

# Virgil Norton hired to become new manager for Upper Republican NRD

Virgil Norton of Star City, West Virginia, has been tentatively appointed and accepted the position of general manager of the URNRD (Upper Republican Natural Resources District). He will assume his new position at about the time present manager Ron Milner retires from that post.

Dean Large, president of the NRD board and head of the search committee, said they had received a large number of applications. Seven finalists were interviewed.

The search committee met last week for a conference call final interview. Large said approval of the appointment must be made by the entire board at their May 6 meeting before the decision is final.

Norton was born and raised on a crop and livestock farm in northwest Kansas, where he was an active 4-H and FFA member. He earned a bachelor's degree in agriculture education (vocational agriculture teaching) from Kansas State University, and graduate degrees in agriculture economics from Kansas State and Oregon State Universities.

He comes to the Upper Republican area from West Virginia University where for 10 years he taught and conducted research and extension on agricultural production, water and rural development issues.

For more than six of those 10 years, he also served as Director of the West Virginia Division of Resource Management. In that position, he was responsible for programs in agricultural and environmental technology, agricultural and resource economics, agricultural and extension education and landscape architecture.

In addition to his West Virginian University experience, he has had several years of administrative experience with other university and government agricultural and natural resource programs.

Norton has participated in a wide range of local, state and national committees, scientific advisory groups, councils, public meetings, hearings and conferences dealing with agricultural and natural resource professional literature, and has received awards and other recognition for his teaching, research and administrative accomplishments.

Norton is married and has two daughters. His wife, Nancy works at the Uni-

versity of Northern Iowa. One daughter, Kathleen, lives with her husband and two children in Kansas City, Mo. The other daughter, Kristeen, her husband and child live in Laurel, Maryland. Norton's parents, Bill and Mary Norton,

live in Wakecency, Kan.

The Nortons will reside in Chase County and said they are looking forward to becoming part of the community.