



Steve Troxler
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

July 1, 2010

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 2009 Agricultural Water Use Survey. 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. The survey contacted about 3700 farms, with a 91% response rate showing 1,400 farms that withdrew 10,000 gallons or more water per day. It is significant 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 2009 on an average daily basis accounted for less than 1% of all withdrawals.

I would like to commend the technical staff at DWR for working in collaboration with my staff to make the agricultural water use survey a success. I would also like to commend a number of agricultural organizations across the state that promoted the survey. Finally, I want to thank you for your continued support for agriculture in this state.

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. I look forward to working with each of you to preserve and promote the agricultural industry in the months and years ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve W. Troxler".

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**Table 1: Total & Average Daily Water Withdrawn ¹
2009 North Carolina Water Use by Month**

Month	# Operations (count)	Monthly Total Ground (gallons)	Monthly Total- Surface (gallons)	Average Across All Days-Ground (gallons)	Average Across All Days-Surface (gallons)
January	854	407,658,130	750,274,551	13,150,262	24,202,405
February	893	394,091,417	706,536,058	14,074,693	25,233,431
March	952	517,040,772	1,008,519,420	16,678,735	32,532,885
April	1071	725,459,625	1,399,772,987	24,181,988	46,659,100
May	1120	880,869,578	1,495,624,063	28,415,148	48,245,938
June	1267	1,090,349,535	2,713,292,569	36,344,985	90,443,086
July	1384	1,303,118,815	3,480,200,110	42,036,091	112,264,520
August	1262	1,124,879,898	2,855,124,581	36,286,448	92,100,793
September	1048	788,680,951	1,632,821,336	26,289,365	54,427,378
October	974	635,720,469	1,034,949,280	20,507,112	33,385,461
November	894	447,239,659	795,825,923	14,907,989	26,527,531
December	839	386,833,953	753,238,571	12,478,515	24,298,018
Annual Average				23,779,277	50,860,045

Operations²:

1372 Total Operations
787 Livestock
645 Irrigation
43 Aquaculture

Daily Withdrawal Capacity (incl. ground & surface):

1,167,338,667

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, 2010.

² The type and monthly number of operations will not add to the total. Some operations reported multiple types and others reported both surface and ground water.

**Table 2: Demand Use for Days Applied ¹
2009 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	17	18,309,640	28,099,949	22,100,516	29,143,477
February	25	16	19,469,452	33,656,680	22,510,906	34,861,543
March	27	15	39,336,420	84,689,949	43,254,726	101,477,179
April	27	16	54,359,955	145,476,810	60,858,407	173,565,574
May	27	16	56,712,772	123,327,626	68,476,923	149,194,035
June	26	15	69,938,051	193,888,506	83,357,480	227,804,669
July	27	16	78,687,387	240,180,809	107,488,154	276,002,857
August	27	16	65,519,951	204,402,368	82,067,156	225,406,234
September	27	18	42,127,765	117,950,055	51,082,756	136,626,684
October	28	19	34,370,793	64,393,091	40,529,311	73,773,465
November	27	16	21,161,364	36,337,859	24,442,902	37,279,197
December	28	17	16,583,974	29,108,800	20,083,270	29,642,237
Annual Average			43,048,127	108,459,375		

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, 2010.