

## Drought Under Discussion At Rural Water Association Annual Conference

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Secretary David E. Hess recently discussed current drought conditions and stressed the need for new legislation to protect Pennsylvania's water resources at the annual conference of the Pennsylvania Rural Water Association (PRWA).

"Current drought conditions across the state reflect the need for water-resources planning to protect and preserve our water resources for the future," Hess said.

"DEP is grateful to the PRWA for serving as the voice of Pennsylvania's rural water and wastewater utilities, allowing even the smallest system to benefit from a united effort."

Hess praised the PRWA for providing leadership in the operation, maintenance, and management of systems responsible for providing safe drinking water and wastewater management.

"PRWA has provided training and on-site technical assistance

to more than 370 Pennsylvania small community water systems," Hess said.

"Their efforts in on-site leak-

detection in 70 communities has saved an astounding 1.3 billion gallons of drinking water and more than a half-million dollars."

PRWA is a member-supported, nonprofit organization whose mission is to support its members and utilities throughout the com-

monwealth with professional technical support, certified training, legislative representation, and other services and benefits.

## Drought Emergency Tips For Agricultural Landowners, Operators

WEST CHESTER (Chester Co.) — The Pennsylvania Code, Chapter 119, regulates activities during a drought emergency.

Agricultural operations are addressed under Section 119.4.3, Prohibitions of Nonessential Water Uses, and include: "The use of fresh water for irrigation and watering of outdoor gardens, landscaped areas, trees, shrubs, and other outdoor plants except that fresh water may be: used for irrigation for the production of food and fiber, and the maintenance of livestock and poultry."

The following tips will help you to conserve water resources in your operation and may provide answers to frequently asked questions:

- Agricultural landowners and

operators can withdraw water from a pond on their property to irrigate crops.

- To withdraw water from a stream, please call the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) for permission. They may direct you to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) or Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC — for Octorara watershed only).

- Manure storage can be used to irrigate crops (if necessary).

- Fresh water irrigation should be done after 5 p.m. to reduce evaporation.

- To reduce dust, spray your farm lanes and driveways with soybean oil (one application per year) or dust suppressants (com-

mercially available, see reverse for distributor).

- Dams or restrictions on waterways are not permitted or allowed unless permitted by PA DEP.

- Stagger heavy water use throughout the day so that the well has an opportunity to recover.

- Reduce mowing in non-productive areas.

- Residue and cover crops will hold the moisture- minimum tillage and/or no-till plowing.

- Check all pipes, faucets, and watering systems for leaks in your home and barn.

- Meter your well (even temporarily for a 30 day period) to know your water use.

- Learn how to recycle your water use for wash-down.

- For poultry use nipples instead of cups (also improves manure management)

- Cover watering hoses if they are black

- Closely monitor grazing (use rotational grazing sticks which are available from NRCS).

- Keep cows out of creek if flows are low to prevent stagnate, heavy nutrient laden water.

- To install streambank fencing, contact- Dave DiCeccio (Chesapeake Bay Foundation) or Chris Strohmaier (Chester County Conservation District) at (610) 696-5126.

For more information on the drought, contact the following organizations:

County Conservation District, Government Services Center, P.O. Box 2747, Ste 240, West Chester, PA 19380, (610) 696-5126.

PA DEP Southeast Regional Office, Lee Park, Ste 6010, 555 North Lane, Conshohocken, PA 19428, (610) 832-6000.

PA Fish and Boat Commission, Regional Office, P.O. Box 9, Elm, PA 17512.

Delaware River Basin Commission, P.O. Box 7360, West Trenton, NJ 08628-0360, (609) 883-9500.

Susquehanna River Basin Commission, 1721 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102-2391, (717) 238-0423.

Chester County Water Resources Authority, Government Services Center, P.O. Box 2746, Ste 260, West Chester, PA 19380, (610) 344-5400.

## Northwest Transition Cow Workshops Set

MERCER (Mercer Co.) — Do you have recurrent health problems with fresh cows? Are transition cow problems limiting production? Are your cows a challenge to breed back?

Take just 90 minutes out of the day and come listen to an informative cow side discussion of current transition cow issues facing today's dairyman. Hear how dry cow and close-up cow nutritional management practices offer opportunities to better prevent fresh cow problems. Learn what diseases transition cows are at risk for, and how to systematically evaluate them for early detection and treatment.

Speakers include Dr. Gabriella Varga of Penn State's Depart-

ment of Dairy and Animal Science, and Dr. David H. Bayer, Extension Veterinarian, Mercer County/Northwest Region. Workshop details are as follows:

- Workshop 1: Clarion County, at the Griebel Farm in Lucinda, Thursday, April 11, from 10-11:30 a.m. The farm is located 6½ miles north of the Rt. 322 and Rt. 66 north intersection. Take Rt. 66 north 6½ miles through Lucinda past Pennzoil station, turn right onto East Drive, go approximately ½ mile, and turn right onto Dairy Lane to Griebel Farm. Signs will be posted.

- Workshop 2: Crawford/Mercer Counties, at the Rynd Home Farm just outside of Cochranon, Thursday, April 11 from

1:30-3 p.m. Take Rt. 173 north out of Cochranon and turn right onto Route 322. Go two to three miles. The farm is on the left and is visible from the road. To get to the farm you will need to turn

left on the next road past the farm.

- Workshop 3: Warren/Erie Counties, at the Bob and Joe Nickerson farm, Friday, April 12, from 10:30-12:00 a.m. The Nickerson farm is located along Rt. 6, approximately two miles east of Corry.

For more information call our the Mercer County extension office at (724) 662-3141.