

*Kewaunee County Land & Water Conservation Department
625 Third Street
Luxemburg, WI 54217*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Davina Bonness
920 845-9743

**SPRING IS A GOOD TIME TO TEST WELL WATER
REGISTRATION OPENED**

Groundwater is vital to all of us living in Wisconsin, and the coming of spring represents an important time for our groundwater resources. This time of year is especially critical for individuals who rely on well water or a private well for their drinking water supply. While all groundwater originates as precipitation, melting snow and spring rains generally provide the largest contribution of groundwater recharge to our aquifers each year. Because recharge during this time can occur rapidly, bacterial contamination of wells often occurs during these periods of the year. This is especially true for wells located in karst regions, areas where soil layers are thin or absent and bedrock is highly fractured. Some well owners may actually notice their well water change appearance or odor after large rain events or snowmelts.

Coliform bacteria tests are an easy way to determine whether your water supply is bacteriologically safe to drink. Coliform bacteria are common in soils and are not generally considered harmful to health, however; they are also found in human and animal waste. For this reason a coliform bacteria test is used as an indication of the sanitary condition of a water supply. A sanitary water supply or properly constructed well should not contain any coliform bacteria; their presence in well water indicates a pathway for other potentially dangerous pathogens such as *E. coli*, a type of fecal coliform, to enter the water supply. If pathogens are in fact present, a variety of illnesses could occur from drinking the water. You should be testing your well water annually for coliform bacteria or any time you notice a sudden change in color, odor or taste; think of it like going to the doctor for a check-up.

In addition to coliform bacteria, there are a number of other contaminants that well owners should consider testing for. Some of these include human related contaminants such as nitrate and pesticides or naturally occurring contaminants such as arsenic.

Since August of 2004, approximately **29%** of wells tested through this voluntary program have tested unsafe due to nitrates > 10.0 ppm and/or bacteria present.

Available Packages:

1. Homeowner's Package: \$49.00 per well and tests for includes bacteria, nitrate, alkalinity, chloride, conductivity, corrosivity index, hardness, and pH.
2. Metals Package: \$49.00 per well and tests for Arsenic, Calcium, Copper, Iron, Lead, Magnesium, Manganese, Potassium, Sulfate, Sodium, and Zinc.
3. Diaminochlorotriazine (DACT): \$27.00 -- (a breakdown of atrazine and related herbicides)

4. All Three Packages -- \$117.00

Program Limited to 150 Well Samples; First, Come--First Serve Basis!

Any interested private well owner, mail or drop off a check for the appropriate amount to the Kewaunee County Land & Water Conservation Department, 625 Third Street, Luxemburg, WI 54217.

Please include phone number, package you are registering for, and an email address for future notices.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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