

# Water usage is the key Few shortages foretold

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — Most western farmers should have no serious problems with water shortages for many more years, as long as water is priced and used wisely, Agriculture Department experts say.

But shortages are likely to exist in some isolated areas, a department report adds. The report, published in the current issue of the department's "Farmland" magazine, quoted Economic Research Service economists David Wilson and Harry Ayer as suggesting that the government increase the cost of irrigation water in order to encourage conservation.

"The government, which controls much western irrigation water, determines prices for water in many areas," the report said. "If supplies are diminishing too rapidly, price increases can encourage more efficient irrigation methods. In other words, where water

is costly, users employ it efficiently, but where it's inexpensive, they're not so careful," the report added.

The economists do not attach a fixed price to their definition of "expensive" water. Instead, the term is applied to water costs that are high enough to justify the implementation of conservation practices. Water costs across the West vary widely, depending partly on whether the water is surface or ground water, whether it is publicly or privately owned and what sort of delivery system is used, the report said.

The economists cited a 1978 survey that showed the average cost of irrigation water ranging from \$2.21 per acre-foot in parts of Utah to \$26.75 in part of Oregon.

An acre-foot is the amount of water needed to cover an acre of land with water one foot deep.

But the survey also showed that half of all the farmland irrigation water used in the West

costs less than \$20 per acre-foot, and about 25 percent cost \$15 or less. Most of the water supplied by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation fell into the \$15 or less category, the report said.

An analysis showed the amount of water used was closely related to its cost.

"Application averaged 3 feet per acre when the cost of water was \$15 per acre-foot or less, whereas the average rate was 1.4 feet per acre in areas where the cost of water was \$25 per acre-foot or more," the report said.

The report also suggested other methods of discouraging heavy use of irrigation water, including more efficient application systems such as sprinklers or gated pipes — rather than flooding.

The report quoted Ayer and Wilson as saying flooding is only between 45 percent and 65 percent efficient. But sprinklers, gated pipes and other devices

that trap and recycle runoff water use between 60 percent and 90 percent of the water applied.

"But switching to a more efficient irrigation system costs money," the report said. "And unless the money saved in water costs is high enough, few farmers can afford to conserve."

Wilson and Ayer's study showed that farmers using inexpensive water were most likely to flood their fields when irrigating, while those who had to pay more for their water were far more dependent on sprinklers and gated pipe systems.

They identified cost as a primary factor in determining the type of irrigation system is used.

"If water conservation is a federal objective, then a restructuring of contractual water prices administered by federal agencies should be considered," Wilson and Ayer suggested.

# 50 million Americans claim English heritage

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — About 50 million Americans claim full or partial English heritage — the largest single ethnic group in the United States and more than the total population of England.

The Census Bureau also reported Tuesday that 49.2 million Americans list their ancestry as full or partly German.

It said 12 times as many Americans — or roughly 40 million — claim Irish descent as there are people in Ireland.

"And these figures were not even collected on St. Patrick's Day, when almost everyone claims to be Irish," said Census Bureau Director Bruce Chapman. The statistics were based on responses from the 1980 census forms.

On the long form, people were asked to identify their ancestry, regardless of how many generations removed from the country of origin. Chapman noted the definition was up to the individual,

and in cases where a person's ancestors came from several nations the person may have listed just one.

The statistics showed 49.5 million Americans reported at least one English ancestor, or about a million people more than the current English population.

The report also showed more than 83 percent of the nation's population identifies with at least one ancestry group, with 52 percent claiming a single ancestry and 36 percent claiming two or more.

Twenty-one million Americans listed "Afro-American" ancestry, a number greater than the black populations of all but four African nations.

Other ethnic ancestries, both single and multiple designations, included: French, 13 million; Italian, 12 million; Scottish, 10 million; Polish, 8 million; Mexican, 8 million; American Indian, 7 million; and Dutch, 6 million.

The next largest ethnic groups, in descending order

of size from 4 million to 1 million, were Swedish, Norwegian, Russian not elsewhere classified, and Portuguese. The Russian not elsewhere classified category includes those who reported as Russian, Georgian and other related European or Asian groups.

The report provided details at the geographic distribution of ethnic groups, showing number of concentrations.

California portrayed the nation's ethnic diversity in 1980, with more people of English, German, Irish, French, Scottish, Dutch, Swedish, Danish and Portuguese ancestry living there than any other state.

New York, the traditional "melting pot" port of entry for many immigrants, showed the largest numbers of people of Italian, Polish, Russian, Hungarian ancestry, with Minnesota ranked first for Norwegians, Illinois for Czechs and Pennsylvania for Welsh.

# Diplomatic change reflects no policy shift — Reagan

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — President Reagan, who ordered a shakeup of top diplomatic advisers in troubled Central America, says the personnel shift signals no change in U.S. policy in the region.

Reagan made the remarks to reporters on his return to the White House Tuesday from Williamsburg, Va., where he presided over the seven-nation, three-day economic summit.

"No. No," he said when asked whether the shakeup meant a policy change. There have been reports the administration will be taking a harder line in Central America following the ouster of Thomas Enders, the assistant secretary of state for South American affairs.

Enders was replaced with Ambassador to Brazil Langhorne Motley, a political appointee.

Administration officials also disclosed Reagan shortly will remove Ambassador Deane Hinton from his post in El Salvador and replace him with Ambassador to Guyana Gerald Thomas,

a black, who was one of the Navy's highest ranking officers. In a 20-minute interview Tuesday summing up the Williamsburg summit, Reagan told eight U.S. and foreign correspondents there were "no winners and no losers. All seven were in agreement."

*Reagan said he foresees better relations with the Kremlin but warned "if there is an increase of tension, it will be the Soviet Union that causes it."*

On the Soviets, Reagan said that in his opinion nuclear arms reduction negotiations "won't really get down to brass tacks until they see we are going forward with the scheduled deployment" of cruise missiles in Europe, starting in December.

He said he foresees better relations with the Kremlin but warned "if there is an increase of tension, it will be the Soviet Union that causes it."

Reagan said he felt all the leaders now have "a more realistic view" of the Soviet Union, and much of the hostile rhetoric from Moscow is for "home consumption."

"We're ready at any time, if they want to make it plain by deed, not word, that they want to join in the same things that are of concern to all of us — the betterment of life for our people," he added.

The president sought to massage European concern about his commitment to arms control by saying "We're going to try to negotiate." But he said the Soviets "have based their entire propaganda campaign — everything they've been doing — on seeking to prevent the beginning deployment."

Seated at the conference table with the other summit leaders, Reagan said, "I couldn't help but think several times, why in the world isn't that other so-called superpower here? Why didn't

they have someone sitting at the table able to get along with the rest of us."

As for the convergence of economic views, Reagan told the reporters despite clear differences in approach, "you would be amazed at how much our thinking was alike on so many of the things discussed."

He said the long hours of conversation, much of it conducted without aides, did not necessarily change minds but showed the Allies could "come into a consensus," at least on the nature of the problems they face.

# Reagan requests new agency

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — President Reagan asked Congress Wednesday to replace the Commerce Department with a new Department of International Trade and Industry and to scatter its non-trade functions throughout the government.

The proposal, under refinement for five weeks, was unveiled at the White House by Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige and U.S. Trade Representative William Brock, whose jobs would be consolidated in the new Cabinet post.

The shift would bring trade policy functions now carried out by the Commerce Department and trade negotiations now carried out by Brock's office into the same bureaucratic domain.

Reagan, in a statement read by presidential aide Edwin

Meese, said the need for reorganization arises from the increased importance of international trade in the U.S. economy today and in the future. "This new department can not only provide a leaner, efficient and better-coordinated approach to international trade," Reagan said, "it also help us in achieving our objectives."

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