

# Water Withdrawal Registration Can Benefit Farmers

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HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)

— Have you ever been concerned about your farm's water supply? Maybe you should be.

Disputes over water use have long been part of this nation's history — whether they have been between neighboring states, municipalities, or adjoining property owners. Areas that have experienced population, industrial, or commercial growth are at increased risk for water use conflicts. The potential for conflicts also increases during times of drought.

During the drought of 1995, many small streams in the New York portion of the Susquehanna River basin went completely dry or were reduced to a mere trickle. Even larger streams such as the Tioughnioga, Chenango, Chemung, Cohocton, Canisteo, and upper Susquehanna Rivers had severe reductions in flow.

The situation also was critical in the Pennsylvania and New York portions of the basin, where many streams and rivers had flows that were far below normal summertime levels. In September 1995, flow in the Susquehanna River at Harrisburg was as low as 2,360 cubic feet per second (cfs), compared to the long-term average September flow of 11,410 cfs. By the end of August 1995, 30 Pennsylvania water systems instituted voluntary or mandatory water restrictions because of drought conditions. More water systems followed suit in September.

Although many agricultural operations were affected by the drought, the impact on farmers was not nearly as great as it would

have been if the drought had occurred earlier in the growing season.

If you live in the Pennsylvania portion of the Susquehanna River basin, you can help protect your existing water needs through the Susquehanna River Basin Commission's (SRBC's) agricultural water withdrawal registration program.

Registration is required for all types of surface and ground-water withdrawals in the Pennsylvania portion of the Susquehanna River basin that exceed 10,000 gallons per day averaged over a 30-day period.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in consultation with the SRBC, is administering the registration program for industrial, municipal, institutional, and recreational withdrawals.

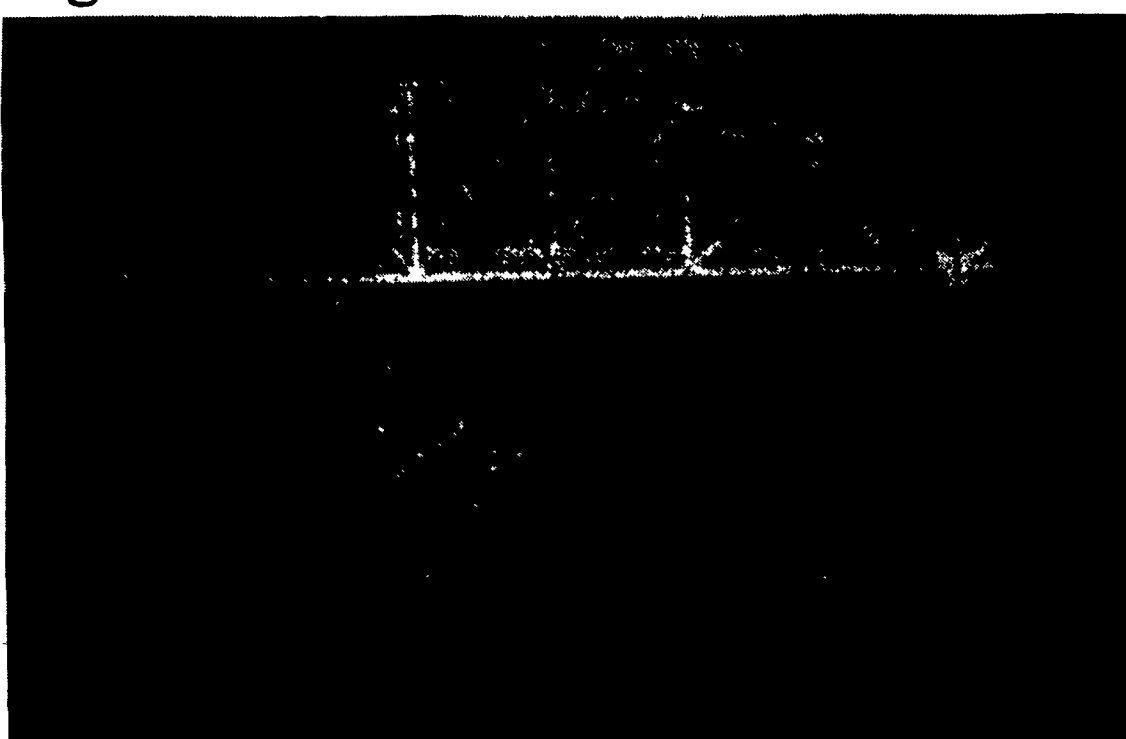
The SRBC is handling the agricultural water withdrawal registration program. There is no fee associated with registration.

By registering, you can:

- Document your existing water use to establish a stronger legal position if future water use conflicts develop.
- Have your water use needs considered, especially during times of drought.
- Assist the SRBC in making wise water management decisions that can affect your farm.
- Bring your farm into compliance with the registration program.

Some examples of agricultural operations that would typically use more than 10,000 gallons per day include:

- Commercial irrigation of cropland.
- Dairy operation with more than 200 cows.
- Beef cow/calf operation with more than 500 cows.



1995 low flow conditions in the Sinnemahoning Creek in Cameron County.

- Beef finishing operation with more than 1,000 head.
- Swine feeder production operation with more than 900 sows.
- Swine farrow to finish operation with more than 250 sows.
- Swine finishing operation with more than 2,000 hogs.
- Poultry operation with more than 250,000 pullets or broilers.
- Poultry operation with more than 125,000 layers.
- Poultry operation with more than 100,000 turkeys.

The above list should only be used as a general guide to the types of farming operations that use 10,000 gallons per day. Farmers with several types of operations and those that operate evaporative cooling systems will need to consider their total water use.

Although farmers withdrawing less than 10,000 gallons per day

are not required to register, they may wish to do so to protect their existing water use.

If you are a Maryland farmer in the Susquehanna River basin, your water withdrawal information will be provided to the SRBC by the State of Maryland, eliminating your need to register separately.

In New York, farmers are presently unable to register their withdrawals with the SRBC because the state has not yet

approved the SRBC registration program.

Many agricultural groups and individuals worked long and hard with the SRBC to develop the registration program. The SRBC also held a series of public hearings before the registration program was adopted.

The Pennsylvania State Grange, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, and other testified at the hearings in support of the registration

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## Calf, Embryo Sale To Support 4-H

MARION (Franklin Co.) — The Franklin County Calf Sale will be held on Friday, April 19 at the

Marion Auction Service, Exit 4, Int. 81 at 7:00 p.m.

The Calf Sale will offer an outstanding group of Holstein and Jersey show age calves with deep pedigrees. Proceeds from the calf sale support the Franklin County 4-H Dairy Program.

Immediately following the Calf Sale an Elite Embryo Auction will be held to benefit the Franklin County Junior Holstein Dairy Bowl Team who will represent Pennsylvania in the National Holstein Jr. Dairy Bowl Contest in Texas this June.

The team members would like to thank the following breeders and businesses for their generous donations to the Elite Embryo Auction: Alan and Mark Meyers, Tidy Brook Farms; Rick Wadle Farms; Robert and Audrey Mong, Afton Spring Farms; The Burdettes, Windy Knoll View; and Ronald Kling, New Vision Transplants. Also selling is a flush from Mid-Maryland Dairy Veterinarians, Inc. valued up to \$500.00. Em Tram Inc. will provide the free transplant of the Antrim Spring embryo.

Call 717-263-0416 or 717-328-3222 for more information.

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