

Agricultural Operations

We don't have any specific numbers for farms. Most farms don't meter their water use. Anyone installing a well has to go through the county permitting process but meters aren't required. Some counties don't require ag wells to go through their local permitting process.

All "Large Capacity water supply wells" (100,000 > withdrawal a day) are permitted by NC DEQ but we don't keep record of those. <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-resources-permits/wastewater-branch/ground-water-protection/well-program>

Attached are some numbers we use when determining how much water a farm needs. Household use wouldn't be much different than typical residential household use. Water use on farms is highly variable and these tables don't take into consideration other water uses on farm like processing, washing, rinsing, etc. This also doesn't show water use for specialty crops or unique operations. When we assist an unconventional farm to determine their water use we have to rely on their data or do wider research.

Most conventional crop farms are not regularly irrigating their crops but there is more interest every year as we see more drastic weather events. Smaller scale vegetable crop growers do irrigate but water use is variable depending on irrigation systems (drip vs overhead, etc) and infiltration rates of soils.

Here is more irrigation info:

https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/NC/NC_Irrigation_Guide_Apr_2010.pdf

Sorry, in those crop irrigation tables, this calculation will convert peak use (inches/day) to gallons:
Peak Water Use = (Irrigated Area in acres) X (Peak Rate) X 27,155 gal/ac-in

Single Family Dwellings

Yes, we use 120 gallons per day per bedroom, however the 120GPD is intended to be the maximum use not an average daily use. The actual use should be 50% to 75% of that number and typically the use for homes that are not experiencing leaks or other abnormal activity keep well below the 120GPD.