

Dear Well Owner:

A local school group is participating in Know Your Well, a youth-driven Nebraska science program focused on groundwater quality organized through the University of Nebraska. Know Your Well's objective is to engage Nebraska's high school students in groundwater science through hands-on sampling, testing, and surveying private (domestic) wells for nitrates, pesticides, bacteria, and other contaminants that may affect its suitability for drinking. More information is available at <http://knowyourwell.unl.edu>.

Your well was selected by local high school students to be a part of this year's program. If you agree to participate, students and program leaders will:

- Contact you, or the well owner, prior to sample collection to ask questions about the history and construction of the well. You do not need to know all the answers, but any additional information provided is helpful.
- Contact you, or the well owner, to schedule a date to collect water samples.
- Arrive at the scheduled date and time with at least one adult supervisor.
- Access areas needed to sample the well and conduct a short land use survey.

Well water sampling/on-site testing usually takes between 20 and 40 minutes, after which students will leave the property as they found it. They will need to access an outside hydrant, hose bib, or tap where untreated well water will be pumped for several minutes into a bucket and collected in containers. Survey areas will include the pump/wellhead/wellhouse, and adjacent features (ponding surface water, barnyards, septic system, cropland) that may affect local groundwater quality.

Students will collect, preserve, and ship samples to the Water Sciences Laboratory at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln for professional laboratory testing. They will compare their classroom measurements with the university laboratory testing. We appreciate your time and involvement in the Know Your Well program. If you agree to participate, you will:

- Help students collect information about your well.
- Provide access to students and adult leaders to the sampling location.
- Ensure the area is accessible and free of hazards (pets, livestock, equipment).

In exchange for your participation, you will receive a university laboratory test report with an estimated value between \$300 and \$400. General findings about local well water quality will be shared by the students at academic conferences and meetings, however your participation will not be used in any public forum. Growing Know Your Well through your participation contributes to water science and engineering education, a better understanding of domestic well water quality, and helps us show how youth-led science can protect local groundwater.

Please contact our program email, [knowyourwell@unl.edu](mailto:knowyourwell@unl.edu), if you have any questions. Thank you for participating in the Know Your Well program!

Please read, initial the following, and provide indicated contact information on the next page if you agree to participate.



Daniel D. Snow, Ph.D.  
Director, University of Nebraska Water Sciences Laboratory

Please read, initial the following, and provide indicated contact information if you agree to participate.

\_\_\_\_\_ I give permission to students from our local high school to access my property to collect and analyze water samples for the "Know Your Well" program studying private well water. I understand the responsibilities listed above and agree to adhere to them or my well will be removed from the program.

\_\_\_\_\_ I give permission for the research team to contact me regarding my experience with the program.

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred contact hours AM/PM