

## Drought Watch Expanded To Include 22 Additional Counties

### Drought watch in effect for 45 counties

**HARRISBURG** (Dauphin Co.) — Recently Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Secretary David E. Hess expanded Pennsylvania's drought watch to include 22 additional counties.

"We're urging residents in these additional 22 counties to voluntarily cut back their water use because the generally hot and dry weather during July and August has caused a rapid decline of our groundwater supplies," Secretary Hess said.

"Simply put, it hasn't rained, and so our water supplies aren't being replenished.

Secretary Hess noted that, since August 2000, precipitation deficits in the 22 additional counties range from about nine to 14 inches. The bulk of this deficit accumulated in July and

August.

The counties added to the drought watch are: Armstrong, Berks, Bradford, Butler, Cambria, Cameron, Chester, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Indiana, Jefferson, McKean, Mercer, Potter, Sullivan, Tioga, Venango and Warren.

On Aug. 8, Secretary Hess issued a drought watch for 23 counties in Central Pennsylvania.

"Under a drought watch, residents are asked to cut back their water usage by five percent, or about three to five gallons per person a day," Secretary Hess said.

"So use water with common sense, and follow this rule of thumb — if you don't need to have the tap running, turn it off."

## Direct Marketing And Grazing Meetings Set

**BLOOMSBURG** (Columbia Co.) — David Hartman of Penn State extension in Columbia County has announced two grazing/direct marketing meetings scheduled for the Central Susquehanna region.

The first will be conducted at the commercial beef farm of Mike Percoskie near Herndon in Northumberland Co. on Sept. 11 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting will include a dinner, pasture walk, and presentations on Percoskie's pasture and hay operation.

Visitors are asked to wear footwear other than that normally worn around animals at home. Plastic pullover boots will be available at the farm.

The meeting is approved for one core and one category credit for pesticide license renewal. License holders are urged to bring their licenses to the meeting.

Directions to the Percoskie farm: From Route 140 in Herndon, turn east onto East Pottsville St. at the post office. Follow this road for about 1.5 miles to the Percoskie driveway, located on a hard corner. Meeting signs will be posted.

To register for this meeting, call Northumberland Co. Conservation District at (570) 286-7114 by Sept. 4. There is no charge for the meeting.

A second meeting will be conducted at Forks Farm near Orangeville, Columbia Co.

John Hopkins of Forks Farm and Joel Salatin of Swoope, Virginia will offer a tour of Hopkins' grass-based livestock operation and details on developing a direct marketing customer base.

Salatin is a pioneer in the field of direct marketing and grass-based livestock production.

Lunch will be available for a nominal fee. There is no fee for

the meeting.

Call the Pennsylvania Association of Sustainable Agriculture at (814) 349-9856 to register.

Directions to the Forks Farm: Take Route 487 north from I-80 at Exit 236 (old exit 35) Lightstreet. Travel about six miles on Route 487 through Orangeville. *Continue ahead on 487 at the detour.* About three miles north of Orangeville, turn right immediately after Hickory Joe's Restaurant. Travel 1.6 miles to farm sign on left.

## Diary From Poland

(Continued from Page A36)

bell-bottomed pants, but always with high platform shoes. The women who appear to be over 20 seem always to be dressed in stylish dresses that are in styles most Americans would reserve for special occasions.

They wear high heels, often spikes. They walk with ease and far distances, but are always smiling although we American guests groan with the pain their feet must feel.

Their haircuts are very American. The men and teen-age boys do not seem to be dressed as stylish. Their fashions are varied, but often double knit pants and a plain, polyester shirt.

This is the month of weddings and we were privileged to observe two. One was in a large cathedral. Visitors tour the famous church while the wedding progresses.

Every wedding guest is dressed in great style and most guests carry flowers to present to the couple. Their weddings require two days of celebration. A wedding reception was in progress in the Ag Advisory Hall. They danced all night. We watched them for awhile.

They were quite energetic and enthusiastic. Food and drink is served often throughout the night. In the morning breakfast was served. We saw the bride

and her mother cleaning up the hall after the guests departed. We were told guests went home for a few hours sleep but will gather around noon again to eat, dance and celebrate. Imagine that expense.

We stopped to view the advisory center in Pultusk and were greeted by ODR employees. They served us a full course dinner although we were scheduled elsewhere for the evening meal.

Smiling in appreciation, team members indulged, impressed by the variety and taste. We wished they would hand out recipes. Because we cannot converse with them, we are not able to determine how the dishes are prepared.

Again and again, we think we are eating the main course only to be followed by more and more food.

Then it's off to a campfire at an agrotourism farm and supper. We moan about the pounds we are gaining. But it is impolite to refuse food. Not that we want to because it tastes so good. I like it better than American food.

The campfire seems rather American and they grill superb pork and bratwurst.

Our stomachs are much too full.

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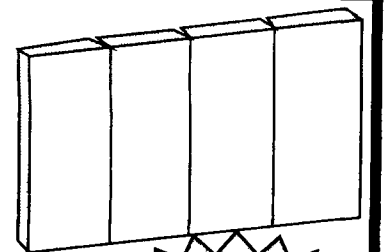
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