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## News Release

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### **WATER IS PRECIOUS: MAKE EVERY DROP COUNT**

Did you know that, according to the Environmental Protection Agency?

- It takes more water to manufacture a new car (39,090 gallons) than to fill an above ground swimming pool.
- It takes more than ten gallons of water to produce one slice of bread.
- More than 713 gallons of water go into the production of one cotton t-shirt.
- It takes 1,000 gallons of water to produce one gallon of milk.
- Roughly 634 gallons of water go into the production of one hamburger.

Water is our most precious resource, and everyone is responsible for its protection. The Safe Drinking Water Act, now in its 38<sup>th</sup> year, is at the core of national and state efforts to provide quality drinking water and protect the public's health. May 6-12, 2012, is National Drinking Water Week – a national observance that highlights the value of water in our everyday lives.

Oklahomans are served by more than 1,600 public drinking water systems that range in size from a roadside rest area to a large metropolitan drinking water system. Every Oklahoman relies on their water system to provide safe and dependable water, both now and in the future.

National Drinking Water Week recognizes the importance of water source protection and conservation, as well as the value, importance, and fragility of our state's water resources. The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) works with drinking water utilities to make sure that the water delivered to consumers meets all federal and state standards and is clean and abundant. These efforts are vital to Oklahoma's economy and to the public health of our citizens.

The tasks facing state drinking water programs and public water systems continue to be extremely challenging – especially in an era of scarce resources. The drinking water infrastructure in many cities is aging and presents daunting resource demands. As a nation, we continue to be challenged by new and emerging drinking water contaminants associated with our industrial society.

Today, Oklahoma renews its commitment to build on the successes of the past 37 years and to continue to work with all of our partners in the water community to fully realize the public health goals of the Safe Drinking Water Act through celebrating National Drinking Water Week. DEQ encourages all Oklahomans to help protect our most precious natural resource.

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