

State Government Agencies Rally to Aid Drought-Stricken Farmers; WV Declared Disaster Area

Compiled from information contributed by Bill Bissett of the State Department of Agriculture.

Along with many of the country's Mid-Atlantic states, West Virginia farmers are suffering dramatically from the drought conditions that have plagued the region for the past 3 years. This year, the effects have worsened, due largely to the climatic phenomenon of La Niña, the sister condition of El Niño.

On June 28, 1999, Governor Cecil H. Underwood signed a proclamation declaring a state of emergency for West Virginia due to the severe drought conditions. This action was the first step in the effort to obtain federal relief funds. Underwood then wrote to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman explaining the

devastating effects State farmers have suffered. On August 2, 1999, West Virginia and parts of 5 neighboring states were declared federal disaster areas.

As soon as the state of emergency was declared, State Agriculture Commissioner Gus R. Douglass assembled a group of officials from the West Virginia Soil Conservation Agency (WVSCA), the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Eastern Panhandle Soil Conservation District (SCD), and several other agencies to visit the Eastern Panhandle, which has been the hardest hit. These officials, along with members of the State leg-

islature toured 3 farms in early July to witness the devastation first-hand. At that time, Douglass estimated crop losses of \$20 million. With the passing of another month and little rainfall, that total has climbed higher.

Lance Tabor, Executive Director of the WVSCA, is concerned about the severe lack of water. Tabor states that Eastern Panhandle streams are now moving only 2,000 gallons of water per minute instead of the normal 8,000 gallons, sadly indicating that ground water is being rapidly depleted.

See DROUGHT – Page 4.

State Employee Earns Universal Accreditation

Contributed by Robin Wilson of the Division of Rehabilitation Services

The Universal Accreditation Program, managed by the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA), has awarded an Accreditation to Deena Ellison, Public Affairs Specialist with the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services.

The Universal Accreditation Program seeks to improve the practice of public relations by awarding the designation Accredited in Public Relations (APR) to public relations professionals who successfully complete the day-long examination. Accreditation examinations are administered twice yearly throughout the nation. Ellison took her test in April and received the results a couple of weeks ago.

“The APR designation is considered the hallmark of professionalism within the public relations industry,” said Christine Gronkiewicz, APR, chair of the Universal Accreditation Board.

Ellison is a resident of Clendenin, West Virginia and has been employed by the Division of Rehabilitation Services for 7 years. She has worked in the Public Relations field since 1986. She will be pinned at a PRSA awards ceremony in September at the Greenbrier.



Congratulations are extended to Deena Ellison for achieving the honored designation of Accredited in Public Relations.

Health Care Authority Top Fundraiser in Cancer Society's '99 Relay for Life

Contributed by Mary Fitzgerald of the WV Health Care Authority.

The West Virginia Health Care Authority was the top fundraising team at the American Cancer Society's "1999 Relay for Life" held on June 25-26, 1999 at Laidley Field. The "Relay for Life" is a 24-hour walking/running team relay event consisting of local community groups, businesses and organizations to raise money for the American Cancer Society and raise public awareness of cancer related issues.

The Authority's "Along Came Mary" Team was formed in honor of Mary Jones, a cancer survivor and employee of the agency. The team raised a total of \$8,588. Also, Mary Jones and Mary Bee Antholz, 2 of the Authority's team members, placed 3rd and 4th in individual fundraising. There were 67 local teams sponsored by businesses, corporations and other local groups and over 800 participants who raised more than \$112,000.00 at this year's "Relay for Life". The money raised at the event will go toward funding patient services, prevention, early detection and education programs offered by the American Cancer Society to the Kanawha County community. In addition, the funds will be used to support needed research to find a cure for all types of cancer.

Over 100 people from around Kanawha County participated in the traditional "Cancer Survivor's Lap", which kicks off the annual relay event. Mayor Jay Goldman, Marianne Stonestreet, General Counsel of the West Virginia Health Care Authority and a cancer survivor, and others spoke during the opening ceremonies. A candlelight service was held on Friday evening in remembrance of those who have lost the battle against cancer, for those fighting cancer and especially for those who are cancer survivors. During a special ceremony, over 4,000 luminaries imprinted with the names of individuals who have encountered cancer lined the track at Laidley field. Teams set up tent areas and stayed throughout the night at Laidley Field. Activities were held throughout the event, including music provided by local bands, games for kids, a cancer education booth, a Kids Care Relay and an auction. Closing ceremonies were held on Saturday afternoon.

The "Relay for Life" began in 1985 when Dr. Gordon Klatt, a Tacoma, Washington surgeon and American Cancer Society volunteer, ran and walked on a local track for 24-hours, traveling 81 miles. He raised \$27,000.00 for the Society that year. From that experience, the "Relay for Life" has grown into the American Cancer Society's signature fund-raising event.

Plans are underway for the 2000 Relay for Life. If you would like to become involved as a part of the planning committee or form a government team, please contact the American Cancer Society at 746-9950.

YOUR LOTTERY DOLLARS AT WORK!

Of the \$80.8 million in profits earned this year from the West Virginia Lottery, the Legislature made the following appropriations:

- \$18 million to School Building Authority
- \$17.8 million to Department of Education
- \$14 million to Bureau for Senior Services
- \$13.4 million to benefit education and arts programs
- \$10 million for capital project bonds
- \$5.9 million to promote tourism
- \$1.8 million to Department of Natural Resources for State parks



PHOTO ABOVE: The "Along Came Mary" Team from the WV Health Care Authority along placed 1st in team fundraising. Pictured (L to R) - Top row: Bob Coffield, Kay Myers, Mary Fitzgerald, Tiffany Dempsey, Connie Byrd, Kenna Levendosky, Dayle Stepp. Middle row: Louie Paterno, Mary Bee Antholz, Jean Tucker, Debbie Bradford, Ruth Koontz, Cynthia Good, Jeff Bush, Diane George. Bottom row: Lisa Simmons, Lora Gray, Marianne Stonestreet, Mary Jones, Mary Beth Dill, Margi High. (Not pictured: Lonella Harding, Tracy Bush, Melinda Good and Michael Dempsey).

IS&C Rolls Out New Fall Classes

Contributed by Marilyn Padon of IS&C.

The Technology Learning Center within IS&C continues to stay at the leading edge of software developments and trends in order to bring the most relevant learning opportunities to State employees. New class offerings starting in September include:

Microsoft Access 3 - Advanced Tables and Queries

More advanced features of tables and queries in Access including tasks to modify tables, use operators in queries, design advanced queries, and create query wizards and use database utilities.

Microsoft Access 4 - Advanced Techniques

Moving on to include charts, subforms, other form techniques and ActiveX controls. Also includes work with indexes, replicating databases, and use Access and the Internet.

Microsoft Access 5 - Using Macros and Customizing Toolbars

Create and use macros, use switchboards, and create custom toolbars.



Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet Formula Techniques

For new spreadsheet users completing the Level 1 introduction course, practice of techniques for laying out worksheets, and for building formulas to achieve automation within the worksheet.

Microsoft Excel Charting Graphics & Files

Basic worksheet enhancements to create and edit charts, draw objects, work with AutoShapes, and data and files.

More information or scheduling dates can be obtained by calling Mary Clay at 558-6384.

Managerial Training Efforts Continue

A new policy implemented by the Division of Personnel (DOP) aims to get appropriate and ongoing training for public employees who are in managerial positions.

Effective January 1 of this year, the Supervisor/Manager Training Program Policy helps to ensure that managers possess the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities to successfully carry out the duties and responsibilities of their positions.

The Organization and Human Resources Development (OHRD) section of the DOP has designed the program and is responsible for maintaining all training records. The program consists of specialized courses of study that are designed to prepare supervisors and managers to function effectively in today's ever-changing workplace.

Newly-appointed supervisors and managers must enroll in the program within 10 working days of their appointment to their new positions.

There are 5 components of the program that vary depending on previous experience.

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WVU to Offer Master of Legal Studies Program This Fall

Contributed by Pam Cutright of the West Virginia University Extended Learning Office.

If your job duties require you to thread your way through the legal system, the Master of Legal Studies program, now being offered in Charleston through the West Virginia University (WVU) Division of Extended Learning, can help you.

Not a pre-law or paralegal program, the MLS is a full Master's Degree program consisting of 36 credits of graduate course work. These include 6 core courses, 5 electives, and a capstone applied research project.

Three courses that are part of the program are scheduled to be taught this coming fall. They are:

-  Researching the Law (Mondays)
-  Law and the Legal System (Tuesdays)
-  Family Law (Wednesdays)

Classes meet from 6-9 P.M. Graduate study with WVU is open to persons who have completed the baccalaureate program or who are within 12 credits of doing so. To get more information about the MLS program or for assistance with the application and registration procedures, call Pam Cutright, Coordinator of the Kanawha Valley Extended Learning Center, at 304/558-3471 or e-mail her at pcutright@wvu.edu.

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In Component 1, the first 4 courses that must be completed by managers with less than one year of experience are: Fundamentals of Supervision, Managing and the Law, Preventing Sexual harassment, and The Drug-Free Workplace. This series of classes must be started within the first 90 days after appointment.

During the first 6 months, the required courses are: Discipline and Documentation and Understanding the Grievance Procedure.

Managers with one or more years of experience in the public sector must attend 3 courses during the first 6 months after their appointment. They are: Total Quality Supervision, Managing and the Law, and Understanding the Grievance Procedure. During the second 6 months, they must attend one of the following: Personnel Transactions, Workplace Safety, or Finance for the Non-financial Manager.

During their second year, and each year thereafter, all supervisors shall select from the following electives, thereby accruing a minimum of 12 contact hours of continuing education credit: Coaching and Developing

Employee Performance, Conflict Management, Dealing with the Troubled Employee, Diversity: The Dynamics of Difference, Ethics in Government, Finance for the Non-financial Manager, Personnel Transactions in State Government, Selection Interviewing, Time Management, The Quality Facilitator and Workplace Safety.

For the last component of training, OHRD offers Personal Enrichment Courses. While they don't qualify as electives or cognates for the Supervisor/Manager Development Program, they are recommended as enhancements to a well balanced and goal-oriented program of self improvement. The courses are: Anyone Can Lead, Assertiveness: The Third Way, Building Quality Relationships, Listening: More Than Just Hearing, Quality Customer Service, Stress Management, and Writing Effectively.

For more information about the Supervisor/Manager Training Program, or to register for a course, please call the OHRD Section of the DOP at 304/558-3950, ext. 508.

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In an effort to help farmers, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services purchased 300 water tanks which are being distributed to those who need them by the West Virginia Department of Agriculture, the Farm Service Agency (FSA), WVSCA, NRCS, and the 14 State Soil Conservation Districts, along with many other government agencies.

The tanks can be transported by pick-up truck and are to be used for agricultural purposes only. They hold 300 gallons and are equipped with a 2-inch valve. The tanks became available on August 4, 1999 and water will be available at a statewide network of distribution points.

To receive a tank, farmers must apply at one of 31 USDA Service Centers in the State or at one of the 14 Soil Conservation Districts. Applications will also be accepted by phone at each district and service center. Farmers have been asked to share tanks with others nearby due to the limited number available. Douglass said he believes the tanks will enable West Virginia farms to continue operations. "As access to water diminishes, these tanks will enable our farmers to transport water and remain in business during these difficult times."


WE ALL NEED TO HELP!!

What can you do to help the water situation? Even though mandatory water consumption restrictions aren't in place, Governor Underwood has asked State residents to voluntarily conserve water wherever possible. You can help by:

- 💧 Limiting shower time
- 💧 Washing only full loads of laundry and dishes
- 💧 Refraining from washing cars and watering lawns
- 💧 Adjusting toilets so that only the amount of water absolutely necessary to flush is used
- 💧 Using water that is necessary only

For more information on this topic, contact Bill Bissett (558-3708), Kevin Pauley (558-2204), or Melissa Atkins (558-5380).



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