

**A Message From Members of the Hillsdale Area Water Cooperative
(Gardner is a member of the Cooperative)**

A vast majority of the state of Kansas is in some stage of drought emergency, warning or watch. The Kansas Water Office has issued a drought watch for Hillsdale Lake and its watershed. The counties or areas served by the Hillsdale watershed are included in this watch and should implement Stage 1 of their Conservation Plan. Gardner is part of the Hillsdale Watershed and the City is invoking a "Water Watch". A "Water Watch" is the first and least restrictive step of three possible steps for water conservation. A "Water Watch" only calls for voluntary conservation, and we recommend that residents take the following measures to conserve water:

- Report water on roadways and grassy areas that does not go away.
- Wash Full Loads of Laundry
- Take shorter showers
- Don't let faucets run
- Fix all leaky toilets, faucets and pipes
- Flush toilets and use garbage disposals only when necessary
- Pick-up the phone and report significant water losses from broken pipes, open hydrants and errant sprinklers to the property owner or to the city.
- Do one thing each day that will save water. Even if savings are small, every drop counts.
- Install low water use shower heads.

The drought may continue into 2012. If so, additional suggestions will be posted for different seasons.

During a drought water pipes will frequently leak due to movement of the soil. Please report any areas where water surfaces, as they may be evidence of leaks.

Please help us protect our precious water commodity with voluntary conservation practices. If you have any questions or concerns please contact your water utility provider.

Remember, the "Water Watch" is voluntary. The City of Gardner and the Kansas Water Office are asking for your help in conserving water. Your cooperation would be greatly appreciated.

If you have questions on how to conserve water or about the "Water Watch", please call Jim Melvin at 913-856-0917 or e-mail jmelvin@gardnerkansas.gov