

**News Release**

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**For Immediate Release**

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**Private Well Testing**

Do you drink private well water? Let us test it for FREE. During the month of September Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) is partnering with University of Nebraska Lincoln researcher Shannon Bartlet-Hunt as part of a community water project to provide free testing to private well owners in southwest Nebraska. The tests will look at nitrate, nitrite, and phosphate levels.

Drinking water quality is important for the health of you and your family. Many factors can change the condition of your well water. Events such as heavy rainfall, agricultural products like fertilizers and pesticides, or even the condition of your well can result in contamination of your drinking water. Many common well water contaminants do not change the color or taste of your water and cannot be detected without testing. SWNPHD recommends that private wells used for drinking should be tested once every year for bacteria, nitrates, and pH levels.

**To get your water tested, follow these steps:**

1. Visit one of the following locations near you between September 2nd and the testing date for that location to pick up your collection kit and instructions.
2. Take a sample of your well water.
3. Then return with your water sample to the same location on the testing date listed below.

Testing Date	Counties Served	Testing Location	Address
September 10th	Dundy, Hitchcock, Hayes	UNL extension office, Trenton	229 East D, Trenton, NE
September 12th	Furnas	UNL extension office, Beaver City	912 R Street, Beaver City, NE
September 17th	Chase, Perkins	UNL extension office, Imperial	490 East 5th St, Imperial, NE
September 19th	Frontier	UNL Extension office, Curtis	404 E 7th St, Ste 2, Curtis, NE
All of September	Keith	SWNPHD office, Ogallala	418 North Spruce Street, Ogallala, NE
All of September	Red Willow	SWNPHD office, McCook	404 West 10th Street, McCook, NE

The purpose of this program is to increase awareness and accessibility of well water testing. It is not affiliated with or under the direction of any regulatory body, such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Your sample results will be used anonymously for the purpose of mapping well water contaminants throughout Nebraska, but your well will not be registered or tracked in any database. You may choose to submit your water sample for testing without finding out the results.

For more information about well testing recommendations contact SWNPHD at 308-345-4223. Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department serves Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Perkins, and Red Willow counties. The website [swhealth.ne.gov](http://swhealth.ne.gov) contains many resources and additional information helpful to prevent disease, promote and protect health. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and TikTok.

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