



Steve Troxler
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

July 1, 2011

Honorable Members of the Environmental Review Commission:

On behalf of the Statistics Division of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, I respectfully submit to you the results of the 2010 Agricultural Water Use Survey. As in 2009 and 2010, this report was prepared to fulfill the requirements of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 106-24(b), as amended by Session Law 2008-143.

As required by 7 U.S.C. § 2276, the report includes aggregated data for the entire state. In the coming weeks, the Department will also release aggregated county and river basin water use data, where such information can be produced with accuracy and in compliance with federal law.

This year, about 3600 farms were contacted with a 92% response rate showing 1,400 farms that withdrew 10,000 gallons or more of water per day. We are now in our third year of collecting data from agricultural users, at a threshold for reporting which is well below that of any other sector. The data continues to support the assertion that, when comparing historic total ground and surface statewide withdrawals of water for agricultural production with total withdrawals from all users (nonagricultural and agricultural combined, as recorded by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and currently reported on their website), the survey demonstrates that agricultural use in 2010 on an average daily basis accounted for less than 1% of all withdrawals.

I hope that the information supplied here is useful as you continue to discuss legislation and policy which has implications for our farmers and agribusinesses. Our staff is available to answer questions regarding the survey and its results, and I trust you will call upon them as needed. They are extraordinary, and their work is made much easier as a result of the partnerships we have with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the many agricultural organizations across North Carolina who have promoted this survey. I look forward to working with each of you to preserve and promote the agricultural industry in the months and years ahead.

Sincerely,

Steve W. Troxler

cc: Tom Reeder, NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Herb Vanderberry, Director, NC Field Office, National Agricultural Statistics
Service



**Table 1: Total & Average Daily Water Withdrawn 1
2010 North Carolina Water Use by Month**

Month	# Operations (count)	Monthly Total	Monthly Total	Average Across All	Average Across All Days-
		Ground (gallons)	Surface (gallons)	Days-Ground (gallons)	Surface (gallons)
January	875	327,746,853	443,718,548	10,572,479	14,313,502
February	914	306,896,139	408,396,413	10,960,576	14,585,586
March	1007	429,059,324	650,423,885	13,840,623	20,981,416
April	1102	587,000,892	897,557,431	19,566,696	29,918,581
May	1202	736,126,685	1,462,543,675	23,746,022	47,178,828
June	1354	957,486,641	2,794,574,636	31,916,221	93,152,488
July	1456	1,233,133,162	3,512,626,842	39,778,489	113,310,543
August	1340	911,836,657	2,470,582,043	29,414,086	79,696,195
September	1125	540,075,004	1,526,319,779	18,002,500	50,877,326
October	1015	455,042,183	805,086,261	14,678,780	25,970,525
November	938	366,143,125	570,731,451	12,204,771	19,024,382
December	870	305,086,729	504,999,747	9,841,507	16,290,314
Annual Average				19,543,563	43,774,974

Operations:

1420 Total Operations

Daily Withdrawal Capacity (incl. ground & surface):

1,094,941,408 (gallons)

1 Users of 10,000 gallons or more per day. Averages reported in this table reflect the average water withdrawn across all days of the month. Does not include farms that have reported their withdrawals directly to DENR by July 1, 2011. The monthly number of operations will not add to the total. Some operations reported both surface and ground water withdrawals, which are counted twice in the monthly number of operations. However, the total number of operations represents operations that withdrew water at any time during the year, regardless if withdrawn from multiple sources.

Table 2: Demand Use for Days Applied ¹
2010 North Carolina Water Use by Month

Month	Average Days Applied Ground (days)	Average Days Applied Surface (days)	Total Avg. Daily Ground (gallons)	Total Avg. Daily Surface (gallons)	Total Max Daily Ground (gallons)	Total Max Daily-Surface (gallons)
January	28	21	14,128,112	17,727,629	16,453,433	19,348,289
February	25	18	15,459,206	19,100,220	20,286,659	21,297,486
March	27	17	37,822,513	48,805,093	42,858,438	50,350,902
April	26	17	37,863,484	76,546,923	49,736,408	81,156,296
May	27	17	41,080,816	106,840,035	59,458,825	115,878,899
June	26	16	52,945,187	186,080,387	74,973,158	205,890,029
July	27	17	79,885,699	226,710,453	95,973,178	260,929,620
August	27	17	57,032,521	169,291,378	69,772,195	193,441,699
September	27	18	30,219,785	95,254,706	39,496,324	107,951,614
October	28	19	24,116,620	42,901,684	33,979,151	47,053,753
November	27	18	24,030,425	24,917,014	30,992,459	26,795,863
December	28	19	14,002,860	20,288,011	17,871,027	20,364,739
Annual Average			35,715,602	86,205,294		

¹ Users of 10,000 gallons or more per day. Averages reported in this table reflect the average water withdrawn during the days of application. Does not include farms that have reported their withdrawals directly to DENR by July 1, 2011.