



CALVERT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Calvert County, Maryland Responds To Drought Conditions

Board of County Commissioners Offer Information on Water Conservation and Agricultural Assistance

PRINCE FREDERICK, Md. – July 27, 2007 – The Calvert County, Maryland Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), in response to severe dry weather and excessive heat during the months of June and July, requests that citizens and businesses consider utilizing water conservation methods until the drought condition improves.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), drought is the leading hazard in economic losses each year in the United States. In the summer of 1999, a monitoring tool known as the Drought Monitor was developed to help assess U.S. drought conditions. The Drought Monitor is produced on a weekly basis and is a synthesis of multiple indices, outlooks, and impacts depicted on a map and in narrative form. The Drought Monitor is released each Thursday at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time. Information can be obtained by visiting:
www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html

“Southern Maryland's drought is severe according to new data released by USDA,” said Commissioner President Wilson H. Parran. “By providing information about water conservation, we hope that our citizens and businesses will join us in protecting our resources until the drought conditions lift.”

Since the spring of 2007, all of Maryland's counties have received rainfall amounts that are well below average. Much of this shortfall has occurred during the past three months, the most critical time for the development of the majority of summer field crops.

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To support Maryland farmers during this time of need, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) is offering free testing of grain to drought-impacted Maryland farmers for nitrate and prussic acid in forage and for aflatoxins in corn grain. The program is a cooperative effort between MDA and the Maryland Cooperative Extension (MCE). Testing is done by the MDA State Chemist's Section. For more information, please contact 800.494.5590 or visit: www.mda.state.md.us

For water conservation tips and drought-related information please visit:

Water Conservation:

www.mde.state.md.us/Programs/WaterPrograms/Water_Conservation/index.asp

Drought Information:

www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html

National Weather Service Prediction Center – Drought Monitoring

www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/monitoring_and_data/drought.shtml

For information about Calvert County, Maryland, please visit www.co.cal.md.us. For information, about Department of Economic Development, please visit www.ecalvert.com or contact 410.535.4583, 800.331.9771 or 301.855.1880, via email info@ecalvert.com.

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Calvert County is Maryland's smallest county in land area with 213 square miles. It is home to over 87,000 people and has one of the highest standards of living in Maryland. There are more than 5,200 businesses in the County and a labor force of at least 1.8 million resides within a one-hour drive. Major industries include defense contracting, information technology, tourism, energy and administrative services.