

ANOTHER 25 INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT WATER

By Russ Topp, Circuit Rider

Once again it's time to come up with a topic to write about for the Good Water News magazine. As I look outside it's raining again. It hasn't been that many years ago everyone was talking about the drought. Lake McConaughy was all but dried up; Harlan County Reservoir was in the same shape. As a matter of fact Jerry Dietz, the Water Operator from Alma, informed me during one visit that they had outlawed water skiing on the west end of the lake! I said why did they do that? He said it was raising too much dust! (You have to know Jerry) Everyone was worried about their wells drying up. This past winter most of the state was covered up with snow. When spring finally came the farmers had a tough time getting the planting done due to wet weather. June came around and the northeastern part of the state experienced a considerable amount of flooding. Harlan County Reservoir is full and Lake McConaughy is almost full. What a difference a few years can make. I hope we will continue to see timely rains throughout the summer months. With all the water we have seen lately I thought I would search the internet to find some interesting facts about water.

1. It takes 2,072 gallons of water to make four new tires.
2. To manufacture a new car it takes 39,090 gallons.
3. Water regulates the earth's temperature.
4. A human can survive more than a month without food but only a week without water depending on conditions.
5. In one day a tree gives off 70 gallons of water through evaporation.
6. One acre of corn evaporates 4,000 gallons of water per day.
7. There are approximately one million miles of water pipes in the U.S. and Canada. That is enough to circle the earth 40 times.
8. The first water pipes were fire charred bored logs.
9. An average five minute shower uses 25 to 50 gallons of water.
10. There are approximately 56,000 public water supply systems in the U.S.
11. 80% of the earth's surface is covered by water.
12. 97% of the earth's water is in the oceans or seas.
13. 1% of the earth's water is suitable for drinking.
14. It is possible to drink water from the dinosaur era.
15. In a 100 year period, a water molecule spends 98 years in the ocean, 20 months as ice, about 2 weeks in lakes and rivers, and less than a week in the earth's atmosphere.
16. It would take 219 million gallons of water to cover one square mile with one foot of water.
17. It takes 27,000 gallons of rain water to get one inch over one acre.
18. 66% of the human body is water.

19. A tomato is 95% water.
20. An elephant is 70% water.
21. An ear of corn is 80% water.
22. It takes 1,500 gallons of water to process one barrel of beer.
23. It takes 24 gallons of water to make one pound of plastic.
24. To refine a barrel of oil it takes 1,851 gallons of water.
25. To produce one ton of steel it takes 62,600 gallons of water.