

Short water supply predicted for West

WASHINGTON, D.C. — One of the lightest snowpacks ever recorded on the West's mountain watersheds probably will result in a short supply of water in some states of the region this summer.

That was the gist of a forecast issued jointly by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

"Many water users in the West will face critical supply problems unless there is a lot of rain throughout the summer," said Norman A. Berg, chief of USDA's Soil Conservation Service.

Surveys carried out the first of April, when snowpack in the West normally reaches its maximum depth, revealed little change from conditions prevailing the first of March, said Berg.

Berg said the forecast is brighter for users in areas served by reservoirs.

"Water storage is normal or

above normal in several states and is adequate to avert major problems for those who have access to it," he said.

The outlook by state is:

Alaska: Runoff is below normal in streams in the interior and near normal in south-central Alaska.

Arizona: There is hardly any snowpack left. Runoff will be well below normal. Reservoir storage is adequate to supplement runoff.

California: Runoff is below normal, according to the State Department of Water Resources. Reservoir storage is above normal and is adequate for most needs.

Colorado: Snowpack is about 60 percent of normal, due to heavy March snow. Runoff still is expected to be very low.

Idaho: The snowpack is at a near record low in the south and very low elsewhere. Runoff will be 70 percent of normal or lower in most of Idaho.

Montana: Snowpack is at a record low especially in the

western part of the state. Reservoir storage is good. Water supplies will be variable.

Nevada: Runoff will be about 50 percent of normal from the Sierra range and about 49 percent of average in the Humboldt river.

New Mexico: March snows increased snowpack on the Rio Grande watershed. Runoff still will be well below normal.

Oregon: Snowpack in the Cascades is the lowest on record. Snowpack in the eastern part of the state is about 50 percent of normal,

and runoff will be well below normal.

Utah: A series of March storms slightly improved the snowpack. Runoff will be well below normal.

Washington: Snowpack improved in the northern section and remained poor in the southern section. Reservoir storage is adequate to supplement poor runoff.

Wyoming: Snowpack statewide is about one-half of normal and the lowest on record. Runoff will be much below normal. Reservoir

storage is above normal.

The final snow survey of the current season will be made this week.

He said the Soil Conservation Service surveys the snowpack in the West from the first of January. The agency and the weather service jointly analyze the data and compute forecasts of runoff for the summer snowmelt season.

The forecasts are based on the assumption that weather for the remainder of the season will be near normal.

Plans for tailgate market rolling in York Co.

AIRVILLE — A grassroots movement to start a Farmer's Tailgate Market is being considered in southern York County.

Up to 30 farm trucks, marketing anything produced at their farms, could be accommodated at Dairyland Square, located between Dallastown and Red Lion.

Items that might be sold could range from fresh produce, to freshly-processed fruit juices, home-baked goods or a variety of roadside market-type food items. Extension personnel are looking into applicable health regulations.

A brainstorming meeting for interested growers is scheduled for

7:30 p.m., Wednesday evening, May 6, at the Lower Chanceford Township Building, south of the Lower Chanceford School, on Route 74.

Organizers hope that, if there is enough interest in a tailgate market, an organizational structure, with by-laws for operation, can be structured within the next few weeks and be ready to begin sales operations by the summer produce harvest season.



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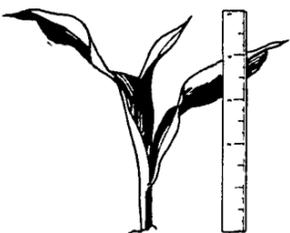
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