

NEWS COLUMN

Jeff Lounsbery, Extension Educator/Livestock

November 15, 2007

“Water Facts” Did You Know?

1. Each day the sun evaporates one trillion tons of water.
2. Water is the only substance on earth naturally found in the three true element forms: solid, liquid, and gas.
3. 80% of the earth’s surface is water.
4. 97% of the earth’s water is in the oceans and seas.
5. 66% of the human body is water.
6. Bones are 25% water.
7. A gallon of water weighs 8.34 pounds.
8. Community water systems process over 35 billion gallons of water daily.
9. The average household uses 107,000 gallons of water per year.
10. It takes 1,851 gallons of water to refine one barrel of crude oil.
11. An acre of corn will give off 4,000 gallons of water per day in equivalent evaporation.

Water is certainly a precious and highly valuable resource. It is very important that we manage and protect this resource as much as possible.

If you have a private well for your domestic or livestock use, it is recommended that you test your well annually for nitrates and bacterial levels.

Sample kits are available at the Lincoln County Extension office. For more information call 764-2756.

Tree’s Need a Drink

Trees will need some moisture before the ground freezes and winter sets in. All trees can stress however, for the smaller, younger trees or any trees recently moved a drier upper soil profile is a much bigger threat.

Trees 10 years and less are the most sensitive because their root system is not as fully developed or deep. Trees that are in your yard or shelterbelt that are less than 6-7 years of age will need some form of moisture soon otherwise drought stress could occur through-out the winter months and into early spring.

Young evergreen trees are also very prone to a condition known as winter burn, which is caused from dry, windy, winter conditions. (Which we sometimes have plenty of in South Dakota.)

It is best to water smaller younger trees by the use of a garden hose placed at the base of the tree for 5-15 minutes per time as weather permits. This should be done at least weekly before the ground freezes.

It is impossible to water all trees especially in shelter belts, however if you have trees in and around your house that you don’t want to take a chance on losing, supplemental watering is advised especially for young pine, spruce, and cedar trees. Any type or size tree that has been recently moved with a tree mover will also need extra waterings as the dry soil profile in combination with the move are a very stressful combination often resulting in less than acceptable survival rates.