

FAYETTE COUNTY GROUNDWATER NEWS

WINTER 2008

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DON'T LET THE LACK OF RAIN WORRY YOU...YET

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OUR MISSION:

To provide for the conservation, preservation, protection, recharge, and prevention of waste of groundwater and of groundwater reservoirs for the people of Fayette County.

Fayette County Groundwater News is a quarterly publication of the Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District. Subscriptions are free upon request.

The District offers free brochures and information sheets concerning many aspects of water conservation and protection. Just drop by the office during regular office hours.

Protect Your Water- Register Your Well!

The Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District is conducting a well inventory throughout Fayette County. You can help by registering your water well. This will assist the District in estimating how much water the people of Fayette County need now and for projected growth. Forms can be found on the District's website or by

Last year's incredible rainfall kept the land wet and the temperatures in the area relatively comfortable. However, the rainfall totals of recent months do not bode well for us experiencing a repeat performance. Based on rainfall data collected from six LCRA gauges within Fayette County, the average monthly rainfall from January through May has been 2.01 inches. Comparatively, last year's average during the same five month time frame was 4.40 inches per month.

What does this mean for our groundwater supplies within the FCGCD? It is early in the summer season and we are experiencing at least some rainfall during each month. This is good for the aquifers that outcrop (reach the surface of the ground) within the district as some recharge does occur. Better still, appreciable rain has fallen further north of Fayette County which aids in recharging the aquifer systems that lie much deeper in this District.

Ultimately, water supply quantities are dependent upon the end users of the resource and their willingness to apply water conservation practices. Now is the time to look at your water usage practices. An amazing 50 percent of summer time water use is outdoor watering, which is controllable by the user.

Consider these questions:

- Do you practice xeriscaping?
- Are you maintaining a minimum two inches of mulch in your flower beds?
- Do you limit your watering to only those times of day when evaporation is minimized?
- Do you harvest rainwater for use in watering your landscape?
- Do you use large droplet type irrigation systems that are low trajectory?
- Are you using troughs with float systems when watering your livestock?

Xeriscaping by using drought tolerate plants in your landscape will reduce the need for watering. This can also be said for maintaining thick layers of mulch in our flowerbeds and gardens; the mulch helps to retain moisture in the soil and reduces weeds.

Watering in the early morning (before 10 a.m.) or later in the evening (after 8 p.m.) reduces the amount of evaporation that takes place. When watering, small droplets tend to evaporate easily and/or are carried off by the wind when the sprinkler is set too high. Using large droplet sprinklers that water lower to the ground (low trajectory) will ensure the water is used where you want it while reducing the evaporation/carry off rate. Harvesting rainwater in rain barrels, such as



the ones pictured above, or large containers is a great way to minimize the use of groundwater in your outdoor landscape. Information on rainwater harvesting is available at the District office.

The use of watering troughs is an excellent method of conserving water on your ranch or farm. Evaporation rates are much lower out



of troughs than out of stock ponds and the water can be controlled by a float switch, ensuring only the amount of water needed is added to the trough. This method of watering livestock can

save thousands of gallons a month in groundwater use.

Continued lack of precipitation may eventually lead to more conservation measures needing to be implemented. However, if just a few simple and inexpensive water conserving practices are followed, everyone can be proactive in helping to maintain the quantity and quality of our most precious natural resource, water.

WE'VE MOVED!!!

In May the Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District moved its offices into the new, recently completed Fayette County Agricultural Building located at 255 Svoboda Lane in Room 115. We're very excited about our new "home" and invite all our constituents to come visit us at our new location.

OPEN HOUSE FOR NEW AG BUILDING



There will be a ribbon cutting and open house for the new Fayette County Agricultural Building on Monday, July 7, 2008 beginning at 1:15 p.m. The new Agricultural Building is located at 255 Svoboda Lane directly across the street from the Animal Shelter, just off of Hwy. 71 Business East.

2008 Rainfall Totals for Fayette County*

	January	February	March	April	May
Buckners Creek Near Muldoon	1.60	2.24	2.92	2.66	0.95
Carmine 1 SSW	2.07	2.29	2.97	1.54	2.28
Colorado River Above La Grange	0.93	2.64	2.05	2.33	1.36
La Grange 5NE	2.09	2.03	2.23	2.91	1.83
Lake Fayette at Fayette Power Plant	1.86	1.99	2.28	3.16	0.21
Muldoon 6 WSW	1.14	1.51	3.31	1.86	1.04
Average for the County	1.62	2.12	2.63	2.41	1.28

**Data from the LCRA rainwater monitoring sites in Fayette County, Texas*

NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE VIA EMAIL

The Fayette County Groundwater News is available via email. If you, or someone you know, would like to receive our quarterly publication via email rather than via the US Mail, please contact our office at (979)968-3135 or drop us an email at fccgd@verizon.net.

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