# Before you drink it... before you jump in it... think about it.

**Revised August 2010**

# Do you know where your water has been lately?

Answer these basic questions to help identify activities on your property that may be contaminating your water.

## How Safe is Your Well?

| Yes or Don't Know | No | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ | ☐ | 1. Do you have a well less than 50 feet deep? |
| ☐ | ☐ | 2. Do you have a dug well or driven well (rather than a drilled well), or is your well more than 50 years old? |
| ☐ | ☐ | 3. Does your well casing extend less than 12 inches above ground level or can you see any cracks or holes in your well casing? |
| ☐ | ☐ | 4. Are there any potential sources of contamination uphill from your well, such as livestock or fertilizer/pesticide/fuel storage? |
| ☐ | ☐ | 5. Are there any abandoned wells on your property that have not been properly closed? |

## Risks to Your Water from Fuel Storage & Handling

| Yes or Don't Know | No | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ | ☐ | 1. Are there underground fuel storage tanks on your farm or acreage? |
| ☐ | ☐ | 2. Are any of your above ground or underground fuel storage tanks located near a water well or surface water body? |
| ☐ | ☐ | 3. Are there signs of spills or leaks around any fuel tanks? |
| ☐ | ☐ | 4. Do you have any fuel tanks that are not located on a containment structure or spill pad? |

## Risks to Your Water from Pesticides & Fertilizers

| Yes or Don't Know | No | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ | ☐ | 1. Do you mix, apply, or store pesticides or fertilizers within 100 feet of any water supply system, stream or lake? |
| ☐ | ☐ | 2. Do you fill your sprayer tank with a hose that does not have an anti-backflow device? |
| ☐ | ☐ | 3. When filling, do you put the hose in the tank below the water line? |
| ☐ | ☐ | 4. Do you leave the sprayer tank unattended while filling? |
| ☐ | ☐ | 5. Do you rinse your sprayer tank near your water supply? |
| ☐ | ☐ | 6. Do you use pesticides or fertilizers within 100 feet of any water ? |

## Risks to Your Water from Hazardous Wastes

| Yes or Don't Know | No | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ | ☐ | 1. Do you use products without following the directions on the "warning" or "caution" labels? |
| ☐ | ☐ | 2. Do you **ever** pour hazardous substances such as antifreeze, oil, paints, stains, polishes or solvents down a sink drain or storm drain, in a ditch, or on the ground? |
| ☐ | ☐ | 3. Do you burn plastics, batteries, chemicals, treated lumber, or other hazardous items? |
| ☐ | ☐ | 4. Have you disposed of hazardous waste in an area other than a designated disposal facility? |

### Risks to Your Water from a Septic System

| Yes or Don't Know | No | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ | ☐ | 1. Is your septic system less than 100 feet from your well or surface water? |
| ☐ | ☐ | 2. Has it been longer than three years since you had your septic tank inspected or cleaned out? |
| ☐ | ☐ | 3. Do you pour grease, oil, or leftover household chemicals down your drain? |
| ☐ | ☐ | 4. Do you ever see evidence of standing or "smelly" water that may have come from your septic system? |

### Risks to Your Water from Livestock

| Yes or Don't Know | No | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ | ☐ | 1. Does runoff from your barnyard or manure collection area flow into streams or other surface water? |
| ☐ | ☐ | 2. During rain events, is runoff from your roof or yard allowed to come in contact with the manure? |
| ☐ | ☐ | 3. Are your manure storage areas located less than 100 feet or uphill from your well or surface waters? |

## What now?

If you answered "Yes" or "Don't Know" to any of these questions, then the surface water or groundwater near your home may be at risk. Sources of pollutants on or near your property can contaminate water, which can threaten your family's health, the value of your property or the health of people downstream.

For more detailed surveys and fact sheets on these potential risks to your water quality, go to http://extension.usu.edu/waterquality/htm/agriculturewq/riskwater

If you have other questions or want more information , contact your local County Extension Office or USU's Water Quality Program (435-797-2580) or www.extension.usu.edu/waterquality).

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WATER QUALITY EXTENSION

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