**Water Footprint assignment**: due in D2L Dropbox one week from today.

To complete this lifestyle assignment (15 points) use the water footprint calculator found at: <http://www.waterfootprint.org/index.php?page=cal/WaterFootprintCalculator>

Type results on this sheet and submit an electronic copy via the Water footprint folder in Drop box by the beginning of your Monday or Tuesday class next week (3/26 & 3/27).

**Using the calculator**

* Select *United States of America* from the dropdown list.
* **Food consumption**

For food consumption quantities the calculator asks in some cases for your consumption in kilograms per week. It may be easier for you to estimate the ounces per day that you consume on an average day.

Convert your estimate (ounces per day) into the units to enter in the calculator (kg per week) by multiplying ounces per day by 0.2. For example, if you eat 8 ounces of meat per day on average, then you eat 8 x 0.2 = 1.6 kilograms per week.

* **Domestic water use -- Indoors**

If you’re not sure you have a low-flow shower head, assume it’s standard.

If you have a dual flush toilet you can choose a “high flow” or “low flow” flush depending on what needs to be flushed. They’re still rare in the U.S.

* **Industrial goods consumption**

This is estimated based on income level. If you have your own income, enter your gross annual income. If you depend mostly on your family’s income, then enter the amount of it that’s spent on you.

* Submit your answers.

**Recording results**

From the results table, **record your answers below** by typing a value after each line.

1. Your total water footprint in cubic meters per year:
2. The components of your footprint in cubic meters per year:
   1. Food
   2. Domestic
   3. Industrial
3. The contribution of each of the food categories to your footprint.
   1. Cereal
   2. Meat
   3. Vegetable
   4. Fruit
   5. Dairy
   6. Stimulant
   7. Fat
   8. Sugar
   9. Egg
   10. Other

**Summarizing your results**

1. The calculator gives your water footprint in cubic meters of water consumed each year. Each cubic meter contains 264 gallons of water. Find your footprint components in gallons per day.

Food (gal/day):

Domestic (gal/day):

Industrial (gal/day):

Total (gal/day):

1. Calculate your footprint components in percentage terms:

Food (%):

Domestic (%):

Industrial (%):

1. Although meat may be a relatively small part of your diet, it may be a large portion of your water footprint. Calculate the percentage of your food footprint that comes from meat consumption.

Given what we learned about food production in our agricultural system, why does meat have such a large effect on the water footprint?

**Answer to prepare for class discussion**

1. Local water sources such as streams, reservoirs, or ground water wells typically provide most of our domestic use – water used in the home – but your food and consumer products (industrially-made) can originate far away. How do you think people in those places might be affected by your footprint?
2. Most of us think about conserving water in terms of domestic consumption (e.g., shorter showers). What do you learn from the percentage make-up of your footprint about the effectiveness of conserving water in your home?
3. Find 10% of your total water footprint and write it here: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gallons/day

Develop a strategy to reduce your water footprint by 20%. Consider which components of your water use you could most easily change, which of the changes you could make would have the largest effect, and which changes you could make most quickly. Try to find a strategy that will be fast, easy, and effective! Explain your strategy in 500 words.