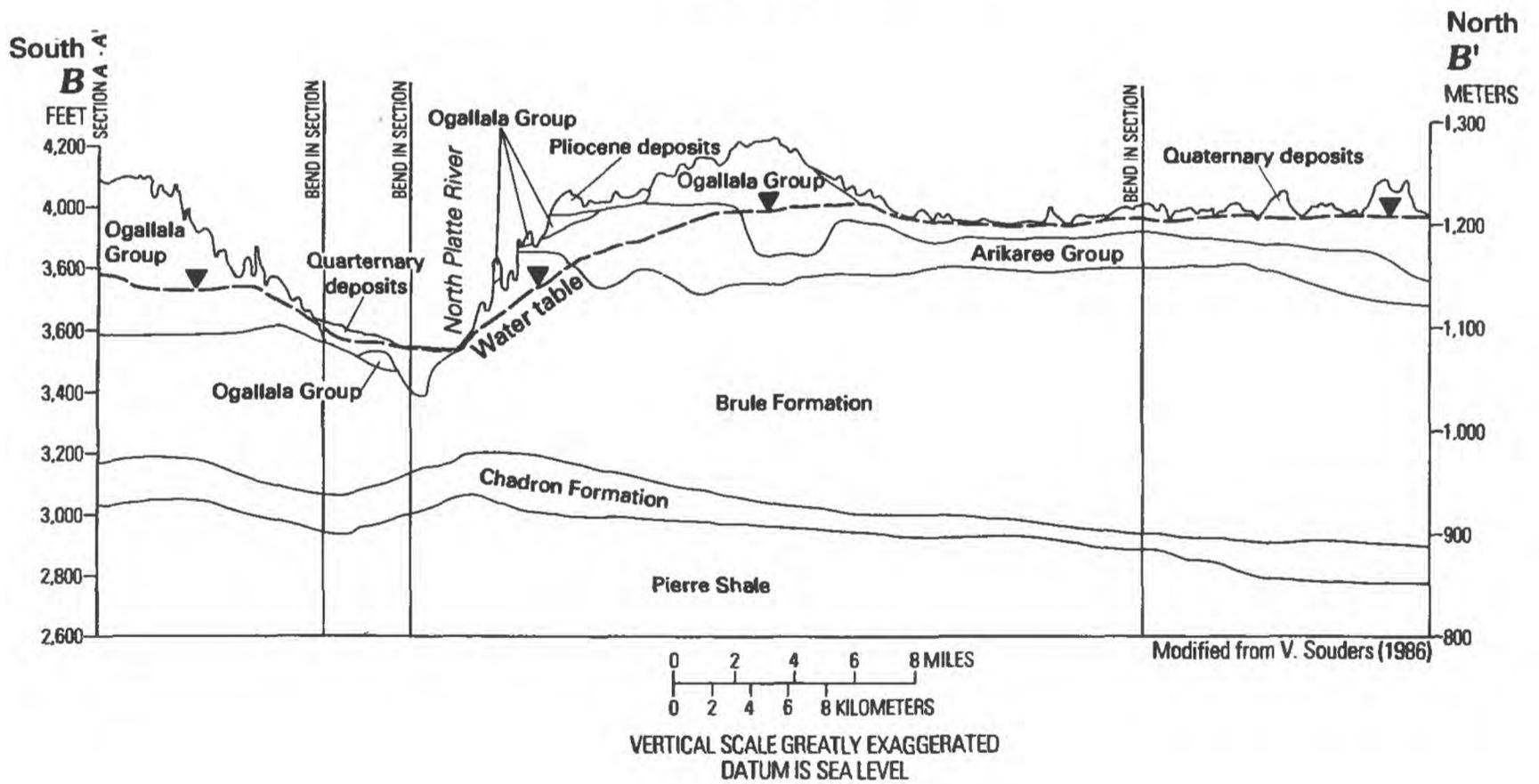
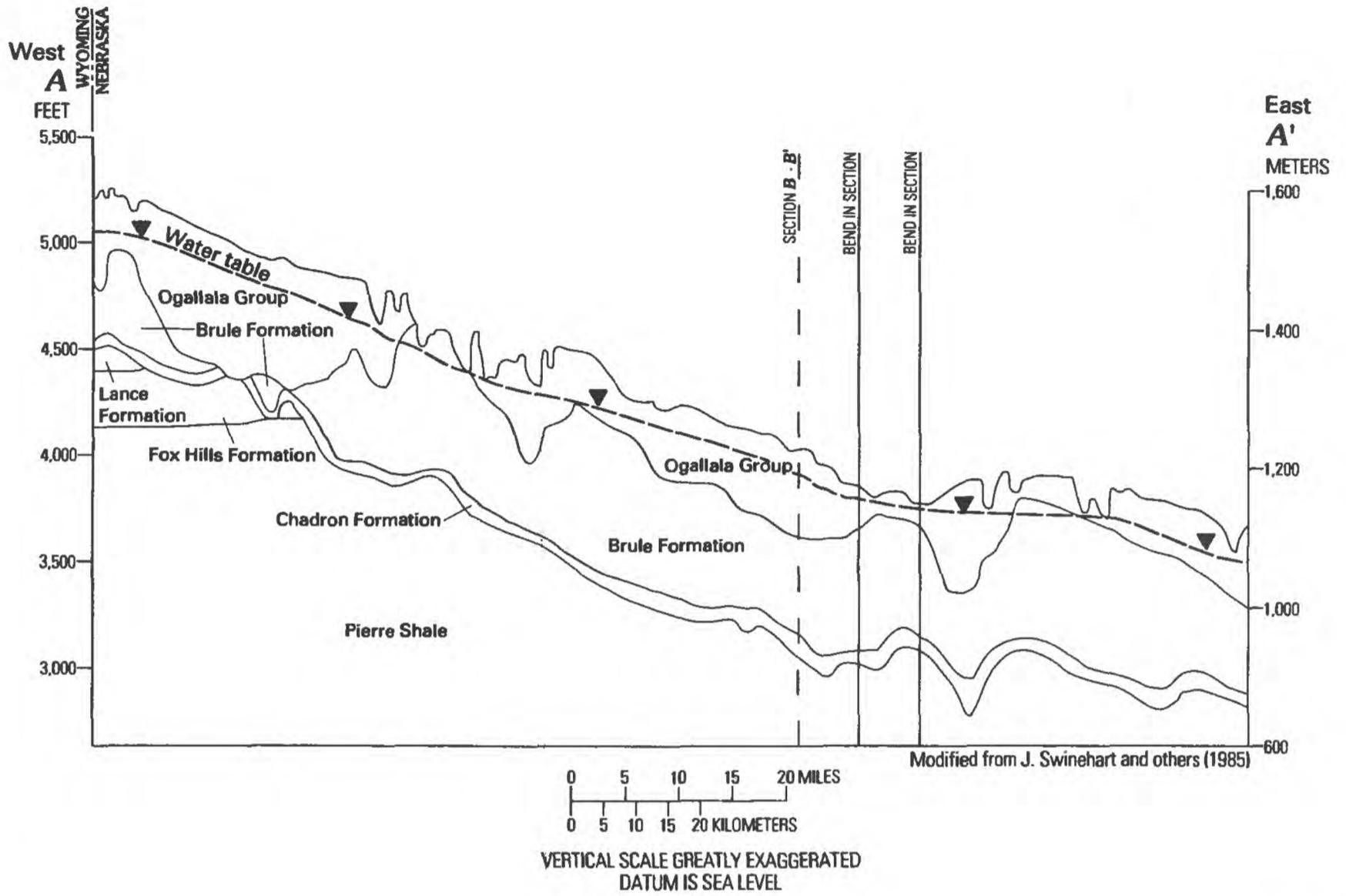
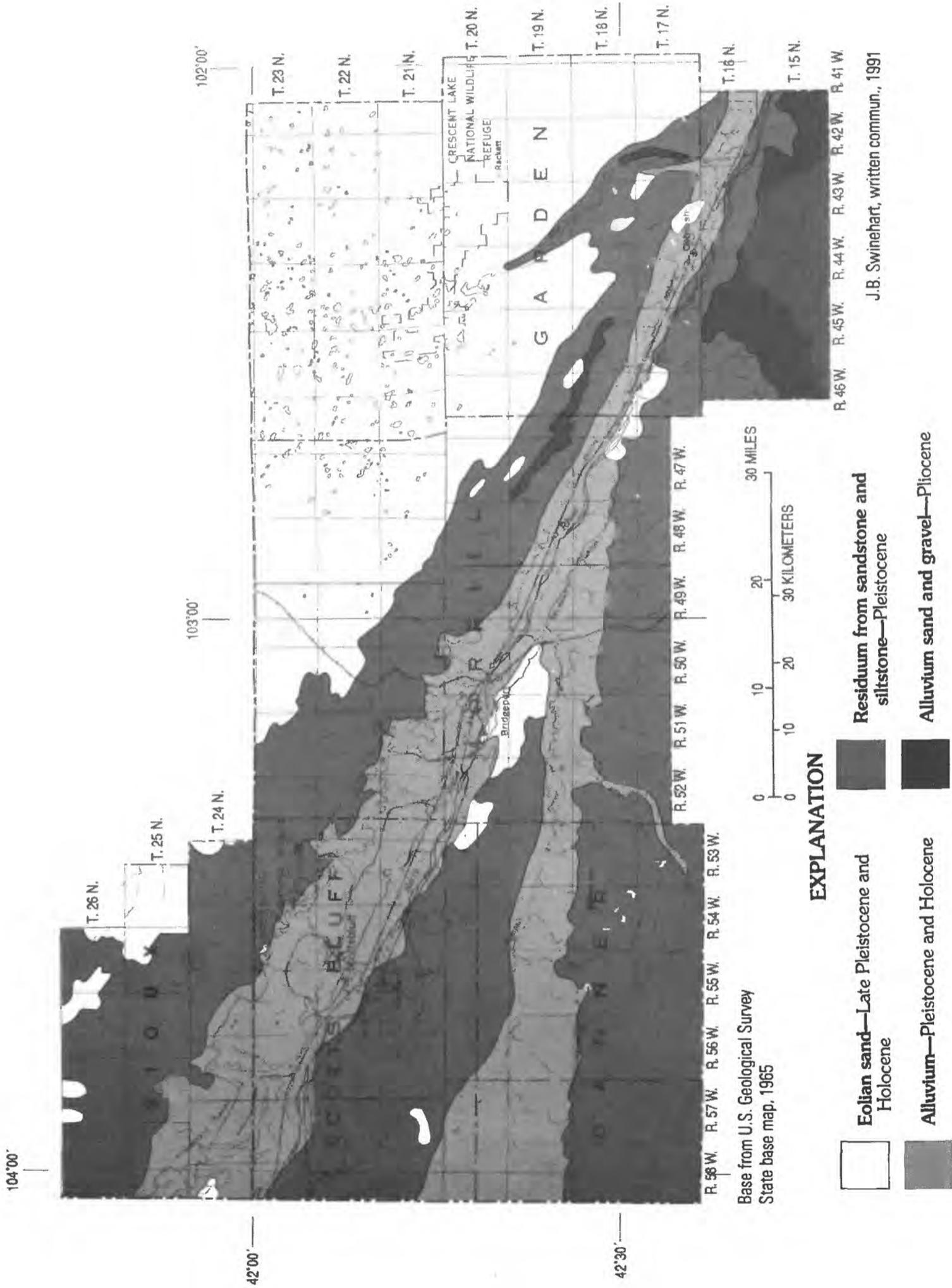


Figure 3. Traces of generalized geologic sections and generalized sections A-A' and B-B' in the North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska—Continued.



**Figure 4.** Areal distribution of sediments of Pliocene and Quaternary age in the North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska.

The Tertiary-Pliocene Broadwater Formation consists of unconsolidated alluvial sand and gravel and is mostly unsaturated. The areal distribution of the Tertiary Ogallala and Arikaree Group water-bearing units and fractured-bedrock and sand water-bearing units of the Brule Formation in the study area is shown in figure 5. The Ogallala Group (Miocene age) and the Arikaree Group (Oligocene to Miocene age) water-bearing units are present in the Cheyenne and Northern Tablelands. These units have been removed by erosion in the Pumpkin Creek and North Platte Valleys. The water-bearing units in the Ogallala and Arikaree Groups have been developed mainly for irrigation in southern Banner County and central Garden, Morrill, and Sioux Counties. The Ogallala Group consists of sandstone and gravels and can yield large amounts of water (table 1). The Arikaree Group water-bearing units mainly consist of sandstone, sand, and ash beds and yield small quantities of water (table 1). The Arikaree Group water-bearing units also are limited in areal extent and are not widely developed for irrigation purposes in the study area.

The fractured-bedrock and sand water-bearing units of the Brule Formation, located above the Chadron confining unit, are present throughout most of the study area. The fractured-bedrock and sand water-bearing units of the Brule Formation consist of brown siltstone, mudstone, fine-grained sand, and gravel. Water from the fractured-bedrock and sand water-bearing units of the Brule Formation mainly is used for irrigation and domestic purposes in some local areas in the Pumpkin Creek and North Platte Valleys. The fractured-bedrock and sand water-bearing units of the Brule Formation in these areas consist of small fluvial channel deposits of sand. The fractured-bedrock and sand water-bearing units of the Brule Formation also exhibit secondary permeability developed by fracturing of the fine-grained material.

The Chadron Formation and older undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age are separated from the younger, shallower, water-bearing strata by the confining unit in the Chadron Formation. This confining unit consists of bentonitic mudstone and claystone. The confining unit in the Chadron Formation has not been mapped in detail and is shown only in

figure 3. The water-bearing units below this regional confining unit are probably part of a deeper, regional flow system.

The oldest Tertiary water-bearing units are the water-bearing units in the confined Chadron Formation of Oligocene age. The Chadron Formation water-bearing units consist of a basal unit of sandstone and conglomerate deposited in paleovalleys that generally trend from the northwest to the southeast in the study area (DeGraw, 1969). The geographic distribution of sandstone and conglomerate in the lower part of the Chadron Formation water-bearing units is shown in figure 6. Chadron Formation water-bearing units rarely are developed for irrigation because of their depth and generally unsuitable water quality.

The oldest and deepest water-bearing units in this study are the confined Upper Lance, Fox Hills, and Pierre Shale (Transitional Zone) units of Cretaceous age, which yield small quantities of water for stock and domestic purposes in western Banner and western Scotts Bluff Counties (table 1). These undifferentiated Cretaceous hydrogeologic units were removed from the eastern part of the study area by erosion during the early Tertiary Period. The stratigraphic relations among the Upper Cretaceous hydrogeologic units are shown in the generalized geologic section in figure 3.

## Land Use

Agriculture is the primary land-use activity in the North Platte NRD. According to the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, about 566,000 acres were cultivated and about 2,000,000 acres remained rangeland in 1991 (James Schild, University of Nebraska Extension, oral commun., 1992). The main dryland crop was wheat (table 2). The main irrigated crops were alfalfa, corn, dry beans, sugar beets, and wheat (table 2). Overall, about 64 percent of the cropland was irrigated in 1991.

Statistics on fertilizer use in the study area are limited to Morrill and Scotts Bluff Counties. Reported fertilizer use in both counties in 1991 was 16,474 tons total nitrogen, 6,564 tons total phosphate, and 681 tons potassium (Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, written commun.,

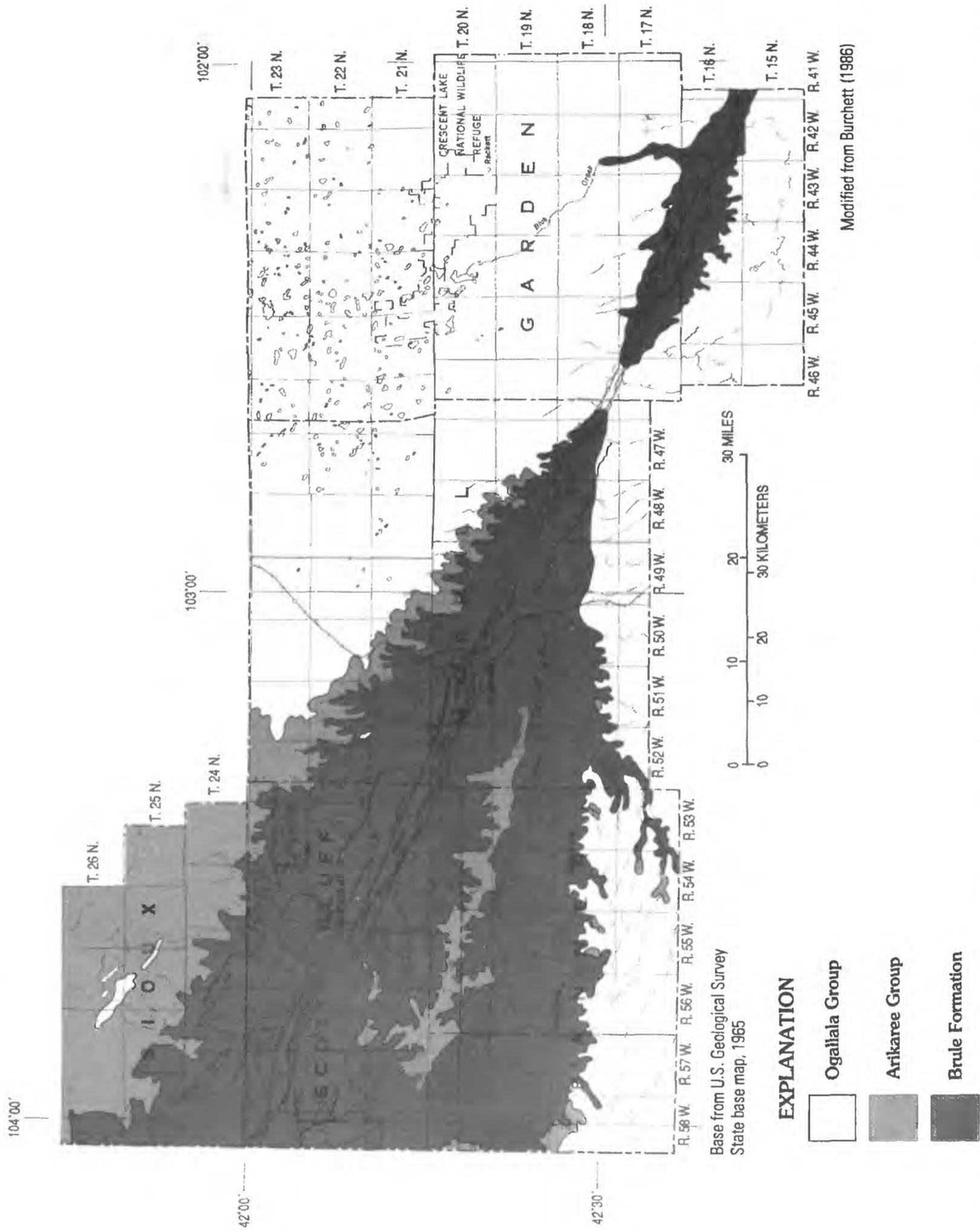


Figure 5. Bedrock of the Brule Formation, Arikaree Group, and Ogallala Group in the North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska.

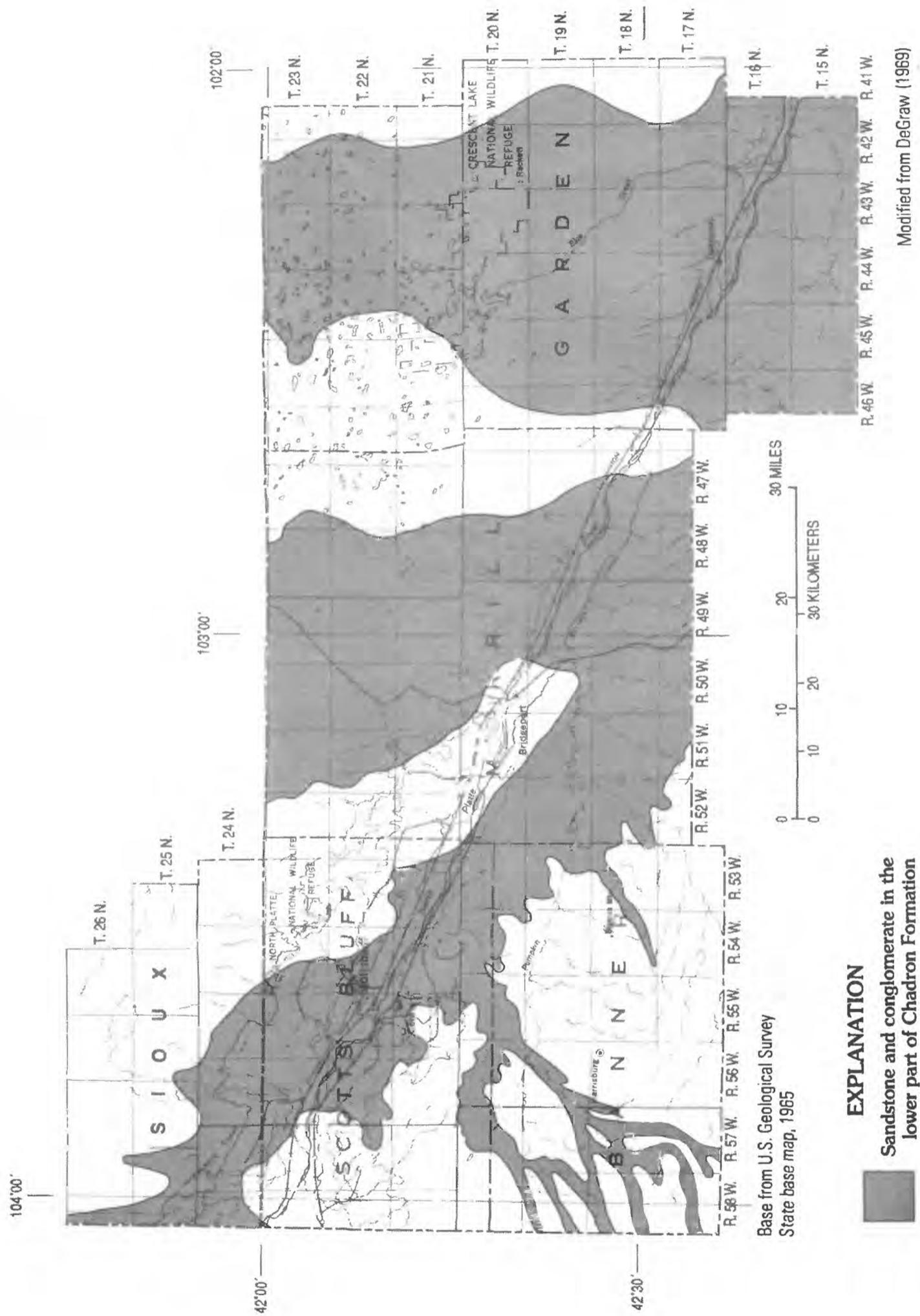


Figure 6. Areal distribution of sandstone and conglomerate in the lower part of the Chadron Formation, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska.

**Table 2.** Crop statistics for 1991 (data from Nebraska Department of Agriculture, 1993)

Crop	Estimated number of acres <sup>1</sup> (in thousand acres)					Total
	Banner County	Garden County	Morrill County	Scotts Bluff County	Sioux County <sup>2</sup>	
Wheat, dryland	61.5	51.7	29.4	11.3	6.2	160.1
Wheat, irrigated	2.5	2.3	1.6	.2	.3	6.9
Corn, dryland	0.6	.5	1.5	1.3	.3	4.2
Corn, irrigated	5.9	15.2	49.1	66.3	12.2	148.7
Alfalfa, dryland	2.3	1.6	1.5	1.4	17.2	24.0
Alfalfa, irrigated	2.0	11.4	16.9	25.4	12.4	68.1
Dry beans, irrigated	3.5	4.0	27.0	47.0	5.3	86.8
Sugar beets, irrigated	2.2	0	10.0	38.4	3.3	53.9
Oats, dryland	1.1	2.2	1.8	1.3	1.3	7.7
Barley, dryland	.9	1.2	.6	.3	.7	3.7
Sorghum, dryland	.4	.4	.3	.3	.2	1.6
Soybeans, irrigated	0	.3	0	0	0	.3
Total dryland	66.8	57.6	35.1	15.9	25.9	201.3
Total irrigated	16.1	33.2	104.6	177.3	33.5	364.7
Total	82.9	90.8	139.7	193.2	59.4	566.0

<sup>1</sup>Acres are estimated harvested acres for corn, alfalfa, and sorghum. Acres are estimated planted acres for wheat, dry beans, sugar beets, oats, barley, and soybeans.

<sup>2</sup>Acres in Sioux County are not restricted to acres within the NRD and include all acres within the county.

1992). Other fertilizer additions included boric acid, copper, zinc, iron, manganese, sulfate, and sodium molybdate.

Specific herbicide- and pesticide-use statistics in the North Platte NRD do not exist for 1991. In a pesticide survey conducted in 1979, 2,4-D was the most commonly used herbicide in corn, and alachlor and atrazine were less commonly used. Other herbicides used on corn were butylate, cyanazine, and metolachlor. The herbicide most commonly used on beans in western Nebraska was EPTC and trifluralin. Herbicides used on wheat in western Nebraska included 2,4-D and dicamba, whereas the herbicide most commonly used on alfalfa was benfluralin. The herbicides, insecticides, and nematocides most frequently applied in the Nebraska Panhandle are listed in table 3.

In general, corn does not receive much fungicide application. Nematocide use is limited to beets. Fumigants, such as aluminum phosphide, as well as protectants, are used on stored grain. Other chemicals include rodenticides and bird repellents (Baker and others, 1990).

Other land uses in the study area include light industry, wildlife refuges, and recreation. Industry mainly consists of agricultural processing plants, such as sugar-beet processing plants and livestock businesses. The largest livestock business in the North Platte NRD is cattle production. About 40 feedlots with more than 500 head of cattle each existed in the North Platte NRD in 1991 in addition to many smaller feedlots (James Schild, University of Nebraska Extension, oral commun., 1992). Other livestock production includes hogs and sheep. The largest wildlife refuges are the Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Garden County and the North Platte National Wildlife Refuge in Scotts Bluff County (fig. 1).

### Water Use

The primary uses of ground and surface water in the study area for 1990 are listed in table 4. Water for irrigation was mainly derived from ground- and surface-water sources; about 369,000 acres were irrigated in 1990 (Zachary Hill,

**Table 3.** Most frequently applied herbicides, insecticides, and nematocides on cropland in the Nebraska Panhandle

[Modified from Wilson, 1979]

Crops	Herbicides	Insecticides and nematocides
Corn	2,4-D	Terbufos (Counter)
	Dicamba (Banvel)	Carbofuran (Furaden)
	Some alachlor and atrazine	
Wheat	2,4-D	Disulfoton
	Dicamba (Banvel)	
Beans	EPTC (Eptam)	Carbaryl (Sevin)
	Ethalfuralin (Sonalan)	Disulfoton (Di-syston)
Beets	Ethofumesate (Nortron)	Dichloropropene (Telone)
	Cycloate (Ro-neet)	Diazinon Aldicarb (Temik)
		Parathion
Alfalfa	Benfluralin (Balan)	Malathion
	Propham (Chem-hoe)	Carbaryl (Sevin)

U.S. Geological Survey, written commun., 1992). Water-use statistics indicate that nearly six times more surface water than ground water was used for irrigation (table 4). Public- and self-supplied water use data also are listed in table 4. Public-water supplies were used mainly by municipalities to supply household needs. Self-supplied water was used mainly for irrigation. The sources of water for public-water suppliers was almost entirely ground water.

Surface water was the source of water for about 84 percent of all water used in the study area. Most of this surface water (about 67 percent) was used in Scotts Bluff County. Overall, 99 percent of surface-water use is for irrigation. Areas of intense surface-water use, represented by irrigation-use districts, are illustrated in figure 7. Surface water, regulated by the Nebraska Department of Water Resources, provided irrigation water to 339,104 acres of cropland in the study area in 1991 (T.L. Hayden, Nebraska Department of Water Resources, written commun., 1991). Surface-water supplies are obtained from the North Platte

River and its tributaries and from extensive canal systems (fig. 7). In addition, the canal systems provide water to recreational lakes and wildlife refuges and provide storage for water used for irrigation.

Ground water in the North Platte NRD is used mainly for irrigation (an estimated 88 percent of all ground-water use in 1990). At least 236,503 acres were irrigated with ground water obtained from about 1,900 registered irrigation wells, of which 850 had center-pivot systems in the North Platte NRD (Nebraska Department of Water Resources, written commun., 1992). Water-use data for these wells are not readily available.

## PREVIOUS WATER-QUALITY INVESTIGATIONS

Available data provide limited information on the major cations (calcium, magnesium, potassium, and sodium) and anions (bicarbonate, sulfate, and chloride) in ground water within the study area. The most comprehensive ground-water investigations in the study area were done for Scotts Bluff County by Wenzel and others (1946) and for a part of Morrill and Banner Counties by Durum (1952). Since 1980, the emphasis on nonpoint-source contamination of ground water has increased, especially with respect to dissolved nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen and pesticide concentrations (Conservation and Survey Division, 1980b). The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) data base (WATSTORE) contained few ground-water-quality data for the North Platte NRD prior to this study.

Nebraska ground-water quality is described in publications by Engberg and Spalding (1979), Engberg (1984), and Engberg and Druliner (1987). These publications present water-quality analyses of samples from the principal aquifers of Nebraska, primarily the High Plains aquifer, which includes the Quaternary-age, the Ogallala Group, and the Arikaree Group water-bearing units, and the fractured-bedrock and sand water-bearing units in the Brule Formation. The general water chemistry of undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age also is discussed.

Wenzel and others (1946) made a comprehensive analysis of water-quality data obtained from 36 wells in Scotts Bluff County. Water in the

**Table 4. Estimated water use for public supply and self supply in the North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, 1990**  
(data from Zachary Hill, U.S. Geological Survey, written commun., 1992)

[water deliveries by type of use are reported in million gallons per day; GW, ground water; SW, surface water]

County	Public-supply ground-water use										Self-supplied water use						
	Com-mercial					Irrigation					Livestock			Livestock			
	Com-mercial	Domestic	Industrial	Other	Total	GW	SW	Total	GW	SW	Total	GW	SW	Total	GW	SW	Total
Banner	0	0	0	0	0	13.84	1.37	15.21	0.37	0.09	0.46						
Garden	.07	.19	.06	.06	.38	27.01	18.71	45.72	3.73	.31	4.04						
Morrill	.11	.57	.01	.37	1.06	55.52	188.50	244.02	1.26	.30	1.56						
ScottsBluff	1.04	5.10	.94	.54	7.62	39.15	612.93	652.08	1.98	.46	2.44						
Sioux <sup>1</sup>	.03	.06	0	.01	.10	16.12	86.98	103.10	.85	.21	1.06						
Total	1.25	5.92	1.01	.98	9.16	151.64	908.49	1,060.13	8.19	1.37	9.56						

County	Self-supplied water use—Continued														
	Mining			Domestic			Industrial			Total self supplied			Total water use		
	GW	SW	Total	GW	SW	Total	GW	SW	Total	GW	SW	Total	GW	SW	Total
Banner	0.39	0	0.39	0.16	0	0.16	0	0	0	14.76	1.46	16.22	14.76	1.46	16.22
Garden	0	2.32	2.32	.28	0	.28	0	0	0	31.02	21.34	52.36	31.40	21.34	52.74
Morrill	.07	.78	.85	.48	0	.48	.04	.86	.09	57.37	190.44	247.81	58.43	190.44	248.87
Scotts Bluff	.03	2.01	2.04	1.56	0	1.56	.10	1.51	1.61	42.82	616.91	659.73	50.44	616.91	667.35
Sioux <sup>1</sup>	0	0	0	.24	0	.24	0	0	0	17.21	87.19	104.40	17.31	87.19	104.50
Total	.49	5.11	5.60	2.72	0	2.72	.14	2.37	2.51	163.18	917.34	1,080.52	172.34	917.34	1,089.68

<sup>1</sup>Water-use data for Sioux County reflect water use for the entire county, not just North Platte NRD.

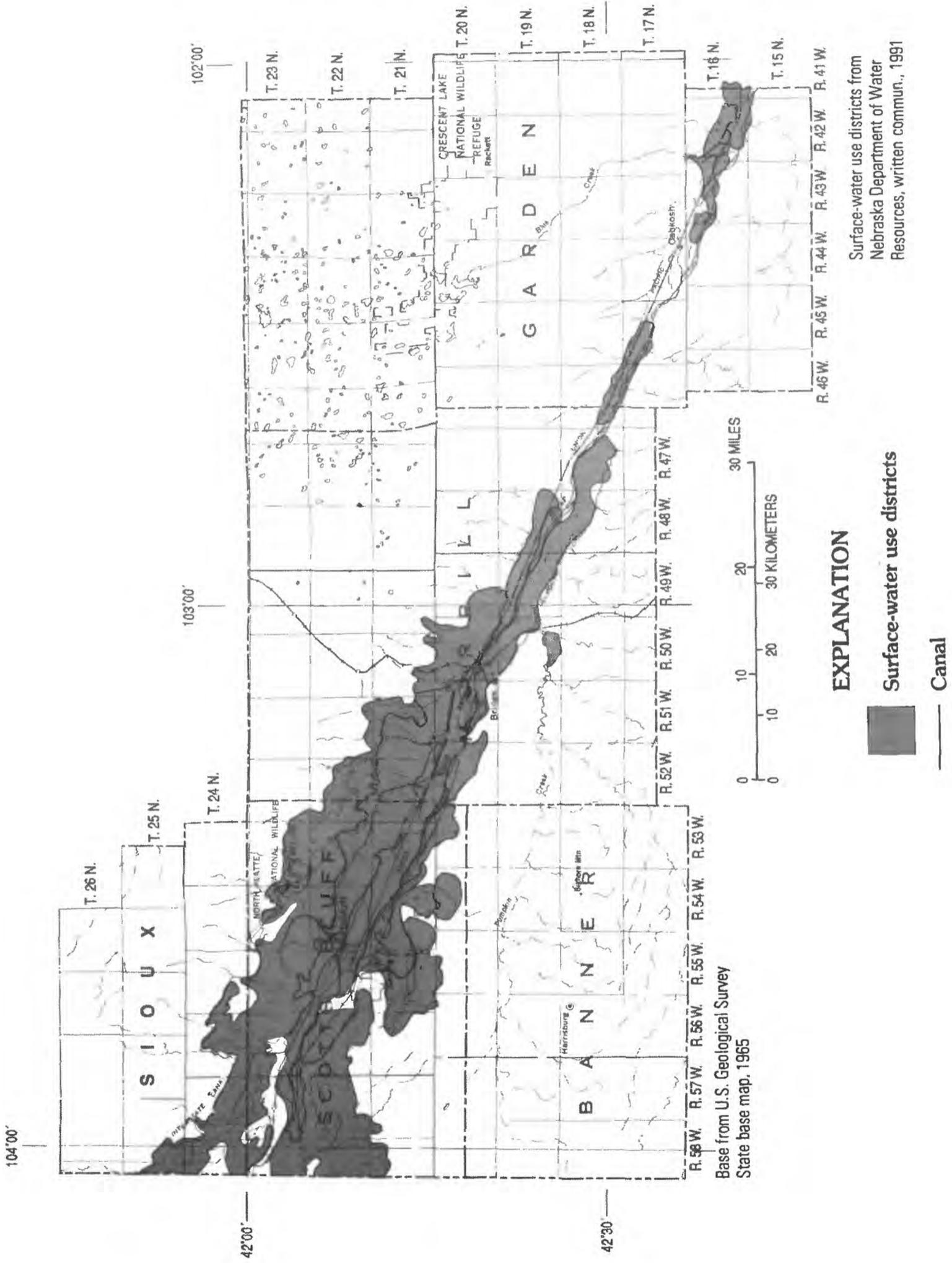


Figure 7. Surface-water use districts in the North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska.

water-bearing units of Quaternary age was moderately hard and was a calcium magnesium bicarbonate type, with relatively large sulfate and small chloride concentrations. The water in the undifferentiated Cretaceous water-bearing units was considered unsuitable for irrigation because of large sodium concentrations.

Durum (1952) performed a comprehensive study of the ground-water chemistry in the Pumpkin Creek area in Morrill and Banner Counties. Durum (1952) concluded that water in the undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age was more mineralized, softer, and less siliceous than water in overlying water-bearing units and that large chloride concentrations were an indication of the marine origin of the water. He also concluded that, up to the time of his study, irrigation had not adversely affected the quality of ground water in Morrill and Banner Counties. Durum (1950) also published some water-quality data for Scotts Bluff and southern Sioux Counties.

Smith and Souders (1975) determined that, in Banner County, water in the water-bearing units in the Chadron Formation was a sodium bicarbonate type and moderately hard, and that water in the fractured-bedrock and sand water-bearing units of the Brule Formation was a calcium sodium bicarbonate type with moderate hardness. Water in the overlying water-bearing units generally was characterized as a calcium bicarbonate type with moderate hardness.

Chemical analyses of ground-water samples obtained from the Arikaree Group water-bearing units and fractured-bedrock and sand water-bearing units of the Brule Formation in southern Sioux County indicated a calcium bicarbonate type water with large quantities of silica (Rainwater, 1956). The water had small boron concentrations and a small amount of sodium.

The Conservation and Survey Division of the University of Nebraska produced ground-water dissolved nitrate-as-nitrogen ( $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ ) concentration maps of the Scotts Bluff and Alliance quadrangles (1 x 2 degree series) (Conservation and Survey Division, 1980a, 1980b). The maps indicated that dissolved-nitrate concentrations generally were less than 7.6 mg/L as N. Only 3 percent of the water samples collected in the Scotts Bluff quadrangle had dissolved-nitrate concentrations that exceeded 10 mg/L as N. Large

dissolved-nitrate concentrations were detected mainly in samples collected from shallow stock and domestic wells, which are considered more susceptible to contamination from septic tanks, barnyards, and abandoned feedlots (Conservation and Survey Division, 1980a). Exner (1990) studied increased dissolved-nitrate concentrations in the ground water of the North Platte Valley west of Oshkosh in Morrill County. The study indicated that dissolved-nitrate concentrations generally were larger than 10 mg/L in the top 40 feet of the unconfined aquifer than in water at depths greater than 40 feet; however, some dissolved-nitrate concentrations were larger at depths below 40 feet in the unconfined aquifer near irrigation wells. Exner (1990) showed that water from the Quaternary-age sediments had relatively small calculated dissolved-solids concentrations and was a calcium bicarbonate type.

The Nebraska Department of Health performed a survey throughout the State to assess problems associated with the occurrence of radiochemical elements in water from private wells (Nebraska Department of Health, written commun., 1991). Results of the survey indicated that activities of gross alpha exceeded 30 pCi/L (picocuries per liter) near the North Platte Valley in Scotts Bluff and Morrill Counties; gross alpha varied from 15.5 to 148.8 pCi/L within the study area. If gross alpha in the ground-water samples exceeded 15.0 pCi/L, the samples also were analyzed for uranium and radium. The data indicated that a uranium activity varied from 8.6 to 99.3 pCi/L and that radium activity varied from 0.1 to 0.7 pCi/L. In addition, a reconnaissance of the geochemistry of ground water and streambed-sediment samples in the Scottsbluff quadrangle was done.

## **SAMPLE COLLECTION AND LABORATORY PROCEDURES**

Standard USGS procedures were used for water-quality sampling, laboratory analyses, and quality assurance. This section represents an overview of these procedures.

## Well Selection

One hundred twenty wells were selected for sampling to describe the ground-water quality in the study area. The wells were selected on the basis of their areal distribution and completion zones relative to the water-bearing units of interest to the study. Approximately 1,990 Nebraska registration well forms were examined to obtain sample sites representative of the ground water in water-bearing units:

- (1) Quaternary-age water-bearing units,
- (2) Ogallala Group water-bearing units,
- (3) Arikaree Group water-bearing units,
- (4) Fractured-bedrock water-bearing units in the Brule Formation,
- (5) Sand water-bearing units in the Brule Formation,
- (6) Chadron Formation water-bearing units, and
- (7) Undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age.

A modified random approach was used to select 109 wells completed in the water-bearing units. The selection was done by water-bearing unit and by county. The number of water samples selected within a given county was a function of the number of wells within the county and the proportion of the county's surface area to the surface area of the North Platte NRD. In addition, the number of water samples collected from wells completed in each water-bearing unit in a county was a function of the number of wells within that county that were completed in the respective water-bearing unit. Onsite deviations of the sample design were unavoidable because some pre-selected wells, especially the irrigation wells, were not pumping due to climatic conditions. Because of above-normal precipitation during the time of sampling, farmers used surface water from nearby canals rather than ground water. Seventy-four wells selected for sampling were completed in the Quaternary-age water-bearing units, 13 in the Ogallala Group, 16 in the fractured bedrock of the Brule Formation, and 6 in the sand water-bearing units in the Brule Formation.

Eleven wells completed in the Arikaree Group and Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age also were selected for sampling. On the basis

of information from the 1,990 registration forms, only 7 wells were determined to be screened in the Arikaree Group water-bearing units, 17 in the Chadron Formation water-bearing units, and 3 in the undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age. Because of the small number of wells completed in the Arikaree Group and Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age, the modified random approach described above could not be met. As a result, the number of wells available for sampling (11 wells) determined the number of water samples selected from these water-bearing units (11). Water samples were collected from two wells completed in the Arikaree Group water-bearing units, six wells completed in the Chadron Formation water-bearing units, and three wells completed in the undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age.

Of the 120 wells sampled, 101 were irrigation wells, 7 were municipal wells, 3 were industrial wells, and 9 were domestic wells. A listing of the number of wells selected in each water-bearing unit for each class of analytes is given in table 5.

A subsample of 44 of the 120 wells was selected for more detailed analyses. Thirty-three wells were selected using the modified random approach. Again, the same sampling scheme could not be used to select wells completed in the Arikaree Group, Chadron Formation, and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age. Consequently, all 11 wells completed in these water-bearing units were selected for more detailed water-quality determination.

In addition, for aldicarb analyses, a subset of 42 of the 120 samples was selected at random, and 4 samples were selected from areas where aldicarb was known to be used on beets at the sample site (table 5). Finally, a subset of 30 of the 120 samples was selected at random for additional analysis of the herbicide 2,4-D and related chlorophenoxy-acid compounds (table 5).

## Water-Quality Sampling

Water samples from 120 wells were collected during June and July of 1991 (fig. 8 and tables 6 and 7 at the end of this report). Onsite observations included evaluation of well integrity, potential point sources—septic tanks, feedlot, industry—

**Table 5.** Number of wells selected for constituent analysis by water-bearing unit

Water-bearing units	Dissolved nitrates and triazine enzyme assays and field measurements	Major ions, major metals, trace elements, and radionuclides	Quantitative triazine and acetanilide analyses	Aldicarb enzyme assays	Aldicarb quantitative analyses	2,4-D immunoassays
Quaternary age	74	21	35	26	9	17
Ogallala Group	13	5	2	1	1	1
Arikaree Group	2	2	1	2	1	1
Fractured bedrock in the Brule Formation	16	4	4	5	0	2
Sand in the Brule Formation	6	3	2	3	0	1
Chadron Formation	6	6	1	6	1	5
Undifferentiated units of Cretaceous age	3	3	0	3	1	3
Total	120	44	45	46	13	30

prevalent land use, and determination of land-surface altitudes at each sample site. Prevalent land use and apparent potential point sources within a 1-mile radius of the sample location were noted on the field-data sheets to aid in the interpretation of anomalous water chemistry.

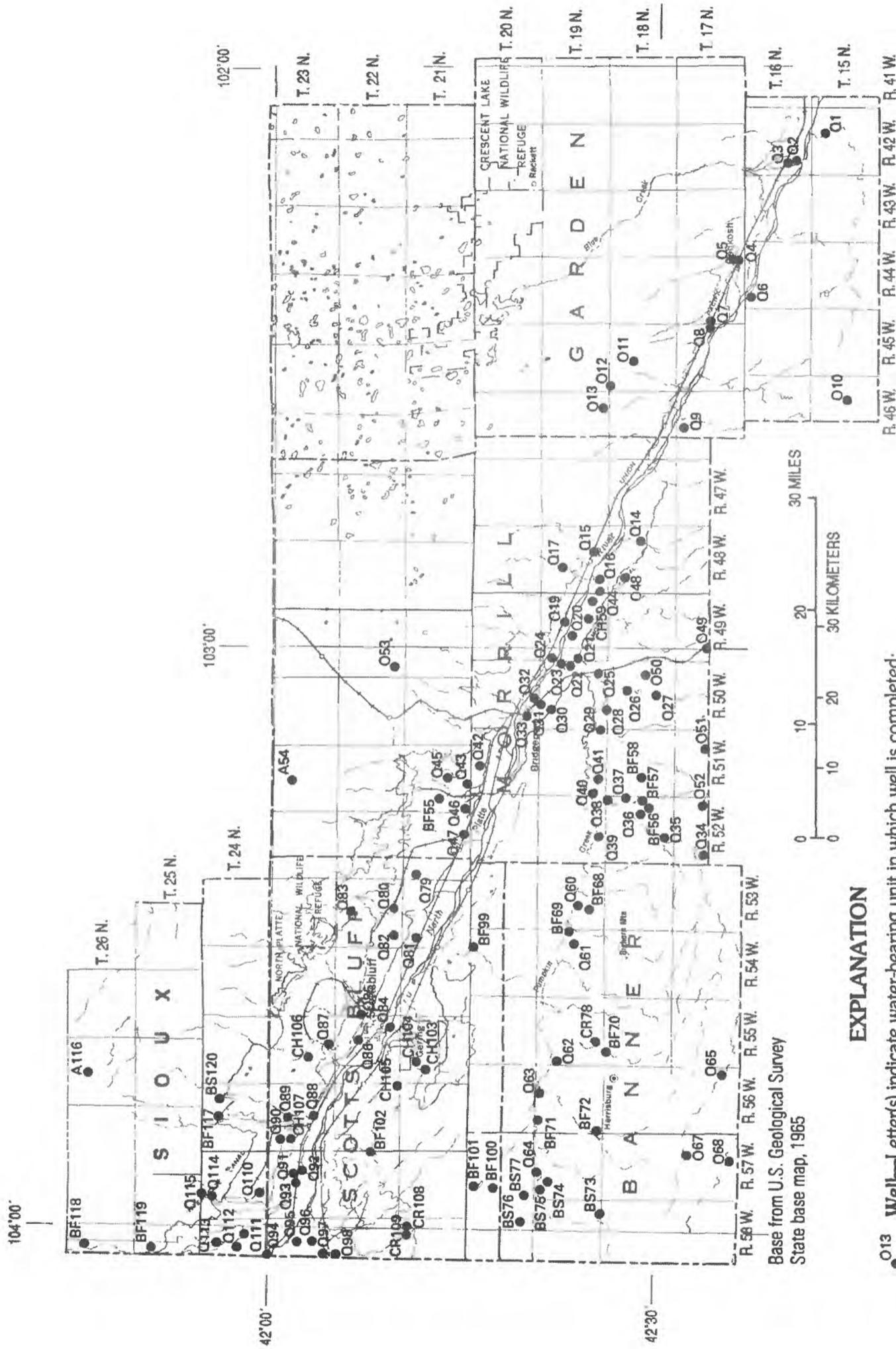
Water was collected from each well as close to the wellhead as possible. By using a flow-through chamber, specific conductance, pH, water temperature, and dissolved oxygen (when sample was not collected from a gated pipe) were measured onsite at 5-minute intervals. A water sample was collected after the field measurements indicated that these water-quality properties had stabilized (typically after pumping the well for 15 to 25 minutes). The properties were considered stable upon the basis of three tolerances: specific conductance within 5 percent; pH within 0.1 standard unit; and water temperature within 0.2 °C. These procedures were assumed to be sufficient for collecting water samples that were representative of the water-bearing units surrounding the well screen.

At each well, a water sample was filtered immediately, preserved, and kept chilled at 4 °C prior to analyses for dissolved nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen. An additional water sample was

collected and chilled in an amber glass bottle for triazine-herbicide analysis. In addition, water from the 44 wells selected for detailed chemical analysis was sampled for concentrations of dissolved major cations and anions, major metals, trace elements, and radionuclides. All water samples were filtered and preserved onsite as described by Pritt and Jones (1989). Water samples for radon analysis were collected by use of a syringe method. Forty-six water samples were tested for aldicarb and related compounds, and 30 water samples were tested for 2,4-D and other chlorophenoxy-acid compounds.

#### Laboratory Procedures

Analyses for dissolved nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen, major cations and anions, and trace elements were done at the USGS laboratory in Arvada, Colorado, in accordance with the standard methods described by Fishman and Friedman (1989). Analyses for alpha and beta radioactivity and radium-226 ( $Ra^{226}$ ) also were done at the USGS laboratory in Arvada in accordance with USEPA methods 900.0 and 903.1, respectively. The analyses for radon ( $Rn^{222}$ ) were done by scintillation (Whittaker and others, 1989). The



**EXPLANATION**

- **O13 Well**—Letter(s) indicate water-bearing unit in which well is completed:
  - Q, Quaternary-age units,
  - O, Ogallala Group units,
  - A, Arikaree Group units,
  - BF, Fractured-bedrock units in the Brule Formation,
  - BS, Sand units in the Brule Formation,
  - CH, Chadron Formation units, and
  - CR, Undifferentiated units of Cretaceous age.
- Number is sequence number given in tables 6 and 7 at end of the report

**Figure 8.** Location of sampled wells, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska.

concentrations of dissolved nitrate plus nitrite, considered to be mostly dissolved nitrate under freshwater conditions and generally reported as nitrogen (N), are referred to as such in tables 6 through 15 and are referred to as dissolved nitrate in the remainder of the text and figures. Analyses for uranium (U) concentrations and isotopic ratios of uranium-234 to uranium-238 ( $^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$ ) were done at the USGS laboratory in Reston, Virginia, using an isotope-dilution method (Thatcher and others, 1977).

Concentrations of the herbicides and insecticides were determined using a two-tiered approach to decrease laboratory cost. Total triazine content was estimated qualitatively using an enzyme-assay test with a differential photometer. If a water sample contained more than 0.10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$  (microgram per liter) of triazine compounds according to the enzyme-assay test, it was sent to the USGS laboratory for quantitative analysis of triazine and acetanilide herbicides using solid-phase extraction and gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS). Analyses included alachlor, ametryn, atrazine, cyanazine, deethylatrazine, deisopropyl-atrazine, metolachlor, metribuzin, prometon, prometryn, propazine, and simazine.

Analyses for the herbicide 2,4-D and related chlorophenoxy-acid compounds were done semi-qualitatively using an enzyme-assay test. The method used a titre-plate assembly and a plate reader with a reporting level of 0.5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ .

Similarly, water samples from 46 wells were tested qualitatively with an enzyme-assay kit for the presence of aldicarb, aldicarb sulfone, and aldicarb sulfoxide. If a water sample contained more than 1.0  $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$  of carbamate insecticides according to the enzyme-assay test, the water sample was analyzed for carbamate insecticides at the U.S. Geological Survey laboratory in Arvada using liquid chromatography. In total, 13 water samples were analyzed at the laboratory for carbamate insecticides, which included aldicarb, aldicarb sulfoxide, aldicarb sulfone, carbaryl, carbofuran, 3-hydroxycarbifuran, methiocarb, methomyl, 1-naphthol, oxamyl, propham, and propoxur. Only four samples showed that carbamate insecticides were present according to the enzyme-assay test.

## Quality Control and Quality Assurance

The chance of unrecognized contamination of the water-quality samples, including bottles and preservatives, was reduced through quality-control measures. The quality-assurance program at the USGS laboratories includes participation in the USGS and USEPA interlaboratory evaluations and submission of blind standard reference water samples to the USGS laboratory sample stream (Friedman and Fishman, 1982; Jones, 1987). In addition, cation-anion balances were calculated for each complete analysis to ensure internally consistent data.

At least 10 percent of all enzyme-assay tests were repeated on another aliquot of water sample as a measure of the test's reproducibility. In addition, five equipment blanks were sent to the USGS laboratory in Arvada for analyses of triazine and acetanilide herbicides. Seven equipment blanks were sent to the USGS laboratory for analysis of carbamates as a quality-assurance check. Field replicates were not collected. Laboratory quality control and quality assurance for the gas-chromatographic analyses included use of standard matrix spikes, blanks, and internal blanks.

## DATA-ANALYSIS PROCEDURES

Statistical analyses of water-quality data are useful tools in the identification of potential water-quality problems. For example, significant differences in the magnitude of the water-quality constituent values may indicate variations in geology, hydrology, and effect of point- and nonpoint-contamination sources among and within the water-bearing units. The data were grouped for selected statistical tests to illustrate the water-quality patterns characteristic of the water-bearing units. In addition to the statistical analyses, maps are included to illustrate the spatial distribution and regional variations of selected constituents through use of a geographic information system (GIS).

The Shapiro-Wilk test (Helsel and Hirsch, 1992) rejected ( $\alpha=0.05$ ) the hypotheses of normality for all water-quality variables of interest to this study, except for radium-226. Water-quality data typically show asymmetrical distributions or are said to be skewed. Skewness is readily

observed in boxplots illustrating the asymmetric distribution of the data around a mean or median. Therefore, nonparametric statistical analyses were used for data analyses in this report. Nonparametric statistics are techniques that generally are not sensitive to outlying values and do not require stringent assumptions such as normality.

Other analyses included are statistical summaries and boxplots. The boxplots are used to summarize graphically the variability of the constituents by water-bearing units and by county. Outliers, values located outside the boxes and whiskers of the boxplots, may indicate unusual hydrologic conditions, such as local mineralogical differences within the water-bearing units or the effects of seepage from an external source such as a canal, a cattle operation, or a landfill.

Hypothesis tests were used to evaluate whether differences in the data could be explained by random variability alone. The tests involved the formulation of null and alternate hypotheses, where the null hypothesis was that the populations were identical. Caution should be exercised in drawing broad conclusions about the statistical results due to the small sample size from several water-bearing units analyzed.

The Spearman rank correlation (Helsel and Hirsch, 1992), a nonparametric correlation procedure that involves ranks of data rather than the actual data values, was used to identify the degree of association among water-quality constituents of all water-bearing units. By using an alpha level of 0.001, correlation coefficients ( $r$ ) larger than 0.49 and smaller than -0.49 for a sample size of 44 and larger than 0.30 and smaller than -0.30 for a sample size of 120 were considered significantly correlated.

The large-sample-approximation Kruskal-Wallis test (Helsel and Hirsch, 1992), a nonparametric analysis of variance procedure that involves ranks of data rather than the data values, was used to determine whether differences existed among the water quality of the water-bearing units under study (table 16 at the end of the report). The probability (given as a  $p$  value) that represents the attained significance level ( $p$  value) is presented in the first column of table 16. If the  $p$  value is smaller than or equal to a preselected alpha value, the null hypothesis is rejected; hence, the distribution of concentrations was not the same in all the

water-bearing units. The test determines that the distribution of concentrations in at least one water-bearing unit is different from the others, but not in which one(s). In this report an alpha level of 0.001 was selected for data interpretation.

Tukey's test, (Helsel and Hirsch, 1992), was used in the data interpretation if the  $p$  value of the Kruskal-Wallis test was less than 0.001 (table 17 at the end of the report). Tukey's test determined which water-bearing units had significantly different distributions of concentrations and assigned groups of water-bearing units with similar distributions of concentrations. After completion of this procedure, the Wilcoxon Rank Sum test, the Kruskal-Wallis test for only two groups, was performed. The Wilcoxon Rank Sum test was performed on data collected from groups of water-bearing units on the basis of known geohydrologic differences between the water-bearing units, for example, water data collected from confined water-bearing units compared to all other units (last four columns in table 16).

A simple substitution method was used to include censored data, also called "less thans" in the statistical analyses. All values less than the detection level were considered to be zero for the Shapiro-Wilk test and the creation of boxplots. Substitution of zeros for censored data was not done for the nonparametric tests because all censored data are represented by ranks tied at values lower than the lowest rank above the detection limit.

## GROUND-WATER QUALITY

This section addresses the quality of the principal ground water used in the study area, including selected nutrients, organic pesticides, major elements, major metals and trace elements, radionuclides, and related health concerns. The discussion focuses on the areal and vertical differences in water quality and describes suitability of use for drinking water and irrigation. The discussion also relates the chemistry of the water to the minerals present in the soil and unsaturated and saturated deposits.

All water-quality data are reported in tables 6 and 7 at the end of the report. A statistical summary of the data and summary by water-

bearing unit, except herbicide and insecticide data, is presented in tables 8 through 15 at the end of the report. Drinking-water regulations and criteria established by the USEPA to safeguard public health and welfare also are included in tables 8 through 15. In addition, the USGS's National Water Information System (NWIS) and Water Data Storage and Retrieval (WATSTORE) data bases contain all of the water-quality data.

## Nitrate and Selected Organic Pesticides

### Nitrate

One of the purposes of the study was to evaluate the effect of agricultural practices on water quality within the study area. Durum (1952) suggested that irrigation had not affected the water quality in the Pumpkin Creek area. Dissolved nitrate probably is the contaminant most frequently encountered in rural areas because of its relatively large leaching potential. As a component of fertilizer, it is applied on cropland, especially irrigated cropland in areas with shallow water-bearing units (Spalding, 1991). In general, shallow ground water can be affected by solutes transported through the unsaturated zone from the land surface.

The dissolved-nitrate concentrations presented in this report are expressed in terms of equivalent elemental nitrogen (N) content. Dissolved-nitrate concentrations are converted to the equivalent nitrogen by dividing the dissolved-nitrate concentration by 4.43. The dissolved-nitrate concentrations in this study varied from less than the detection level (0.05 mg/L as N) to 19.0 mg/L as N, with a median of 4.1 mg/L as N and a standard deviation of 3.24 (table 8). The areal distribution of dissolved-nitrate (as nitrogen) concentrations is shown in figure 9. Boxplots that show the differences in dissolved-nitrate-concentration distributions by water-bearing unit and by county, and the distribution of well depths by water-bearing unit are shown in figure 10. The summary statistics of dissolved-nitrate concentrations for each water-bearing unit and respective well depths are given in tables 9 through 15.

The tables and boxplots indicate that the largest median dissolved-nitrate concentrations (greater than 4.0 mg/L as N) are found in water from the Quaternary-age water-bearing units and

both fractured-bedrock and sand water-bearing units in the Brule Formation. All three water-bearing units have shallow well depths (median depths of 84, 100, and 125 feet, respectively) and are in areas along Pumpkin Creek and the Platte River where both ground- and surface-water irrigation is most intense. Water from wells that are completed in the Chadron Formation and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age and that have median well depths of 460 and 305 feet, respectively, have median dissolved-nitrate concentrations less than the detection level (0.05 mg/L as N).

Data from tables 9 through 15 and results from the Kruskal-Wallis test (table 16) indicate that the distribution of concentrations of dissolved nitrate was not the same in all water-bearing units. Results from Tukey's test (Helsel and Hirsch, 1992) (table 17) indicate that water from the Quaternary-age, Ogallala Group, and Arikaree Group water-bearing units and fractured-bedrock and sand water-bearing units in the Brule Formation do not have the same distribution of dissolved-nitrate concentrations. The Wilcoxon Rank Sum test (table 16) indicates that the distribution of concentrations of dissolved nitrate in the Quaternary-age water-bearing units was different than the distribution in the other water-bearing units. Similarly, the Wilcoxon Rank Sum test indicated that the distribution of concentrations of dissolved nitrate in the Chadron Formation and undifferentiated Cretaceous-age water-bearing units was different than the distributions in the other aquifers.

Less than one-fourth of the water samples (27 of 120) have dissolved-nitrate concentrations greater than 6.0 mg/L as N. Boxplots of dissolved-nitrate concentration by county (fig. 10) show that median dissolved-nitrate concentrations are equal to or less than 5.0 mg/L as N. Garden County, the county with the least number of irrigated acres within the North Platte NRD, has the smallest median dissolved-nitrate concentration. The wells that produce ground water with dissolved-nitrate concentrations greater or equal to 5.0 mg/L as N (fig. 9) correspond mainly to areas with large numbers of irrigation wells, surface-water use districts (fig. 7), and the shallowest wells. In these areas, the Quaternary-age water-bearing units and fractured-bedrock and sand water-bearing units in

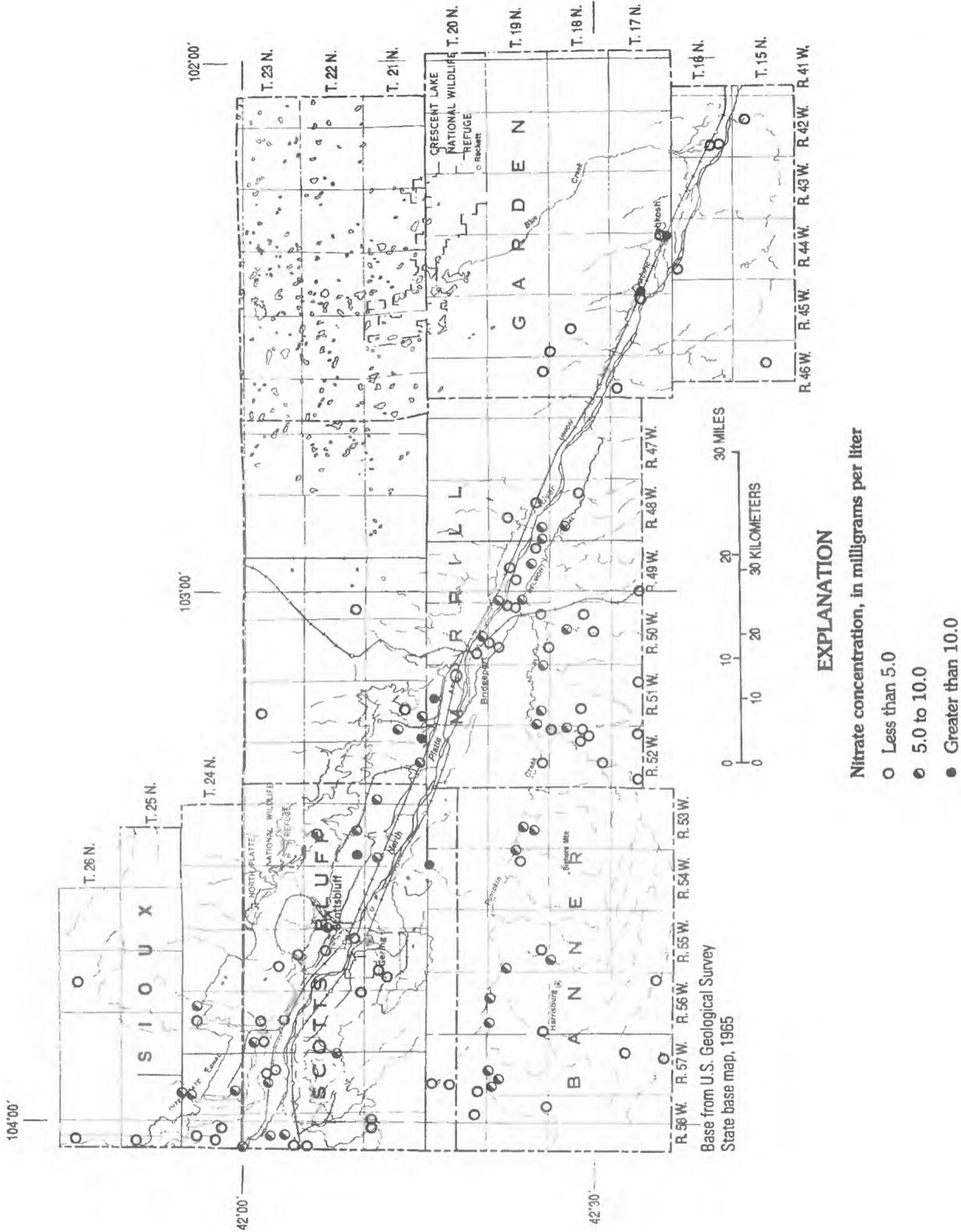


Figure 9. Dissolved-nitrate concentrations in ground water, June and July 1991, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska.

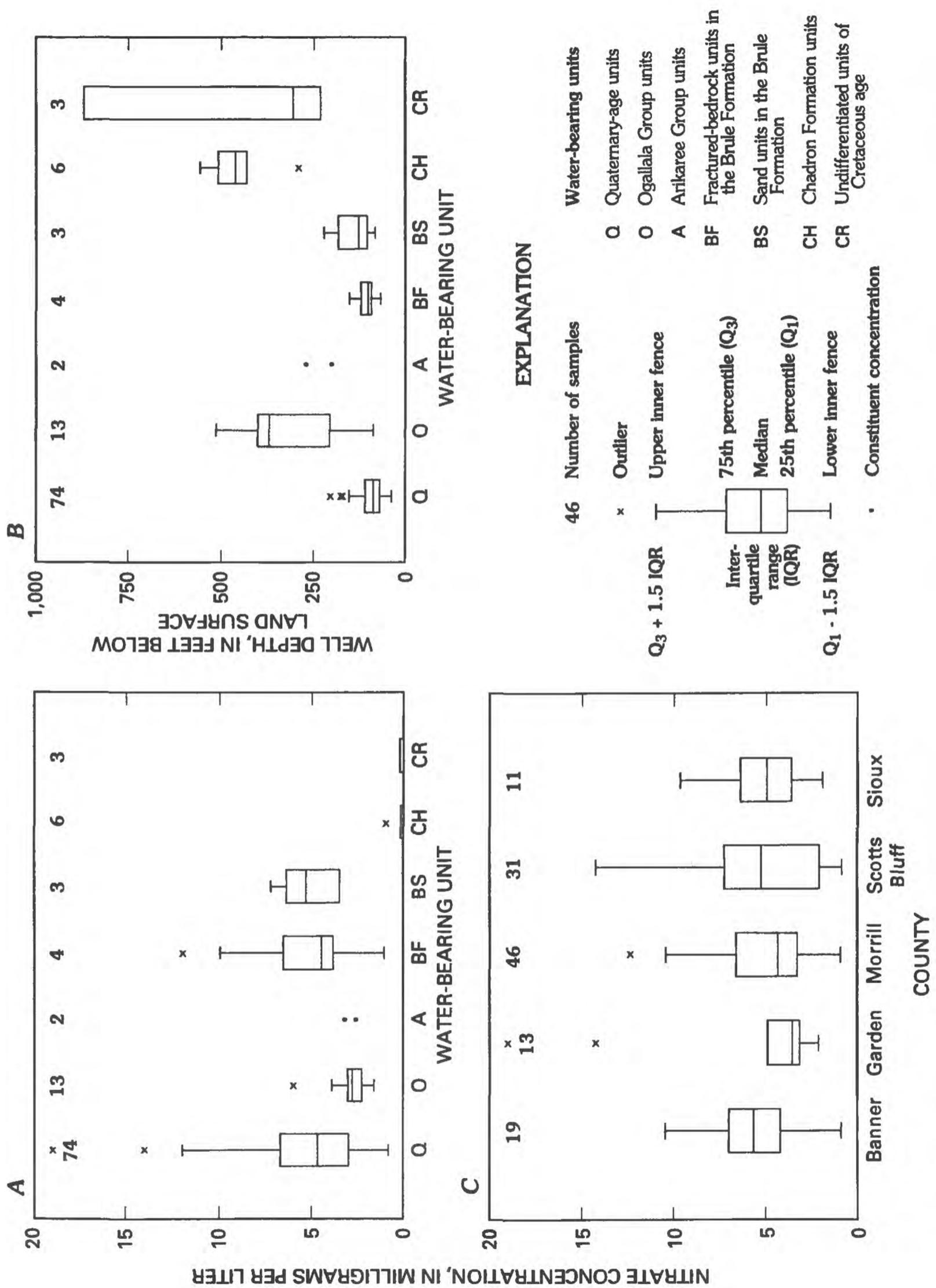


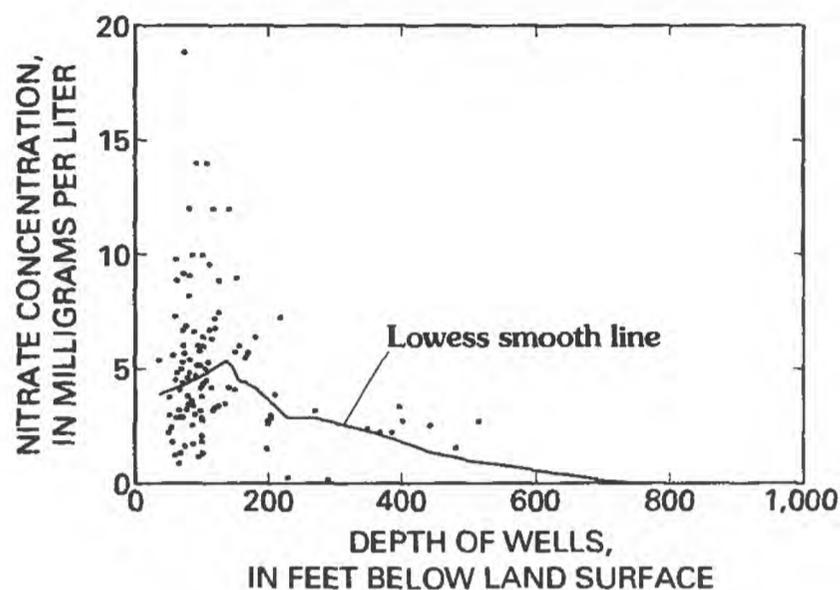
Figure 10. Distribution of (A) dissolved-nitrate concentrations by water-bearing unit, (B) well depth by water-bearing unit, and (C) dissolved-nitrate concentration by county in ground water, June and July 1991, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska.

the Brule Formation are the primary ground-water sources. Where both Quaternary-age water-bearing units and fractured-bedrock and sand water-bearing units in the Brule Formation are present, hydraulic connection exists between the units. Many irrigation wells in Scotts Bluff and Banner Counties have a continuous screen through both these units. The larger dissolved-nitrate concentrations are in ground water in areas with generally small to intermediate soil permeability in the bottomlands, which have been cultivated longer. This indicates that small to intermediate soil permeability in the North Platte NRD does not prevent contaminants from reaching the shallow water-bearing units, provided that enough time has elapsed since the beginning of application of fertilizer on the land surface.

The scatterplot of dissolved nitrate as nitrogen as a function of depth shows that only ground water obtained from wells less than 200 feet deep contained dissolved-nitrate concentrations greater than 10 mg/L as N (fig. 11). Smaller dissolved-nitrate concentrations in the Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age (fig. 10) can be explained by the reduced leaching of dissolved nitrates at depth due to the presence of confining layers or by denitrification under reducing conditions in the deeper layers.

Even though dissolved nitrate can originate from natural sources such as mineralization of soil organic matter and from other sources such as domestic effluent from septic systems and animal waste, most large dissolved-nitrate concentrations in the ground water in rural areas are related to the application of fertilizers on cropland (Spalding and others, 1978; Gormly and Spalding, 1979; Spalding and Kitchen, 1988; Hallberg, 1989). Other studies have shown that large dissolved-nitrate and sulfate concentrations are probably a result of addition of solutes associated with soil amendments (Spalding and Exner, 1980). The data collected for this study indicate that dissolved-nitrate and sulfate concentrations are positively correlated ( $r = 0.65$ ).

The MCL of 10 mg/L as N for dissolved nitrate was exceeded in the ground water obtained from six wells (table 6). These instances may have resulted from use of nitrogen fertilizers (wells Q4, Q7, Q42, Q46, BF99, Q83 with 14.0 mg/L,



**Figure 11.** Relation between dissolved-nitrate concentration in ground-water samples and well depth, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska.

19.0 mg/L, 12.0 mg/L, 12.0 mg/L, 12.0 mg/L, and 14.0 mg/L as N, respectively). These irrigation wells are completed in the Quaternary-age water-bearing units, except well BF99, which is screened in the fractured-bedrock water-bearing units in the Brule Formation. The depths of the wells with water containing large dissolved-nitrate concentrations range from 70 to 140 feet.

### Selected Organic Pesticides

Enzyme-assay testing for triazine herbicides and metabolites (120 water samples) and carbamate insecticides (46 water samples) resulted in 28 and 6 detections, respectively. Enzyme-assay analyses did not detect 2,4-D and other chlorophenoxy-acid compounds including 2,4-D methyl ester, 2,4-D isopropyl ester, dichlorprop, 2,4,5,-T, and MCPA (table 6). Follow-up quantitative analyses for the triazine herbicides and carbamate insecticides resulted in eight atrazine detections (wells Q4, Q7, Q8, Q21, Q42, O53, Q80, and Q83) with a maximum concentration of 0.47  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , three deethylatrazine detections—a degradation product of atrazine—(wells BF55, Q80, and Q88) with a maximum concentration of 0.18  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , two prometon detections (wells Q31 and Q88) with a maximum concentration of 0.07  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , one alachlor detection (well Q110) with a concentration of

0.11 µg/L, and no carbamate detections (table 6). The minimum and median concentrations of all herbicides and insecticides are below the detection levels. As a result, summary statistics of these constituents are not listed in tables 8 through 15. All but one herbicide detection were located within the North Platte Valley (fig. 12). All detections were less than the proposed MCLs of 2.0 µg/L for alachlor and 3.0 µg/L for atrazine (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1988a). The USEPA has not established MCL's for the remainder of the herbicides detected.

The atrazine and acetanilide concentrations analyzed in the laboratory during this study varied from less than the detection level of 0.05 to 0.47 µg/L (table 6). Atrazine detections correspond to dissolved-nitrate concentrations ranging from 1.7 to 19 mg/L as N and well depths less than 150 feet deep. Statistical analysis did not show a significant correlation between dissolved-nitrate concentrations and triazine detections.

Seven ground-water samples collected from the Quaternary-age water-bearing units and one ground-water sample collected from the Ogallala Group water-bearing units contained detectable atrazine. Overall, the detections of triazines (fig. 12) in ground water were from wells in irrigated areas within the North Platte Valley, specifically in an area surrounding Oshkosh in Garden County and between Bridgeport and Scottsbluff in Banner and Scotts Bluff Counties. All detections of alachlor, deethylatrazine, and prometon were in water samples from irrigation wells, except well Q88, which is a municipal well. All these wells have depths less than 130 feet. Additional information on the distribution of land and pesticide use would help in understanding relations among these water-quality variables and agricultural practices.

## **Major Cations and Anions, pH, Dissolved Oxygen, Specific Conductance, and Calculated Dissolved Solids**

### **Major Cations and Anions and Water Types**

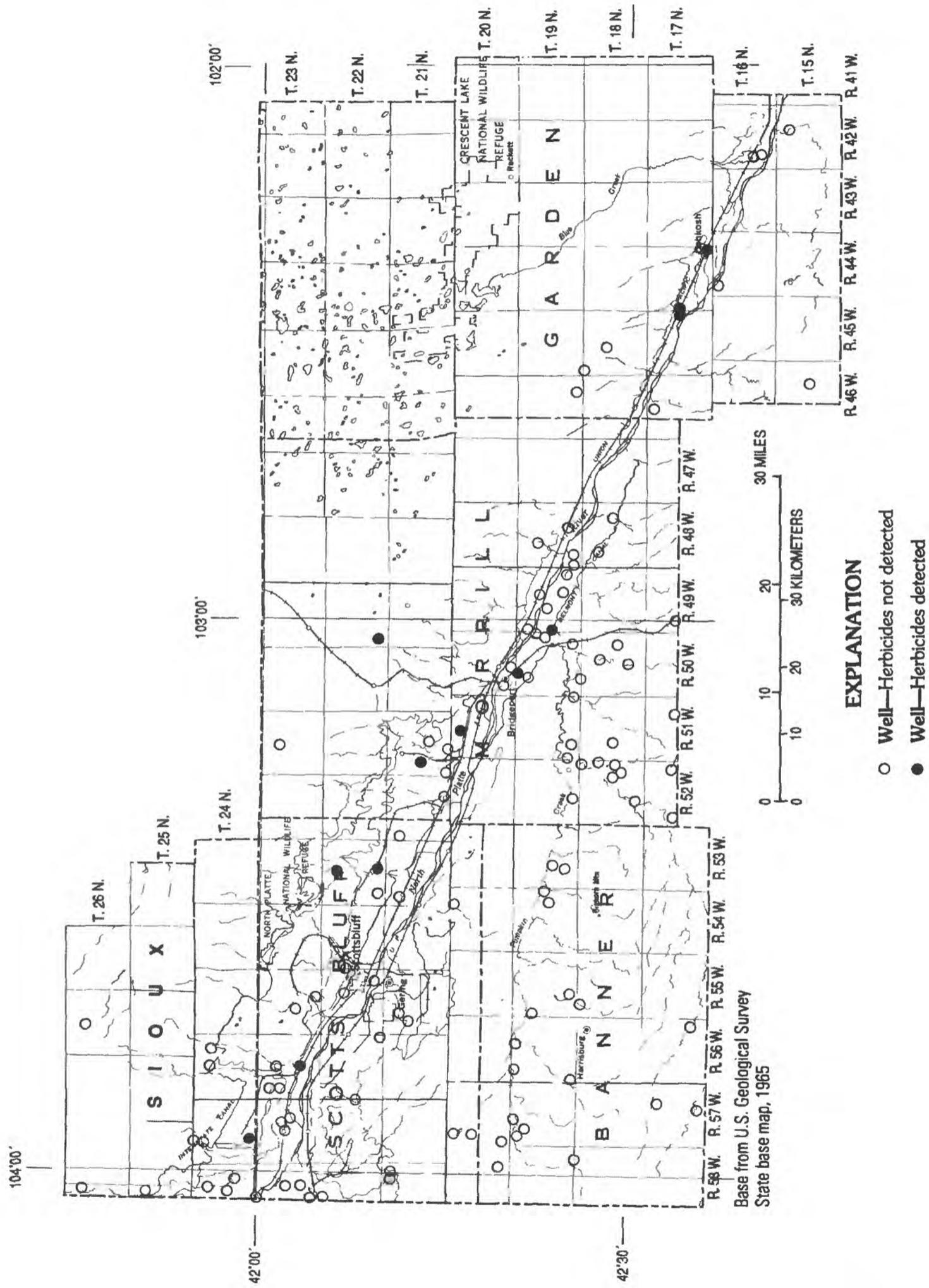
#### **General Statistical Analytical Results**

Relations among the water-quality constituents, well depth, and water temperature were determined using the Spearman rank correlation

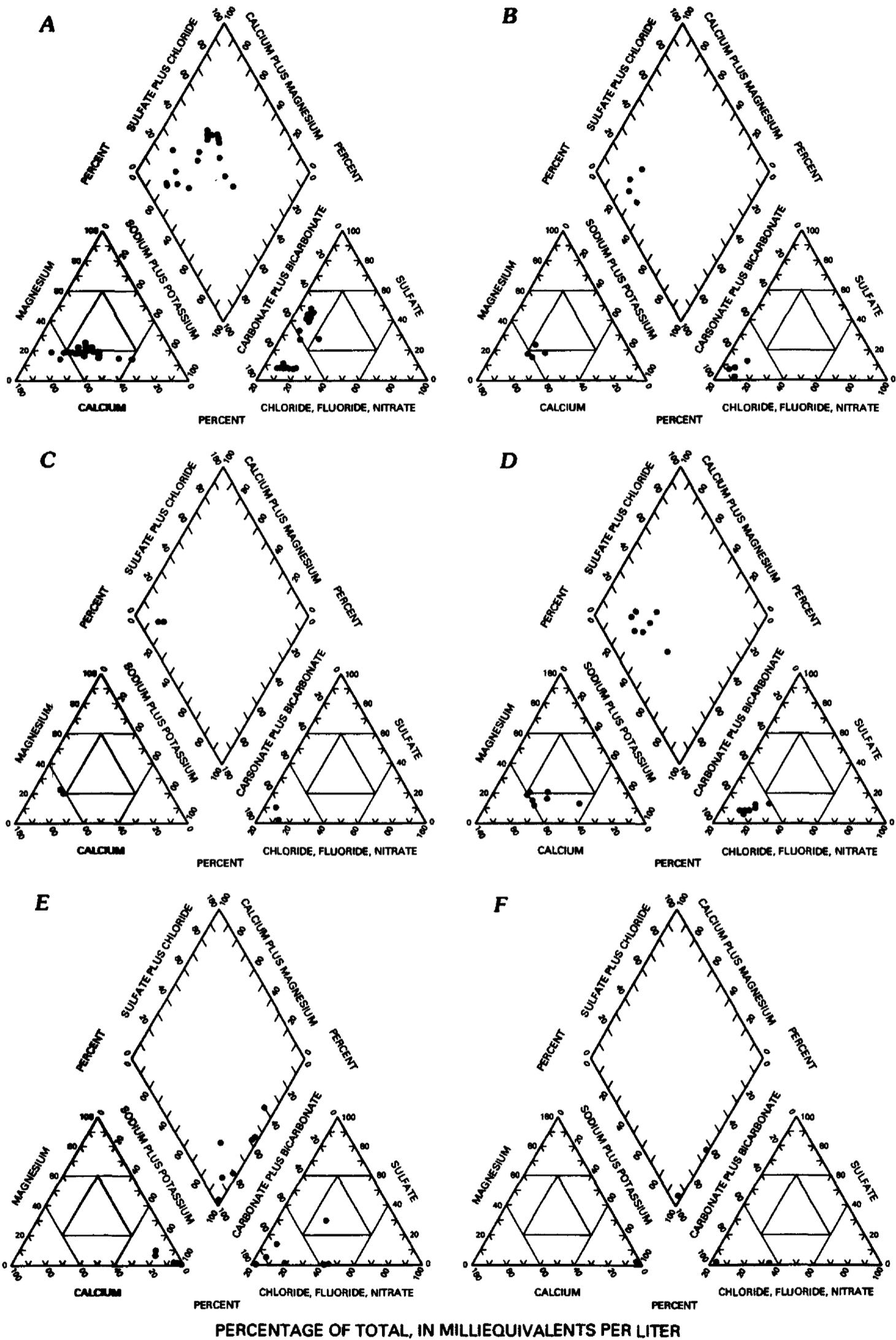
analysis. Significant positive correlations among major cations, bicarbonate (assumed to be the major component of alkalinity), and sulfate may indicate common mineral sources. Constituents with significant positive correlations are magnesium, potassium, and sulfate with calcium ( $r = 0.92$ ,  $r = 0.71$ , and  $r = 0.78$ , respectively), sodium with chloride ( $r = 0.81$ ), and magnesium and potassium with sulfate ( $r = 0.80$  and  $r = 0.58$ , respectively). In addition, the relatively large concentrations of potassium and sulfate in some water samples collected from wells completed in Quaternary-age water-bearing units could indicate nonpoint-source contamination or may be related to the geochemistry of the water-bearing units. Geochemical modeling and mineral and chemical analyses of the geologic strata would aid in interpretation of these relations. The data do not indicate changes in the water quality with depth within the Quaternary-age water-bearing units; this could be the result of the large numbers of irrigation wells or of rapid flow of water into or within the Quaternary-age water-bearing units, both increasing the mixing of water.

Overall, the nonparametric statistical analyses (table 16) and illustrations (figs. 13 and 14) indicate differences in the chemistry of water among the Quaternary-age and Chadron Formation water-bearing units, and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age. The Kruskal-Wallis test (Helsel and Hirsch, 1992) was used to identify differences between water-quality constituents by water-bearing unit (table 16). This test indicated that the distribution of concentrations was not the same in all water-bearing units for all constituents discussed in this section except potassium, sulfate, and chloride.

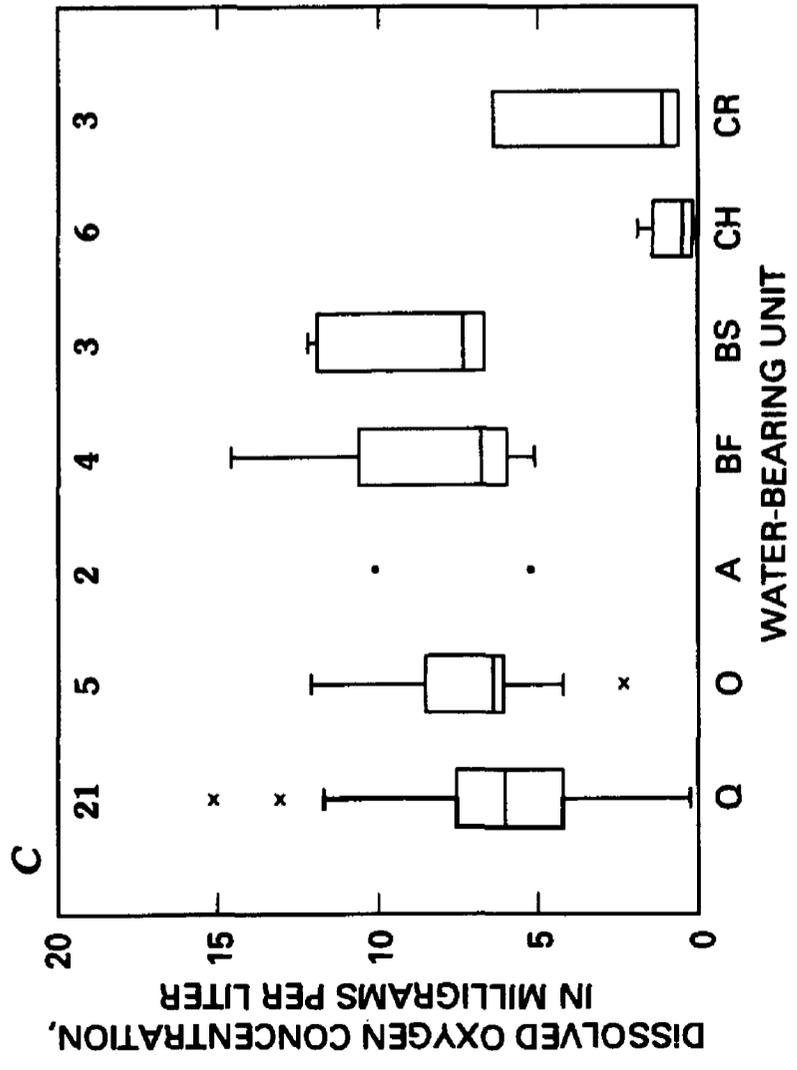
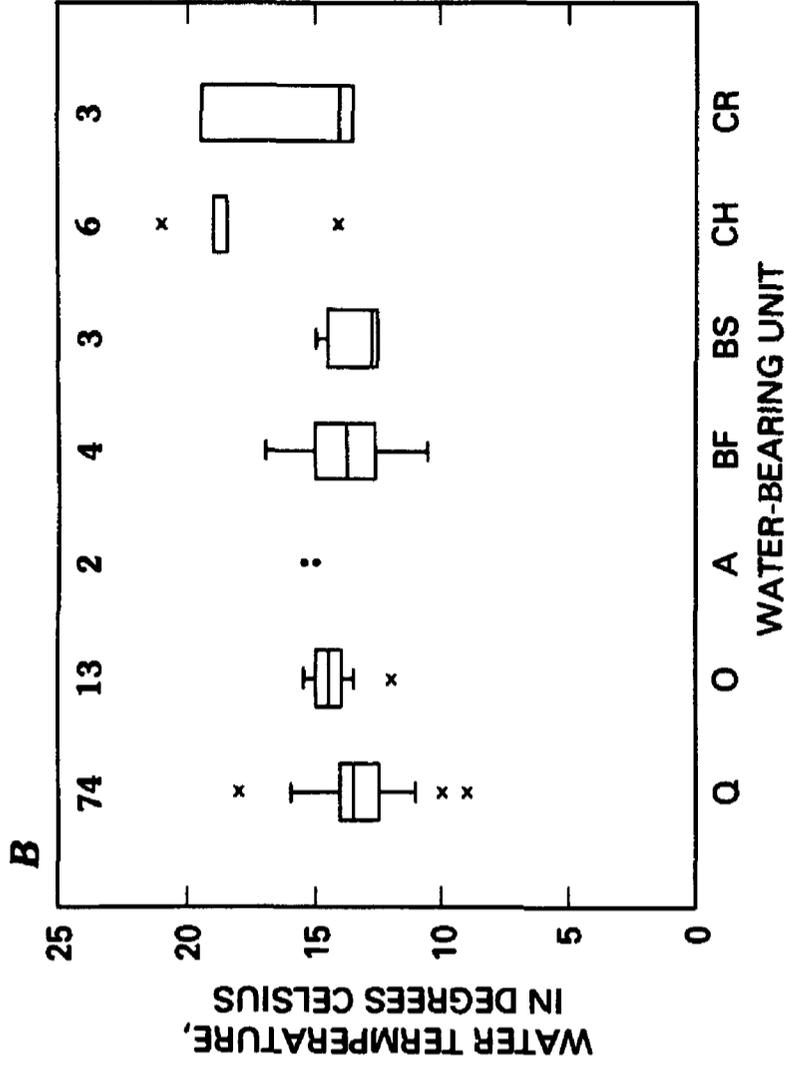
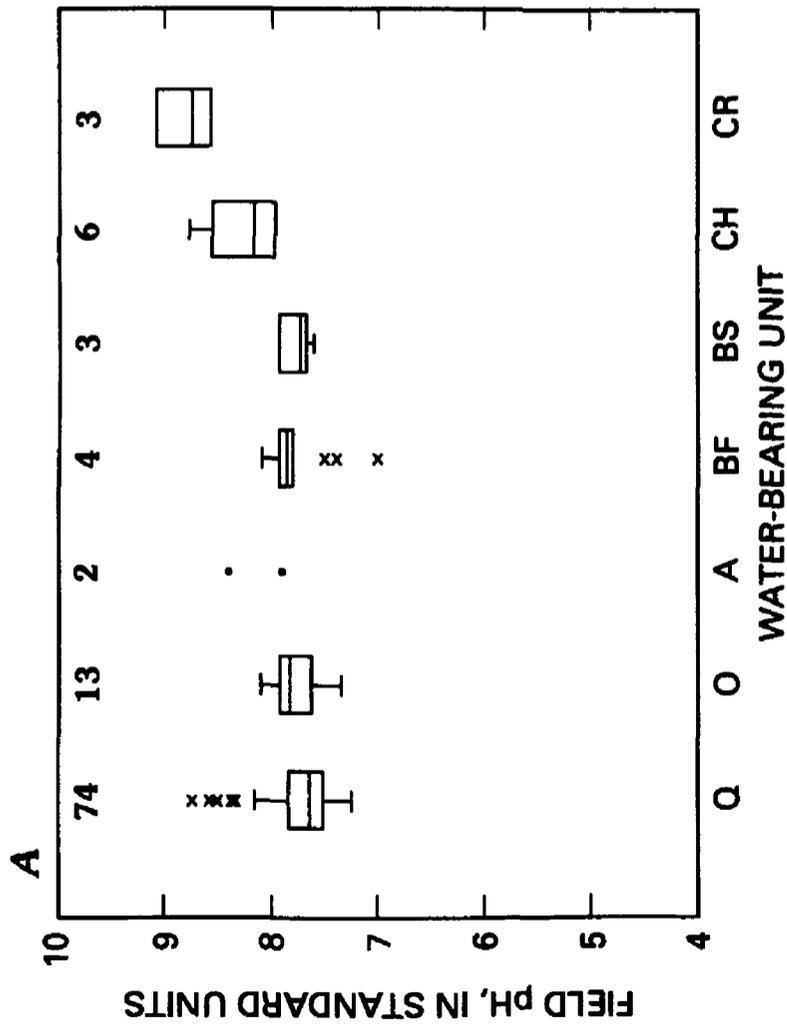
Subsequent testing with Tukey's test (table 17) indicated that water from the Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age had different concentrations of alkalinity and sodium than water from the other water-bearing units. Further, Tukey's test indicated that water from the Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age had a different sodium-adsorption ratio than water from the other units. Tukey's test also indicated that water from the water-bearing units in the Brule Formation, Chadron Formation water-bearing



**Figure 12.** Locations of sampled wells and wells with ground water containing detectable concentrations of the herbicides alachlor, atrazine, deethylatrazine, or prometon, June and July 1991, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska.



**Figure 13.** Ionic composition of ground water by water-bearing unit, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska: (A) Quaternary-age water-bearing units; (B) Ogallala Group water-bearing units; (C) Arikaree Group water-bearing units; (D) fractured-bedrock and sand water-bearing units in the Brule Formation; (E) Chadron Formation water-bearing units; and (F) undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age.



**EXPLANATION**

4 Number of samples

x Outlier

Q<sub>3</sub> + 1.5 IQR Upper inner fence

Inter-quartile range (IQR) 75th percentile (Q<sub>3</sub>) Median 25th percentile (Q<sub>1</sub>) Lower inner fence

Q<sub>1</sub> - 1.5 IQR

• Constituent concentration

⊙ Two samples with similar constituent concentration

**Water-bearing units**

Q Quaternary-age units

O Ogallala Group units

A Arkaree Group units

BF Fractured-bedrock units in the Brule Formation

BS Sand units in the Brule Formation

CH Chadron Formation units

CR Undifferentiated units of Cretaceous age

**Figure 14.** Distributions of (A) field pH, (B) water temperature, (C) dissolved oxygen, (D) hardness, (E) alkalinity, (F) calcium (G) magnesium, (H) sodium, (I) sodium-adsorption ratio, (J) potassium, (K) sulfate, (L) chloride, (M) fluoride, and (N) silica by water-bearing unit, June and July 1991, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska.

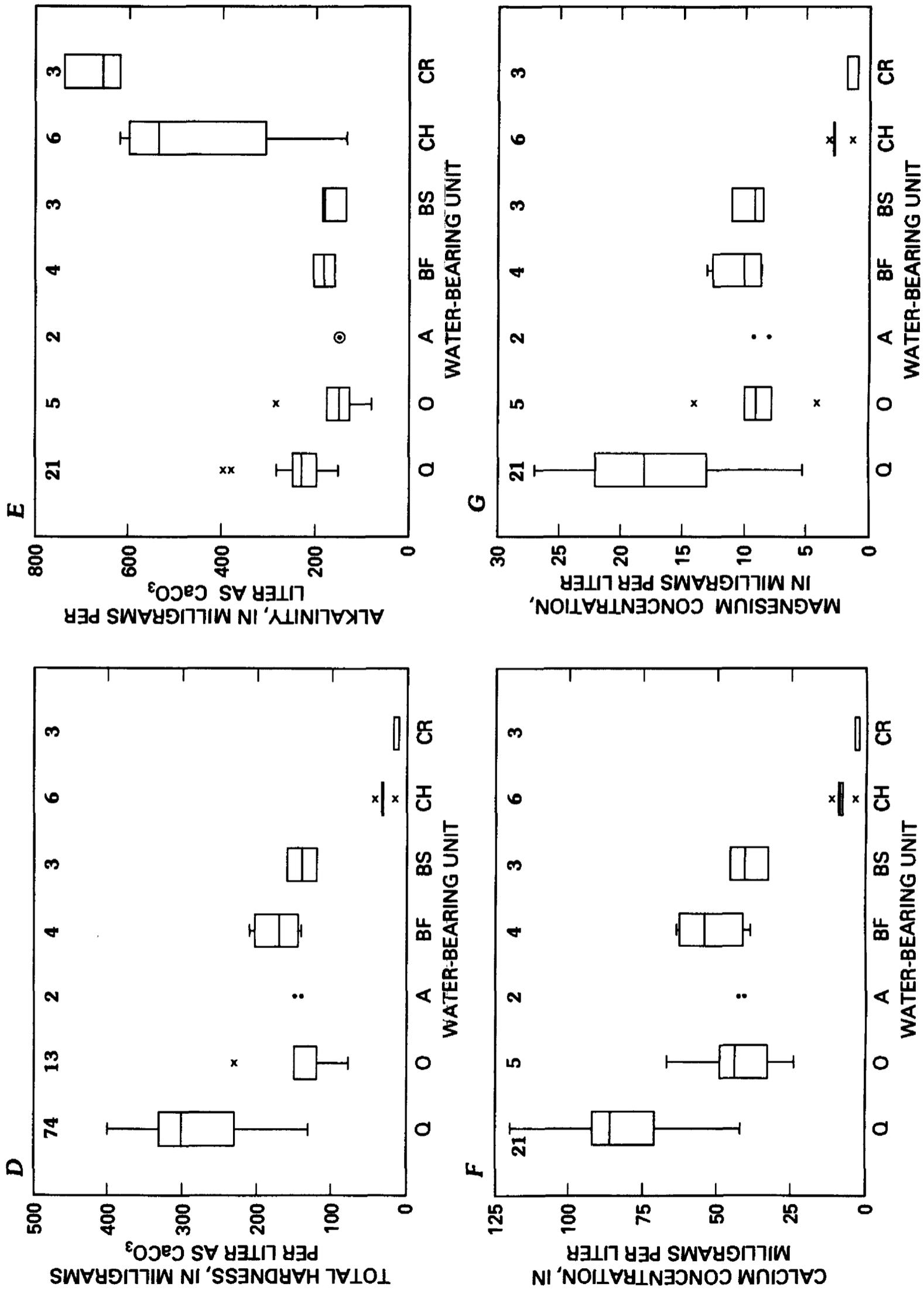


Figure 14. Distributions of (A) field pH, (B) water temperature, (C) dissolved oxygen, (D) hardness, (E) alkalinity, (F) calcium (G) magnesium, (H) sodium, (I) sodium-adsorption ratio, (J) potassium, (K) sulfate, (L) chloride, (M) fluoride, and (N) silica by water-bearing unit, June and July 1991, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska—Continued.

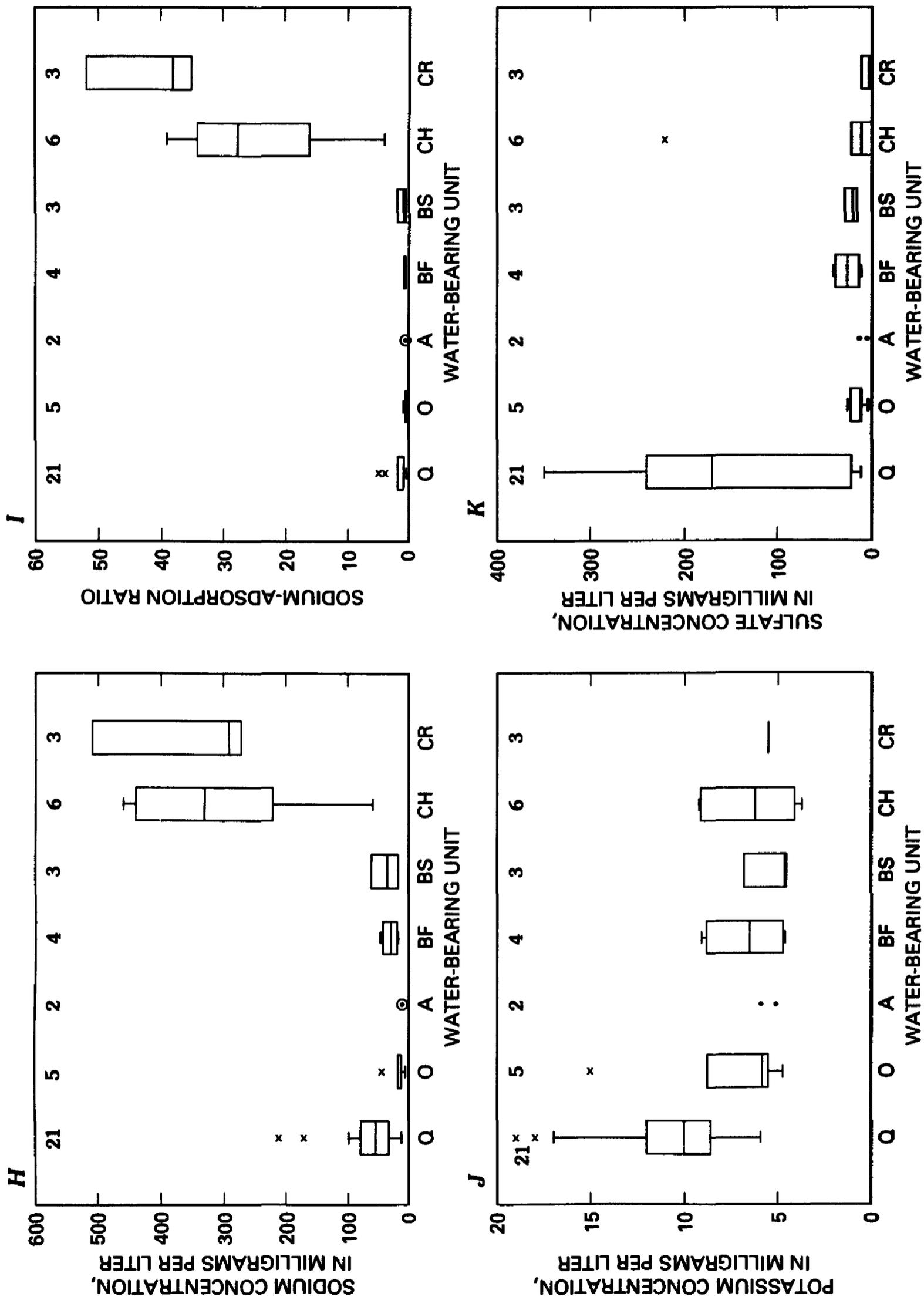
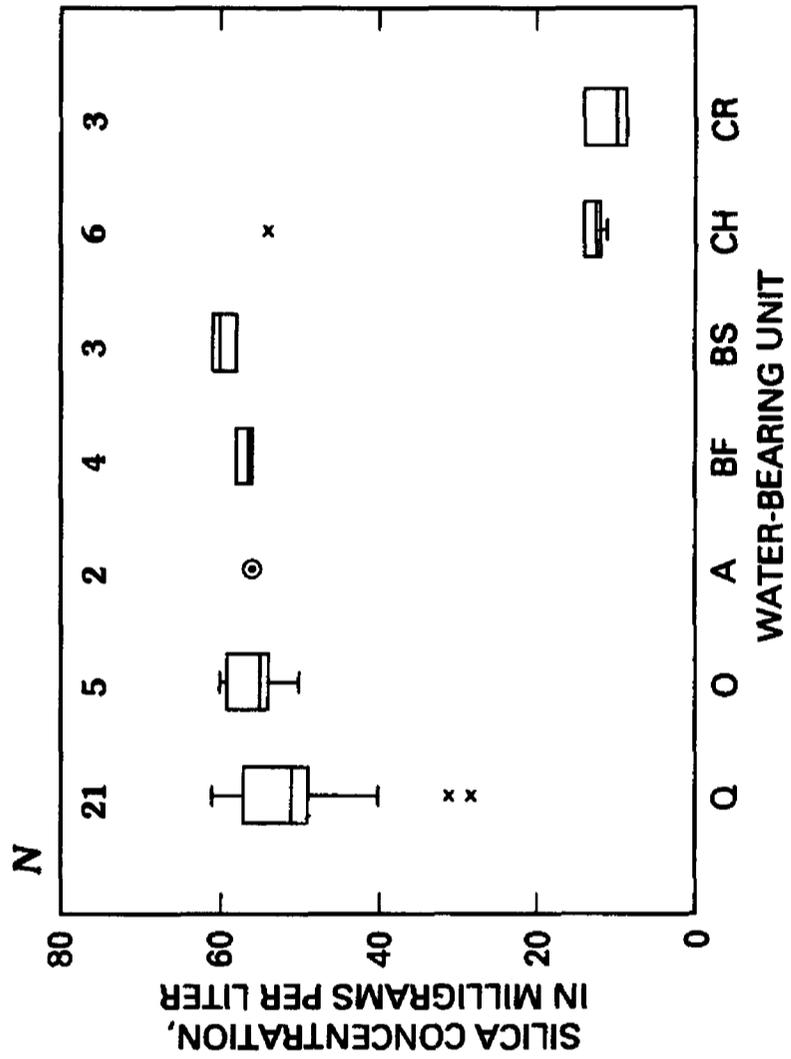
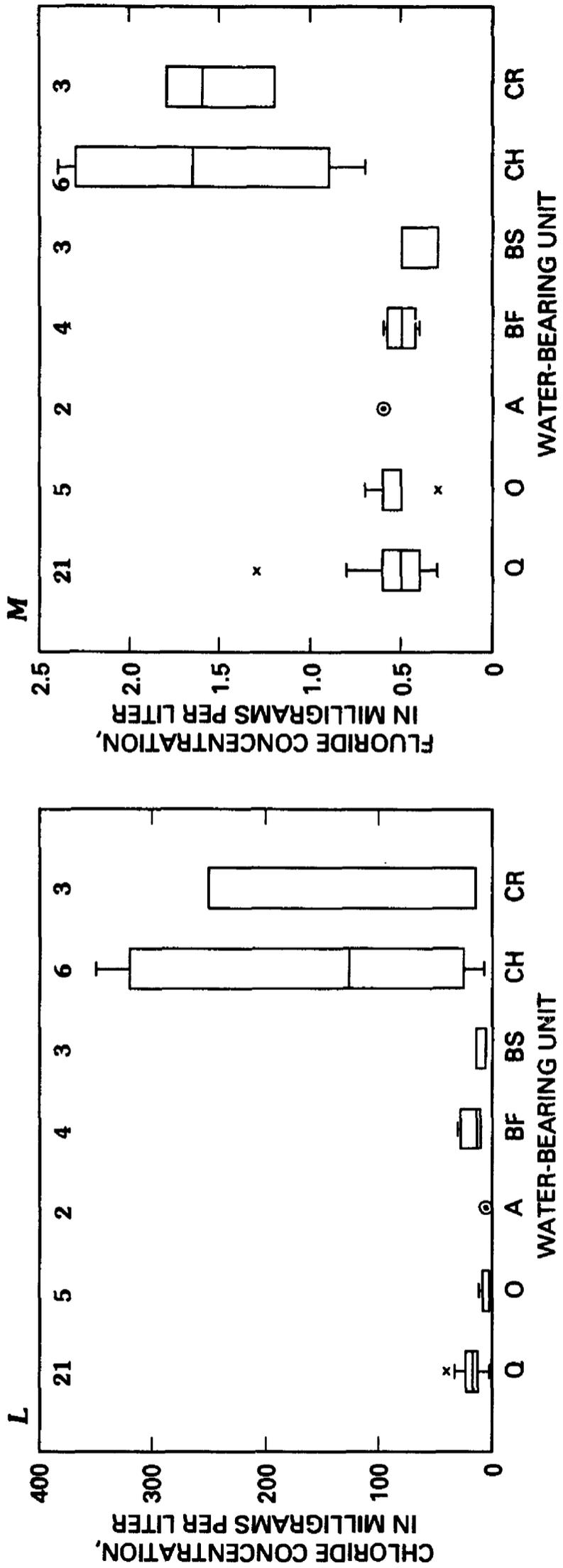


Figure 14. Distributions of (A) field pH, (B) water temperature, (C) dissolved oxygen, (D) hardness, (E) alkalinity, (F) calcium (G) magnesium, (H) sodium, (I) sodium-adsorption ratio, (J) potassium, (K) sulfate, (L) chloride, (M) fluoride, and (N) silica by water-bearing unit, June and July 1991, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska—Continued.



**Figure 14.** Distributions of (A) field pH, (B) water temperature, (C) dissolved oxygen, (D) hardness, (E) alkalinity, (F) calcium (G) magnesium, (H), sodium, (I) sodium-adsorption ratio, (J) potassium, (K) sulfate, (L) chloride, (M) fluoride, and (N) silica by water-bearing unit, June and July 1991, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska—Continued.

units, and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age contained different concentrations of sodium than water in the other water-bearing units. In general, the water from the Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age had larger concentrations of sodium, a larger sodium-adsorption ratio, and larger amount of alkalinity, as illustrated in figures 13 and 14.

Results of the Wilcoxon Rank Sum test on selected groups of water-bearing units indicated that the water in the Quaternary-age water-bearing units had a different distribution of concentrations of calcium, magnesium, potassium, and sulfate as compared to the median concentrations of these constituents in the water of other water-bearing units at an alpha level of 0.001. The statistical tests also indicated that the chemistry of water obtained from the Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age did show significant differences of median concentrations among all constituents discussed in this section at an alpha level of 0.001, except potassium, sulfate, and chloride.

#### **Summary of Water Chemistry and Water Types by Water-Bearing Units**

Because significant differences in water quality were detected among the water-bearing units, the following discussions are by group of water-bearing units. This section includes a summary of water chemistry, water types, number of constituent concentrations that exceed USEPA MCL's. A summary of the constituents discussed in this section and the number of concentrations that exceed MCL's are presented in table 8. Boxplots showing the distribution of water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, hardness, alkalinity, calcium, magnesium, sodium, sodium-adsorption ratio, potassium, sulfate, chloride, fluoride, and silica are presented in figure 14.

Water types are used in this report to designate the differences in the ionic composition of the ground water of the water-bearing units under study. As water moves from the atmosphere through the sediments, it interacts with the minerals in the sediments. The chemistry of the water is changed through dissolution of minerals or through cation-exchange processes as it moves

from recharge areas through the ground-water flow system to discharge areas. Thus, as ground water moves through the flow system, the calculated dissolved-solids concentrations will tend to increase (Hamilton and others, 1991). The diagrams in figure 13 reflect the predominant cation(s) and anion(s) and are used to distinguish between water types of the water-bearing units.

#### **Quaternary-Age Water-Bearing Units**

Water from the Quaternary-age water-bearing units is a calcium bicarbonate type (fig. 13) with small chloride (median 17 mg/L) and fluoride (median 0.5 mg/L) concentrations and with large sulfate concentrations in some wells (median 170 mg/L) (fig. 14). The median calcium (86 mg/L), magnesium (18 mg/L), and potassium (10 mg/L) concentrations are larger in these water-bearing sediments than in the others included in this study (fig. 14, table 9). The wells with water that have large sulfate concentrations generally are located along the Platte River and have depths of less than 130 feet. Overall, the water quality in Quaternary-age water-bearing units is more variable than that in the other water-bearing units as illustrated by the interquartile range and length of the whiskers of the boxplots shown in figure 14 and by the larger differences between minimum and maximum values listed in table 9. The variability in these data could indicate that the water quality in the Quaternary-age water-bearing units is affected locally by recharge from irrigation canals, by the Platte River, and by possible point- and nonpoint-source contamination.

Water from Quaternary-age water-bearing units, with a median hardness of 300 mg/L, is hard, in general. Hardness (as calcium carbonate—CaCO<sub>3</sub>) exceeding 100 mg/L is objectionable for domestic use (Hem, 1985). In general, if hardness concentrations are greater than 121 mg/L, the water is considered hard, whereas water with hardness less than 60 mg/L is considered soft.

The alkalinity of waters in this study is assumed to be the bicarbonate type. Sources of alkalinity are atmospheric carbon dioxide and carbon dioxide produced through decay of organic matter or lignite. Calcite tends to affect the degree of alkalinity of water by controlling the concentrations of carbonate and bicarbonate ions existing

under equilibrium conditions (Engberg, 1984). Calcium bicarbonate generally originates from the presence of calcium in the soil and conversion of atmospheric carbon dioxide to bicarbonate (Engberg, 1984). Alkalinity also may increase due to the presence of anions derived from the solution of weak acids. Silicate ions also can contribute to alkalinity. The alkalinity of water within the Quaternary-age water-bearing units is generally less than 300 mg/L, with a median of 230 mg/L (fig. 14 and table 9), which is smaller than the median alkalinity of the confined Chadron Formation and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age, with medians of 530 and 650 mg/L, respectively (tables 14 and 15).

The Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL) for sulfate is 250 mg/L (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1988d). Water from three wells had sulfate concentrations that exceeded 250 mg/L (wells Q32, Q86, and Q98 with 270, 280, and 350 mg/L as  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ , respectively). All the wells were completed in the Quaternary-age water-bearing units (table 7). The primary natural sources of sulfate ions are dissolution of evaporite minerals such as salts or gypsum, oxidation of sulfides, primarily pyrite ( $\text{FeS}_2$ ), from sedimentary or weathered igneous rocks or from additions to the land surface such as fertilizer—specifically sulfate additions.

Natural sources of potassium in ground water, such as a potassium-rich feldspar and clay minerals, which are abundant in Quaternary-age water-bearing units, mainly contribute to the potassium concentrations. Also, application of potassium phosphate—commonly called potash—in agricultural areas could be responsible for some of the large potassium concentrations in the water from Quaternary-age water-bearing units (fig. 14). In addition, irrigation might cause exchange of potassium with calcium and magnesium, which results in larger concentrations of calcium and magnesium in solution.

#### **Ogallala Group and Arikaree Group Water-Bearing Units, and Fractured-Bedrock and Sand Water-Bearing Units in the Brule Formation**

The water of the Ogallala Group and Arikaree Group water-bearing units and fractured-bedrock and sand water-bearing units of the Brule

Formation is generally a calcium bicarbonate type (fig. 13). Water from fractured-bedrock water-bearing units of the Brule Formation shows larger median calcium concentration (54 mg/L) with larger median hardness (170 mg/L as  $\text{CaCO}_3$ ) and larger median sulfate concentrations (26 mg/L) than water from the sand water-bearing units of the Brule Formation (median calcium, 41 mg/L; median hardness of 140 mg/L as  $\text{CaCO}_3$ ; and median sulfate, 20 mg/L) and Ogallala Group water-bearing units (median calcium, 44 mg/L; median hardness of 150 mg/L as  $\text{CaCO}_3$ ; and median sulfate, 12 mg/L) (tables 10 through 13). No exceedances of MCL and SMCL for the major cations and anions were detected in water from Ogallala Group and Arikaree Group water-bearing units and fractured-bedrock and sand water-bearing units of the Brule Formation.

#### **Chadron Formation Water-Bearing Units and Undifferentiated Water-Bearing Units of Cretaceous Age**

The Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age have water of a sodium bicarbonate type (fig. 13), with small median hardness (35 and 12 mg/L) and small median calcium (9.2 and 3.2 mg/L), magnesium (2.7 and 0.9 mg/L), and sulfate (11 and 3.1 mg/L) concentrations, respectively. The water-bearing units have large alkalinity (530 and 650 mg/L) and sodium-adsorption ratio (27 and 38) and large median sodium (330 and 290 mg/L) and fluoride (1.6 and 1.6 mg/L) concentrations, respectively (tables 14 and 15). The median chloride concentration of water from the Chadron Formation water-bearing units was the largest (126 mg/L) of all water-bearing units studied. Ranges of constituent concentrations also are noted in tables 14 and 15.

In general, water within Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated confined water-bearing units of Cretaceous age has a different chemistry than water from other water-bearing units discussed in this report. The differences in water chemistry such as alkalinity and sodium (tables 16 and 17) may indicate the absence of hydraulic connection between the overlying water-bearing units and the Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age and may

suggest a potential hydraulic connection between the Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age. The similarities in the major element chemistry of the Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age also may reflect the relative older age of the water contained in these sediments as compared to the younger water in the overlying sediments. In general, both the Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age have water that is more mineralized and softer with smaller concentrations of silica than water from the other units (figure 14 and tables 16 and 17). The larger silica concentrations in water from the unconfined water-bearing units are typical of western Nebraska (Durum, 1952).

The median concentration of chloride (126 mg/L) in water from the Chadron Formation water-bearing units was less than the SMCL for chloride of 250 mg/L (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1988d). However, the SMCL was exceeded in two wells within the Chadron Formation water-bearing units (domestic wells CH104 and CH105, with 320 and 350 mg/L, respectively). In addition, well CR78, a domestic well completed in the undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age, had a chloride concentration equal to the SMCL (table 7). The large chloride and sodium concentrations in the water from the Chadron Formation water-bearing units may indicate a good hydraulic connection with the underlying marine undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age or a similar chemical evolution of ground water in both units.

Even though the Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age had the largest fluoride concentrations (tables 14 and 15), only the Chadron Formation water-bearing units contained water that exceeds the SMCL of 2.0 mg/L [wells CH106 (2.4 mg/L) and CH107 (2.3 mg/L), an irrigation and domestic well, respectively]. No water samples exceeded the MCL of 4.0 mg/L. Fluoride is present in sedimentary rock, mainly as fluorapatite ( $\text{Ca}_5(\text{PO}_4)_3\text{F}$ ) and fluorite ( $\text{CaF}_2$ ).

Only water from the Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age had a median

hardness less than 100 mg/L (35 and 12 mg/L as  $\text{CaCO}_3$ , respectively). The small calcium and magnesium and the large sodium concentrations in the water from these units could indicate exchange for sodium in clay minerals.

Overall, the major ion water chemistry in the Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age is relatively uniform, except for sodium and chloride (fig. 14). The greater variability in constituent concentrations of sodium and chloride, and consequently the alkalinity and the sodium-adsorption ratio, may be related to local variations in the mineralogy of the water-bearing sediment. The low concentrations and small variability in sulfate and dissolved-nitrate concentrations—constituents that may reflect point- or nonpoint-source contamination—could indicate that the ground water within these units generally has not been affected by contamination or could be related to the reducing conditions thought to exist within these water-bearing units.

The water from these confined water-bearing units, which has large values of specific conductance and sodium-adsorption ratio, is not suitable for irrigation because of its potential adverse effects on crops. The water from these confined water-bearing units also could affect the unconfined ground water in overlying water-bearing units by vertical seepage of the irrigation water through the unsaturated, unconsolidated sediments. As sodium-adsorption ratio increases, the suitability of the water for irrigation decreases.

### **pH and Dissolved Oxygen**

pH in water from the seven water-bearing units varied from 7.2 to 9.1, with a median of 7.8 (tables 6 and 8). pH is an indication of the acidity of the water. Ground water with a pH from 6.5 to 7.8 is considered neutral (Hem, 1985). Water with a pH greater than 7.8 is considered alkaline. Water with a pH less than 6.5 is considered acidic.

The largest pH values were detected in water from the confined Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age (median of 8.2 and 8.8, respectively). Two water samples obtained from the Chadron Formation water-bearing units, three water samples from undifferentiated water-bearing

units of Cretaceous age, and two water samples from Quaternary-age water-bearing units exceeded the SMCL for pH of 8.5 (domestic wells CR78, CH103, CH107, CR108, and CR109 and irrigation wells Q95 and Q114 with a pH of 8.8, 8.6, 8.8, 8.6, 9.1, 8.6, and 8.7, respectively). All the unconfined water-bearing units had a similar median pH of about 7.8. Several outliers can be seen in the boxplot of pH for water from Quaternary-age water-bearing units shown in figure 14.

Although the largest pH value was measured in water from the confined Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age, the smallest dissolved-oxygen concentrations were detected in this confined water. Dissolved-oxygen concentrations in all of the ground-water samples collected for this study varied from 0.1 to 15.1 mg/L, with a median of 6.3 mg/L (table 8). The median dissolved-oxygen concentrations in water from the Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age were 0.5 and 1.1 mg/L, respectively (tables 14 and 15). In contrast, the median dissolved-oxygen concentrations in water from the unconfined water-bearing units varied from 6.0 mg/L in the water from Quaternary-age water-bearing units to 7.3 mg/L in water from sand water-bearing units in the Brule Formation (tables 9 and 10, respectively).

### **Specific Conductance and Calculated Dissolved Solids**

Specific conductance varied from 188 to 2,130  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$  (microsiemens per centimeter at 25 °C) (table 8). Specific conductance is positively correlated with calculated dissolved-solids concentrations ( $r = 0.75$ ). Specific conductance and calculated dissolved-solids concentrations are positively correlated with sodium ( $r = 0.92$  and  $r = 0.68$ , respectively), chloride ( $r = 0.87$  and  $r = 0.64$ , respectively), and boron ( $r = 0.92$  and  $r = 0.68$ , respectively). The boxplots shown in figure 15 illustrate that water in confined Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age and in unconfined Quaternary-age water-bearing units has larger median specific conductance and calculated dissolved-solids concentrations than the other

water-bearing units. The distribution of concentrations for these characteristics is the same in all water-bearing units on the basis of the Kruskal-Wallis test (table 16).

Calculated dissolved solids in all water-bearing units varied from 158 to 1,240 mg/L, with a median of 418 mg/L (table 8). Calculated dissolved-solids concentration is a calculation of all constituents dissolved in water (sum of constituents) and generally is correlated positively with specific conductance as illustrated in figure 15C. Linear regression analysis indicates that the slope of calculated dissolved solids and specific conductance is 0.59 (fig. 15). Increased calculated dissolved solids can arise from mineral dissolution, extraneous additions of solids, or the presence of saline water.

Twenty wells completed in the Quaternary-age and Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age exceeded the SMCL of 500 milligrams per liter (mg/L) for calculated dissolved solids. Water with calculated dissolved-solids concentrations that exceed 1,000 mg/L can adversely affect crops. Large concentrations of calculated dissolved solids also may affect poultry and livestock on a temporary basis when they are not accustomed to the consumption of this water (Hem, 1985). Water in three wells (wells Q98, CH104, and CR78 completed in Quaternary-age and Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age with 1,020, 1,170, and 1,240 mg/L, respectively) had calculated dissolved-solids concentrations that exceeded 1,000 mg/L.

### **Major Metals and Selected Trace Elements**

Major metals and trace elements in ground water can be attributed to both natural and human sources. Potential human sources include acid rain, fertilizer additions, such as copper and zinc sulfates, and industry-related point sources.

Many water samples had concentrations of trace elements less than the detection limit (table 7). Statistical nonparametric analysis of major metals and selected trace elements is difficult because of trace-element concentrations that are less than the detection level. Although the preferred method used to estimate the distribution

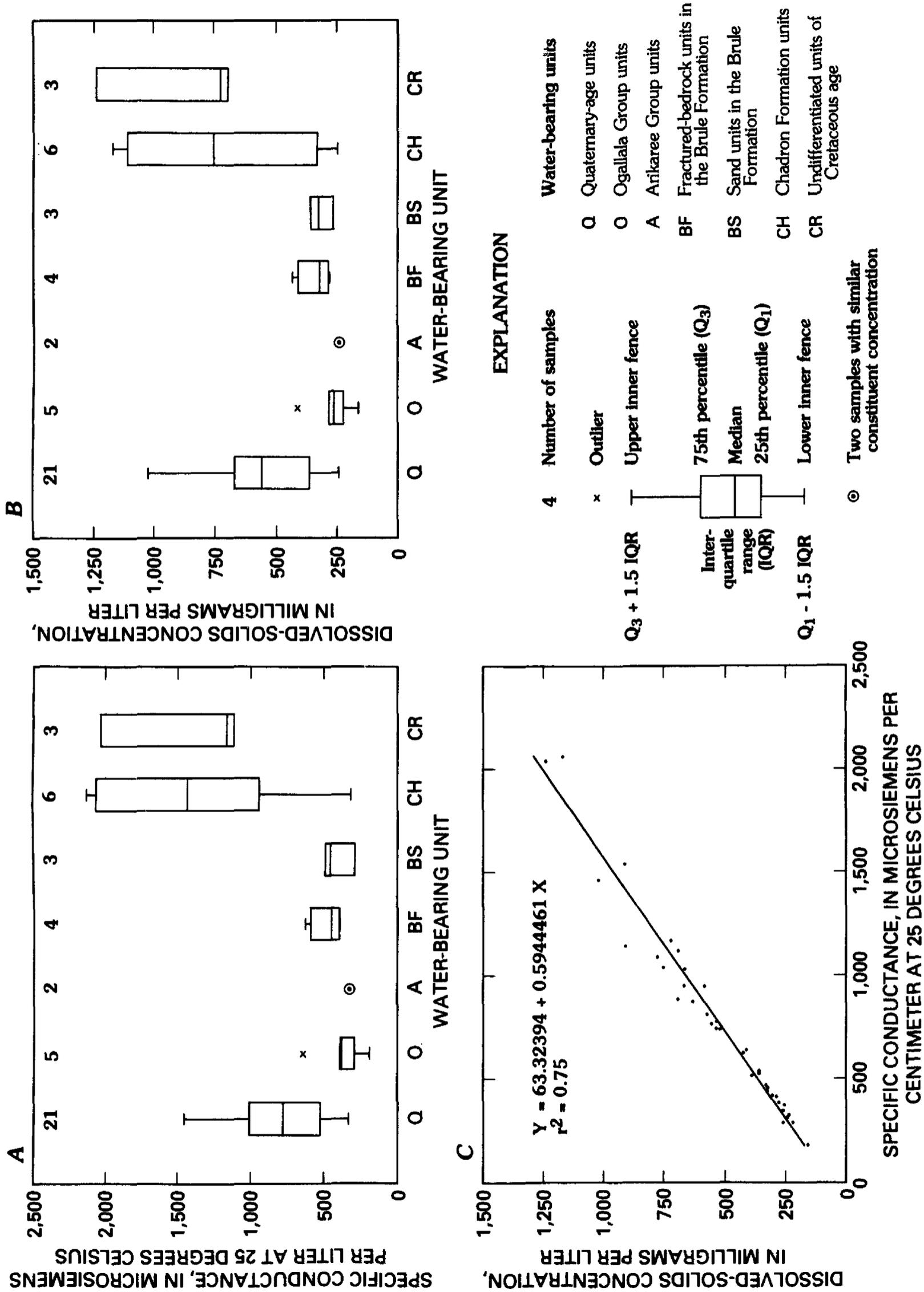


Figure 15. (A) Distribution of specific conductance and (B) calculated dissolved solids in ground-water samples by water-bearing unit, June and July 1991, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, and (C) the relation between specific conductance and calculated dissolved-solids concentration.

is the log-probability test method (Helsel and Gilliom, 1985), values less than the detection level were considered to be zero in this study.

Consequently, parametric statistical hypothesis testing, distribution estimation, and correlation were biased. Boxplots showing the distribution of arsenic, barium, boron, iron, lithium, manganese, selenium, strontium, vanadium, and zinc are presented in figure 16.

Nonparametric analysis of the water-quality data with the Kruskal-Wallis test ( $\alpha = 0.001$ ) indicated that the distribution of concentrations of boron ( $p=0.00016$ ), selenium ( $p = 0.00056$ ), and strontium ( $p = 0.00062$ ) was different in at least one group (table 16).

Tukey's test indicated that water from several water-bearing units had different concentrations of boron, selenium, and strontium (table 17). In addition, subsequent grouping of the water-bearing units and statistical analysis using the Wilcoxon Rank Sum test indicated that the Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated confined water-bearing units of Cretaceous age have different median concentrations of boron ( $p = 0.00005$ ), iron ( $p = 0.00026$ ), selenium ( $p = 0.00003$ ), strontium ( $p = 0.00010$ ), and vanadium ( $p = 0.00002$ ). Grouping of the data for water collected from Quaternary-age water-bearing units compared against the data for water collected from other water-bearing units indicates that water in the Quaternary-age water-bearing units has different median lithium ( $p = 0.00031$ ) and strontium ( $p = 0.00011$ ) concentrations.

In the following sections selected major metals are discussed. The selection was based on the number of detections or exceedances of MCL's or SMCL's.

## Iron

Iron concentrations in water from all water-bearing units varied from less than 3 to 73  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , with a median of 5  $\mu\text{g/L}$  (table 8). None of the water samples exceeded the SMCL of 300  $\mu\text{g/L}$  for iron (table 8). The largest iron concentrations were found in water from the undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age (maximum of 73  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) followed by water in the Chadron Formation water-bearing units (maximum of 39  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ). The smallest iron concentrations were in

water from the Arikaree Group water-bearing units (maximum of less than 3  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ). Water in the Chadron Formation and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age had small dissolved-oxygen concentrations, which generally indicate reducing conditions. Usually, increased concentrations of iron are due to the presence of iron-enriched sediment in a reducing environment with small pH (Freeze and Cherry, 1979). The confined Chadron and undifferentiated Cretaceous water-bearing units apparently meet certain conditions of a reducing environment but show relatively large pH values. Additional information on the geochemistry of these water-bearing units is needed to provide more meaningful interpretation of the results.

## Manganese

Manganese data are summarized in tables 8 through 15 and figure 16. Manganese concentrations varied from less than 1 to 130  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , with a median of less than 1  $\mu\text{g/L}$ . Relatively large concentrations of manganese (outliers) were detected in water samples from the Quaternary-age water-bearing units (wells Q7, Q32, and Q98) (fig. 16). Two water samples exceed the SMCL of 50  $\mu\text{g/L}$  for manganese (wells Q7 and Q32 with manganese concentrations of 130 and 61  $\mu\text{g/L}$  as  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$ , respectively). Water from well Q98 had a manganese concentration of 34  $\mu\text{g/L}$ . Large manganese concentrations may cause a brown discoloration of the water, may deposit black manganese oxide stains on the well casing, and may affect the taste. Large manganese concentrations were not detected in the Chadron Formation water-bearing units and the undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age.

## Selected Trace Elements

Arsenic, barium, cadmium, and chromium are elements occurring in the upper lithosphere (Hem, 1985). Lead is the most abundant heavy element in the lithosphere. Selenium is found in sedimentary as well as igneous rocks and reacts in a fashion similar to sulfur. Distributions of concentrations of these trace elements are presented in figure 16. The data are listed in table 7 and a summary of the data is presented in tables 8 through 15.

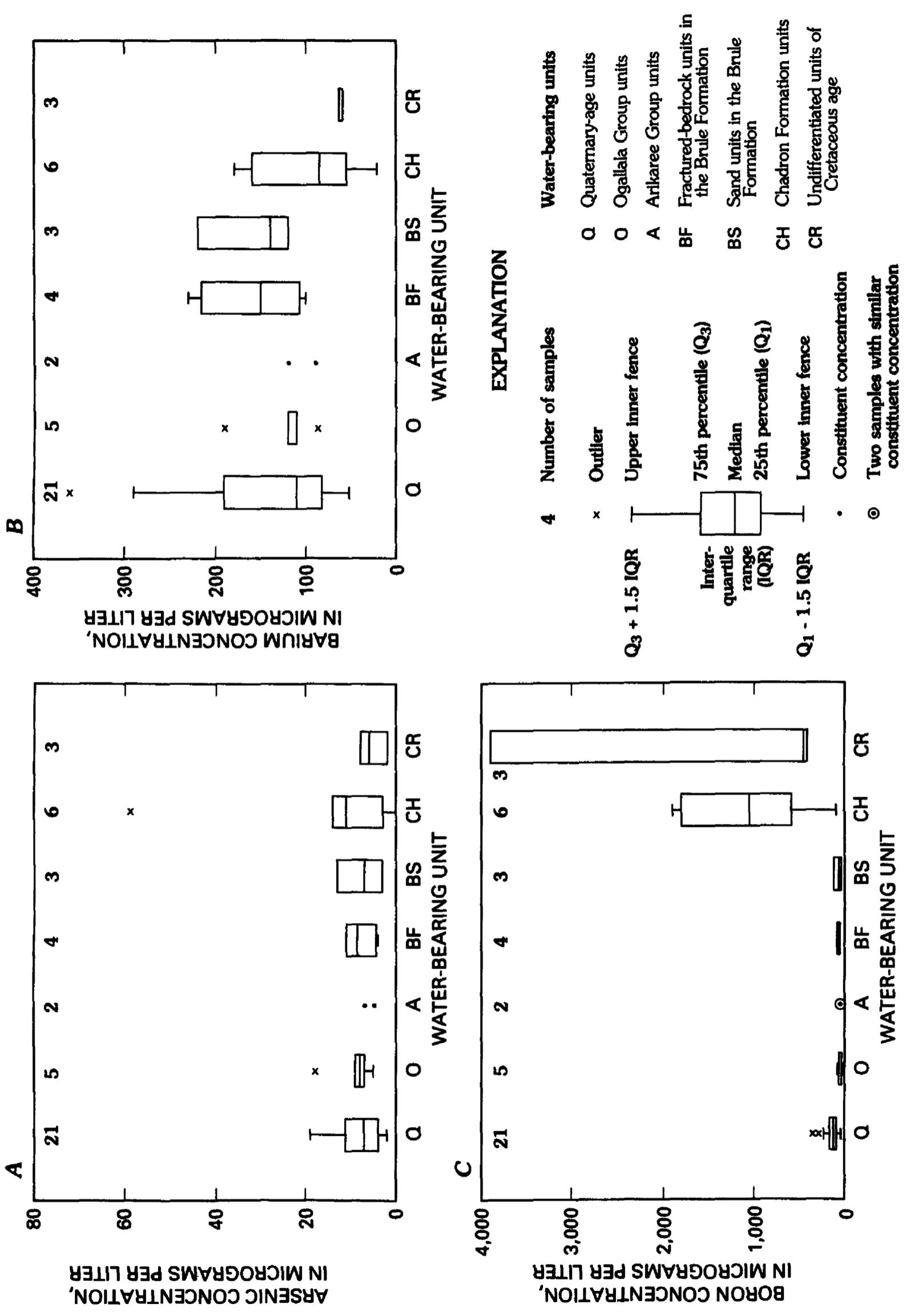


Figure 16. Distribution of selected trace elements by water-bearing unit, June and July 1991, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska.

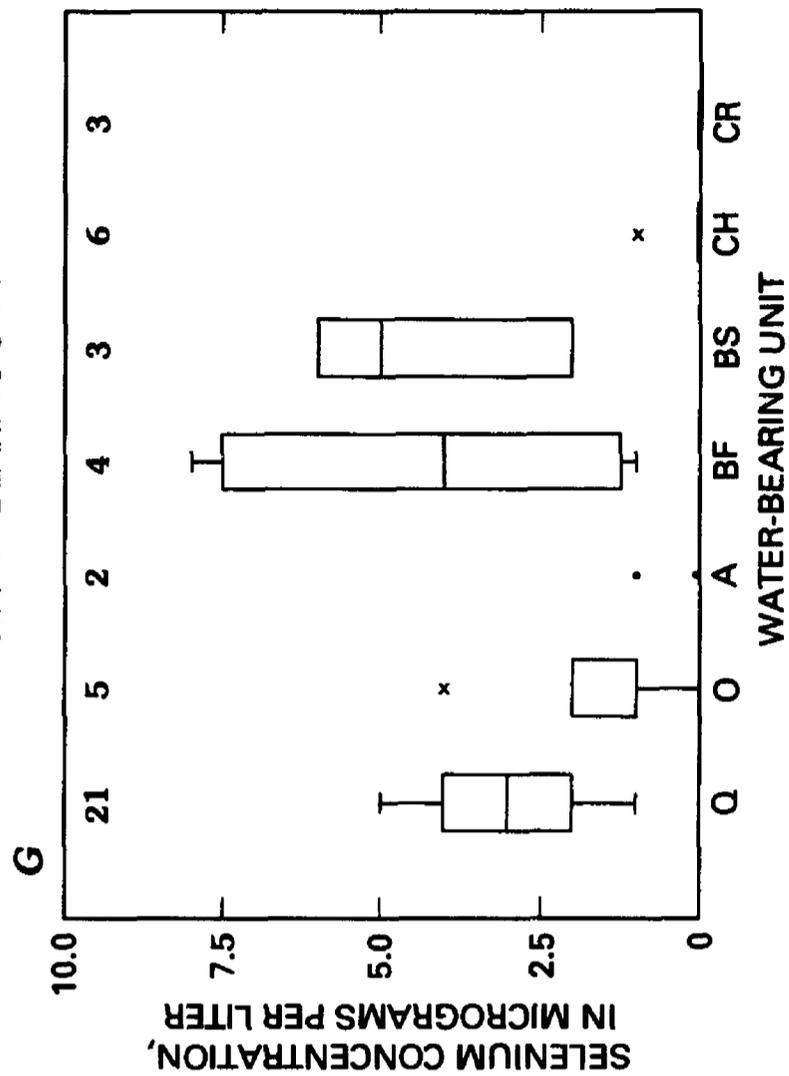
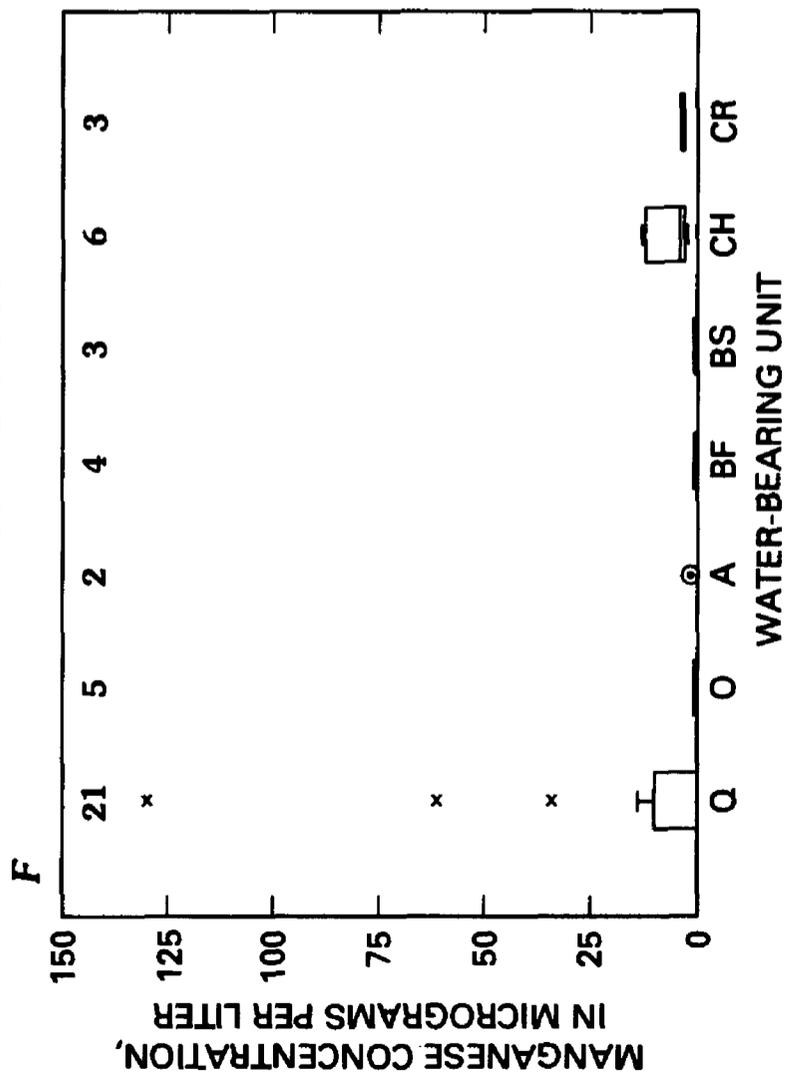
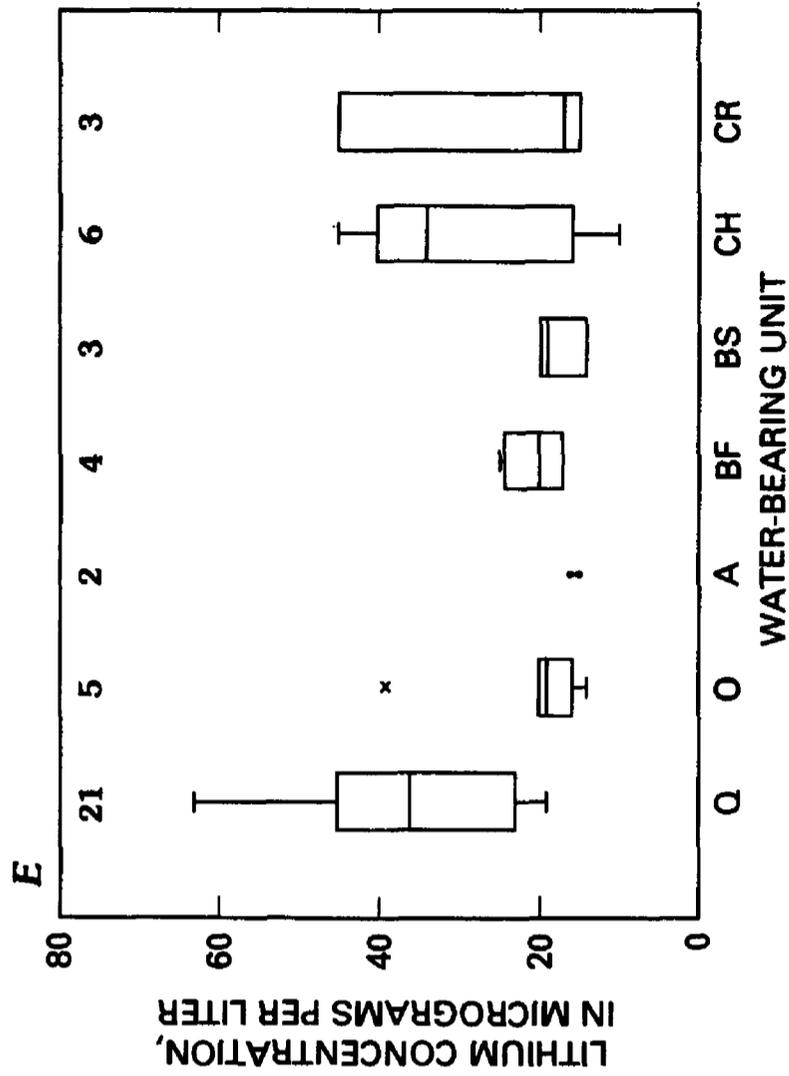
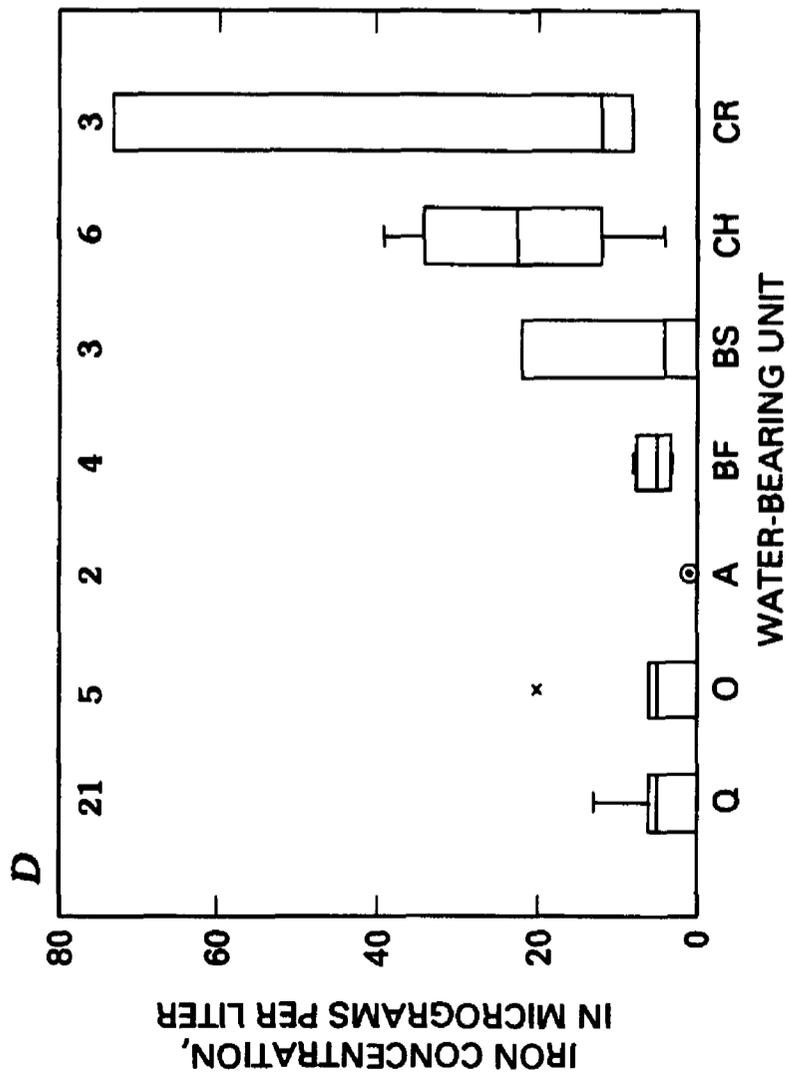


Figure 16. Distribution of selected trace elements by water-bearing unit, June and July 1991, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska—Continued.

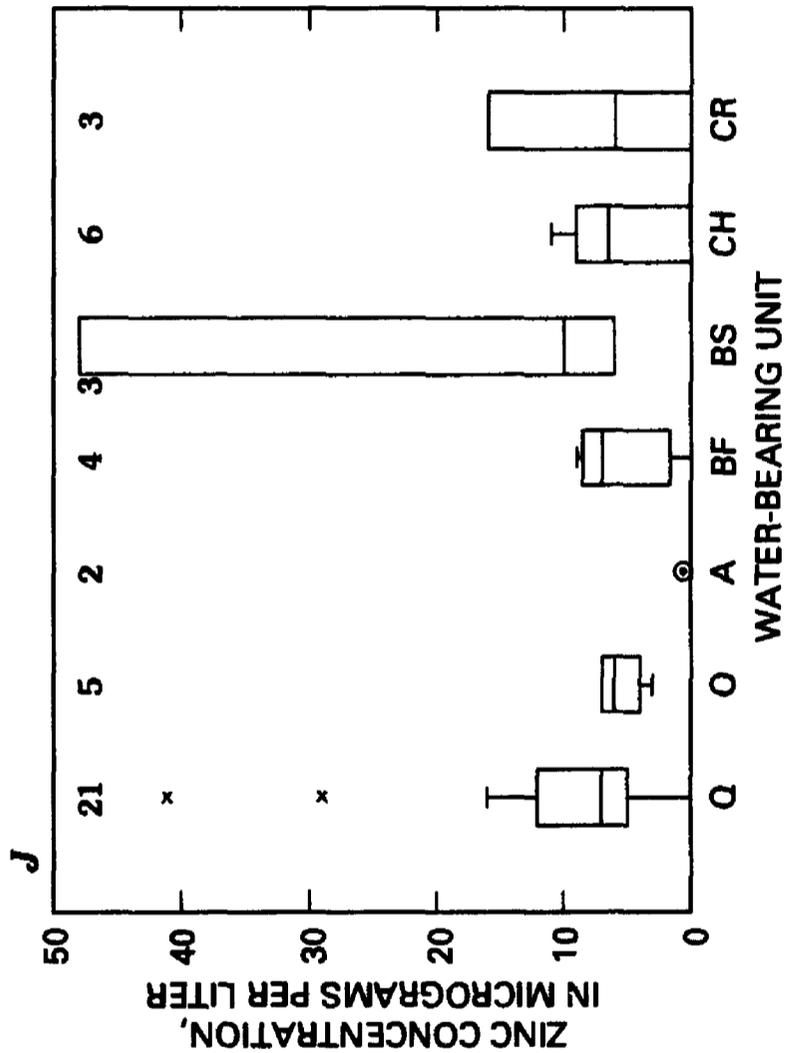
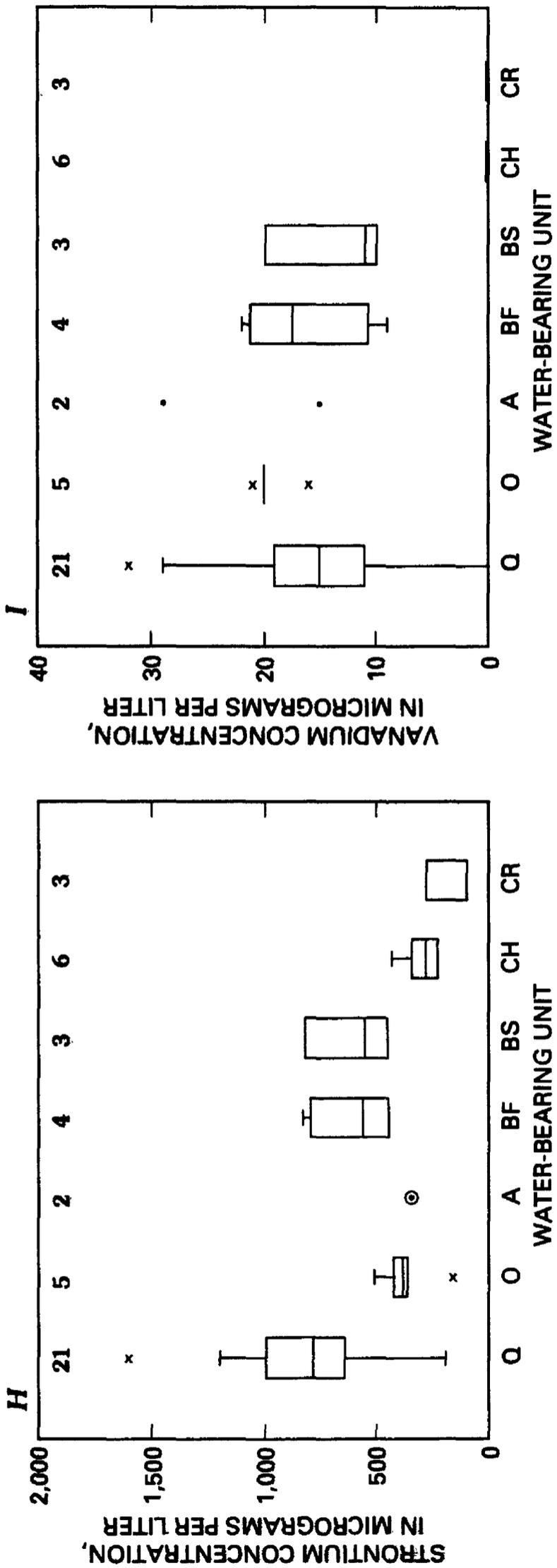


Figure 16. Distribution of selected trace elements by water-bearing unit, June and July 1991, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska—Continued.

The MCL for arsenic of 50 µg/L was exceeded in one water sample. The large arsenic concentration (59 µg/L) was detected in water from well CH59. This well is 475 feet deep and screened in the Chadron Formation water-bearing units. The large arsenic concentration may be associated with an arsenic-rich horizon within these water-bearing units rather than being introduced by human sources. Water from well CH59 also had a large concentration of sulfate (220 mg/L), which may indicate a horizon rich in arsenosulfides within the Chadron Formation water-bearing units. Alternatively, the large arsenic concentration may originate through flow along faults and fractures in the geologic strata.

The proposed MCL for beryllium (1.0 µg/L) was exceeded in water obtained from two wells (wells CH104 and CH105 both with 2.0 µg/L). They are completed in the Chadron Formation water-bearing units and have depths of 555 and 430 feet, respectively. Again, the larger beryllium concentrations may be associated with a beryllium-rich horizon in the Chadron Formation water-bearing units or deeper ground-water flow paths rather than having been introduced by human sources.

## Radionuclides

Radionuclides are chemical elements that undergo a nuclear decay process through changes within their nucleus. These changes produce alpha and beta types of ionizing radiation. Variations in distributions of radionuclides in ground water are related not only to the natural presence of radionuclides in sediment but also are affected by human factors. Human factors include coal and nuclear-power production, mining, oil and gas production, chemical fertilizer additions (especially phosphates), and transport and disposal of radioactive materials. Fertilizer can be enriched with uranium and potassium salt (Meriwether and others, 1988). Radionuclide content in water is determined by many factors including the radionuclide concentration and distribution in the source rock, its chemical form, water chemistry such as pH, oxidation-reduction potential, and presence of complexing agents, microbial activity, half-life of the nuclide (which determines the length of time a

nuclide can accumulate in water), and the presence of sorptive materials (Hem, 1985).

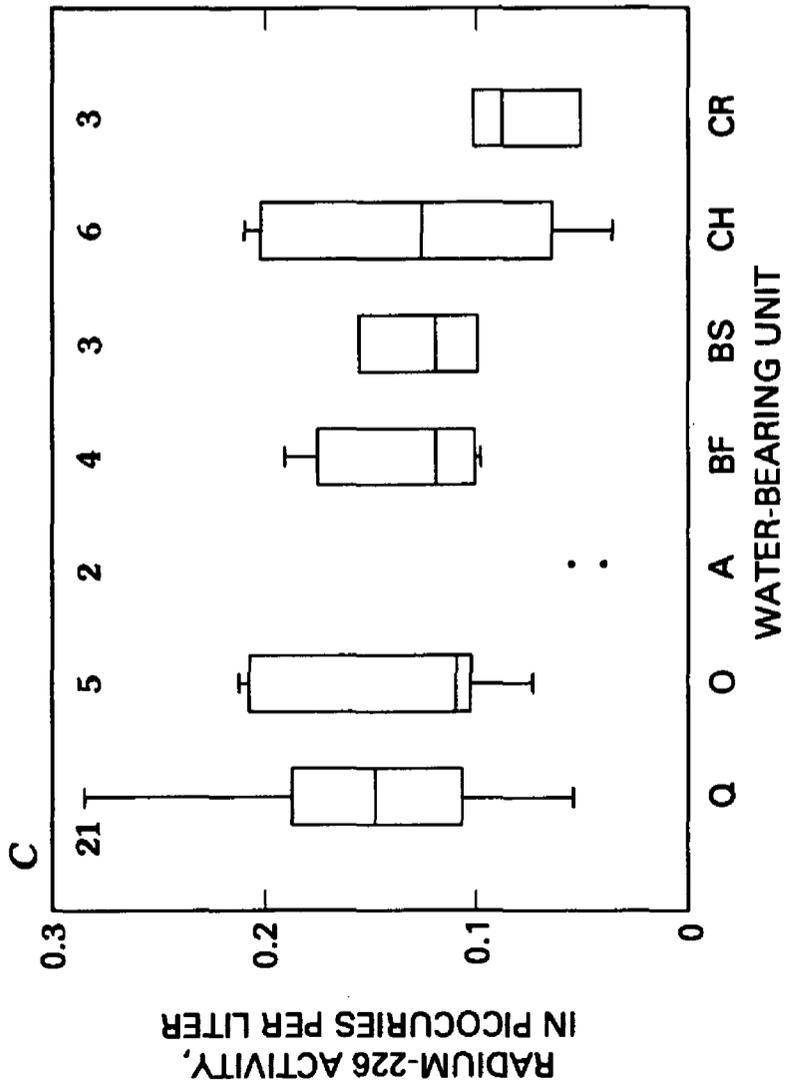
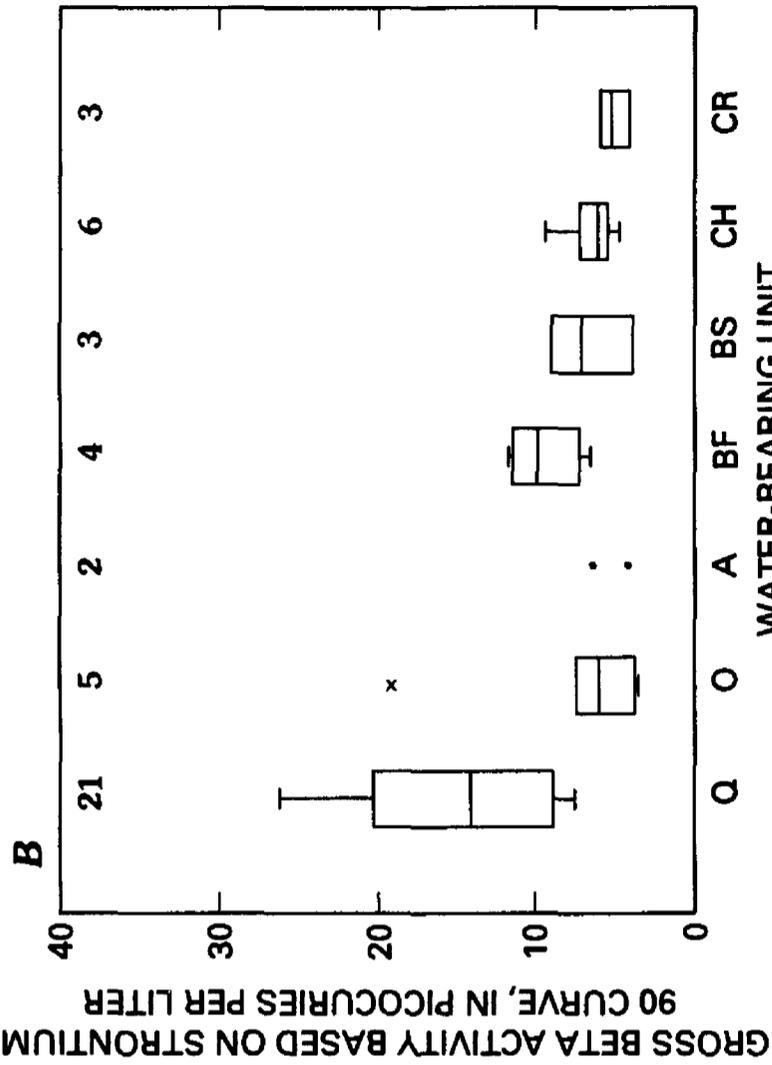
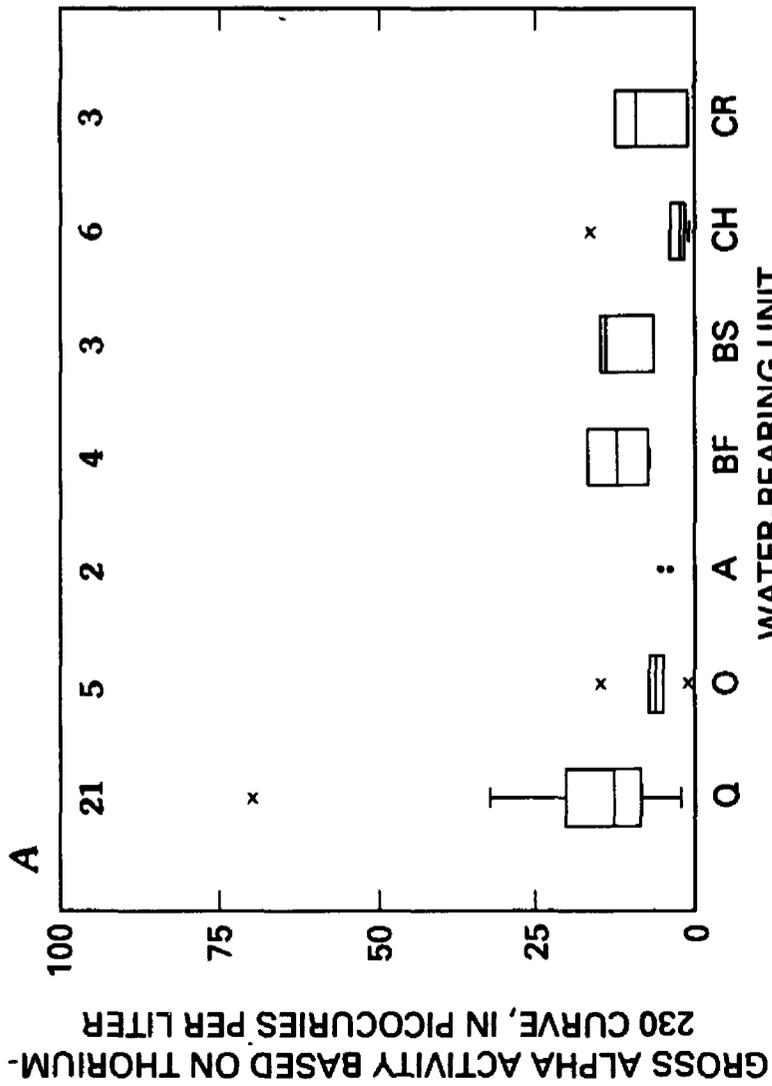
Concentration of radionuclides generally is expressed in picocuries per liter (pCi/L). One curie (Ci) is defined as  $3.7 \times 10^{10}$  disintegrations per second. Results of radioactive measurements in water may be at or near zero.

This study reports gross alpha ( $\alpha$ ) activity (that is, alpha activity from all sources) reported as if it were thorium-230 ( $^{230}\text{Th}$ ), gross beta ( $\beta$ ) activity (that is, beta activity from all sources) reported as if it were strontium-90 ( $^{90}\text{Sr}$ ), radon-222 ( $^{222}\text{Rn}$ ) activity, radium-226 ( $^{226}\text{Ra}$ ) activity, total uranium concentration, and the ratio of uranium-238 ( $^{238}\text{U}$ ) to uranium-234 ( $^{234}\text{U}$ ) activities. The analytical results and uncertainties are presented in table 7. Summary statistics of the radionuclide data are presented in tables 8 through 15 and are illustrated in figure 17. The radioactive decay series for uranium-238 is illustrated in figure 18 (Orr and others, 1991), which shows the parent and daughter relations of radon-222 and radium-226 to uranium-238.

The Kruskal-Wallis test indicates that the distribution of gross beta and radon activities was not the same in all water-bearing units ( $p=0.00001$ ). Tukey's test indicated that the water from Quaternary-age water-bearing units and fractured-bedrock water-bearing units in the Brule Formation had different gross beta activities than water from the other water-bearing units. Tukey's test also indicated that the water from the fractured-bedrock and sand water-bearing units in the Brule Formation and Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age had different radon-222 activities than water from the other water-bearing units at a alpha level of 0.05 (table 17). Similarly, the Wilcoxon Rank Sum test indicated that water from the fractured-bedrock and sand water-bearing units of the Brule Formation had significantly different distributions of concentrations of radon-222 ( $p=0.00031$ ) than water from the other water-bearing units at a statistical alpha level of 0.001 (table 16).

## Gross Alpha and Beta Activities

Gross-alpha activity originates from the decay chains of uranium-238, thorium-232, and



**EXPLANATION**

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 4 | Number of samples  | Water-bearing units                               |
| x | Outlier  | Q Quaternary-age units                            |
| — | Upper inner fence  | O Ogallala Group units                            |
| — | 75th percentile (Q <sub>3</sub> )                              | A Arikaree Group units                            |
| — | Median   | BF Fractured-bedrock units in the Brule Formation |
| — | 25th percentile (Q <sub>1</sub> )                              | BS Sand units in the Brule Formation              |
| — | Lower inner fence  | CH Chadron Formation units                        |
| • | Constituent concentration or activity                          | CR Undifferentiated units of Cretaceous age       |
| ⊙ | Two samples with similar constituent concentration or activity |   |

**Figure 17.** Distribution of radionuclides by water-bearing unit and distribution of uranium by county, June and July 1991, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska.

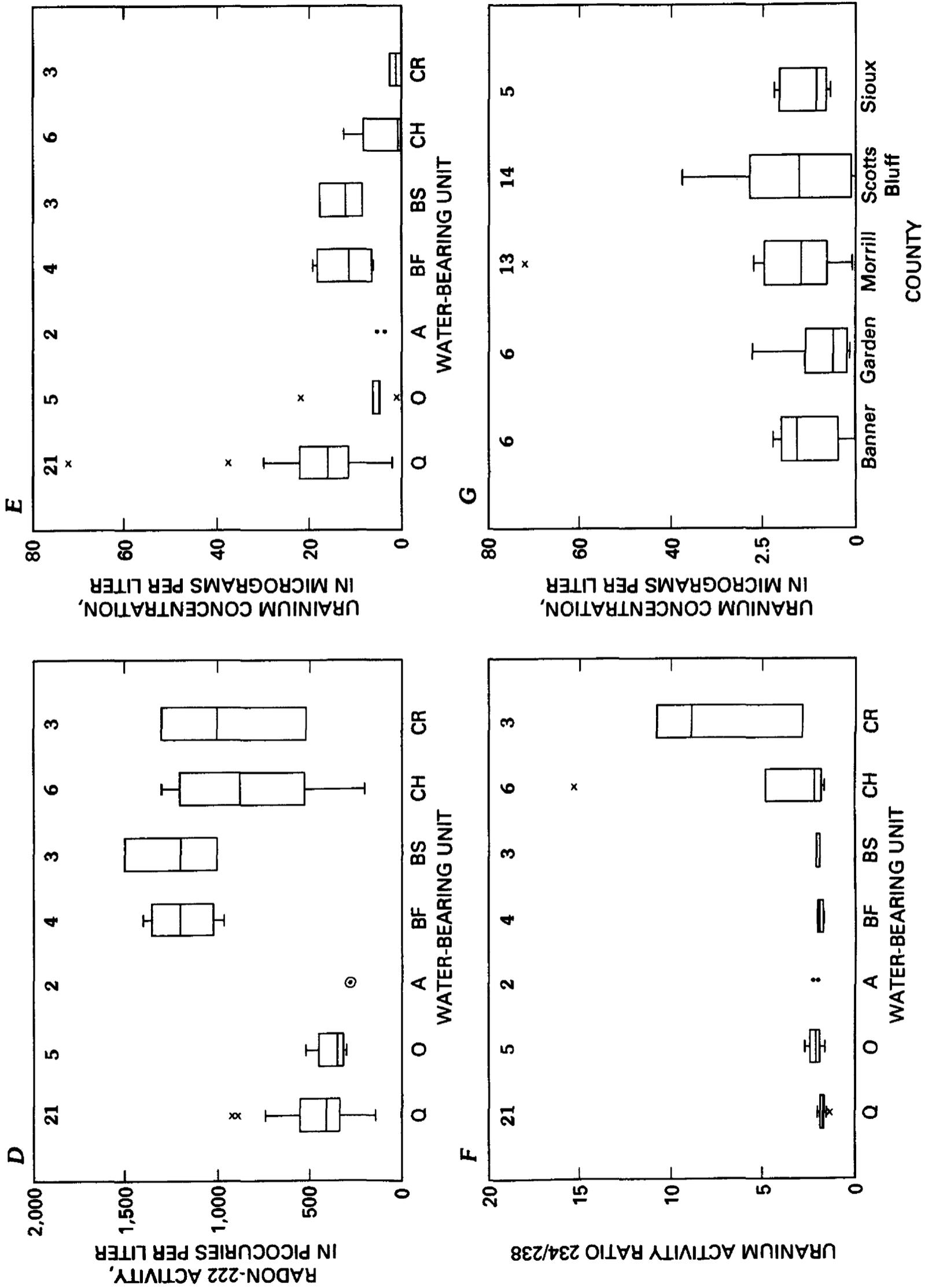


Figure 17. Distribution of radionuclides by water-bearing unit and distribution of uranium by county, June and July 1991, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska—Continued.

uranium-235. The primary gross-beta emitters from human sources are strontium-90, tritium, iodine-131, and cesium-137, and from natural sources are radium-228 and lead-210.

Strontium-90 is a fallout product of atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons and does not occur naturally except where nuclear fission reactions have occurred in uranium-enriched deposits (Durrance, 1986) and where it has been distributed globally in trace amounts through atmospheric fallout.

The gross-alpha activity results varied from less than 0.4 to 69.9 pCi/L (table 8). The gross-beta activities varied from 3.5 to 26 pCi/L (table 8). The Kruskal-Wallis test (statistical alpha = 0.001) indicates that the distribution of gross-alpha activities was not the same in water from all water-bearing units. Water from the sand water-bearing units of the Brule Formation had the largest median gross-alpha activity (14 pCi/L gross alpha) (table 13). At least 11 wells, mainly completed in the Quaternary-age water-bearing units, exceeded the MCL of 15 pCi/L for adjusted gross-alpha activity. The generally larger gross-beta activities of the water in Quaternary-age water-bearing units indicate that the water is young.

### **Radon-222**

Radon-222 is a naturally occurring, radioactive noble gas, which is a degradation product in the uranium-238 decay chain (fig. 18). Radon-222 has a half-life of 3.8 days, which is longer-lived than other radon isotopes with half-lives of less than a minute (Hem, 1985). The mobility of radon is affected by physical processes. Radon-222 can be adsorbed by organic matter and is soluble in water and organic liquids, but it readily degases from water into the atmosphere as a result of its low partial pressure in air. Radon concentrations, both in indoor air and in water, have become a concern in Nebraska. Substantial amounts of radon have been measured both in municipal water supplies and in indoor air (A.M. Pour, Nebraska Department of Health, oral commun., 1992).

The activities of radon-222 measured in this study varied from 140 +/- 24 pCi/L to 1,500 +/- 31 pCi/L, with a median activity of 500 pCi/L (table 8 and figure 19). Significantly different radon activities were detected in water

from Brule fractured-bedrock and sand water-bearing units, which contain volcanic ash, a probable radon source, than the levels of radon-222 detected in the other water-bearing units (table 16 and figure 17). Water from 39 wells completed in all water-bearing units, except in the Arikaree Group water-bearing units, exceeded the proposed 300 pCi/L MCL for radon-222 in water (fig. 19).

### **Radium-226**

Radium-226 and radium-228 are naturally occurring radioactive isotopes. Radium-226 is of special concern because of its long half-life (1,600 years) and large specific activity. Radium tends to become concentrated in bones, similar to calcium. Radium tends to react like alkaline earth elements and can form strong complexes with sulfate and carbonate and weaker complexes with chloride and dissolved nitrate (Hem, 1985; Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, 1990).

The 44 water samples analyzed for radium-226 showed activities ranging from 0.04 +/- 0.01 to 0.29 +/- 0.05 pCi/L with a median range of 0.12 pCi/L (table 8 and figure 17). Additional data on the activity of radium-228 needs to be collected to analyze whether the MCL of radium has been exceeded. Radium-226 activities in the water-bearing units were not significantly different from each other (table 16).

### **Total Uranium and Uranium Activity Ratio 234/238**

In the Earth's crust, uranium exists in the forms of uranium-238, uranium-235, and uranium-234. In this report uranium results are presented as total uranium in micrograms per liter and the ratio of the activities of the two isotopes uranium-234 to uranium-238. Overall, the total-uranium concentration in ground water varied from less than 0.1 to 72 µg/L, with a median of 11 µg/L and a standard deviation of 13 µg/L (table 5). The uranium 234/238 activity ratios varied from 1.43 to 15.4. The largest median total-uranium concentrations were detected in water from Quaternary-age water-bearing units, with a median of 16 µg/L and in water from the fractured-bedrock and sand water-bearing units of the Brule Formation with median concentrations of 11 µg/L (tables 9, 12, and 13). Wells Q32 and Q98 had the largest total-

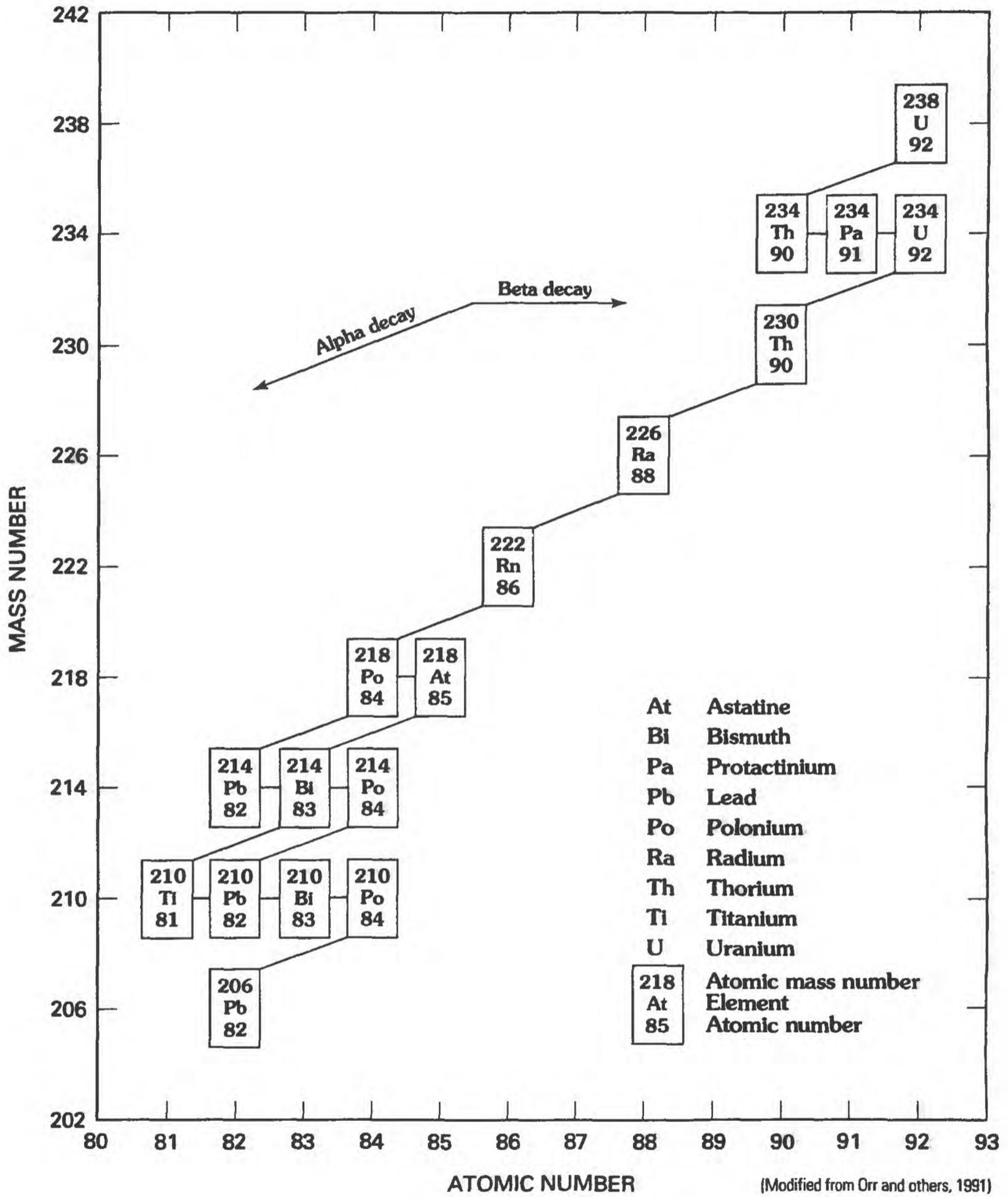
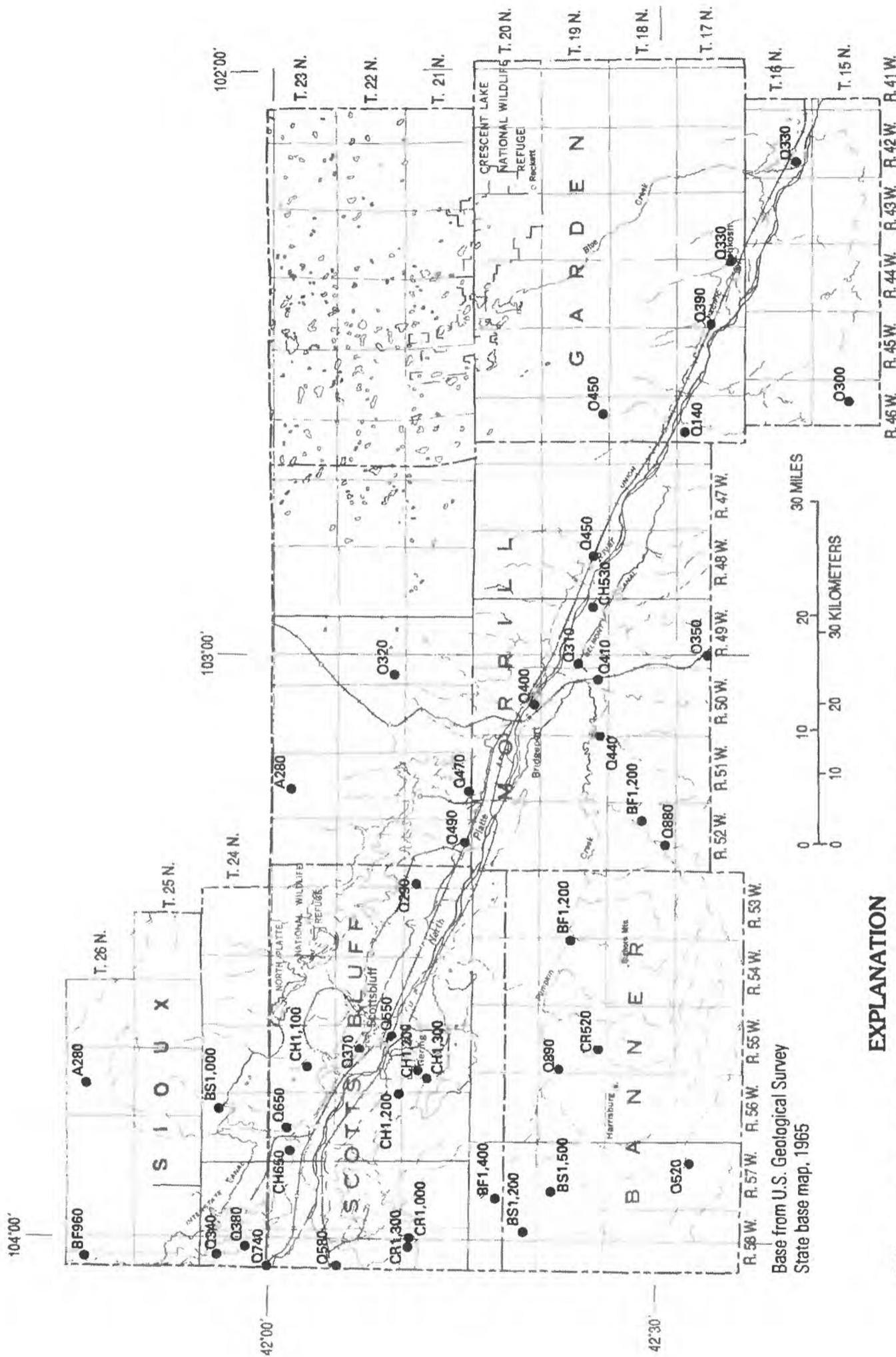


Figure 18. Uranium-238 radioactive decay series.



**EXPLANATION**

● **Well**—Letter(s) indicate water-bearing unit in which well is completed:

- O, Quaternary-age units,
  - O, Ogallala Group units,
  - A, Arkaree Group units,
  - BF, Fractured-bedrock units in the Brule Formation,
  - BS, Sand units in the Brule Formation,
  - CH, Chadron Formation units, and
  - CR, Undifferentiated units of Cretaceous age.
- Number indicates radon activity, in picocuries per liter

**Figure 19.** Radon-222 activities in water from sampled wells, June and July 1991, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska.

uranium concentrations (72 and 38  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , respectively). The smallest median concentrations of total uranium were detected in Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age (0.8 and 1.2  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , respectively) (tables 14 and 15). Garden County had the smallest and Banner County had the highest median concentration of total uranium in ground water by county (fig. 17). The MCL for total uranium is 20  $\mu\text{g/L}$ . This concentration was exceeded in nine wells (Q7, Q21, Q32, O53, Q79, Q84, Q86, Q89, and Q98 with uranium concentrations of 22.3, 20.7, 72, 22, 24.9, 30, 22.1, 21.8, and 38  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , respectively), which consist of one industrial well, three municipal wells, and five irrigation wells.

The median uranium activity ratio  $^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  in the water from the undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age was the largest (8.9), and the median uranium ratio in the water from the Quaternary-age water-bearing units was the smallest (1.8) (tables 15 and 9, respectively). A high uranium ratio in the Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age could indicate local uranium mineralization. Uranium is soluble as  $\text{U}^{6+}$  under oxidizing conditions and is practically insoluble in its reduced form, where the oxidation state is  $\text{U}^{4+}$  (Hem, 1985). The larger concentrations of dissolved uranium in the unconfined water-bearing units compared to the smaller concentrations of dissolved uranium in the confined water-bearing units could be explained by the assumed respective oxidizing and reducing environments within the water-bearing units as indicated by their respective large and small dissolved-oxygen concentrations. The assumption of reducing conditions in the Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age is further supported by the elevated  $^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$  activity ratios, which indicate that most of the uranium is in the solid phase.

In general, uranium is attributed to the presence of uranium-bearing minerals in igneous rocks, sedimentary ore bodies, and phosphate rocks and its weathered products (Maynard, 1983). High concentrations of uranium are known to occur in the fractured-bedrock and sand water-bearing units of the Brule Formation and Chadron Formation

water-bearing units north of the study area (Dickinson, 1991). The Chadron Formation water-bearing units contain abundant quantities of rhyolitic ash partially altered to smectites and other silicates (Dickinson, 1991). Uranium minerals are found mainly in the coarse-grained arkosic sandstone member of the Chadron Formation water-bearing units.

Water from Quaternary-age water-bearing units with larger uranium concentrations may be related to the presence of weathered granite and reworked volcanoclastics from Tertiary deposits or to surface and ground-water interaction with water of the North Platte River. High levels of uranium are present in the North Platte River (D.D. Snow, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, written commun., 1993). In addition, it has been suggested that the larger uranium concentrations in the Quaternary deposits may originate from leachates from nonpoint sources downstream and down-gradient of irrigated cropland and, at depth, from mobilization of uranium in water from pre-Quaternary strata (Spalding and Druliner, 1981).

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The ground-water quality of the North Platte Natural Resources District in western Nebraska was statistically evaluated on the basis of data collected in June and July 1991 from 120 systematically selected wells completed in the unconfined Quaternary-age, Ogallala Group, and Arikaree Group water-bearing units, fractured-bedrock and sand water-bearing units of the Brule Formation, Chadron Formation water-bearing units, and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age. Analyses of water samples from all 120 wells included determination of dissolved nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen and triazine and acetanilide herbicides. A subset of 46 water samples was analyzed for total carbamate insecticides, and 30 water samples were qualitatively analyzed for 2,4-D and related chlorophenoxy-acid compounds. Water-quality analyses of a subset of 44 water samples included dissolved major cations and anions, major metals, trace elements, and radionuclides.

The prevalent use of fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides in the North Platte Valley combined with relatively flat topography, irrigated cropland (mainly corn), and shallow depth to ground water mainly in the Quaternary-age water-bearing units has led to relatively large concentrations of dissolved nitrate and herbicides in ground water of the North Platte Valley. Herbicides detected during the study were alachlor, atrazine, prometon, and the atrazine metabolite, deethylatrazine. Insecticides were not detected during this study. The largest concentrations of dissolved nitrate and detections of herbicides occurred in an area surrounding Oshkosh in Garden County and between Bridgeport and Scottsbluff in the North Platte Valley. Herbicides were detected only in ground water from the Quaternary-age and Ogallala Group water-bearing units and sand water-bearing units of the Brule Formation. In addition, concentrations of dissolved nitrate in water from more than 75 percent of the wells were equal to or less than 6.0 mg/L as N. Water samples collected from the confined Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age had concentrations of dissolved nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen generally less than the detection level, which may indicate the presence of a reducing environment disassociating the dissolved nitrate ion as supported by the low dissolved-oxygen concentrations detected in the water of these units or reduced leaching at depth because of the presence of confining layers.

Results of 44 ground-water samples showed statistically significant differences in major, trace, and radionuclide constituent concentrations and activities between confined and unconfined water-bearing units. Overall, the chemical quality of the ground water falls into two groups. The unconfined water-bearing units generally contain water of a calcium bicarbonate type, with moderate hardness and large dissolved-oxygen concentrations, which indicate mainly oxidizing conditions. The Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age contain soft, mineralized water of a sodium bicarbonate type. The high degree of mineralization and high sodium but low calcium concentrations are generally an indication of the older age of the water, allowing the exchange of

calcium and magnesium for sodium in geologic strata rich in clay minerals. These Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age also exhibit small dissolved-oxygen and sulfate and high iron concentrations, which could indicate reducing conditions.

The distribution of concentrations of all major ions except potassium, sulfate, and chloride in the Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age was not the same as in water from the other water-bearing units. The Quaternary-age water-bearing units generally contain hard water, with distributions of concentrations of calcium, magnesium, potassium, and sulfate concentrations differing from those in water from the other water-bearing units. Water from all water-bearing units in the study area is alkaline, with the pH ranging from 7.2 to 9.1 standard units. Nonpoint-source contamination with agricultural chemicals of water from the Quaternary-age water-bearing units and to a lesser extent the fractured-bedrock and sand water-bearing units of the Brule Formation may contribute to the variability in constituent concentrations, and, locally, large sulfate and potassium concentrations.

The distribution of gross-beta activities was significantly different in water from the Quaternary-age water-bearing units as compared to water from the other water-bearing units. The generally larger gross-beta activities of the water in the Quaternary-age water-bearing units suggest that the water is relatively young. Water from the fractured-bedrock and sand water-bearing units of the Brule Formation did not have the same distribution of radon-222 activities as the water from the other water-bearing units. Median total-uranium concentrations and gross alpha were largest in water from the Quaternary-age water-bearing units and sand water-bearing units of the Brule Formation. The median uranium ratio  $^{234}/^{238}$  was largest in water from the undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age. Again, the low concentrations of uranium but high uranium  $^{234}/^{238}$  activity ratios indicate reducing conditions in the Chadron Formation and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age. The higher concentrations of uranium in the Quaternary-age water-bearing units may be related to the presence

of weathered granite or Tertiary volcanoclastics in the Quaternary-age sediments or to ground- and surface-water interaction along the North Platte River.

Although some of the shallow ground water in and near the North Platte Valley may have been affected by additions of dissolved nitrate to the soil and point-source contamination by pesticides, the overall water quality of the unconfined water-bearing units generally is suitable for most uses. Ground water did not exceed the MCL's established by the USEPA for herbicides and insecticides, but water exceeded the MCL of 10 mg/L of dissolved nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen from six wells completed in Quaternary-age and fractured-bedrock water-bearing units of the Brule Formation. Other MCL and SMCL exceedances included:

- (1) pH SMCL of 8.5 standard units was exceeded in water from two wells completed in the Chadron Formation water-bearing units, three wells completed in the undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age, and two wells completed in the Quaternary-age water-bearing units;
- (2) Calculated dissolved solids SMCL of 500 mg/L was exceeded in water from 20 wells completed in the Quaternary-age alluvial, Chadron Formation, and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age;
- (3) Sulfate SMCL of 250 mg/L was exceeded in water from three wells completed in Quaternary-age water-bearing units;
- (4) Chloride SMCL of 250 mg/L was exceeded in water from two wells completed in the Chadron Formation water-bearing units;
- (5) Fluoride SMCL of 2.0 mg/L was exceeded in water from two wells completed in the Chadron Formation water-bearing units;
- (6) Arsenic MCL of 50 µg/L was exceeded in water from one well completed in the Chadron Formation water-bearing units;
- (7) Beryllium proposed MCL of 1.0 µg/L was exceeded in two wells completed in the Chadron Formation water-bearing units;
- (8) Manganese SMCL of 50 µg/L was exceeded in water from two wells completed in Quaternary-age water-

bearing units;

- (9) Adjusted gross alpha MCL of 15 pCi/L was exceeded in at least 11 wells, mainly completed in Quaternary-age water-bearing units;
- (10) Radon-222 proposed MCL of 300 pCi/L was exceeded in 39 of the 44 selected wells completed in all units, except in the Arikaree Group water-bearing units; and
- (11) Uranium MCL of 20 µg/L was exceeded in nine wells completed in Quaternary-age alluvial and Ogallala Group water-bearing units.

The quality of water from the Chadron Formation water-bearing units and undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age generally is not well suited for domestic and irrigation water use because of the large chloride and fluoride concentrations, percentage of sodium, and large sodium-adsorption ratio. In addition, the use of water for irrigation with large calculated dissolved-solids concentrations can adversely affect crops.

Even though water from the unconfined units in the North Platte Natural Resources District is generally suitable for most uses, the presence of manmade chemicals, such as dissolved nitrate and herbicides, and the selected major-ion concentrations indicate that the water in the unconfined water-bearing units could degrade in the future if current agricultural practices of chemical additions to the land surface continue.

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**Table 6. Summary of water-quality analyses of selected properties of ground water and concentrations of nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen, herbicides, and insecticides, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991**

[µS/cm, microsiemens per centimeter at 25 °C; degrees Celsius; mg/L, milligrams per liter; µg/L, micrograms per liter; --, not analyzed; <, less than; U, undetected; D, detected]

Well identification number <sup>1</sup> (fig. 8)	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	
County <sup>2</sup>	069	069	069	069	069	069	069	069	069	069	069	069	069	069	123	123
Sample type <sup>3</sup>	I	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	II	I	I	II	I	I	II
Water use <sup>4</sup>	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	IN	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
Well depth, feet below land surface	50	102	100	106	115	98	70	100	200	205	512	440	400	200	106	
Date sampled, month/day/year	6/21/91	7/8/91	7/8/91	7/8/91	6/24/91	6/24/91	7/8/91	7/8/91	6/24/91	7/8/91	7/16/91	7/16/91	7/8/91	7/12/91	7/12/91	6/26/91
Property of water or chemical constituent	Units of measurement level															
Specific conductance, field	µS/cm	1.0	--	329	--	443	--	1,030	--	351	--	389	--	188	--	768
pH, field	Standard units	.1	7.9	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.2	7.8	7.8	7.6	8.0	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.2
Water temperature, field	°C	.5	13.0	13.5	13.0	14.5	12.5	12.5	14.0	14.0	15.0	15.5	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
Oxygen, dissolved, field	mg/L	.1	6.0	.5	9.5	7.4	3.7	10.2	6.0	6.4	7.6	9.8	9.9	5.0	3.1	3.1
Nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen	mg/L	.05	2.2	1.8	14.0	4.2	19.0	2.9	2.7	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.8	1.5	4.5	4.5
Triazine enzyme-assay results	--	U	U	D	D	U	D	D	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
Aldicarb enzyme-assay results	--	--	D	--	U	--	D	--	U	U	--	--	U	--	U	U
2, 4-D enzyme-assay results	µg/L	.5	--	<.5	--	<.5	<.5	<.5	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	<.5	<.5
Alachlor, dissolved	µg/L	.05	--	<.05	<.05	--	<.05	<.05	--	--	--	--	--	<.05	--	--
Aldicarb sulfone, total	µg/L	.5	--	<.5	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Aldicarb sulfoxide, total	µg/L	.5	--	<.5	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Aldicarb, total	µg/L	.5	--	<.5	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ametryn, dissolved	µg/L	.05	--	<.05	<.05	--	<.05	<.05	--	--	--	--	--	<.05	--	--
Atrazine, dissolved	µg/L	.05	--	<.05	.05	--	.31	.08	--	--	--	--	--	<.05	--	--
Carbaryl, total	µg/L	.5	--	<.5	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Carbofuran, total	µg/L	.5	--	<.5	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cyanazine, dissolved	µg/L	.20	--	<.20	<.20	--	<.20	<.20	--	--	--	--	--	<.20	--	--
Deethylatrazine, dissolved	µg/L	.05	--	<.05	<.05	--	<.05	<.05	--	--	--	--	--	<.05	--	--
Deisopropylatrazine, dissolved	µg/L	.05	--	<.05	<.05	--	<.05	<.05	--	--	--	--	--	<.05	--	--
Methiocarb, total	µg/L	.5	--	<.5	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**Table 6. Summary of water-quality analyses of selected properties of ground water and concentrations of nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen, herbicides, and insecticides, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991—Continued**

Well identification number <sup>1</sup> (fig. 8)	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15
County <sup>2</sup>	069	069	069	069	069	069	069	069	069	069	069	069	069	123	123
Sample type <sup>3</sup>	I	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	II	I	I	II	I	II
Water use <sup>4</sup>	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	IN	I	I	I	I	I	I
Well depth, feet below land surface	50	102	100	106	115	98	70	100	200	205	512	440	400	200	106
Date sampled, month/day/year	6/21/91	7/8/91	7/8/91	7/8/91	6/24/91	6/24/91	7/8/91	7/8/91	6/24/91	7/8/91	7/16/91	7/16/91	7/8/91	7/12/91	6/26/91
Property of water or chemical constituent	Units of measurement														
	Detection level														
Methomyl, total	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Metolachlor, dissolved	--	<.05	<.05	<.05	--	--	<.05	<.05	--	--	--	--	--	<.05	--
Metribuzin, dissolved	--	<.05	<.05	<.05	--	--	<.05	<.05	--	--	--	--	--	<.05	--
Oxamyl, total	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Prometon, dissolved	--	<.05	<.05	<.05	--	--	<.05	<.05	--	--	--	--	--	<.05	--
Prometryn, dissolved	--	<.05	<.05	<.05	--	--	<.05	<.05	--	--	--	--	--	<.05	--
Propazine, dissolved	--	<.05	<.05	<.05	--	--	<.05	<.05	--	--	--	--	--	<.05	--
Propham, total	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Propoxur, total	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Simazine, dissolved	--	<.05	<.05	<.05	--	--	<.05	<.05	--	--	--	--	--	<.05	--
1-Naphthol, total	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
3-Hydroxycarbofuran, total	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**Table 6. Summary of water-quality analyses of selected properties of ground water and concentrations of nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen, herbicides, and insecticides, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991—Continued**

Well identification number (fig. 8)	Q16	Q17	Q18	Q19	Q20	Q21	Q22	Q23	Q24	Q25	Q26	Q27	Q28	Q29	Q30
County <sup>2</sup>	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123
Sample type <sup>3</sup>	I	I	I	I	I	II	I	I	I	II	I	I	I	II	I
Water use <sup>4</sup>	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
Well depth, feet below land surface	70	60	56	66	50	125	100	60	100	100	110	97	90	81	150
Date sampled, month/day/year	7/12/91	7/12/91	7/12/91	7/12/91	6/20/91	7/11/91	6/20/91	7/15/91	7/13/91	6/25/91	7/10/91	7/10/91	7/16/91	7/15/91	6/19/91
Property of water or chemical constituent	Units of Detection level														
Specific conductance, field	--	--	--	--	--	781	--	--	--	419	--	--	--	541	--
pH, field	7.2	7.7	7.6	7.3	7.6	7.4	7.5	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.9	8.0	7.8	7.6	7.5
Water temperature, field	13.0	11.5	13.5	11.5	9.0	13.0	12.0	14.0	13.0	10.0	13.0	14.0	13.5	12.0	14.5
Oxygen, dissolved, field	.1	3.0	5.0	.9	4.8	3.9	2.1	5.9	6.2	4.9	8.5	10.1	7.8	5.9	.9
Nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen	.05	6.0	1.2	2.9	3.7	7.5	2.8	2.9	6.0	2.0	5.3	3.1	3.0	4.5	4.1
Triazine enzyme-assay results	--	D	U	U	D	D	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
Aldicarb enzyme-assay results	--	--	--	--	--	D	--	--	U	U	--	--	--	U	--
2, 4-D enzyme-assay results	.5	--	--	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--
Alachlor, dissolved	.05	<.05	<.05	--	<.05	<.05	--	--	<.05	--	--	--	--	--	--
Aldicarb sulfone, total	.5	--	--	--	--	<.5	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Aldicarb sulfoxide, total	.5	--	--	--	--	<.5	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Aldicarb, total	.5	--	--	--	--	<.5	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ametryn, dissolved	.05	<.05	<.05	--	<.05	<.05	--	--	<.05	--	--	--	--	--	--
Atrazine, dissolved	.05	<.05	<.05	--	<.05	.15	--	--	<.05	--	--	--	--	--	--
Carbaryl, total	.5	--	--	--	--	<.5	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Carbofuran, total	.5	--	--	--	--	<.5	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cyanazine, dissolved	.20	<.20	<.20	--	<.20	<.20	--	--	<.20	--	--	--	--	--	--
Deethylatrazine, dissolved	.05	<.05	<.05	--	<.05	<.05	--	--	<.05	--	--	--	--	--	--
Deisopropylatrazine, dissolved	.05	<.05	<.05	--	<.05	<.05	--	--	<.05	--	--	--	--	--	--
Methiocarb, total	.5	--	--	--	--	<.5	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--

**Table 6. Summary of water-quality analyses of selected properties of ground water and concentrations of nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen, herbicides, and insecticides, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991—Continued**

Well identification number (fig. 8)	Q16	Q17	Q18	Q19	Q20	Q21	Q22	Q23	Q24	Q25	Q28	Q27	Q28	Q29	Q30
County <sup>2</sup>	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123
Sample type <sup>3</sup>	I	I	I	I	I	II	I	I	I	II	I	I	I	II	I
Water use <sup>4</sup>	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
Well depth, feet below land surface	70	60	56	66	50	125	100	60	100	100	110	97	90	81	150
Date sampled, month/day/year	7/12/91	7/12/91	7/12/91	7/12/91	6/20/91	7/11/91	6/20/91	7/15/91	7/13/91	6/25/91	7/10/91	7/10/91	7/15/91	7/15/91	6/19/91
Property of water or chemical constituent	Units of Detection level														
Methomyl, total	--	--	--	--	--	<0.5	--	--	<0.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Metolachlor, dissolved	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	--	<0.05	<0.05	--	--	<0.05	--	--	--	--	--	--
Metribuzin, dissolved	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	--	<0.05	<0.05	--	--	<0.05	--	--	--	--	--	--
Oxamyl, total	--	--	--	--	--	<0.5	--	--	<0.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Prometon, dissolved	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	--	<0.05	<0.05	--	--	<0.05	--	--	--	--	--	--
Prometryn, dissolved	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	--	<0.05	<0.05	--	--	<0.05	--	--	--	--	--	--
Propazine, dissolved	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	--	<0.05	<0.05	--	--	<0.05	--	--	--	--	--	--
Propham, total	--	--	--	--	--	<0.5	--	--	<0.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Propoxur, total	--	--	--	--	--	<0.5	--	--	<0.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Simazine, dissolved	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	--	<0.05	<0.05	--	--	<0.05	--	--	--	--	--	--
1-Naphthol, total	--	--	--	--	--	<0.5	--	--	<0.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
3-Hydroxycarbofuran, total	--	--	--	--	--	<0.5	--	--	<0.5	--	--	--	--	--	--

**Table 6. Summary of water-quality analyses of selected properties of ground water and concentrations of nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen, herbicides, and insecticides, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991—Continued**

Well identification number <sup>1</sup> (fig. 8)	Q31		Q32		Q33		Q34		Q35		Q36		Q37		Q38		Q39		Q40		Q41		Q42		Q43		Q44		Q45							
	County <sup>2</sup>	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123						
Sample type <sup>3</sup>	I	II	I	I	II	I	I	I	I	II	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	II	I	I	I	I						
Water use <sup>4</sup>	I	M	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I					
Well depth, feet below land surface	55	125	85	120	78	76	84	85	85	78	76	84	85	85	85	85	55	55	92	92	70	140	140	169	169	80	80	53	53	53						
Date sampled, month/day/year	7/13/91	7/15/91	7/8/91	6/20/91	7/16/91	7/16/91	7/16/91	6/20/91	7/16/91	7/16/91	7/16/91	7/16/91	7/16/91	7/16/91	7/16/91	7/16/91	7/16/91	7/16/91	6/19/91	6/19/91	6/19/91	6/19/91	7/16/91	7/16/91	7/10/91	7/10/91	7/10/91	7/10/91	7/13/91	7/13/91						
Property of water or chemical constituent	Units of Detection level																																			
Specific conductance, field	1.0	1,140	--	--	518	--	--	--	518	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	816	--	--	--	--	--	--					
pH, field	.1	7.5	7.4	7.7	7.5	7.5	7.7	7.7	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.6	7.9	7.9	8.2	8.2	7.9	7.9	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7					
Water temperature, field	.5	12.5	12.5	9.0	12.5	13.5	14.0	13.0	12.5	12.5	13.5	14.0	13.0	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	11.5	11.5	12.5	12.5	15.0	15.0	16.0	16.0	14.0	14.0	13.5	13.5	13.5						
Oxygen, dissolved, field	.1	7.4	.2	6.4	4.8	5.3	6.9	7.0	4.8	4.8	5.3	6.9	7.0	4.8	4.8	4.8	2.2	2.2	5.1	5.1	4.8	11.7	11.7	8.9	8.9	10.3	10.3	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9					
Nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen	.05	3.2	8.9	.83	3.8	3.2	10.0	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.2	10.0	3.6	3.6	1.8	1.8	1.8	6.0	6.0	5.7	5.7	12.0	12.0	5.7	5.7	8.2	8.2	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4					
Triazine enzyme-assay results	--	D	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D				
Aldicarb enzyme-assay results	--	U	U	--	U	--	--	--	U	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	U	U	--	--	--	--	--	--	--			
2, 4-D enzyme-assay results	.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--			
Alachlor, dissolved	.05	<.05	--	<.05	--	<.05	--	--	--	--	<.05	--	--	--	--	<.05	<.05	<.05	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05		
Aldicarb sulfone, total	.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		
Aldicarb sulfoxide, total	.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		
Aldicarb, total	.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Ametryn, dissolved	.05	<.05	--	<.05	--	<.05	--	--	--	--	<.05	--	--	--	--	<.05	<.05	<.05	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05
Atrazine, dissolved	.05	<.05	--	<.05	--	<.05	--	--	--	--	<.05	--	--	--	--	<.05	<.05	<.05	--	--	--	--	--	--	.16	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05
Carbaryl, total	.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Carbofuran, total	.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Cyanazine, dissolved	.20	<.20	--	<.20	--	<.20	--	--	--	--	<.20	--	--	--	--	<.20	<.20	<.20	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.20	<.20	<.20	<.20	<.20	<.20	<.20	<.20	<.20	<.20	<.20	<.20
Deethylatrazine, dissolved	.05	<.05	--	<.05	--	<.05	--	--	--	--	<.05	--	--	--	--	<.05	<.05	<.05	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05
Deisopropylatrazine, dissolved	.05	<.05	--	<.05	--	<.05	--	--	--	--	<.05	--	--	--	--	<.05	<.05	<.05	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05
Methiocarb, total	.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**Table 6. Summary of water-quality analyses of selected properties of ground water and concentrations of nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen, herbicides, and insecticides, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991—Continued**

Well identification number <sup>1</sup> (fig. 8)	Q31	Q32	Q33	Q34	Q35	Q36	Q37	Q38	Q39	Q40	Q41	Q42	Q43	Q44	Q45
	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123
County <sup>2</sup>	I	II	I	I	II	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	II	I	I
Sample type <sup>3</sup>	I	M	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
Water use <sup>4</sup>	65	125	65	120	78	76	84	85	55	92	70	140	169	80	53
Well depth, feet below land surface	7/13/91	7/15/91	7/8/91	6/20/91	7/16/91	7/16/91	7/16/91	7/16/91	7/16/91	6/19/91	6/19/91	7/16/91	7/10/91	7/10/91	7/13/91
Date sampled, month/day/year															
Property of water or chemical constituent	Units of Detection level														
Methomyl, total	μg/L	.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05
Metolachlor, dissolved	μg/L	.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05
Metribuzin, dissolved	μg/L	.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05
Oxamyl, total	μg/L	.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Prometon, dissolved	μg/L	.05	.07	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05
Prometryn, dissolved	μg/L	.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05
Propazine, dissolved	μg/L	.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05
Propham, total	μg/L	.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Propoxur, total	μg/L	.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Simazine, dissolved	μg/L	.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05
1-Naphthol, total	μg/L	.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
3-Hydroxycarboluran, total	μg/L	.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**Table 6. Summary of water-quality analyses of selected properties of ground water and concentrations of nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen, herbicides, and insecticides, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991—Continued**

Well identification number <sup>1</sup> (fig. 8)	Q46	Q47	Q48	Q49	Q50	Q51	Q52	Q53	A54	BF55	BF56	BF57	BF58	CH59	Q60
County <sup>2</sup>	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	007
Sample type <sup>3</sup>	I	II	I	II	I	I	I	II	II	I	II	I	I	II	I
Water use <sup>4</sup>	I	IN	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
Well depth, feet below land surface	117	80	156	480	205	350	385	85	200	120	150	140	125	475	70
Date sampled, month/day/year	7/13/91	7/10/91	7/12/91	7/11/91	7/17/91	6/20/91	7/17/91	7/11/91	6/25/91	6/16/91	6/25/91	7/16/91	7/17/91	7/17/91	7/13/91
Property of water or chemical constituent	Units of measurement level														
Specific conductance, field	--	1,090	--	377	--	--	--	646	322	--	390	--	--	1,540	--
pH, field	7.5	7.6	7.8	7.6	7.8	7.9	8.0	7.3	7.9	7.9	7.8	8.1	7.8	8.0	7.9
Water temperature, field	.5	13.0	14.0	15.0	15.5	12.0	15.0	12.0	15.0	15.0	14.0	16.5	15.0	18.5	12.5
Oxygen, dissolved, field	.1	4.6	6.3	4.2	5.4	8.5	6.4	2.3	5.2	--	6.8	6.3	5.1	.2	10.6
Nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen	.05	12.0	9.1	1.6	3.0	2.4	2.3	1.7	2.6	6.8	4.1	4.2	3.4	.05	5.3
Triazine enzyme-assay results	--	D	D	U	U	D	U	D	U	D	U	U	U	U	D
Aldicarb enzyme-assay results	--	U	--	U	--	--	--	U	U	--	U	--	--	D	--
2, 4-D enzyme-assay results	.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.5	<.5	--	<.5	--	--	--	--
Atrazine, dissolved	.05	<.05	<.05	--	--	<.05	--	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	--	--	--	<.05
Aldicarb sulfone, total	.5	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.5	--
Aldicarb sulfoxide, total	.5	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.5	--
Aldicarb, total	.5	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.5	--
Ametryn, dissolved	.05	<.05	<.05	--	--	<.05	--	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	--	--	--	<.05
Atrazine, dissolved	.05	<.05	<.05	--	--	<.05	--	.20	<.05	<.05	<.05	--	--	--	<.05
Carbaryl, total	.5	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.5	--
Carbofuran, total	.5	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.5	--
Cyanazine, dissolved	.20	<.20	<.20	--	--	<.20	--	<.20	<.20	<.20	<.20	--	--	--	<.20
Deethylatrazine, dissolved	.05	<.05	<.05	--	--	<.05	--	<.05	<.05	.07	<.05	--	--	--	<.05
Deisopropylatrazine, dissolved	.05	<.05	<.05	--	--	<.05	--	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	--	--	--	<.05
Methiocarb, total	.5	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.5	--

**Table 6. Summary of water-quality analyses of selected properties of ground water and concentrations of nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen, herbicides, and insecticides, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991—Continued**

Well identification number <sup>1</sup> (fig. 8)		Q48	Q47	Q48	Q49	O50	O51	O52	O53	A54	BF55	BF56	BF57	BF58	CH59	Q60
County <sup>2</sup>	Sample type <sup>3</sup>	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	007
Water use <sup>4</sup>		I	II	I	II	I	I	I	II	I	I	II	I	I	I	I
Well depth, feet below land surface		117	80	156	480	205	350	385	65	200	120	150	140	125	475	70
Date sampled, month/day/year		7/13/91	7/10/91	7/12/91	7/11/91	7/17/91	6/20/91	7/17/91	7/11/91	6/25/91	6/16/91	6/25/91	7/16/91	7/17/91	7/17/91	7/13/91
Property of water or chemical constituent	Units of measurement	Detection level														
Methomyl, total	µg/L	0.5	--	--	<0.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Metolachlor, dissolved	µg/L	.05	<0.05	<0.05	--	--	<0.05	--	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	--	--	--	<0.05
Metribuzin, dissolved	µg/L	.05	<0.05	<0.05	--	--	<0.05	--	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	--	--	--	<0.05
Oxamyl, total	µg/L	.5	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Prometon, dissolved	µg/L	.05	<0.05	<0.05	--	--	<0.05	--	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	--	--	--	<0.05
Prometryn, dissolved	µg/L	.05	<0.05	<0.05	--	--	<0.05	--	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	--	--	--	<0.05
Propazine, dissolved	µg/L	.05	<0.05	<0.05	--	--	<0.05	--	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	--	--	--	<0.05
Propham, total	µg/L	.5	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Propoxur, total	µg/L	.5	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Simazine, dissolved	µg/L	.05	<0.05	<0.05	--	--	.27	--	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	--	--	--	<0.05
1-Naphthol, total	µg/L	.5	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
3-Hydroxycarbofuran, total	µg/L	.5	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**Table 6. Summary of water-quality analyses of selected properties of ground water and concentrations of nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen, herbicides, and insecticides, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991—Continued**

Well identification number <sup>1</sup> (fig. 8)	Q61	Q62	Q63	Q64	Q65	Q66	Q67	BF68	BF69	BF70	BF71	BF72	BS73	BS74	BS75	
County <sup>2</sup>	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	
Sample type <sup>3</sup>	I	II	I	I	I	I	II	I	II	I	I	I	I	II	I	
Water use <sup>4</sup>	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	
Well depth, feet below land surface	80	75	68	60	210	386	370	95	100	90	95	100	103	180	220	
Date sampled, month/day/year	6/19/91	7/10/91	7/17/91	7/9/91	7/9/91	7/13/91	7/9/91	7/13/91	7/10/91	7/17/91	7/18/91	7/13/91	7/18/91	7/10/91	7/18/91	
County <sup>2</sup>	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	
Property of water or chemical constituent	Units of Detection level															
Specific conductance, field	μ S/cm	1.0	527	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.9	8.1	8.1	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.7	7.8	7.9
pH, field	Standard units	.1	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.8	7.9	7.5	7.9	8.1	7.9	7.7	7.8	7.9	7.9
Water temperature, field	°C	.5	10.0	12.5	12.0	13.5	14.5	13.0	13.0	15.0	13.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	15.0	15.0
Oxygen, dissolved, field	mg/L	.1	13.0	7.1	731	12.1	6.6	12.1	6.5	5.8	5.5	12.6	7.5	7.2	6.7	6.7
Nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen	mg/L	.05	4.8	6.9	9.8	3.4	2.3	5.1	10.0	5.1	5.8	3.8	4.4	6.4	7.3	7.3
Triazine enzyme-assay results	--	D	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	D	U	U	U
Aldicarb enzyme-assay results	--	--	D	--	--	--	U	U	U	--	--	--	--	U	--	--
2, 4-D enzyme-assay results	μ g/L	.5	<.5	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Alachlor, dissolved	μ g/L	.05	<.05	<.05	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.05	--	<.05	--	--	--
Aldicarb sulfone, total	μ g/L	.5	<.5	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Aldicarb sulfoxide, total	μ g/L	.5	<.5	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Aldicarb, total	μ g/L	.5	<.5	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ametryn, dissolved	μ g/L	.05	<.05	<.05	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.05	--	<.05	--	--	--
Atrazine, dissolved	μ g/L	.05	<.05	<.05	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.05	--	<.05	--	--	--
Carbaryl <sup>1</sup> , total	μ g/L	.5	<.5	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Carbofuran, total	μ g/L	.5	<.5	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cyanazine, dissolved	μ g/L	.20	<.20	<.20	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.20	--	<.20	--	--	--
Deethylatrazine, dissolved	μ g/L	.05	<.05	<.05	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.05	--	<.05	--	--	--
Deisopropylatrazine, dissolved	μ g/L	.05	<.05	<.05	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.05	--	<.05	--	--	--
Methiocarb, total	μ g/L	.5	<.5	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**Table 6. Summary of water-quality analyses of selected properties of ground water and concentrations of nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen, herbicides, and insecticides, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991—Continued**

Well identification number <sup>1</sup> (fig. 8)	Q61	Q62	Q63	Q64	Q65	Q66	Q67	BF68	BF69	BF70	BF71	BF72	BS73	BS74	BS75
County <sup>2</sup>	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	007
Sample type <sup>3</sup>	I	II	I	I	I	I	II	I	II	I	I	I	I	II	I
Water use <sup>4</sup>	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
Well depth, feet below land surface	60	75	68	60	210	396	370	95	100	90	95	100	103	180	220
Date sampled, month/day/year	6/19/91	7/10/91	7/17/91	7/9/91	7/9/91	7/13/91	7/9/91	7/13/91	7/10/91	7/17/91	7/18/91	7/13/91	7/18/91	7/10/91	7/18/91
County <sup>2</sup>	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	007	007
<b>Property of water or chemical constituent</b>	<b>Units of measurement</b>														
Methomyl, total	0.5	μg/L	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Metolachlor, dissolved	.05	μg/L	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05
Metribuzin, dissolved	.05	μg/L	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05
Oxamyl, total	.5	μg/L	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Prometon, dissolved	.05	μg/L	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05
Prometryn, dissolved	.05	μg/L	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05
Propazine, dissolved	.05	μg/L	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05
Propham, total	.5	μg/L	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Propoxur, total	.5	μg/L	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5
Simazine, dissolved	.05	μg/L	.26	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05
1-Naphthol, total	.5	μg/L	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
3-Hydroxycarbofuran, total	.5	μg/L	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5

**Table 6. Summary of water-quality analyses of selected properties of ground water and concentrations of nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen, herbicides, and insecticides, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991—Continued**

Well identification number <sup>1</sup> (fig. 8)	BS75	BS77	CR78	Q79	Q80	Q81	Q82	Q83	Q84	Q85	Q86	Q87	Q88	Q89	Q90	
County <sup>2</sup>	007	007	007	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	
Sample type <sup>3</sup>	II	I	II	II	I	I	I	I	II	I	II	I	I	II	I	
Water use <sup>4</sup>	I	I	D	I	I	M	I	I	M	D	I	I	M	IN	I	
Well depth, feet below land surface	80	135	870	120	109	105	70	90	85	87	82	50	70	78	151	
Date sampled, month/day/year	7/9/91	7/13/91	6/19/91	7/15/91	6/26/91	7/16/91	7/17/91	7/18/91	6/26/91	7/18/91	7/15/91	6/16/91	6/26/91	7/15/91	6/26/91	
Property of water or chemical constituent	Units of Detec- tion															
Property of water or chemical constituent	meas- ure- ment	meas- ure- ment	meas- ure- ment	meas- ure- ment	meas- ure- ment	meas- ure- ment	meas- ure- ment	meas- ure- ment	meas- ure- ment	meas- ure- ment	meas- ure- ment	meas- ure- ment	meas- ure- ment	meas- ure- ment	meas- ure- ment	meas- ure- ment
Specific conductance, field	1.0	457	2,040	890	7.5	7.8	7.3	7.7	1,010	8.1	1,040	7.6	7.6	7.6	876	7.5
pH, field	.1	7.6	7.7	8.8	7.5	7.8	7.3	7.7	7.7	8.1	7.4	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.5
Water temperature, field	.5	13.0	19.5	14.5	14.5	11.5	14.5	14.0	14.0	14.5	13.0	13.0	15.0	14.0	13.0	13.0
Oxygen, dissolved, field	.1	6.7	12.2	1.1	5.0	2.2	11.6	2.2	.5	11.2	4.8	6.0	5.2	6.7	7.5	7.5
Nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen	.05	3.5	<.05	7.2	6.7	5.0	6.7	14.0	2.5	6.6	4.8	3.0	4.4	4.6	9.0	9.0
Triazine enzyme-assay results	--	U	U	U	U	U	U	D	U	U	U	U	D	U	U	U
Aldicarb enzyme-assay results	--	U	U	U	U	--	--	--	U	--	U	--	--	D	--	--
2, 4-D enzyme-assay results	.5	--	<.5	<.5	--	--	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	<.5	--	--
Alachlor, dissolved	.05	<.05	--	--	<.05	--	--	<.05	--	--	--	--	<.05	<.05	--	--
Aldicarb sulfone, total	.5	--	<.5	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.5	--	--
Aldicarb sulfoxide, total	.5	--	<.5	<.5	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.5	--	--
Aldicarb, total	.5	--	<.5	<.5	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.5	--	--
Ametryn, dissolved	.05	<.05	--	--	<.05	--	--	<.05	--	--	--	--	<.05	<.05	--	--
Atrazine, dissolved	.05	<.05	--	--	.05	--	--	.47	--	--	--	--	<.05	<.05	--	--
Carbaryl, total	.5	--	<.5	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.5	--	--
Carbofuran, total	.5	--	<.5	<.5	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.5	--	--
Cyanazine, dissolved	.20	<.20	--	--	<.20	--	--	<.20	--	--	--	--	<.20	<.20	--	--
Deethylatrazine, dissolved	.05	<.05	--	--	.18	--	--	<.05	--	--	--	--	.07	<.05	--	--
Deisopropylatrazine, dissolved	.05	<.05	--	--	<.05	--	--	<.05	--	--	--	--	<.05	<.05	--	--
Methiocarb, total	.5	--	<.5	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.5	--	--

**Table 6. Summary of water-quality analyses of selected properties of ground water and concentrations of nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen, herbicides, and insecticides, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991—Continued**

Well identification number <sup>1</sup> (fig. 8)	BS76	BS77	CR78	Q79	Q80	Q81	Q82	Q83	Q84	Q85	Q86	Q87	Q88	Q89	Q90
County <sup>2</sup>	007	007	007	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	157
Sample type <sup>3</sup>	II	I	II	II	I	I	I	I	II	I	II	I	I	II	I
Water use <sup>4</sup>	I	I	D	I	I	M	I	I	M	D	I	I	M	IN	I
Well depth, feet below land surface	80	135	870	120	109	105	70	90	85	87	62	50	70	78	151
Date sampled, month/day/year	7/9/91	7/13/91	6/19/91	7/15/91	6/26/91	7/18/91	7/17/91	7/18/91	6/26/91	7/18/91	7/15/91	6/18/91	6/26/91	7/15/91	6/26/91
			<0.5	<0.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<0.5	--
Methomyl, total	.05	--	<0.5	<0.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<0.5	--
Metolachlor, dissolved	.05	<0.05	--	--	<0.05	--	--	<0.05	--	--	--	--	<0.05	<0.05	--
Metribuzin, dissolved	.05	<0.05	--	--	<0.05	--	--	<0.05	--	--	--	--	<0.05	<0.05	--
Oxamyl, total	.5	--	<.5	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.5	--
Prometon, dissolved	.05	<0.05	--	--	<0.05	--	--	<0.05	--	--	--	--	.05	<0.05	--
Prometryn, dissolved	.05	<0.05	--	--	<0.05	--	--	<0.05	--	--	--	--	<0.05	<0.05	--
Propazine, dissolved	.05	<0.05	--	--	<0.05	--	--	<0.05	--	--	--	--	<0.05	<0.05	--
Propham, total	.5	--	<.5	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.5	--
Propoxur, total	.5	--	<.5	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.5	--
Simazine, dissolved	.05	<0.05	--	--	<0.05	--	--	<0.05	--	--	--	--	<0.05	<0.05	--
1-Naphthol, total	.5	--	<.5	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.5	--
3-Hydroxycarbofuran, total	.5	--	<.5	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.5	--

**Table 6. Summary of water-quality analyses of selected properties of ground water and concentrations of nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen, herbicides, and insecticides, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991—Continued**

Well identification number <sup>1</sup> (fig. 8)	Q91	Q92	Q93	Q94	Q95	Q96	Q97	Q98	BF99	BF100	BF101	BF102	CH103	CH104	CH105	
	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	
County <sup>2</sup>	I	I	I	M	I	I	I	II	I	II	I	I	II	II	II	
Sample type <sup>3</sup>	I	I	I	M	I	I	I	II	I	II	I	I	II	II	II	
Water use <sup>4</sup>	I	D	M	M	I	I	I	M	I	I	I	I	D	D	D	
Well depth, feet below land surface	73	66	100	35	60	60	85	60	80	55	90	110	505	555	430	
Date sampled, month/day/year	7/11/91	6/19/91	6/17/91	7/15/91	7/12/91	7/17/91	7/18/91	7/17/91	7/10/91	6/18/91	7/15/91	7/18/91	6/25/91	6/17/91	6/18/91	
Property of water or chemical constituent	Units of measurement															
Specific conductance, field	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	
pH, field	7.8	7.5	7.4	7.6	8.6	8.5	7.9	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.8	7.9	8.6	8.0	8.0	
Water temperature, field	14.0	9.0	14.5	11.5	13.0	13.5	14.5	14.0	14.0	14.0	12.0	16.0	18.5	21.0	14.0	
Oxygen, dissolved, field	.1	4.2	.5	10.4	6.0	6.3	1.2	1.3	6.4	10.4	7.6	6.0	1.4	.1	1.9	
Nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen	.05	1.3	6.4	5.4	7.3	8.9	3.4	4.5	12.0	4.1	4.7	9.6	.98	<.05	<.05	
Triazine enzyme-assay results	U	D	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	D	U	U	
Aldicarb enzyme-assay results	--	--	--	U	--	--	--	U	U	U	--	--	U	U	U	
2, 4-D enzyme-assay results	.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.5	--	<.5	--	--	<.5	<.5	<.5	
Alachlor, dissolved	.05	<.05	--	--	--	--	<.05	--	<.05	--	--	--	<.05	--	--	
Aldicarb sulfone, total	.5	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Aldicarb sulfoxide, total	.5	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Aldicarb, total	.5	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Ametryn, dissolved	.05	<.05	--	--	--	--	<.05	--	<.05	--	--	--	<.05	--	--	
Atrazine, dissolved	.05	<.05	--	--	--	--	<.05	--	<.05	--	--	--	<.05	--	--	
Carbaryl, total	.5	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Carbofuran, total	.5	<.05	--	--	--	--	<.05	--	<.05	--	--	--	<.05	--	--	
Cyanazine, dissolved	.20	<.20	--	--	--	--	<.20	--	<.20	--	--	--	<.20	--	--	
Deethylatrazine, dissolved	.05	<.05	--	--	--	--	<.05	--	<.05	--	--	--	<.05	--	--	
Deisopropylatrazine, dissolved	.05	<.05	--	--	--	--	<.05	--	<.05	--	--	--	<.05	--	--	
Methiocarb, total	.5	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	

**Table 6. Summary of water-quality analyses of selected properties of ground water and concentrations of nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen, herbicides, and insecticides, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991—Continued**

Well identification number <sup>1</sup> (fig. 8)		Q91	Q92	Q93	Q94	Q95	Q98	Q97	Q88	BF99	BF100	BF101	BF102	CH103	CH104	CH105	
County <sup>2</sup>	Sample type <sup>3</sup>	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	
Water use <sup>4</sup>		I	I	I	II	I	I	I	II	I	I	I	I	I	I	II	
Well depth, feet below land surface		I	D	M	M	I	I	I	M	I	I	I	I	I	D	D	
Date sampled, month/day/year		73	68	100	35	60	60	85	60	80	65	90	110	505	555	430	
		7/11/91	6/19/91	6/17/91	7/15/91	7/12/91	7/17/91	7/18/91	7/17/91	7/10/91	6/18/91	7/15/91	7/18/91	6/25/91	6/17/91	6/18/91	
Property of water or chemical constituent	Units of measurement	Detection level															
Methomyl, total	µg/L	--	--	--	<0.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Metolachlor, dissolved	µg/L	--	<0.05	--	--	--	--	<0.05	--	<0.05	--	--	--	<0.05	--	--	
Metribuzin, dissolved	µg/L	--	<0.05	--	--	--	--	<0.05	--	<0.05	--	--	--	<0.05	--	--	
Oxamyl, total	µg/L	--	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Prometon, dissolved	µg/L	--	<0.05	--	--	--	--	<0.05	--	<0.05	--	--	--	<0.05	--	--	
Prometryn, dissolved	µg/L	--	<0.05	--	--	--	--	<0.05	--	<0.05	--	--	--	<0.05	--	--	
Propazine, dissolved	µg/L	--	<0.05	--	--	--	--	<0.05	--	<0.05	--	--	--	<0.05	--	--	
Propham, total	µg/L	--	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Propoxur, total	µg/L	--	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Simazine, dissolved	µg/L	--	.16	--	--	--	--	<0.05	--	<0.05	--	--	--	.17	--	--	
1-Naphthol, total	µg/L	--	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
3-Hydroxycarbofuran, total	µg/L	--	--	--	<.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	

**Table 6. Summary of water-quality analyses of selected properties of ground water and concentrations of nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen, herbicides, and insecticides, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991—Continued**

Well identification number <sup>1</sup> (fig. 8)	CH108		CH107		CR108		CR109		Q110		Q111		Q112		Q113		Q114		Q115		A116		BF117		BF118		BF119		BS120	
	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165
County <sup>2</sup>	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	I	I	II	II	I	I	I	II	II	I	I	I	II	II	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	II
Sample type <sup>3</sup>	I	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
Water use <sup>4</sup>	445	290	230	230	305	305	305	71	117	117	117	117	100	100	70	150	150	150	167	167	270	270	95	100	100	100	100	100	115	115
Well depth, feet below land surface	6/25/91	7/17/91	6/16/91	6/16/91	6/16/91	6/16/91	7/16/91	7/16/91	7/11/91	7/11/91	7/11/91	7/12/91	7/12/91	7/12/91	7/9/91	7/12/91	7/12/91	7/12/91	7/12/91	7/12/91	7/17/91	7/17/91	7/11/91	7/9/91	7/9/91	7/11/91	7/11/91	7/15/91	7/15/91	7/15/91
Date sampled, month/day/year	Units of measurement		Detection level		Detection level		Detection level		Detection level		Detection level		Detection level		Detection level		Detection level		Detection level		Detection level		Detection level		Detection level		Detection level		Detection level	
Property of water or chemical constituent	1.0	1,330	949	1,120	1,170	1,170	7.8	7.8	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.4	8.4	8.4	7.4	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.1	8.1	8.4	8.4	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9
Specific conductance, field	μS/cm	μS/cm	μS/cm	μS/cm	μS/cm	μS/cm	Standard units	Standard units																						
pH, field	.5	19.0	18.5	13.5	14.0	14.0	18.0	18.0	14.5	14.5	14.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	14.0	15.5	15.5	15.5	13.5	13.5	15.5	15.5	17.0	12.5	12.5	12.5	13.0	14.5	14.5	14.5
Water temperature, field	.1	.6	.4	6.4	.6	.6	--	--	9.8	9.8	9.8	7.2	7.2	7.2	6.1	10.9	10.9	10.9	15.1	15.1	10.1	10.1	7.6	14.6	14.6	14.6	10.6	11.9	11.9	11.9
Oxygen, dissolved, field	.05	<.05	.14	.23	<.05	<.05	9.2	9.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	4.3	4.3	4.3	2.9	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.6	3.2	3.2	1.1	2.8	2.8	2.8	4.3	6.3	6.3	6.3
Nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen	--	U	U	U	U	U	D	D	U	U	U	U	U	U	D	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
Triazine enzyme-assay results	--	U	U	U	U	U	--	--	U	U	U	--	--	--	U	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Aldicarb enzyme-assay results	--	U	U	U	U	U	--	--	U	U	U	--	--	--	U	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2, 4-D enzyme-assay results	.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.05	<.05	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.5	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5
Alachlor, dissolved	.05	--	--	--	--	--	.11	.11	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5
Aldicarb sulfone, total	.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5
Aldicarb sulfoxide, total	.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5
Aldicarb, total	.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5
Ametryn, dissolved	.05	--	--	--	--	--	<.05	<.05	--	--	--	--	--	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05
Atrazine, dissolved	.05	--	--	--	--	--	<.05	<.05	--	--	--	--	--	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05
Carbaryl, total	.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5
Carbofuran, total	.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5
Cyanazine, dissolved	.20	--	--	--	--	--	<.20	<.20	--	--	--	--	--	<.20	<.20	<.20	<.20	<.20	<.20	<.20	<.20	<.20	<.20	<.20	<.20	<.20	<.20	<.20	<.20	<.20
Deethylatrazine, dissolved	.05	--	--	--	--	--	<.05	<.05	--	--	--	--	--	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05
Deisopropylatrazine, dissolved	.05	--	--	--	--	--	<.05	<.05	--	--	--	--	--	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05	<.05
Methiocarb, total	.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5

**Table 6. Summary of water-quality analyses of selected properties of ground water and concentrations of nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen, herbicides, and insecticides, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991—Continued**

Well identification number <sup>1</sup> (fig. 8)	CH106		CH107		CR108		CR109		Q110		Q111		Q112		Q113		Q114		Q115		A116		BF117		BF118		BF119		BS120					
	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165				
County <sup>2</sup>	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	I	I	II	II	I	I	II	II	I	I	I	I	I	II	I	I	II	I	I	I	II	II				
Sample type <sup>3</sup>	I	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I				
Water use <sup>4</sup>	445	290	230	305	305	71	117	100	70	150	167	270	95	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	115			
Well depth, feet below land surface	6/25/91	7/17/91	6/18/91	6/18/91	6/18/91	7/16/91	7/11/91	7/12/91	7/9/91	7/12/91	7/12/91	7/17/91	7/11/91	7/12/91	7/9/91	7/9/91	7/12/91	7/12/91	7/12/91	7/12/91	7/12/91	7/17/91	7/11/91	7/9/91	7/9/91	7/11/91	7/11/91	7/11/91	7/15/91	7/15/91				
Date sampled, month/day/year	Units of measurement		Detection level																															
Property of water or chemical constituent																																		
Methomyl, total																																		
Metolachlor, dissolved																																		
Metribuzin, dissolved																																		
Oxamyl, total																																		
Prometon, dissolved																																		
Prometryn, dissolved																																		
Propazine, dissolved																																		
Propham, total																																		
Propoxur, total																																		
Simazine, dissolved																																		
1-Naphthol, total																																		
3-Hydroxycarbofuran, total																																		

**Table 6. Summary of water-quality analyses of selected properties of ground water and concentrations of nitrate as nitrite as nitrogen, herbicides, and insecticides, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991—Continued**

<sup>1</sup>Well screened in:

- Q, Quaternary-age water-bearing units
- O, Ogallala Group water-bearing units
- A, Arikaree Group water-bearing units
- BF, Fractured-bedrock water-bearing units of the Brule Formation
- BS, Sand water-bearing units in the Brule Formation
- CH, Chadron Formation water-bearing units
- CR, Undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age.

<sup>2</sup>Counties:

- 007, Banner
- 069, Garden
- 123, Morrill
- 157, Scotts Bluff
- 165, Sioux.

<sup>3</sup>Sample type:

- Type I includes physical properties of water and concentrations of nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen, triazine and acetanilide herbicides, and carbamate insecticides.
- Type II includes concentrations of major cations and anions, trace elements, and radionuclides.

<sup>4</sup>Water use:

- I, irrigation
- IN, industrial
- M, municipal
- D, domestic.

**Table 7. Summary of results of analyses of ground water, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991**

[mg/L, milligrams per liter; µg/L, micrograms per liter; pCi/L, picocuries per liter; %, percentage; --, not analyzed; <, less than]

Well identification number <sup>1</sup> (fig. 8)	Q3	Q5	Q7	Q9	O10	O13	Q15	Q21		
County <sup>2</sup>	069	069	069	069	069	069	123	123		
Weil depth, feet	100	115	70	200	205	400	106	125		
Date sampled, month/day/year	7/8/91	6/24/91	7/8/91	6/24/91	7/8/91	7/8/91	6/26/91	7/11/91		
Property of water or chemical constituent	Units of measurement	Detection levels								
Hardness, total	mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	1	130	160	310	140	150	77	310	280
Alkalinity, laboratory, dissolved	mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	1	151	181	230	150	147	79	247	260
Calculated dissolved solids	mg/L	1	237	323	663	262	279	158	556	532
Calcium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	45	51	95	42	49	24	92	87
Magnesium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	5.2	7.6	17	7.6	7.7	4	18	15
Sodium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	12	33	95	18	18	5.6	51	54
Percent sodium, dissolved	percent	1	15	30	39	21	19	13	26	29
Sodium-adsorption ratio	--	--	.5	1	2	.7	.6	.3	1	1
Potassium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	9.8	9.2	18	9.9	8.8	5.8	10	12
Sulfate, dissolved	mg/L	.10	11	28	130	15	22	3.5	140	110
Chloride, dissolved	mg/L	.10	2.5	7.7	33	5.8	12	.50	17	14
Fluoride, dissolved	mg/L	.10	.60	.50	.50	.60	.50	.30	.60	.60
Silica, dissolved	mg/L	.10	52	58	51	61	59	54	58	49
Arsenic, dissolved	µg/L	1	12	7	8	6	8	9	9	12
Barium, dissolved	µg/L	2	190	150	110	160	120	87	98	220
Beryllium, dissolved	µg/L	.5	.6	.6	.5	.5	.5	<.5	.7	<.5
Boron, dissolved	µg/L	10	40	90	220	60	60	20	120	110
Cadmium, dissolved	µg/L	1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0
Chromium, dissolved	µg/L	5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Cobalt, dissolved	µg/L	3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3



**Table 7. Summary of results of analyses of ground water, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991—Continued**

Well identification number <sup>1</sup> (fig. 8)	Q25	Q29	Q32	Q35	Q43	Q47	Q49	Q53		
County <sup>2</sup>	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123		
Well depth, feet	100	61	125	76	169	80	480	85		
Date sampled, month/ds/yesr	6/25/91	7/15/91	7/15/91	7/16/91	7/10/91	7/10/91	7/11/91	7/11/91		
Property of wster or chemicals constituent	Units of measurement	Detection levels								
Hardness, total	mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	1	180	230	340	270	300	400	150	230
Alkalinity, laboratory, dissolved	mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	1	197	216	379	230	216	283	174	283
Calculated dissolved solids	mg/L	1	287	359	908	387	576	773	258	408
Calcium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	56	71	100	86	92	120	44	67
Magnesium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	9.9	12	22	13	18	24	10	14
Sodium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	17	25	170	17	55	86	19	44
Percent sodium, dissolved	percent	1	16	19	51	12	27	31	21	28
Sodium-adsorption ratio	--	--	.6	.7	4	.5	1	2	.7	1
Potassium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	8.6	6.7	10	5.9	11	14	5.5	15
Sulfate, dissolved	mg/L	.10	11	20	270	22	180	240	12	26
Chloride, dissolved	mg/L	.10	6.9	16	40	33	15	23	4.4	8.3
Fluoride, dissolved	mg/L	.10	.50	<.10	.40	.40	.60	.40	.60	.70
Silica, dissolved	mg/L	.10	49	54	28	54	49	54	50	55
Arsenic, dissolved	µg/L	1	6	7	2	4	7	14	5	18
Barium, dissolved	µg/L	2	220	290	56	360	82	73	110	190
Beryllium, dissolved	µg/L	.5	.7	<.5	<.5	<.5	.9	.7	.5	.5
Boron, dissolved	µg/L	10	50	70	290	230	130	200	60	80
Cadmium, dissolved	µg/L	1.0	<1.0	<1.0	1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0
Chromium, dissolved	µg/L	5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Cobalt, dissolved	µg/L	3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3

**Table 7. Summary of results of analyses of ground water, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991—Continued**

Well identification number <sup>1</sup> (fig. 8)	Q25	Q29	Q32	Q35	Q43	Q47	Q49	Q53
County <sup>2</sup>	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123
Well depth, feet	100	81	125	78	169	80	480	85
Date sampled, month/day/year	6/25/91	7/15/91	7/15/91	7/16/91	7/10/91	7/10/91	7/11/91	7/11/91
Property of water or chemical constituent	Units of measurement	Detection levels						
Copper, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Iron, dissolved	µg/L	3	4	3	<3	5	<3	<3
Lead, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Lithium, dissolved	µg/L	4	23	33	48	54	20	39
Manganese, dissolved	µg/L	1	<1	61	<1	<1	<1	<1
Molybdenum, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Nickel, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Selenium, dissolved	µg/L	1	3	1	4	5	1	2
Silver, dissolved	µg/L	1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0
Strontium, dissolved	µg/L	1	410	660	770	1100	420	510
Vanadium, dissolved	µg/L	6	20	18	<6	12	18	20
Zinc, dissolved	µg/L	3	7	<3	4	6	41	6
Gross alpha based on thorium-230 curve	pCi/L	.4	8.16+/- 2.79	12.6+/- 3.75	69.9+/- 15.0	10.3+/- 3.17	14.7+/- 6.79	14.6+/- 4.58
Gross beta based on strontium-90 curve	pCi/L	.4	8.82 +/- 1.5	9.78 +/- 1.8	26.2 +/- 4.3	7.55 +/- 1.6	22.8 +/- 3.7	19.1 +/- 2.9
Radium-226, dissolved	pCi/L	.02	0.148 +/- 0.03	0.232 +/- 0.04	0.104 +/- 0.02	0.187 +/- 0.03	0.107 +/- 0.02	0.103 +/- 0.02
Radon-222, dissolved	pCi/L	80	410 +/- 26	440 +/- 24	400 +/- 26	880 +/- 27	490 +/- 28	350 +/- 27
Uranium, total	µg/L	.1	9.5	11.8	72	10.5	18.5	6.4
Uranium ratio, uranium-234/238	<sup>234</sup> U/ <sup>238</sup> U	--	1.81	1.95	1.74	1.70	1.81	1.60

**Table 7. Summary of results of analyses of ground water, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991—Continued**

Well identification number <sup>1</sup> (fig. 6)	A54	BF56	CH59	Q62	O67	BF69	BS74	BS76
County <sup>2</sup>	123	123	123	007	007	007	007	007
Well depth, feet	200	150	475	75	370	100	180	80
Date sampled, month/day/year	6/25/91	6/25/91	7/17/91	7/10/91	7/9/91	7/10/91	7/10/91	7/9/91
Property of water or chemical constituent	Units of measurement		Detection levels					
Hardness, total	140	160	43	180	120	210	120	160
Alkalinity, laboratory, dissolved	144	160	307	208	126	201	178	184
Calculated dissolved solids	235	274	911	360	221	427	352	319
Calcium, dissolved	41	50	12	48	33	64	33	46
Magnesium, dissolved	7.9	8.9	3.1	14	9	13	8.4	11
Sodium, dissolved	11	17	310	41	13	47	61	35
Percent sodium, dissolved	14	18	93	32	18	31	51	31
Sodium-adsorption ratio	.4	.6	21	1	.5	1	2	1
Potassium, dissolved	5.9	5.1	6.7	6.5	4.7	7.9	6.8	4.6
Sulfate, dissolved	13	11	220	22	11	41	29	20
Chloride, dissolved	1.6	11	160	13	3.5	31	16	15
Fluoride, dissolved	.60	.50	.90	.40	.50	.50	.50	.30
Silica, dissolved	56	56	12	58	60	57	61	60
Arsenic, dissolved	7	6	59	12	7	11	13	7
Barium, dissolved	120	170	21	200	120	230	120	220
Beryllium, dissolved	.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5
Boron, dissolved	40	50	1,300	110	40	100	130	70
Cadmium, dissolved	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0
Chromium, dissolved	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Cobalt, dissolved	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3

**Table 7. Summary of results of analyses of ground water, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991—Continued**

Well identification number <sup>1</sup> (fig. 8)	A54	BF56	CH59	Q62	O67	BF69	BS74	BS76
County <sup>2</sup>	123	123	123	007	007	007	007	007
Well depth, feet	200	150	475	75	370	100	180	80
Date sampled, month/day/year	6/25/91	6/25/91	7/17/91	7/10/91	7/9/91	7/10/91	7/10/91	7/9/91
Property of water or chemical constituent	Units of measurement	Detection levels						
Copper, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Iron, dissolved	µg/L	3	<3	31	6	3	22	4
Lead, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Lithium, dissolved	µg/L	4	15	17	45	24	16	20
Manganese, dissolved	µg/L	1	<1	13	<1	<1	<1	<1
Molybdenum, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Nickel, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Selenium, dissolved	µg/L	1	1	1	2	8	6	5
Silver, dissolved	µg/L	1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0
Strontium, dissolved	µg/L	1	340	450	340	990	380	550
Vanadium, dissolved	µg/L	6	29	16	<6	20	21	19
Zinc, dissolved	µg/L	3	<3	<3	7	6	3	9
Gross alpha based on thorium-230 curve	pCi/L	.4	3.86+/- 1.64	7.92+/- 2.55	0.72+/- 4.47	8.41+/- 3.20	4.90+/- 1.71	16.5+/- 4.66
Gross beta based on strontium-90 curve	pCi/L	.4	6.37+/- 1.1	6.54+/- 2.4	6.15+/- 2.0	8.88+/- 1.62	3.46+/- 0.8	11.8+/- 2.1
Radium-226, dissolved	pCi/L	.02	0.055+/- 0.01	0.128+/- 0.02	0.171+/- 0.03	0.184+/- 0.04	0.073+/- 0.01	0.191+/- 0.04
Radon-222, dissolved	pCi/L	80	280 +/- 25	1,200 +/- 30	530 +/- 26	890 +/- 28	520 +/- 26	1,200 +/- 30
Uranium, total	µg/L	.1	3.8	6.2	.8	13.1	5.1	15.3
Uranium ratio, uranium-234/238	<sup>234</sup> U/ <sup>238</sup> U	--	2.02	1.69	15.37	1.88	2.42	1.90

**Table 7. Summary of results of analyses of ground water, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991—Continued**

Well identification number <sup>1</sup> (fig. 8)	CR78	Q79	Q84	Q88	Q89	Q94	Q98	BF100
County <sup>2</sup>	007	157	157	157	157	157	157	157
Well depth, feet	870	120	85	62	78	35	60	65
Date sampled, month/day/yeer	6/19/91	7/15/91	6/26/91	7/15/91	7/15/91	7/15/91	7/17/91	6/18/91
Property of wster or chemical constituent	Units of measurement	Detection levels						
Hardness, total	mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	1	330	360	330	350	300	140
Alkalinity, laboratory, dissolved	mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	1	228	253	246	246	396	157
Calculated dissolved solids	mg/L	1	689	749	630	666	1,020	303
Calcium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	92	100	85	100	83	39
Magnesium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	22	26	27	24	22	11
Sodium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	77	78	62	56	210	30
Percent sodium, dissolved	percent	1	33	31	29	25	59	31
Sodium-adsorption ratio	--	--	2	2	2	1	5	1
Potassium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	19	17	8.6	13	11	4.6
Sulfate, dissolved	mg/L	.10	240	280	200	240	350	30
Chloride, dissolved	mg/L	.10	22	25	18	20	32	17
Fluoride, dissolved	mg/L	.10	.60	.50	.30	.80	1.3	.40
Silica, dissolved	mg/L	.10	47	48	59	40	49	58
Arsenic, dissolved	µg/L	1	4	4	6	4	19	4
Barium, dissolved	µg/L	2	51	59	93	130	55	130
Beryllium, dissolved	µg/L	.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5
Boron, dissolved	µg/L	10	150	140	140	80	270	70
Cadmium, dissolved	µg/L	1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0
Chromium, dissolved	µg/L	5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Cobalt, dissolved	µg/L	3	<3	<3	<3	<3	<3	3

**Table 7. Summary of results of analyses of ground water, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991—Continued**

Well identification number <sup>1</sup> (fig. 8)	CR78	Q79	Q84	Q86	Q89	Q94	Q98	BF100
County <sup>2</sup>	007	157	157	157	157	157	157	157
Well depth, feet	870	120	85	62	76	35	60	65
Date sampled, month/day/year	6/19/91	7/15/91	6/26/91	7/15/91	7/15/91	7/15/91	7/17/91	6/18/91
Property of water or chemical constituent	Units of measurement	Detection levels						
Copper, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Iron, dissolved	µg/L	3	13	6	10	10	5	8
Lead, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Lithium, dissolved	µg/L	4	45	45	39	45	63	18
Manganese, dissolved	µg/L	1	3	<1	14	<1	34	10
Molybdenum, dissolved	µg/L	10	<30	<10	<10	<10	10	<10
Nickel, dissolved	µg/L	10	<30	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Selenium, dissolved	µg/L	1	<1	3	4	3	3	6
Silver, dissolved	µg/L	1.0	<3.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	2.0
Strontium, dissolved	µg/L	1	280	1,000	910	990	1,600	840
Vanadium, dissolved	µg/L	6	<18	10	<6	11	11	29
Zinc, dissolved	µg/L	3	<9	<3	29	7	11	16
Gross alpha based on thorium-230 curve	pCi/L	.4	1.08+/- 3.16	2.13+/- 0.718	19.6+/- 7.04	22.7+/- 7.55	22.9+/- 7.21	32.3+/- 10.7
Gross beta based on strontium-90 curve	pCi/L	.4	4.10+/- 2.2	20.2+/- 3.21	18.1+/- 3.1	20.8+/- 3.4	13.7+/- 2.5	23.0+/- 4.0
Radium-226, dissolved	pCi/L	.02	0.102+/- 0.02	0.133+/- 0.03	0.187+/- 0.03	0.165+/- 0.03	0.104+/- 0.02	0.054+/- 0.01
Radon-222, dissolved	pCi/L	80	520 +/- 25	290 +/- 29	550 +/- 26	370 +/- 27	650 +/- 27	580 +/- 25
Uranium, total	µg/L	.1	.2	24.9	30	22.1	21.8	38
Uranium ratio, uranium-234/238	<sup>234</sup> U/ <sup>238</sup> U	--	2.84	1.74	1.65	1.57	2.04	1.81
								1.96

**Table 7. Summary of results of analyses of ground water, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991—Continued**

Well identification number <sup>1</sup> (fig. 8)	CH103	CH104	CH105	CH106	CH107	CR108	CR109	Q111
County <sup>2</sup>	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	165
Well depth, feet	505	555	430	445	290	230	305	117
Date sampled, month/day/year	6/25/91	6/17/91	6/18/91	6/25/91	7/17/91	6/18/91	6/18/91	7/11/91
Property of water or chemical constituent	Units of measurement		Detection levels					
Hardness, total	35	32	35	16	36	12	11	280
Alkalinity, laboratory, dissolved	132	619	597	598	472	617	655	194
Calculated dissolved solids	1	242	1,170	--	584	690	720	535
Calcium, dissolved	.10	9.3	8.2	4.0	9.7	3.2	3.0	84
Magnesium, dissolved	.10	2.7	2.7	1.3	2.7	0.87	0.84	18
Sodium, dissolved	.10	58	440	460	220	270	290	50
Percent sodium, dissolved	1	76	96	97	92	97	97	27
Sodium-adsorption ratio	--	--	4	34	39	16	35	38
Potassium, dissolved	.10	3.7	9.1	9.2	4.1	5.5	5.5	7.8
Sulfate, dissolved	.10	22	.20	<.10	22	12	1.5	180
Chloride, dissolved	.10	7.4	320	350	26	15	15	13
Fluoride, dissolved	.10	.70	1.6	1.7	2.3	1.8	1.6	.50
Silica, dissolved	.10	54	14	12	13	9.8	8.7	50
Arsenic, dissolved	1	11	14	11	3	8	6	6
Barium, dissolved	2	79	180	160	92	63	59	140
Beryllium, dissolved	.5	<.5	2	2	<.5	<.5	<.5	<.5
Boron, dissolved	10	90	1,800	1,900	590	410	450	100
Cadmium, dissolved	1.0	<1.0	<3.0	<3.0	<1.0	<1.0	2.0	<1.0
Chromium, dissolved	5	<5	<20	<20	<5	<5	<5	<5
Cobalt, dissolved	3	<3	<9	<9	<3	<3	4	<3

**Table 7. Summary of results of analyses of ground water, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991—Continued**

Well identification number <sup>1</sup> (fig. 8)	CH103	CH104	CH105	CH106	CH107	CR108	CR109	Q111	
County <sup>2</sup>	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	165	
Well depth, feet	505	555	430	445	290	230	305	117	
Date sampled, month/ds/y/year	6/25/91	6/17/91	6/18/91	6/25/91	7/17/91	6/18/91	6/18/91	7/11/91	
Property of wster or chemical constituent	Units of measurement	Detection levels							
Copper, dissolved	µg/L	10	<30	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	
Iron, dissolved	µg/L	3	39	14	4	12	8	<3	
Lead, dissolved	µg/L	10	<30	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	
Lithium, dissolved	µg/L	4	40	31	16	15	17	38	
Manganese, dissolved	µg/L	1	12	3	4	4	4	1	
Molybdenum, dissolved	µg/L	10	<30	<10	10	20	20	<10	
Nickel, dissolved	µg/L	10	<30	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	
Selenium, dissolved	µg/L	1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	4	
Silver, dissolved	µg/L	1.0	6.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	
Strontium, dissolved	µg/L	1	320	430	240	100	100	780	
Vanadium, dissolved	µg/L	6	<18	<6	<6	<6	<6	14	
Zinc, dissolved	µg/L	3	<9	11	6	16	6	4	
Gross alpha based on thorium-230 curve	pCi/L	.4	19.9+/- 4.32	-1.12+/- 2.87	0.08+/- 2.93	1.97+/- 1.94	12.5+/- 5.05	9.09+/- 4.39	18.5+/- 5.74
Gross beta based on strontium-90 curve	pCi/L	.4	6.06 +/- 1.1	9.44 +/- 2.9	7.21 +/- 2.6	5.48 +/- 1.6	5.27 +/- 1.7	6.00 +/- 1.9	11.8 +/- 2.12
Radium-226, dissolved	pCi/L	.02	0.202 +/- 0.04	0.036 +/- 0.01	0.21 +/- 0.08	0.082 +/- 0.02	0.051 +/- 0.01	0.088 +/- 0.02	0.209 +/- 0.04
Radon-222, dissolved	pCi/L	80	1,300 +/- 40	200 +/- 23 0.39	1,200 +/- 0.39	650 +/- 28 30	1,300 +/- 27	1,000 +/- 27	380 +/- 25
Uranium, total	µg/L	.1	12.6	.2	<.1	.8	2.6	1.2	15.3
Uranium ratio, uranium-234/238	<sup>234</sup> U/ <sup>238</sup> U	--	1.66	2.4	4.84	1.98	8.89	10.78	1.82

**Table 7. Summary of results of analyses of ground water, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991—Continued**

Well identification number <sup>1</sup> (fig. 8)	Q113	A116	BF118	BS120
County <sup>2</sup>	165	165	165	165
Well depth, feet	70	270	100	115
Date sampled, month/day/year	7/9/91	7/17/91	7/9/91	7/15/91
Property of water or chemical constituent	Units of measurement	Detection levels		
Hardness, total	mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	1	180	140
Alkalinity, laboratory, dissolved	mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	1	204	133
Calculated dissolved solids	mg/L	1	328	259
Calcium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	59	41
Magnesium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	8.5	9.1
Sodium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	27	16
Percent sodium, dissolved	percent	1	23	19
Sodium-adsorption ratio	--	--	.9	.6
Potassium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	9.1	4.5
Sulfate, dissolved	mg/L	.10	22	15
Chloride, dissolved	mg/L	.10	10	6.6
Fluoride, dissolved	mg/L	.10	.60	.30
Silica, dissolved	mg/L	.10	56	58
Arsenic, dissolved	µg/L	1	11	3
Barium, dissolved	µg/L	2	100	140
Beryllium, dissolved	µg/L	.5	<.5	<.5
Boron, dissolved	µg/L	10	60	40
Cadmium, dissolved	µg/L	1.0	<1.0	<1.0
Chromium, dissolved	µg/L	5	<5	<5
Cobalt, dissolved	µg/L	3	<3	<3

**Table 7. Summary of results of analyses of ground water, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991—Continued**

Well identification number <sup>1</sup> (fig. 8)	Q113	A116	BF118	BS120
County <sup>2</sup>	165	165	165	165
Well depth, feet	70	270	100	115
Date sampled, month/day/year	7/9/91	7/17/91	7/9/91	7/15/91
Property of water or chemical constituent	Units of measurement	Detection levels		
Copper, dissolved	µg/L	<10	<10	<10
Iron, dissolved	µg/L	<3	4	<3
Lead, dissolved	µg/L	<10	<10	<10
Lithium, dissolved	µg/L	33	22	14
Manganese, dissolved	µg/L	<1	<1	<1
Molybdenum, dissolved	µg/L	<10	<10	<10
Nickel, dissolved	µg/L	<10	<10	<10
Selenium, dissolved	µg/L	4	2	2
Silver, dissolved	µg/L	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0
Strontium, dissolved	µg/L	1,200	440	450
Vanadium, dissolved	µg/L	17	22	10
Zinc, dissolved	µg/L	9	7	6
Gross alpha based on thorium-230 curve	pCi/L	14.6+/-5.27	5.36+/-2.01	7.00+/-2.63
Gross beta based on strontium-90 curve	pCi/L	12.0 +/- 2.1	4.19 +/- 0.9	10.3 +/- 1.8
Radium-226, dissolved	pCi/L	0.121 +/- 0.02	0.040 +/- 0.01	0.111 +/- 0.02
Radon-222, dissolved	pCi/L	340 +/- 26	280 +/- 25	960 +/- 28
Uranium, total	µg/L	17.7	5.5	7.6
Uranium ratio, uranium-234/238	<sup>234</sup> U/ <sup>238</sup> U	2.06	2.29	2.04

**Table 7. Summary of results of analyses of ground water, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991—Continued**

<sup>1</sup>Well screened in:  
 Q, Quaternary-age water-bearing units  
 O, Ogallala Group water-bearing units  
 A, Arikaree Group water-bearing units  
 BF, Fractured-bedrock water-bearing units of the Brule Formation  
 BS, Sand water-bearing units of the Brule Formation  
 CH, Chadron Formation water-bearing units  
 CR, Undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age.

<sup>2</sup>Counties:  
 007, Banner  
 069, Garden  
 123, Morrill  
 157, Scotts Bluff  
 165, Sioux.

**Table 8. Statistical summary of all water-quality analyses, except pesticides, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) drinking-water regulations**

[ $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ , microsiemens per centimeter at 25 degrees Celsius ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ );  $\text{mg}/\text{L}$ , milligrams per liter;  $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ , micrograms per liter;  $\text{pCi}/\text{L}$ , picocuries per liter; F, final; L, listed for regulation; P, proposed (phase II and V proposals); TT, treatment technique; <, less than; \*, under review; \*\*, copper action level (1,200  $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ ), lead action level (15  $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ ) (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1988a); \*\*\*, the Primary Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for total beta particle and photon activity is 4 millirems per roentgen; the MCL for adjusted total alpha particle activity is 15  $\text{pCi}/\text{L}$  (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1986); \*\*\*\*, the proposed MCL for dissolved radium is 5  $\text{pCi}/\text{L}$  (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1986)]

Well characteristic, property of water, or chemical constituent	Units of measurement	Detection level	Values			Standard deviation	USEPA drinking-water regulation		Number of samples analyzed	Number of samples that exceeded primary or secondary MCL
			Minimum	Median	Maximum		MCLG <sup>1</sup>	MCL <sup>2</sup>		
Well depth	Feet	1.0	35	100	870	134	--	--	120	--
Specific conductance, laboratory	$\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$	1.0	188	695	2,130	490	--	--	44	--
pH, field	Standard units	.1	7.2	7.8	9.1	.3	--	<sup>3</sup> 6.5-8.5	120	7
Water temperature, field	$^{\circ}\text{C}$	.5	9.0	13.5	21.0	2.0	--	--	120	--
Oxygen, dissolved, field	$\text{mg}/\text{L}$	.1	.1	6.3	15.1	3.5	--	--	120	--
Nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen	$\text{mg}/\text{L}$ as N	.05	<.05	4.1	19.0	3.24	<sup>4</sup> 10.0	<sup>4</sup> F 10.0	120	6
Hardness, total	$\text{mg}/\text{L}$ as $\text{CaCO}_3$	1	11	160	400	110	--	--	44	--
Alkalinity, total	$\text{mg}/\text{L}$ as $\text{CaCO}_3$	1	79	216	739	165	--	--	44	--
Calculated dissolved solids	$\text{mg}/\text{L}$	1	158	418	1,240	270	--	<sup>3</sup> F 500	44	20
Calcium, dissolved	$\text{mg}/\text{L}$	.10	3.0	50	120	33	--	--	44	--
Magnesium, dissolved	$\text{mg}/\text{L}$	.10	.84	10	27	7.6	--	--	44	--
Sodium, dissolved	$\text{mg}/\text{L}$	.10	5.6	50	510	130	--	--	44	--
Percent sodium, dissolved	percent	1	12	30	98	29	--	--	44	--
Sodium-adsorption ratio	--	--	.3	1	52	13	--	--	44	--
Potassium, dissolved	$\text{mg}/\text{L}$	.10	3.7	8.2	19	3.8	--	--	44	--

**Table 8. Statistical summary of all water-quality analyses, except pesticides, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) drinking-water regulations—Continued**

Well characteristic, property of water, or chemical constituent	Units of measurement	Detection level	Values			Standard deviation	USEPA drinking-water regulation		Number of samples analyzed	Number of samples that exceeded primary or secondary MCL
			Minimum	Median	Maximum		MCLG <sup>1</sup>	MCL <sup>2</sup>		
Sulfate, dissolved	mg/L	0.10	<0.10	22	350	100	<sup>4</sup> 400/500	<sup>4</sup> P 400/500, <sup>3</sup> F 250	44	0
Chloride, dissolved	mg/L	.10	.50	15	350	78	--	<sup>3</sup> F 250	44	2
Fluoride, dissolved	mg/L	.10	<.10	.55	2.4	.53	<sup>4</sup> 4.0*	<sup>4</sup> F 4.0*, <sup>3</sup> F 2.0	44	0
Silica, dissolved	mg/L	.10	8.7	54	61	17	--	--	44	--
Arsenic, dissolved	µg/L	1	<1	7	59	9	--	<sup>4</sup> F 50	44	1
Barium, dissolved	µg/L	2	21	120	360	69	<sup>4</sup> 2,000	<sup>4</sup> F 2,000	44	0
Beryllium, dissolved	µg/L	.5	<.5	<.5	2.0	.5	0	<sup>4</sup> P 1.0	44	2
Boron, dissolved	µg/L	10	20	100	3,900	690	--	--	44	--
Cadmium, dissolved	µg/L	1.0	<1.0	<1.0	2.0	.4	<sup>4</sup> 5.0	<sup>4</sup> F 5.0	44	0
Chromium, dissolved	µg/L	5	<5	<5	<5	--	<sup>4</sup> 100	<sup>4</sup> F 100	44	0
Cobalt, dissolved	µg/L	3	<3	<3	4	<3	--	<sup>3</sup> 1,000	44	0
Copper, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	80	12	<sup>4</sup> 1,300	<sup>2</sup> P TT**, <sup>3</sup> F 300	44	0
Iron, dissolved	µg/L	3	<3	5	73	13	--	<sup>2</sup> F TT**	44	0
Lead, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	<10	--	0	<sup>2</sup> F TT**	44	0
Lithium, dissolved	µg/L	4	10	24	63	14	--	--	44	--
Manganese, dissolved	µg/L	1	<1	<1	130	22	--	<sup>3</sup> F 50	44	2
Molybdenum, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	20	<10	--	--	44	--
Nickel, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	<10	--	<sup>4</sup> 100	<sup>4</sup> P 100	44	0
Selenium, dissolved	µg/L	1	<1	2	8	2	<sup>4</sup> 50	<sup>4</sup> F 50	44	0
Silver, dissolved	µg/L	1.0	<1.0	<1.0	6	1.0	--	--	44	--

**Table 8. Statistical summary of all water-quality analyses, except pesticides, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) drinking-water regulations—Continued**

Well characteristic, property of water, or chemical constituent	Units of measurement	Detection level	Values			Standard deviation	USEPA drinking-water regulation		Number of samples analyzed	Number of samples that exceeded primary or secondary MCL
			Minimum	Median	Maximum		MCLG <sup>1</sup>	MCL <sup>2</sup>		
Strontium, dissolved	µg/L	10	100	480	1,600	330	--	--	44	--
Vanadium, dissolved	µg/L	6	<6	14	32	9	--	--	44	--
Zinc, dissolved	µg/L	3	<3	7	48	10	--	<sup>3</sup> F 5,000	44	--
Gross alpha based on thorium-230 curve	pCi/L	.4	<.4	9.5	70	12	0	***	44	11
Gross beta based on strontium-90 curve	pCi/L	.4	3.5	8.8	26	6.3	0	*	44	--
Radium-226, dissolved	pCi/L	.02	.04	.12	.29	.06	0	****	44	--
Radon-222, dissolved	pCi/L	80	140	500	1,500	380	--	P 300	44	39
Uranium, total	µg/L	.1	<.1	11	72	13	0	F 20	44	9
Uranium ratio, uranium-234/238	<sup>234</sup> U/ <sup>238</sup> U	--	1.43	1.90	15.4	2.63	--	--	44	--

<sup>1</sup>MCLG, Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1988b, e).

<sup>2</sup>MCL, Maximum Contaminant Level (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1988a, c, d).

<sup>3</sup>Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL)—contaminants that affect the aesthetic quality of drinking water. At large concentrations or values, health implications as well as aesthetic degradation also may exist. SMCL's are not Federally enforceable but are intended as guidelines for States.

<sup>4</sup>Primary Maximum Contaminant Level (PMCL)—enforceable, health-based regulation that is to be set as close to the MCLG as is feasible. The definition of feasible means the use of the best technology, treatment techniques, and other means that the Administrator of USEPA finds, after examination for efficacy under field conditions and not solely under laboratory conditions, are generally available (taking cost into consideration).

**Table 9. Statistical summary of water-quality analyses, except pesticides, for samples from water-bearing units of Quaternary age, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) drinking-water regulations**

[ $\mu$ S/cm, microsiemens per centimeter at 25 degrees Celsius ( $^{\circ}$ C); mg/L, milligrams per liter;  $\mu$ g/L, micrograms per liter; pCi/L, picocuries per liter; F, final; L, listed for regulation; P, proposed (phase II and V proposals); TT, treatment technique; <, less than; \*, under review; \*\*, copper action level (1,200  $\mu$ g/L Cu), lead action level (15  $\mu$ g/L Pb) (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1988a); \*\*\*, the Primary Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for total beta particle and photon activity is 4 millirems per roentgen; the MCL for adjusted total alpha particle activity is 15 pCi/L (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1986); \*\*\*\*, the proposed MCL for dissolved radium is 5 pCi/L (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1986)]

Well characteristic, property of water, or chemical constituent	Units of measurement	Detection level	Values			USEPA drinking-water regulation			Number of samples analyzed	Number of samples that exceeded primary or secondary MCL <sup>2</sup>
			Minimum	Median	Maximum deviation	MCLG <sup>1</sup>	MCL <sup>2</sup>			
Well depth	Feet	1.0	35	84	200	34	--	--	74	--
Specific conductance, field	$\mu$ S/cm	1.0	329	781	1,460	295	--	--	21	--
pH, field	Standard units	.1	7.2	7.6	8.7	.3	--	<sup>3</sup> 6.5-8.5	74	2
Water temperature, field	$^{\circ}$ C	.5	9.0	13.5	18.0	2.0	--	--	74	--
Oxygen, dissolved, field	mg/L	.1	.2	6.0	15.1	3.3	--	--	74	--
Nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen	mg/L as N	.05	1.8	4.7	19	3.4	<sup>4</sup> 10.0	<sup>4</sup> F 10.0	74	5
Hardness, total	mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	1	130	300	400	77	--	--	21	--
Alkalinity, total	mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	1	150	230	400	61	--	--	21	--
Calculated dissolved solids	mg/L	1	237	556	1,020	213	--	<sup>3</sup> F 500	21	14
Calcium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	42	86	120	21	--	--	21	--
Magnesium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	5.2	18	27	6.4	--	--	21	--
Sodium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	12	54	210	49	--	--	21	--
Percent sodium, dissolved	percent	1	12	29	59	11	--	--	21	--
Sodium-adsorption ratio	--	--	.5	1	5	1	--	--	21	--
Potassium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	5.9	10	19	3.6	--	--	21	--

**Table 9.** Statistical summary of water-quality analyses, except pesticides, for samples from water-bearing units of Quaternary age, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) drinking-water regulations—Continued

Well characteristic, property of water, or chemical constituent	Units of measurement	Detection level	Values					USEPA drinking-water regulation			Number of samples analyzed	Number of samples that exceeded primary or secondary MCL <sup>2</sup>
			Minimum	Median	Maximum	Standard deviation	MCLG <sup>1</sup>	MCL <sup>2</sup>	MCL <sup>2</sup>			
Sulfate, dissolved	mg/L	0.10	11	170	350	108	<sup>4</sup> 400/500	<sup>4</sup> P 400/ 500, <sup>3</sup> F 250		21	0	
Chloride, dissolved	mg/L	.10	2.5	17	40	10	--	<sup>3</sup> F 250		21	0	
Fluoride, dissolved	mg/L	.10	<.10	.5	1.3	.2	<sup>4</sup> 4.0*	<sup>4</sup> F 4.0*, <sup>3</sup> F 2.0		21	0	
Silica, dissolved	mg/L	.10	28	51	61	8.5	--	--		21	--	
Arsenic, dissolved	µg/L	1	2	7	19	4	--	<sup>4</sup> F 50		21	0	
Barium, dissolved	µg/L	2	51	110	360	83	<sup>4</sup> 2,000	<sup>4</sup> F 2,000		21	0	
Beryllium, dissolved	µg/L	.5	<.5	<.5	.9	.3	0	<sup>4</sup> P 1.0		21	0	
Boron, dissolved	µg/L	10	40	120	290	70	--	--		21	--	
Cadmium, dissolved	µg/L	1.0	<1.0	<1.0	1	.2	<sup>4</sup> 5.0	<sup>4</sup> F 5.0		21	0	
Chromium, dissolved	µg/L	5	<5	<5	<5	--	<sup>4</sup> 100	F 100		21	0	
Cobalt, dissolved	µg/L	3	<3	<3	<3	--	--	<sup>3</sup> 1,000		21	0	
Copper, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	10	3.54	<sup>4</sup> 1,300	P TT**		21	0	
Iron, dissolved	µg/L	3	<3	5	10	9	--	<sup>3</sup> F 300		8	0	
Lead, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	<10	--	0	F TT**		21	0	
Lithium, dissolved	µg/L	4	20	40	60	13	--	--		21	--	
Manganese, dissolved	µg/L	1	<1	<1	130	31	--	<sup>3</sup> F 50		21	2	
Molybdenum, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	10	2	--	--		21	--	
Nickel, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	<10	--	<sup>4</sup> 100	<sup>4</sup> P 100		21	0	
Selenium, dissolved	µg/L	1	1	3	5	1	<sup>4</sup> 50	<sup>4</sup> F 50		21	0	
Silver, dissolved	µg/L	1.0	<1	<1	<1	--	--	--		21	--	

**Table 9. Statistical summary of water-quality analyses, except pesticides, for samples from water-bearing units of Quaternary age, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) drinking-water regulations—Continued**

Well characteristic, property of water, or chemical constituent	Units of measurement	Detection level	Values			USEPA drinking-water regulation			Number of samples analyzed	Number of samples that exceeded primary or secondary MCL <sup>2</sup>
			Minimum	Median	Maximum	Standard deviation	MCLG <sup>1</sup>	MCL <sup>2</sup>		
Strontium, dissolved	µg/L	10	190	780	1,600	324	--	--	21	--
Vanadium, dissolved	µg/L	6	<6	15	32	8	--	--	21	--
Zinc, dissolved	µg/L	3	<3	7	41	10	--	<sup>3</sup> F 5,000	21	0
Gross alpha based on thorium-230 curve	pCi/L as <sup>230</sup> Th	.4	2.1	13	70	14	0	***	21	8
Gross beta based on strontium-90 curve	pCi/L as <sup>90</sup> Sr	.4	7.5	14	26	6	0	*	21	--
Radium-226, dissolved	pCi/L as <sup>226</sup> Ra	.02	.05	.15	.29	.05	0	****	21	--
Radon-222, dissolved	pCi/L as <sup>222</sup> Rn	80	140	410	890	191	--	P 300	21	19
Uranium, total	µg/L as U	.1	2.2	16	72	15	0	F 20	21	8
Uranium ratio, uranium-234/238	<sup>234</sup> U/ <sup>238</sup> U	--	1.4	1.8	2.1	.17	--	--	21	--

<sup>1</sup>MCLG, Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1988b, e).

<sup>2</sup>MCL, Maximum Contaminant Level (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1988a, c, d).

<sup>3</sup>Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL)—contaminants that affect the aesthetic quality of drinking water. At large concentrations or values, health implications as well as aesthetic degradation also may exist. SMCL's are not Federally enforceable but are intended as guidelines for States.

<sup>4</sup>Primary Maximum Contaminant Level (PMCL)—enforceable, health-based regulation that is to be set as close to the MCLG as is feasible. The definition of feasible means the use of the best technology, treatment techniques, and other means that the Administrator of USEPA finds, after examination for efficacy under field conditions and not solely under laboratory conditions, are generally available (taking cost into consideration).

**Table 10. Statistical summary of water-quality analyses, except pesticides, for samples from Ogallala Group water-bearing units, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) drinking-water regulations**

[ $\mu$ S/cm, microsiemens per centimeter at 25 degrees Celsius ( $^{\circ}$ C); mg/L, milligrams per liter;  $\mu$ g/L, micrograms per liter; pCi/L, picocuries per liter; F, final; L, listed for regulation; P, proposed (phase II and V proposals); TT, treatment technique; <, less than; \*, under review; \*\*, copper action level (1,200  $\mu$ g/L Cu), lead action level (15  $\mu$ g/L Pb) (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1988a); \*\*\*, the Primary Maximum Contaminant level (MCL) for total beta particle and photon activity is 4 millirems per roentgen; the MCL for adjusted total alpha particle activity is 15 pCi/L (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1986); \*\*\*, the proposed MCL for dissolved radium is 5 pCi/L (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1986)]

Well characteristic, property of water, or chemical constituents	Units of measurement	Detection level	Values			USEPA drinking-water regulation			Number of samples that exceeded primary or secondary MCL	
			Minimum	Median	Maximum	Standard deviation	MCLG <sup>1</sup>	MCL <sup>2</sup>	Number of samples analyzed	Number of samples exceeded
Well depth	Feet	1.0	85	370	512	135	--	--	13	--
Specific conductance, field	$\mu$ S/cm	1.0	188	377	646	170	--	--	5	--
pH, field	Standard units	.1	7.3	7.8	8.1	.21	--	<sup>3</sup> 6.5-8.5	13	0
Water temperature, field	$^{\circ}$ C	.5	12.0	14.5	15.5	1.2	--	--	13	--
Oxygen, dissolved, field	mg/L	.1	2.3	6.4	12	2.6	--	--	13	--
Nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen	mg/L as N	.1	1.6	2.8	6.0	1.1	<sup>4</sup> 10	<sup>4</sup> F 10	13	0
Hardness, total	mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	1	77	150	230	60	--	--	5	--
Alkalinity, total	mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	1	79	150	280	76	--	--	5	--
Calculated dissolved solids	mg/L	1	158	258	408	92	--	<sup>3</sup> F 500	5	0
Calcium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	24	44	67	16	--	--	5	--
Magnesium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	4	9	14	3.6	--	--	5	--
Sodium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	5.6	18	44	14	--	--	5	--
Percent sodium, dissolved	percent	1	13	19	28	5.5	--	--	5	--
Sodium-adsorption ratio	--	--	.3	.3	1	.3	--	--	5	--
Potassium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	4.7	5.8	15	4.2	--	--	5	--

**Table 10.** Statistical summary of water-quality, analyses except pesticides, for samples from Ogallala Group water-bearing units, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) drinking-water regulations—Continued

Well characteristic, property of water, or chemical constituents	Units of measurement	Detection level	Values				USEPA drinking-water regulation			Number of samples analyzed	Number of samples that exceeded primary or secondary MCL
			Minimum	Median	Maximum	Standard deviation	MCLG <sup>1</sup>	MCL <sup>2</sup>	MCL <sup>2</sup>		
Sulfate, dissolved	mg/L	0.10	3.5	12	26	9	<sup>4</sup> 400/500	<sup>4</sup> P 400/500	5	0	
Chloride, dissolved	mg/L	.10	.5	4.4	12	5.5	--	<sup>3</sup> F 250	5	0	
Fluoride, dissolved	mg/L	.10	.3	.5	.7	.2	<sup>4</sup> 4.0*	<sup>4</sup> F 4.0* <sup>3</sup> F 2.0	5	0	
Silica, dissolved	mg/L	.10	50	55	60	4	--	--	5	--	
Arsenic, dissolved	µg/L	1	5	8	18	5	--	<sup>4</sup> F 50	5	0	
Barium, dissolved	µg/L	2	87	120	190	39	42,000	<sup>4</sup> F 2,000	5	0	
Beryllium, dissolved	µg/L	.5	<.5	.5	.5	.3	0	<sup>4</sup> P 1.0	5	0	
Boron, dissolved	µg/L	10	20	60	80	23	--	--	5	--	
Cadmium, dissolved	µg/L	1.0	<1	<1	<1	--	<sup>4</sup> 5.0	<sup>4</sup> F 5.0	5	0	
Chromium, dissolved	µg/L	5	<5	<5	<5	--	<sup>4</sup> 100	<sup>4</sup> F 100	5	0	
Cobalt, dissolved	µg/L	3	<3	<3	<3	--	--	<sup>3</sup> 1,000	5	0	
Copper, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	<10	--	<sup>4</sup> 1,300	P TT**	5	0	
Iron, dissolved	µg/L	3	<3	5	20	8.2	--	F <sup>3</sup> 300	5	0	
Lead, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	<10	--	0	FTT**	5	0	
Lithium, dissolved	µg/L	4	10	20	40	10	--	--	5	--	
Manganese, dissolved	µg/L	1	<1	<1	1	.5	--	<sup>3</sup> F 50	5	0	
Molybdenum, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	<10	--	--	--	5	--	
Nickel, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	<10	--	<sup>4</sup> 100	<sup>4</sup> P 100	5	0	
Selenium, dissolved	µg/L	1	<1	4	4	1.5	<sup>4</sup> 50	<sup>4</sup> F 50	5	0	
Silver, dissolved	µg/L	1.0	<1	<1	<1	--	--	--	5	--	

**Table 10.** Statistical summary of water-quality, analyses except pesticides, for samples from Ogallala Group water-bearing units, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) drinking-water regulations—Continued

Well characteristic, property of water, or chemical constituents	Units of measurement	Detection level	Values			USEPA drinking-water regulation			Number of samples analyzed	Number of samples that exceeded primary or secondary MCL
			Minimum	Median	Maximum	Standard deviation	MCLG <sup>1</sup>	MCL <sup>2</sup>		
Strontium, dissolved	µg/L	0.5	160	380	510	129	--	--	5	--
Vanadium, dissolved	µg/L	6	16	20	21	2	--	--	5	--
Zinc, dissolved	µg/L	3	3	6	7	1.8	--	<sup>3</sup> F 5,000	5	0
Gross alpha based on thorium-230 curve	pCi/L	.4	1.0	6.1	15	5.0	0	***	5	0
Gross beta based on strontium-90 curve	pCi/L	.4	3.5	6.0	19	6.4	0	*	5	--
Radium-226, dissolved	pCi/L	.02	.07	.11	.21	.06	0	****	5	--
Radon-222, dissolved	pCi/L	80	300	350	520	94	--	P 300	5	4
Uranium, total	µg/L	.1	1.3	5.1	22	8	0	F 20	5	1
Uranium ratio, uranium-234/238	<sup>234</sup> U/ <sup>238</sup> U	--	1.6	2.1	2.7	.04	--	--	5	--

<sup>1</sup>MCLG, Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1988b, e).

<sup>2</sup>MCL, Maximum Contaminant Level (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1988a, c, d).

<sup>3</sup>Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL)—contaminants that affect the aesthetic quality of drinking water. At large concentrations or values, health impacts as well as aesthetic degradation also may exist. SMCL's are not Federally enforceable but are intended as guidelines for States.

<sup>4</sup>Primary Maximum Contaminant Level (PMCL)—enforceable, health-based regulation that is to be set as close to the CMLG as is feasible. The definition of feasible means the use of the best technology, treatment techniques, and other means that the Administrator of USEPA finds, after examination for efficacy under field conditions and not solely under laboratory conditions, are generally available (taking cost into consideration).

**Table 11. Statistical summary of water-quality analyses, except pesticides, for samples from Arikaree Group water-bearing units, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) drinking-water regulations**

[ $\mu$ S/cm, microsiemens per centimeter at 25 degrees Celsius ( $^{\circ}$ C); mg/L, milligrams per liter;  $\mu$ g/L, micrograms per liter; pCi/L, picocuries per liter; F, final; L, listed for regulation; P, proposed (phase II and V proposals); TT, treatment technique; <, less than; \*, under review; \*\*, copper action level (1,200  $\mu$ g/L Cu), lead action level (15  $\mu$ g/L Pb) (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1988a); \*\*\*, the Primary Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for total beta particle and photon activity is 4 millirems per roentgen; the MCL for adjusted total alpha particle activity is 15 pCi/L (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1986); \*\*\*\*, the proposed MCL for dissolved radium is 5 pCi/L (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1986)]

Well characteristic, property of water, or chemical constituent	Units of measurement	Detection level	Values			USEPA drinking-water regulation			Number of samples analyzed	Number of samples exceeded primary or secondary MCL
			Minimum	Maximum	Standard deviation	MCLG <sup>1</sup>	MCL <sup>2</sup>			
Well depth	Feet	1.0	200	270	50	--	--	2	--	
Specific conductance, field	$\mu$ S/cm	1.0	322	327	3.5	--	--	2	--	
pH, field	Standard units	.1	7.9	8.4	.35	--	<sup>3</sup> 6.5-8.5	2	0	
Water temperature, field	$^{\circ}$ C	.5	15	16	.4	--	--	2	--	
Oxygen, dissolved, field	mg/L	.1	5.2	10	3.5	--	--	2	--	
Nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen	mg/L as N	.05	2.6	3.2	.4	<sup>4</sup> 10.0	<sup>4</sup> F 10.0	2	0	
Hardness, total	mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	1	140	150	7	--	--	2	--	
Alkalinity, total	mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	1	140	150	3.5	--	--	2	--	
Calculated dissolved solids	mg/L	1	235	237	1.4	--	<sup>3</sup> F 500	2	0	
Calcium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	41	43	1.4	--	--	2	--	
Magnesium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	7.9	9.2	.9	--	--	2	--	
Sodium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	11	11	--	--	--	2	--	
Percent sodium, dissolved	percent	1	14	14	--	--	--	2	--	
Sodium-adsorption ratio	--	--	.4	.4	--	--	--	2	--	
Potassium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	5.1	5.9	.6	--	--	2	--	

**Table 11. Statistical summary of water-quality analyses, except pesticides, for samples from Arikaree Group water-bearing units, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) drinking-water regulations—Continued**

Well characteristic, property of water, or chemical constituent	Units of measurement	Detection level	Values		Standard deviation	USEPA drinking-water regulation			Number of samples analyzed	Number of samples that exceeded primary or secondary MCL
			Minimum	Maximum		MCLG <sup>1</sup>	MCL <sup>2</sup>	MCL		
Sulfate, dissolved	mg/L	0.10	4.7	13	5.9	<sup>4</sup> 400/500	<sup>4</sup> P 400/500 <sup>3</sup> F 250	2	0	
Chloride, dissolved	mg/L	.10	1.6	3.8	1.6	--	<sup>3</sup> F 250	2	0	
Fluoride, dissolved	mg/L	.10	.6	.6	--	<sup>4</sup> 4.0*	<sup>4</sup> F4.0*, <sup>3</sup> F 2.0	2	0	
Silica, dissolved	mg/L	.10	56	56	--	--	--	2	--	
Arsenic, dissolved	μg/L	1	5	7	1.4	--	<sup>4</sup> F 50	2	0	
Barium, dissolved	μg/L	2	89	120	22	<sup>4</sup> 2,000	<sup>4</sup> F 2,000	2	0	
Beryllium, dissolved	μg/L	.5	<.5	.6	.4	0	<sup>4</sup> P 1.0	2	0	
Boron, dissolved	μg/L	10	40	40	--	--	--	2	--	
Cadmium, dissolved	μg/L	1.0	<1.0	<1.0	--	<sup>4</sup> 5.0	<sup>4</sup> F 5.0	2	0	
Chromium, dissolved	μg/L	5	<5	<5	--	<sup>4</sup> 100	<sup>4</sup> F 100	2	0	
Cobalt, dissolved	μg/L	3	<3	<3	--	--	<sup>3</sup> 1,000	2	0	
Copper, dissolved	μg/L	10	<10	<10	--	<sup>4</sup> 1,300	P TT**	2	0	
Iron, dissolved	μg/L	3	<3	<3	--	--	F <sup>3</sup> 300	2	0	
Lead, dissolved	μg/L	10	<10	<10	--	0	F TT**	2	0	
Lithium, dissolved	μg/L	4	10	20	.7	--	--	2	--	
Manganese, dissolved	μg/L	1	<1	<1	--	--	<sup>3</sup> F 50	2	0	
Molybdenum, dissolved	μg/L	10	<10	<10	--	--	--	2	--	
Nickel, dissolved	μg/L	10	<10	<10	--	<sup>4</sup> 100	<sup>4</sup> P 100	2	0	
Selenium, dissolved	μg/L	1	<1	1	.7	<sup>4</sup> 50	<sup>4</sup> F 50	2	0	
Silver, dissolved	μg/L	1.0	<1.0	<1.0	--	--	--	2	--	

**Table 11. Statistical summary of water-quality analyses, except pesticides, for samples from Arikaree Group water-bearing units, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) drinking-water regulations—Continued**

Well characteristic, property of water, or chemical constituent	Units of measurement	Detection level	Values		Standard deviation	USEPA drinking-water regulation		Number of samples analyzed	Number of samples that exceeded primary or secondary MCL
			Minimum	Maximum		MCLG <sup>1</sup>	MCL <sup>2</sup>		
Strontium, dissolved	µg/L	10	340	350	7	--	--	2	--
Vanadium, dissolved	µg/L	6	15	29	10	--	--	2	--
Zinc, dissolved	µg/L	3	<3	<3	--	--	<sup>3</sup> F 5,000	2	0
Gross alpha based on thorium-230 curve	pCi/L	.4	3.9	4.6	--	0	***	2	0
Gross beta based on strontium-90 curve	pCi/L	.4	4.2	6.4	1.5	0	*	2	--
Radium-226, dissolved	pCi/L	.02	.04	.05	.01	0	****	2	--
Radon-222, dissolved	pCi/L	80	280	280	--	--	P 300	2	0
Uranium, total	µg/L	.1	3.8	5.5	1.2	0	F 20	2	0
Uranium ratio, uranium-234/238	<sup>234</sup> U/ <sup>238</sup> U	--	2.0	2.3	.2	--	--	2	--

<sup>1</sup>MCLG, Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1988b, e).

<sup>2</sup>MCL, Maximum Contaminant Level (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1988a, c, d).

<sup>3</sup>Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL)—contaminants that affect the aesthetic quality of drinking water. At large concentrations or values, health implications as well as aesthetic degradation also may exist. SMCL's are not Federally enforceable but are intended as guidelines for States.

<sup>4</sup>Primary Maximum Contaminant Level (PMCL)—enforceable, health-based regulation that is to be set as close to the MCLG as is feasible. The definition of feasible means the use of the best technology, treatment techniques, and other means that the Administrator of USEPA finds, after examination for efficacy under field conditions and not solely under laboratory conditions, are generally available (taking cost into consideration).

**Table 12. Statistical summary of water-quality analyses, except pesticides, for samples from fractured-bedrock water-bearing units in the Brule Formation, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) drinking-water regulations**

[ $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ , microsiemens per centimeter at 25 degrees Celsius ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ );  $\text{mg}/\text{L}$ , milligrams per liter;  $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ , micrograms per liter;  $\text{pCi}/\text{L}$ , picocuries per liter; F, final; L, listed for regulation; P, proposed (phase II and V proposals); TT, treatment technique; <, less than; \*, under review; \*\*, copper action level (1,200  $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$  Cu), lead action level (15  $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$  Pb) (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1988a); \*\*\*, the Primary Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for total beta particle and photon activity is 4 millirems per roentgen; the MCL for adjusted total alpha particle activity is 15  $\text{pCi}/\text{L}$  (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1986); \*\*\*\*, the proposed MCL for dissolved radium is 5  $\text{pCi}/\text{L}$  (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1986)]

Well characteristic, property, or chemical constituent	Units of measurement	Detection level	Values			USEPA drinking-water regulation		Number of samples analyzed	Number of samples that exceeded primary or secondary MCL
			Minimum	Median	Maximum	Standard deviation	MCLG <sup>1</sup>		
Well depth	Feet	1.0	65	100	150	22	--	16	--
Specific conductance, field	$\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$	1.0	390	450	628	105	--	4	--
pH, field	Standard units	.1	7.4	7.9	8.1	.2	--	16	0
Water temperature, field	$^{\circ}\text{C}$	.5	10.5	13.7	17	1.8	--	16	--
Oxygen, dissolved, field	$\text{mg}/\text{L}$	.1	5.1	6.8	14.6	3	--	16	--
Nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen	$\text{mg}/\text{L}$ as N	.05	1.1	4.5	12	2.9	<sup>4</sup> 10.0	16	1
Hardness, total	$\text{mg}/\text{L}$ as $\text{CaCO}_3$	1	140	170	210	30	--	4	--
Alkalinity, total	$\text{mg}/\text{L}$ as $\text{CaCO}_3$	1	160	180	200	26	--	4	--
Calculated dissolved solids	$\text{mg}/\text{L}$	1	274	315	427	66	--	4	0
Calcium, dissolved	$\text{mg}/\text{L}$	.10	39	54	64	11	--	4	--
Magnesium, dissolved	$\text{mg}/\text{L}$	.10	8.5	10	13	2	--	4	--
Sodium, dissolved	$\text{mg}/\text{L}$	.10	17	28	48	12	--	4	--
Percent sodium, dissolved	percent	1	18	27	31	6.4	--	4	--
Sodium-adsorption ratio	--	--	.6	.9	1	.2	--	4	--
Potassium, dissolved	$\text{mg}/\text{L}$	.10	4.6	6.5	9.1	2.2	--	4	--

**Table 12. Statistical summary of water-quality analyses, except pesticides, for samples from fractured-bedrock water-bearing units in the Brule Formation, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) drinking-water regulations—Continued**

Well characteristic, property, or chemical constituent	Units of measurement	Detection level	Values			Standard deviation	USEPA drinking-water regulation			Number of samples analyzed	Number of samples that exceeded	
			Minimum	Median	Maximum		MCLG <sup>1</sup>	MCL <sup>2</sup>	primary or secondary MCL			
Sulfate, dissolved	mg/L	0.10	11	26	41	13	<sup>4</sup> 400/500	<sup>4</sup> P 400/500	4	0	0	
Chloride, dissolved	mg/L	.10	10	14	31	9.7	--	<sup>3</sup> F 250	4	0	0	
Fluoride, dissolved	mg/L	.10	.4	.5	.6	.08	<sup>4</sup> 4.0*	<sup>4</sup> F 4.0*, <sup>3</sup> F 2.0	4	0	0	
Silica, dissolved	mg/L	.10	56	56	58	1	--	--	4	--	--	
Arsenic, dissolved	µg/L	1	4	8	11	3.6	--	<sup>4</sup> F 50	4	0	0	
Barium, dissolved	µg/L	2	100	150	230	56	<sup>4</sup> 2,000	<sup>4</sup> F 2,000	4	0	0	
Beryllium, dissolved	µg/L	.5	<.5	<.5	.5	.3	0	<sup>4</sup> P 1.0	4	0	0	
Boron, dissolved	µg/L	10	50	60	100	22	--	--	4	--	--	
Cadmium, dissolved	µg/L	1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	--	<sup>4</sup> 5.0	<sup>4</sup> F 5.0	4	0	0	
Chromium, dissolved	µg/L	5	<5	<5	<5	--	<sup>4</sup> 100	<sup>4</sup> F 100	4	0	0	
Cobalt, dissolved	µg/L	3	<3	<3	3	--	--	<sup>3</sup> 1,000	4	0	0	
Copper, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	<10	--	<sup>4</sup> 1,300	P TT**	4	0	0	
Iron, dissolved	µg/L	3	3	5	8	2.2	--	F <sup>3</sup> 300	4	0	0	
Lead, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	<10	--	0	F TT**	4	0	0	
Lithium, dissolved	µg/L	4	20	20	20	3.7	--	--	4	--	--	
Manganese, dissolved	µg/L	1	<1	<1	1	.5	--	<sup>3</sup> F 50	4	0	0	
Molybdenum, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	<10	--	--	--	4	--	--	
Nickel, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	<10	--	<sup>4</sup> 100	<sup>4</sup> P 100	4	0	0	
Selenium, dissolved	µg/L	1	1	4	8	3.3	<sup>4</sup> 50	<sup>4</sup> F 50	4	0	0	
Silver, dissolved	µg/L	1.0	<1.0	<1.0	2	1	--	--	4	--	--	

**Table 12.** Statistical summary of water-quality analyses, except pesticides, for samples from fractured-bedrock water-bearing units in the Brule Formation, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) drinking-water regulations—Continued

Well characteristic, property, or chemical constituent	Units of measurement	Detection level	Values			Standard deviation		USEPA drinking-water regulation		Number of samples analyzed	Number of samples that exceeded primary or secondary MCL
			Minimum	Median	Maximum	MCLG <sup>1</sup>	MCL <sup>2</sup>				
Strontium, dissolved	µg/L	10	440	560	830	188	--	--	4	--	
Vanadium, dissolved	µg/L	6	9	17	22	5.6	--	--	4	--	
Zinc, dissolved	µg/L	3	<3	7	9	4	--	<sup>3</sup> F 5,000	4	0	
Gross alpha based on thorium-230 curve	pCi/L	.4	7.0	12	17	5.3	0	***	4	2	
Gross beta based on strontium-90 curve	pCi/L	.4	6.5	9.9	12	2.2	0	*	4	--	
Radium-226, dissolved	pCi/L	.02	.10	.12	.20	.04	0	****	4	--	
Radon-222, dissolved	pCi/L	80	960	1,200	1,400	180	--	P 300	4	4	
Uranium, total	µg/L	.1	6.2	11	19	6.3	0	F 20	4	0	
Uranium ratio, uranium-234/238	<sup>234</sup> U/ <sup>238</sup> U	--	1.7	1.9	2	.15	--	--	4	--	

<sup>1</sup>MCLG, Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1988b, e).

<sup>2</sup>MCL, Maximum Contaminant Level (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1988a, c, d).

<sup>3</sup>Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL)—contaminants that affect the aesthetic quality of drinking water. At large concentrations or values, health implications as well as aesthetic degradation also may exist. SMCL's are not Federally enforceable but are intended as guidelines for States.

<sup>4</sup>Primary Maximum Contaminant Level (PMCL)—enforceable, health-based regulation that is to be set as close to the MCLG as is feasible. The definition of feasible means the use of the best technology, treatment techniques, and other means that the Administrator of USEPA finds, after examination for efficacy under field conditions and not solely under laboratory conditions, are generally available (taking cost into consideration).

**Table 13. Statistical summary of water-quality analyses, except pesticides, for samples from sand water-bearing units in the Brule Formation, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) drinking-water regulations**

[ $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ , microsiemens per centimeter at 25 degrees Celsius ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ );  $\text{mg}/\text{L}$ , milligrams per liter;  $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ , micrograms per liter;  $\text{pCi}/\text{L}$ , picocuries per liter; F, final; L, listed for regulation; P, proposed (phase II and V proposals); TT, treatment technique; <, less than; \*, under review; \*\*, copper action level (1,200  $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$  Cu), lead action level (15  $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$  Pb) (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1988a); \*\*\*, the Primary Maximum Contaminant level (MCL) for total beta particle and photon activity is 4 millirems per roentgen; the MCL for adjusted total alpha particle activity is 15  $\text{pCi}/\text{L}$  (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1986); \*\*\*\*, the proposed MCL for dissolved radium is 5  $\text{pCi}/\text{L}$  (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1986)]

Well characteristic, property of water, or chemical constituent	Units of measurement	Detection level	Values			Standard deviation	USEPA drinking-water regulation			Number of samples analyzed	Number of samples that exceeded primary or secondary MCL
			Minimum	Median	Maximum		MCLG <sup>1</sup>	MCL <sup>2</sup>			
Well depth	Feet	1.0	80	125	220	52	--	--	6	--	
Specific conductance, field	$\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$	1.0	291	457	491	107	--	--	3	--	
pH, field	Standard units	.1	7.6	7.7	7.9	.14	--	<sup>3</sup> 6.5-8.5	6	0	
Water temperature, field	$^{\circ}\text{C}$	.5	12.5	12.5	15.0	1.1	--	--	6	--	
Oxygen, dissolved, field	$\text{mg}/\text{L}$	.1	6.7	7.3	12.2	2.6	--	--	6	--	
Nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen	$\text{mg}/\text{L}$ as N	.05	3.5	5.3	7.3	1.64	<sup>4</sup> 10.0	<sup>4</sup> F 10.0	3	0	
Hardness, total	$\text{mg}/\text{L}$ as $\text{CaCO}_3$	1	120	140	160	20	--	--	3	--	
Alkalinity, total	$\text{mg}/\text{L}$ as $\text{CaCO}_3$	1	130	180	180	28	--	--	3	--	
Calculated dissolved solids	$\text{mg}/\text{L}$	1	259	319	352	47	--	<sup>3</sup> F 500	3	0	
Calcium, dissolved	$\text{mg}/\text{L}$	.10	33	41	46	6.6	--	--	3	--	
Magnesium, dissolved	$\text{mg}/\text{L}$	.10	8.4	9.1	11	1.3	--	--	3	--	
Sodium, dissolved	$\text{mg}/\text{L}$	.10	16	35	61	23	--	--	3	--	
Percent sodium, dissolved	percent	1	19	31	51	16	--	--	3	--	
Sodium-adsorption ratio	--	--	.6	1	2	.7	--	--	3	--	
Potassium, dissolved	$\text{mg}/\text{L}$	.10	4.5	4.6	6.8	1.3	--	--	3	--	

**Table 13.** Statistical summary of water-quality analyses, except pesticides, for samples from sand water-bearing units in the Brule Formation, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) drinking-water regulations—Continued

Well characteristic, property of water, or chemical constituent	Units of measurement	Detection level	Values			Standard deviation	USEPA drinking-water regulation		Number of samples analyzed	Number of samples that exceeded primary or secondary MCL
			Minimum	Median	Maximum		MCLG <sup>1</sup>	MCL <sup>2</sup>		
Sulfate, dissolved	mg/L	0.10	15	20	29	7.1	<sup>4</sup> 400/500	<sup>4</sup> P 400/500	3	0
Chloride, dissolved	mg/L	.10	6.6	15	16	5.2	--	<sup>3</sup> F 250	3	0
Fluoride, dissolved	mg/L	.10	.30	.30	.50	.11	<sup>4</sup> 4.0*	<sup>4</sup> F4.0*, <sup>3</sup> F 2.0	3	0
Silica, dissolved	mg/L	.10	58	60	61	1.5	--	--	3	--
Arsenic, dissolved	µg/L	1	4	8	11	3.6	--	<sup>4</sup> F 50	3	0
Barium, dissolved	µg/L	2	100	150	230	56	42,000	<sup>4</sup> F 2,000	3	0
Beryllium, dissolved	µg/L	.5	<.5	<.5	.5	.3	0	<sup>4</sup> P 1.0	3	0
Boron, dissolved	µg/L	10	50	60	100	22	--	--	3	--
Cadmium, dissolved	µg/L	1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	--	<sup>4</sup> 5.0	<sup>4</sup> F 5.0	3	0
Chromium, dissolved	µg/L	5	<5	<5	<5	--	4100	<sup>4</sup> F 100	3	0
Cobalt, dissolved	µg/L	3	<3	<3	3	--	--	<sup>3</sup> 1,000	3	0
Copper, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	<10	--	<sup>4</sup> 1,300	P TT**	3	0
Iron, dissolved	µg/L	3	3	5	8	2.2	--	F <sup>3</sup> 300	3	0
Lead, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	<10	--	0	FTT**	3	0
Lithium, dissolved	µg/L	4	20	20	20	3.7	--	--	3	--
Manganese, dissolved	µg/L	1	<1	<1	1	.5	--	<sup>3</sup> F 50	3	0
Molybdenum, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	<10	--	--	--	3	--
Nickel, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	<10	--	4100	<sup>4</sup> P 100	3	0
Selenium, dissolved	µg/L	1	1	4	8	3.3	<sup>4</sup> 50	<sup>4</sup> F 50	3	0
Silver, dissolved	µg/L	1.0	<1.0	<1.0	2	1	--	--	3	--

**Table 13. Statistical summary of water-quality analyses, except pesticides, for samples from sand water-bearing units in the Brule Formation, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) drinking-water regulations—Continued**

Well characteristic, property of water, or chemical constituent	Units of measurement	Detection level	Values			Standard deviation	USEPA drinking-water regulation		Number of samples analyzed	Number of samples that exceeded primary or secondary MCL
			Minimum	Median	Maximum		MCLG <sup>1</sup>	MCL <sup>2</sup>		
Strontium, dissolved	µg/L	10	440	560	830	188	--	--	3	--
Vanadium, dissolved	µg/L	6	9	17	22	5.6	--	--	3	--
Zinc, dissolved	µg/L	3	<3	7	9	4	--	<sup>3</sup> F 5,000	3	0
Gross alpha based on thorium-230 curve	pCi/L	.4	6.4	14	15	4.6	0	***	3	0
Gross beta based on strontium-90 1 curve	pCi/L	.4	6.5	9.9	12	2.2	0	*	3	--
Radium-226, dissolved	pCi/L	.02	.1	.12	.2	.04	0	****	3	--
Radon-222, dissolved	pCi/L	80	960	1,200	1,500	180	--	P 300	3	4
Uranium, total	µg/L	.1	6.2	11	19	6.3	0	F 20	3	0
Uranium ratio, uranium-234/238	<sup>234</sup> U/ <sup>238</sup> U	--	1.7	1.9	2	.15	--	--	3	--

<sup>1</sup>MCLG, Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1988b, e).

<sup>2</sup>MCL, Maximum Contaminant Level (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1988a, c, d).

<sup>3</sup>Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL)—contaminants that affect the aesthetic quality of drinking water. At large concentrations or values, health implications as well as aesthetic degradation also may exist. SMCL's are not Federally enforceable but are intended as guidelines for States.

<sup>4</sup>Primary Maximum Contaminant Level (PMCL)—enforceable, health-based regulation that is to be set as close to the MCLG as is feasible. The definition of feasible means the use of the best technology, treatment techniques, and other means that the Administrator of USEPA finds, after examination for efficacy under field conditions and not solely under laboratory conditions, are generally available (taking cost into consideration).

**Table 14. Statistical summary of water-quality analyses, except pesticides, for samples from Chadron Formation water-bearing units, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) drinking-water regulations**

[ $\mu$ S/cm, microsiemens per centimeter at 25 degrees Celsius ( $^{\circ}$ C); mg/L, milligrams per liter;  $\mu$ g/L, micrograms per liter; pCi/L, picocuries per liter; F, final; L, listed for regulation; P, proposed (phase II and V proposals); TT, treatment technique; <, less than; \*, under review; \*\*, copper action level (1,200  $\mu$ g/L Cu), lead action level (15  $\mu$ g/L Pb) (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1988a); \*\*\*, the Primary Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for total beta particle and photon activity is 4 millirems per roentgen; the MCL for adjusted total alpha particle activity is 15 pCi/L (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1986); \*\*\*\*, the proposed MCL for dissolved radium is 5 pCi/L (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1986)]

Well characteristic, property of water, or chemical constituent	Units of measurement	Detection level	Values			USEPA drinking-water regulation			Number of samples analyzed	Number of samples that exceeded primary or secondary MCL
			Minimum	Median	Maximum	Standard deviation	MCLG <sup>1</sup>	MCL <sup>2</sup>		
Well depth	Feet	1.0	290	460	555	90	--	--	6	--
Specific conductance, field	$\mu$ S/cm	1.0	315	1,435	2,130	689	--	--	6	--
pH, field	Standard units	.1	8.0	8.2	8.8	.34	--	<sup>3</sup> 6.5-8.5	6	2
Water temperature, field	$^{\circ}$ C	.5	14.0	18.5	21.0	2.3	--	--	6	--
Oxygen, dissolved, field	mg/L	.1	.1	.5	1.9	.72	--	--	6	--
Nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen	mg/L as N	.05	<.05	<.05	.98	.39	<sup>3</sup> 10.0	<sup>4</sup> F 10.0	6	0
Hardness, total	mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	1.0	16	35	43	9	--	--	6	--
Alkalinity, total	mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	1	130	530	620	197	--	--	6	--
Calculated dissolved solids	mg/L	1	242	747	1170	402	--	<sup>3</sup> F 500	6	3
Calcium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	4	9.2	12	2.64	--	--	6	--
Magnesium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	1.3	2.7	3.1	.63	--	--	6	--
Sodium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	58	330	460	150	--	--	6	--
Percent sodium, dissolved	percent	1	76	94	97	8	--	--	6	--
Sodium-adsorption ratio	--	--	4	27	39	13	--	--	6	--
Potassium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	3.7	6.2	9.2	2.4	--	--	6	--

**Table 14.** Statistical summary of water-quality analyses, except pesticides, for samples from Chadron Formation water-bearing units, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) drinking-water regulations—Continued

Well characteristic, property of water, or chemical constituent	Units of measurement	Detection level	Values			USEPA drinking-water regulation			Number of samples analyzed	Number of samples that exceeded primary or secondary MCL
			Minimum	Median	Maximum	Standard deviation	MCLG <sup>1</sup>	MCL <sup>2</sup>		
Sulfate, dissolved	mg/L	0.10	<.10	11	220	87	<sup>4</sup> 400/500	<sup>4</sup> P 400/500	6	0
Chloride, dissolved	mg/L	.10	7.4	126	350	147	--	<sup>3</sup> F 250	6	2
Fluoride, dissolved	mg/L	.10	.70	1.6	2.4	.70	<sup>4</sup> 4.0*	<sup>4</sup> F4.0*, <sup>3</sup> F 2.0	6	0
Silica, dissolved	mg/L	.10	11	12	54	17	--	--	6	--
Arsenic, dissolved	µg/L	1	--	11	59	22	--	<sup>4</sup> F 50	6	1
Barium, dissolved	µg/L	2	21	85	180	61	<sup>4</sup> 2,000	<sup>4</sup> F 2,000	6	0
Beryllium, dissolved	µg/L	.5	<.5	<.5	2	1	0	<sup>4</sup> P 1.0	6	2
Boron, dissolved	µg/L	10	90	1,050	1,900	712	--	--	6	--
Cadmium, dissolved	µg/L	1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	--	<sup>4</sup> 5.0	<sup>4</sup> F 5.0	6	0
Chromium, dissolved	µg/L	5	<5	<5	<5	--	<sup>4</sup> 100	<sup>4</sup> F 100	6	0
Cobalt, dissolved	µg/L	3	<3	<3	<3	--	--	<sup>3</sup> 1,000	6	0
Copper, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	<10	--	<sup>4</sup> 1,300	P TT**	6	0
Iron, dissolved	µg/L	3	4	20	39	14	--	F <sup>3</sup> 300	6	0
Lead, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	<10	--	0	F TT**	6	0
Lithium, dissolved	µg/L	4	10	20	20	3	--	--	6	0
Manganese, dissolved	µg/L	1	2.0	4.0	13.0	--	--	<sup>3</sup> F 50	6	--
Molybdenum, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	<10	--	--	--	6	--
Nickel, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	<10	--	<sup>4</sup> 100	<sup>4</sup> P 100	6	0
Selenium, dissolved	µg/L	1	<1	<1	1	--	<sup>4</sup> 50	<sup>4</sup> F 50	6	0
Silver, dissolved	µg/L	1.0	<1.0	<1.0	6.0	2.45	--	--	6	--

**Table 14.** Statistical summary of water-quality analyses, except pesticides, for samples from Chadron Formation water-bearing units, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) drinking-water regulations—Continued

Well characteristic, property of water, or chemical constituent	Units of measurement	Detection level	Values			USEPA drinking-water regulation			Number of samples analyzed	Number of samples that exceeded primary or secondary MCL
			Minimum	Median	Maximum	Standard deviation	MCLG <sup>1</sup>	MCL <sup>2</sup>		
Strontium, dissolved	µg/L	10	230	280	430	80	--	--	6	--
Vanadium, dissolved	µg/L	6	<6	<6	<6	--	--	--	6	--
Zinc, dissolved	µg/L	3	<3	6	11	4.59	--	<sup>3</sup> F 5,000	6	0
Gross alpha based on thorium-230 curve	pCi/L	.4	<.4	<.4	20	8.1	0	***	6	1
Gross beta based on strontium-90 curve	pCi/L	.4	4.7	6.1	9.4	1.7	0	*	6	--
Radium-226, dissolved	pCi/L	.02	.03	.13	.21	.07	0	****	6	--
Radon-222, dissolved	pCi/L	80	200	870	1300	436	--	P 300	6	3
Uranium, total	µg/L	.1	.1	.8	13	5.3	0	F 20	6	0
Uranium ratio, uranium-234/238	<sup>234</sup> U/ <sup>238</sup> U	--	1.7	2.2	15	5.3	--	--	6	--

<sup>1</sup> MCLG, Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1988b, e).

<sup>2</sup> MCL, Maximum Contaminant Level (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1988a, c, d).

<sup>3</sup> Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL)—contaminants that affect the aesthetic quality of drinking water. At large concentrations or values, health implications as well as aesthetic degradation also may exit. SMCL's are not Federally enforceable but are intended as guidelines for States.

<sup>4</sup> Primary Maximum Contaminant Level (PMCL)—enforceable, health-based regulation that is to be set as close to the MCLG as is feasible. The definition of feasible means the use of the best technology, treatment techniques, and other means that the Administrator of USEPA finds, after examination for efficacy under field conditions and not solely under laboratory conditions, are generally available (taking cost into consideration).

**Table 15. Statistical summary of water-quality analyses, except pesticides, for samples from undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) drinking-water regulations**

[ $\mu$ S/cm, microsiemens per centimeter at 25 degrees Celsius ( $^{\circ}$ C); mg/L, milligrams per liter;  $\mu$ g/L, micrograms per liter; pCi/L, picocuries per liter; F, final; L, listed for regulation; P, proposed (phase II and V proposals); TT, treatment technique; <, less than; \*, under review; \*\*, copper action level (1,200  $\mu$ g/L Cu), lead action level (15  $\mu$ g/L Pb) (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1988a); \*\*\*, the Primary Maximum Contaminant level (MCL) for total beta particle and photon activity is 4 millirems per roentgen; the MCL for adjusted total alpha particle activity is 15 pCi/L (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1986); \*\*\*\*, the proposed MCL for dissolved radium is 5 pCi/L (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1986)]

Well characteristic, property of water, or chemical constituent	Units of measurement	Detection level	Values			USEPA drinking-water regulation			Number of samples analyzed	Number of samples that exceeded primary or secondary MCL
			Minimum	Median	Maximum	Standard deviation	MCLG <sup>1</sup>	MCL <sup>2</sup>		
Well depth	Feet	1.0	230	305	870	350	--	--	3	--
Specific conductance, field	$\mu$ S/cm	1.0	1,120	1,170	2,040	517	--	--	3	--
pH, field	Standard units	.1	8.6	8.8	9.1	.26	--	<sup>3</sup> 6.5-8.5	3	3
Water temperature, field	$^{\circ}$ C	.5	13.5	14.0	19.5	3.3	--	--	3	--
Oxygen, dissolved, field	mg/L	.1	.6	1.1	6.4	3.2	--	--	3	--
Nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen	mg/L as N	.05	<.05	<.05	.23	.13	<sup>4</sup> 10.0	<sup>4</sup> F 10.0	3	0
Hardness, total	mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	1	11	12	19	4.4	--	--	3	--
Alkalinity, total	mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	1	620	650	740	62	--	--	3	--
Calculated dissolved solids	mg/L	1	690	720	1,240	309	--	<sup>3</sup> F 500	3	3
Calcium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	3	3.2	5	.87	--	--	3	--
Magnesium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	.8	.9	1.7	.49	--	--	3	--
Sodium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	270	290	510	133	--	--	3	--
Percent sodium, dissolved	percent	1	97	97	98	.58	--	--	3	--
Sodium-adsorption ratio	--	--	35	38	52	9	--	--	3	--
Potassium, dissolved	mg/L	.10	5.5	5.5	5.5	--	--	--	3	--

**Table 15.** Statistical summary of water-quality analyses, except pesticides, for samples from undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) drinking-water regulations---Continued

Well characteristic, property of water, or chemical constituent	Units of measurement	Detection level	Values			Standard deviation	USEPA drinking-water regulation		Number of samples analyzed	Number of samples that exceeded primary or secondary MCL
			Minimum	Median	Maximum		MCLG <sup>1</sup>	MCL <sup>2</sup>		
Sulfate, dissolved	mg/L	0.10	1.5	3.1	12	5.7	<sup>4</sup> 400/500	<sup>4</sup> P 400/500	3	0
Chloride, dissolved	mg/L	.10	15	250	136	--	<sup>3</sup> F 250	<sup>3</sup> F 250	3	0
Fluoride, dissolved	mg/L	.10	1.2	1.8	.30	44.0*	<sup>4</sup> F4.0*, <sup>3</sup> F2.0		3	0
Silica, dissolved	mg/L	.10	9.8	14	2.8	--	--	--	3	--
Arsenic, dissolved	µg/L	1	2	8	3	--	<sup>4</sup> F 50		3	0
Barium, dissolved	µg/L	2	59	63	2.3	42,000	<sup>4</sup> F 2,000		3	0
Beryllium, dissolved	µg/L	.5	<.5	<5	--	0	<sup>4</sup> P 1.0		3	0
Boron, dissolved	µg/L	10	410	3,900	2,004	--	--	--	3	--
Cadmium, dissolved	µg/L	1.0	<1.0	2.0	1.2	45.0	<sup>4</sup> F 5.0		3	0
Chromium, dissolved	µg/L	5	<5	<5	--	<sup>4</sup> 100	<sup>4</sup> F 100		3	0
Cobalt, dissolved	µg/L	3	<3	<4	--	--	<sup>3</sup> 1,000		0	0
Copper, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	80	46	41,300	P TT**		3	0
Iron, dissolved	µg/L	3	8	73	63	--	<sup>F</sup> 300		3	0
Lead, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	--	0	FTT**		3	0
Lithium, dissolved	µg/L	4	10	40	17	--	--	--	3	--
Manganese, dissolved	µg/L	1	3	4	.58	--	<sup>3</sup> F 50		3	0
Molybdenum, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	20	12	--	--	--	3	--
Nickel, dissolved	µg/L	10	<10	<10	--	4100	<sup>4</sup> P 100		3	0
Selenium, dissolved	µg/L	1	<1	<1	--	450	<sup>4</sup> F 50		3	0
Silver, dissolved	µg/L	1.0	<1.0	<1.0	--	--	--	--	3	--

**Table 15.** Statistical summary of water-quality analyses, except pesticides, for samples from undifferentiated water-bearing units of Cretaceous age, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska, June and July 1991, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) drinking-water regulations—Continued

Well characteristic, property of water, or chemical constituent	Units of measurement	Detection level	Values			USEPA drinking-water regulation			Number of samples analyzed	Number of samples that exceeded primary or secondary MCL
			Minimum	Median	Maximum	Standard deviation	MCLG <sup>1</sup>	MCL <sup>2</sup>		
Strontium, dissolved	µg/L	10	100	100	280	100	--	--	3	--
Vanadium, dissolved	µg/L	6	<6	<6	<6	--	--	--	3	--
Zinc, dissolved	µg/L	3	<3	6.0	16	8	--	<sup>3</sup> F 5,000	3	0
Gross alpha based on thorium-230 curve	pCi/L	.4	1.1	9.1	13	5.9	0	***	3	0
Gross beta based on strontium-90 curve	pCi/L	.4	4.1	5.3	6.0	.96	0	*	3	--
Radium-226, dissolved	pCi/L	.02	.05	.09	.10	.03	0	***	3	--
Radon-222, dissolved	pCi/L	80	520	1,000	1,300	393	--	P 300	3	3
Uranium, total	µg/L	.1	.2	1.2	2.6	1.2	0	F 20	3	0
Uranium ratio, uranium-234/238	<sup>234</sup> U/ <sup>238</sup> U	--	2.8	8.9	10.8	4.1	--	--	3	--

<sup>1</sup>MCLG, Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1988b, e).

<sup>2</sup>MCL, Maximum Contaminant Level (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1988a, c, d).

<sup>3</sup>Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL)—contaminants that affect the aesthetic quality of drinking water. At large concentrations or values, health implications as well as aesthetic degradation also may exist. SMCL's are not Federally enforceable but are intended as guidelines for States.

<sup>4</sup>Primary Maximum Contaminant Level (PMCL)—enforceable, health-based regulation that is to be set as close to the MCLG as is feasible. The definition of feasible means the use of the best technology, treatment techniques, and other means that the Administrator of USEPA finds, after examination for efficacy under field conditions and not solely under laboratory conditions, are generally available (taking cost into consideration).

**Table 16.** Results of Kruskal-Wallis and Wilcoxon Rank Sum tests on differences in water chemistry among water-bearing units and two groups of water-bearing units, respectively

[\_\_\_\_\_, indicates significant differences at an alpha level of 0.05; <, less than]

Variables*	Probabilites p-values of differences			
	Kruskal-Wallis test	Wilcoxon Rank Sum test		
		Quaternary-age water-bearing units compared to other water-bearing units	Fractured-bedrock and sand water-bearing units in the Bruie Formation compared to other water-bearing units	Chadron Formation and undifferentiated Cretaceous compared to other water-bearing units
Well depth	<u>&lt;0.00001</u>	<u>&lt;0.00001</u>	0.54384	<u>&lt;0.00001</u>
Specific conductance, field	.29866	.86514	.31064	.10931
pH, field	<u>.00002</u>	<u>.00001</u>	.13746	<u>.00001</u>
Water temperature, field	<u>.00042</u>	<u>.00034</u>	.96219	<u>.00035</u>
Oxygen, dissolved	.0021	.26902	.00132	.00005
Nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen	<u>&lt;.00001</u>	.00206	.05408	<u>&lt;.00001</u>
Hardness	<u>.00002</u>	<u>&lt;.00001</u>	.54209	<u>&lt;.00001</u>
Alkalinity	<u>.00083</u>	.42435	.03558	<u>.00037</u>
Calculated dissolved solids	.00808	.02130	.16277	.25044
Calcium	<u>.00001</u>	<u>&lt;.00001</u>	.47032	<u>&lt;.00001</u>
Magnesium	<u>.00008</u>	<u>.00001</u>	.74831	<u>&lt;.00001</u>
Sodium	<u>.00014</u>	.88789	.11221	<u>.00002</u>
Percent sodium	<u>.00016</u>	.30673	.64174	<u>&lt;.00001</u>
Sodium-adsorption ratio	<u>.00010</u>	.71570	.26141	<u>.00001</u>
Potassium	.00203	.00001	.02795	.02072
Sulfate	.00549	.00009	.76050	.00571
Chloride	.00553	.44507	.63029	.00597
Fluoride	<u>.00085</u>	.04454	.04159	<u>.00001</u>
Silica	<u>.00048</u>	.99049	.00350	<u>.00003</u>
Arsenic	.89515	.81424	.98712	.98835
Barium	.20272	.69824	.05420	.02153
Beryllium	.74168	.39761	.36895	.54119
Boron	<u>.00016</u>	.52581	.05420	<u>.00005</u>
Cadmium	.95707	.81424	.72411	.78224
Cobalt	.96234	.62171	.64174	.69447

**Table 16.** Results of Kruskal-Wallis and Wilcoxon Rank Sum tests on differences in water chemistry among water-bearing units and two groups of water-bearing units, respectively—Continued

Variables*	Probabilitea p-values of differences			
	Kruskal-Wallis test	Wilcoxon Rank Sum test		
		Quaternary-age water-bearing units compared to other water-bearing units	Fractured-bedrock and sand water-bearing units in the Brule Formation compared to other water-bearing units	Chadron Formation and undifferentiated Cretaceous compared to other water-bearing units
Copper	0.98876	0.80513	0.91056	0.61063
Iron	.01580	.07041	.89786	.00026
Lithium	.01116	.00031	.04665	.64155
Manganese	.04938	.94379	.09521	.00185
Molybdenum	.58216	.45921	.57444	.05301
Selenium	<u>.00056</u>	.01008	.02369	<u>.00003</u>
Silver	.98761	.62171	.64174	.69447
Strontium	<u>.00062</u>	<u>.00011</u>	.41323	<u>.00010</u>
Vanadium	.00139	.24959	.52104	.00002
Zinc	.28491	.19624	.43179	.55086
Gross alpha based on thorium-230 curve	.02062	.00415	.36046	.00743
Gross beta based on strontium-90 curve	<u>.00042</u>	<u>.00001</u>	.56355	.00236
Radon-222	<u>.00054</u>	.01939	<u>.00031</u>	.04625
Radium-226	.10133	.03651	.84734	.11956
Uranium	.00193	.00021	.56355	.00021
Uranium ratio-234/238	.00611	.00023	.76050	.00416

\*, all concentrations of chromium, lead, and nickel were less than the detection level.

The Kruskal-Wallis test was used to determine that at least 1 percent of all tested populations was significantly different from each other without identifying which one is different, the alpha value reflects the chance of rejecting the null hypothesis when it is true. The null hypothesis means that the distributions of concentrations among populations are the same.

**Table 17. Statistically significant results (alpha = 0.05) of the Tukey's test to test for differences in median concentrations of water-quality variables among water-bearing units, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska**

[Group medians with boxes shaded along the same row are not significantly different from each other and illustrate the pattern of concentration levels of the data; Q, Quaternary age; O, Ogallala Group; A, Arikaree Group; BF, fractured bedrock in the Brule Formation; BS, sand in the Brule Formation; CH, Chadron Formation; CR, undifferentiated units of Cretaceous age]

Variable	Water-bearing unit						
	Q	O	A	BF	BS	CH	CR
Well depth	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	White	White
	White	Shaded	Shaded	White	Shaded	White	Shaded
	White	Shaded	Shaded	White	White	Shaded	Shaded
pH, field	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	White
	White	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded
	White	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded
Water temperature, field	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	White	White	Shaded
	White	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	White	Shaded	Shaded
	White	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	White	White	Shaded
Nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen	White	Shaded	Shaded	White	White	Shaded	Shaded
	Shaded	White	Shaded	Shaded	White	White	White
	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	White	White
Hardness	White	Shaded	Shaded	White	Shaded	White	Shaded
	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	White	White
	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	White	White
Alkalinity	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	White
	White	White	White	Shaded	White	Shaded	Shaded
	White	White	White	White	White	Shaded	Shaded
Dissolved solids	Shaded	White	White	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	White
	Shaded	White	White	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded
	Shaded	White	White	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded
Calcium	White	White	Shaded	White	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded
	White	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	White
	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	White
Magnesium	White	Shaded	Shaded	White	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded
	White	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	White
	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	White
Sodium	White	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	White	White
	Shaded	White	White	Shaded	Shaded	White	White
	White	White	White	White	White	Shaded	Shaded
Percent sodium	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	White	White	White
	White	White	White	White	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded
	White	White	White	White	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded

**Table 17.** Statistically significant results (alpha = 0.05) of the Tukey's test to test for differences in median concentrations of water-quality variables among water-bearing units, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska—Continued

Variable	Water-bearing unit						
	Q	O	A	BF	BS	CH	CR
Sodium-adsorption ratio	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded
Potassium	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded
Sulfate	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded
Chloride	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded
Fluoride	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded
Silica	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded
Arsenic	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded
Barium	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded
Beryllium	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded
Boron	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded
Iron	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded
Lithium	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded
Selenium	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded
Silver	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded
Strontium	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded

**Table 17.** Statistically significant results ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ) of the Tukey's test to test for differences in median concentrations of water-quality variables among water-bearing units, North Platte Natural Resources District, western Nebraska—Continued

Variable	Water-bearing unit						
	Q	O	A	BF	BS	CH	CR
Vanadium	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Zinc	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Gross alpha based on uranium curve	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Gross beta based on strontium-90 curve	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Radon-222	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Radium-226	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Uranium	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Uranium ratio-234-238	■	■	■	■	■	■	■