

Earth Day

By Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider

I had the pleasure of attending and participating in an Earth Day Celebration sponsored by USDA Rural Development on Wednesday, April 19th. The event was held in Fairmont, Nebraska at the Fillmore Central Middle School. We handed out some water facts and water trivia sheets to the students to assist with awareness and education of our most precious natural resource. I thought I would pass this same information along to all of our member systems to use for public education. They can be used in a periodical, newsletter or just leave copies on the counter for customers to pick up as they pay their utility bills. It is always a good idea to keep the public informed about water use.

NeRWA Water Trivia Facts

1. Water is the only substance found on earth naturally in three forms.
True (Solid, liquid and gas)

2. At what temperature does water freeze?
32 degrees F, 0 degrees C

3. At what temperature does water vaporize?
212 degrees F, 100 degrees C

4. How long can a person live without food?
More than a month
How long can a person live without water?
Approximately one week, depending upon conditions

5. How much of the human body is water?
66%

6. How much of the earth's surface is water?
80%

7. Of all the earth's water, how much is ocean or seas?
97%

8. How much of the world's water is frozen and therefore unusable?
2%

9. How much of the earth's water is suitable for drinking water?
1%

10. Is it possible for me to drink water that was part of the dinosaur era?
Yes - water is constantly recycled

11. How much water does the average residence use during a year?

Over 100,000 gallons (indoors and outside)

12. How much water does an individual use daily?

Over 100 gallons (all uses)

13. What were the first water pipes made from in the US?

Fire charred bored logs

14. How much does one gallon of water weigh?

8.34 pounds

15. What is the weight of water in one cubic foot?

62.4 pounds

16. How much water drops with an inch of rain on one acre of ground?

27,154 gallons, which weighs 113 tons

17. How much water does it take to process a quarter pound of hamburger?

Approximately one gallon

18. How much water does it take to produce one ton of steel?

62,600 gallons

19. How much water is used to produce a single day's supply of U.S. newsprint?

300 million gallons

20. What is the total amount of water used to manufacture a new car, including new tires?

39,090 gallons per car

21. How much water must a dairy cow drink to produce one gallon of milk?

Four gallons

22. How much water is used during the growing/production of a chicken?

400 gallons

23. How much water is used during the growing/production of french fries?

6 gallons

24. How much water is used during the growing/production of a single orange?

13.8 gallons

25. How much water is used during the growing/production of a loaf of bread?

150 gallons

26. How much water is used during the production of an egg?

120 gallons