

SRBC Proposes Rules

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best option, is set at 14 cents per 1,000 gallons consumed during the entire year, not just during drought.

Despite possible cost increases, agriculturalists and rural basin residents may fare much better than the non-farm sector.

Urban and city dwellers may end up paying for their heavy demand of water, because public water suppliers, as well as large companies, must also compensate.

The proposed package of rules contains several exemptions and allowances for agricultural uses of water, but it tightens up regulations overall and sets a level of water use by agricultural producers beyond which those producers must make a form of compensation.

Also, the proposed rules allow that agriculturalists who would otherwise be required to make some form of compensation for water use are limited to make compensation of only 50 percent of the use. Other users must compensate in full.

For about a year, the SRBC has been working on developing new rules that bring together several separately approved regulations and also address areas of concern that previously had not been included in as much detail.

Working with an agricultural advisory committee, staff of the SRBC drafted the proposed regulations in an attempt to ease the understanding and, perhaps the implementation, of what it takes to comply with the SRBC goal of managing water resources within the entire basin.

The advisory committee still exists and expects to reconvene sometime in June, according to Dave Bingaman, who sat on the board representing the state

Department of Agriculture.

On Thursday, Bingaman was in Ephrata at Henry B. Hoover Inc., helping with the Lancaster County portion of the state's Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program. (For more information on that program, call the PDA at (717) 787-4843.)

Bingaman said that he attended the committee meeting for about a year and that he hasn't had an opportunity to review the final draft of the proposed SRBC rules, but from what he could tell, the commission made a lot of changes for the benefit of agriculture, from what the commission had first proposed.

According to Bingaman, other members of the committee include hog producer Harlan Keener; poultry producer Jim Espenshade; potato producer Keith Masser; New York agriculturalist Murray Mehany; a representative from the Maryland agriculture department; Herb Brody, representing the University of Maryland; seed corn producer Taylor Doebler Jr.; Kurt Leitholf, who is executive director of the Association of Conservation Districts; and water specialist Leon Ressler, with the Penn State Extension Service.

There may be others who were involved, but have not attended since the time Bingaman began attending, which was shortly after the committee formed, he said.

The committee requested of the commission five changes to the rules proposal, Bingaman said.

In order for farmers to be allowed to include the last significant drought year in their consumptive records as part of an allowable use during drought, the committee asked that Dec. 31, 1991 be used as the cutoff for grandfathering.

In its approved proposal, the commission has used January 23,

1971 as a cutoff for grandfathering water use, and it must be reasonably documented, according to Richard Cairo, SRBC general counsel and secretary.

The committee also requested that the commission continue to waive the application fees and monitoring fees for agriculture, as has been the case. The commission has granted a waiver for those fees to farmers who use less than 100,000 gallons per day (they still will be required to make compensation for half of what they consume).

Bingaman said the commission was "not totally consistent with what we were asking, but closer than it was. The concerns of the (agriculture) secretary were for new operations starting up and needing water. This does allow some consumptive use by new operations."

The committee also asked that irrigation only be considered to be 85 percent "consumptive" in water use. The commission has made it 100 percent.

The committee requested support of SRBC policies at the state and federal level to encourage construction of water storage facilities in the basin, such as building lakes that could serve the consumptive needs of several farms during a drought. To knowledge, there is nothing in the regulations that addresses that issue, but the commission may have other methods.

The ag committee also requested that the commission include municipalities in the basin, and the city of Baltimore, as being chargeable with replacing consumed water during drought.

Previously, the public water sources were not considered, because regulators viewed the consumption of individual people, not the cumulative consumption tied into a public water supply system.

The commission went along

with that change.

According to Bingaman, the commission has said that its proposed regulations may affect 100 farms in the basin.

"I think what we saw here over the last number of months ... on the part of the SRBC is to take a position that is better for ag in Pennsylvania. Extending credit from just grandfathering farms in to where new farms are going to be given some credit for consumptive use is positive," Bingaman said.

While the possibility of an added expense posed by the passing of the regulations is real and some may fight the commission strongly, the commission is responsible for managing for a larger issue than agricultural

competitiveness.

The droughts during the 1980s increasingly brought about a general public cry for some type of management in how water is used within the basin.

Up until now, the management of water by the state has been almost nil.

According to the constitution of Pennsylvania, all residents are entitled to the right of clean air and water, though how much water any individual can take and not put back had never previously been seriously managed.

Given the task of creating regulations to bring some kind of fairness and direction in the system of water use, the SRBC has been

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Lowest SCC Crawford DHIA

The lowest rolling SCC herds in Crawford DHIA as of the month of April are as follows:

NAME	TOWN	BRD	RHA SCC	NO. COWS
SELDONREST JERSEYS	GUYS MILLS	J	54	11
BRUCE A WILLIAMS	UNION CITY	J	61	1
GERALD R DONOVAN	TITUSVILLE	H	64	32
FORGET ME NOT FARM	TITUSVILLE	H	67	10
ALBERT BRENNER	SPARTANSBURG	H	74	84
EVERETT BRADLEY	CENTERVILLE	H	91	38
JONATHAN J HUNTER	MEADVILLE	X	91	5
STANHOPE FARMS	ESPYVILLE	H	93	47
DANIEL H DICKEY	ESPYVILLE	H	99	31
A-JAY FARMS	SPARTANSBURG	J	102	1
BLY VALLEY FARMS	TITUSVILLE	H	104	22
SHANNON BRENDA IRWIN	CENTERVILLE	H	109	44
GARRY WAGNER	COCHRANTON	H	116	36
DEMNIS B HALFAST	CENTERVILLE	H	123	51
J-HO FARMS	CONNEAUT LAKE	H	146	13
BREEZY DALE SWISS	TITUSVILLE	B	146	20
RANDY WHITMAN	HARTSTOWN	H	147	41

Protein Herds, Crawford DHIA

The top producing herds for April in Crawford DHIA are listed as follows:

NAME	BRD	RHA MILK	RHA FAT	RHA PRO	NO. COWS
MORRELL FARMS	H	23976	902	773	102
RONALD KALINOWSKI	H	25844	861	767	47
WIL-AIRE FARM	H	24003	850	765	64
BLACK POND FARMS	H	23380	914	734	87
JEFFREY RANEY	H	22080	782	722	46
O-DARLAN FARM	H	22438	837	713	36
MARK + CHRIS CORNELL	H	23285	742	707	40
DEAN HORNE	H	23006	774	701	16
JAMES + JANET HUNTER	H	21582	769	698	47

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