



Steve Troxler
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

July 2, 2013

Honorable Members of the Environmental Review Commission:

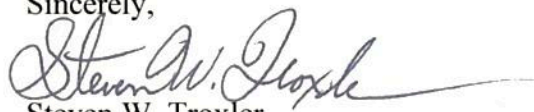
On behalf of the Statistics Division of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, I respectfully submit to you the results of the 2012 Agricultural Water Use Survey. This report was prepared to fulfill the requirements of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 106-24(b), as amended by Session Law 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 3400 farms, with a 92% response rate showing 1346 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 2012 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,



Steven W. Troxler
Commissioner

