



Steven W. Troxler
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

July 2, 2012

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 2011 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.

More than 3500 farms were contacted with an 89% response rate showing 1308 farms withdrew over 10,000 gallons or more water per day. It continues to be a significant fact 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 2011 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
Dee Webb, Acting Director, NC Field Office, National Agricultural Statistics
Service

Table 1: Total & Average Daily Water Withdrawn ¹
2011 North Carolina Water Use by Month

Month	# Operations (count)	Average Average Across			
		Monthly Total Ground (gallons)	Monthly Total Surface (gallons)	Across All Days-Ground (gallons)	All Days- Surface (gallons)
January	785	352,687,278	498,522,071	11,377,009	16,081,357
February	801	318,380,816	456,926,165	11,370,743	16,318,792
March	860	623,806,091	715,862,896	20,122,777	23,092,351
April	932	696,159,305	902,539,489	23,205,310	30,084,650
May	995	958,841,319	1,471,826,232	30,930,365	47,478,266
June	1126	1,414,309,167	2,928,587,753	47,143,639	97,619,592
July	1207	1,569,713,341	3,805,700,350	50,635,914	122,764,527
August	1108	1,389,295,715	2,652,539,265	44,815,991	85,565,783
September	921	658,868,409	1,349,455,033	21,962,280	44,981,834
October	842	412,527,178	850,730,658	13,307,328	27,442,924
November	791	365,215,345	534,005,466	12,173,845	17,800,182
December	761	332,384,109	513,012,552	10,722,068	16,548,792
Annual Average				24,813,939	45,481,588

Operations:
1308 Total Operations

Daily Withdrawal Capacity (incl. ground & surface):
1,036,242,866 (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. Farms that reported their withdrawals directly to DENR by May 21, 2012 have been excluded. 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
2011 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	29	19	13,511,831	20,970,898	15,700,053	21,169,862
February	26	16	14,825,898	21,275,176	18,587,530	21,424,929
March	28	16	30,658,407	42,807,394	45,057,360	43,254,213
April	27	16	33,863,468	70,002,519	44,604,293	74,095,311
May	28	17	54,429,810	103,659,799	76,903,706	111,666,341
June	27	16	76,628,955	202,469,805	99,747,690	218,852,971
July	28	17	80,565,957	235,551,535	99,295,823	280,157,078
August	28	17	75,689,509	182,563,448	96,635,104	199,381,737
September	27	17	31,998,788	84,601,106	40,662,219	91,996,586
October	29	17	17,867,742	38,725,959	24,029,911	40,271,668
November	27	17	15,750,682	24,425,312	21,460,929	24,766,579
December	28	19	13,569,630	21,040,612	16,829,981	21,168,542
Annual Average			38,280,056	87,341,130		

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. Farms that reported their withdrawals directly to DENR by May 21, 2012 have been excluded.