



December 2023



## Where we came from

### A KNOW YOUR WELL HISTORY LESSON

Started in 2016 with a grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), Know Your Well emphasizes proper domestic well water sampling and encourages students to compare results from classroom test kits to standard laboratory testing at the UNL Water Sciences Laboratory. In its first two years, the project involved students and teachers from 23 schools across Nebraska who sampled almost 250 wells.



## Who we are

### WHAT KYW IS ABOUT

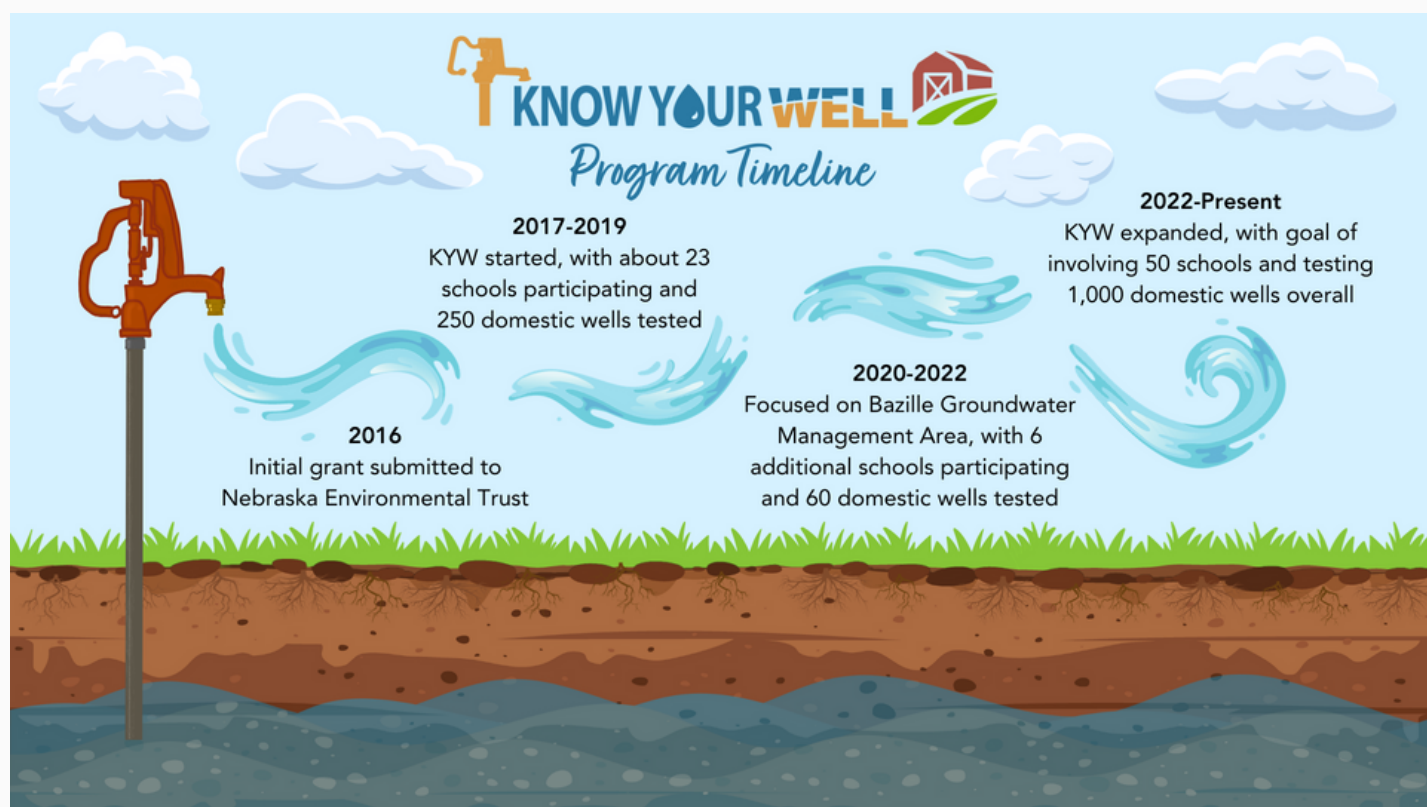
Know Your Well is a youth-driven education and outreach program designed to train high school students how to sample and test domestic well water quality, as well as to evaluate factors leading to ground water contamination.





## Where we came from continued

A second more regionally focused grant added 6 schools from northeastern Nebraska in the Bazille Groundwater Management Area, furnishing schools with supplies for testing well water samples in the classroom. The latest grants, administered by the Papio-Missouri Natural Resources District, which include funding from the Nebraska Environmental Trust, McKnight & Hindmarsh Nebraska Water Quality Fund, and Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy, involve collaborators at the Nebraska Water Center, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, University of Nebraska at Kearney, and many Nebraska Natural Resource Districts (NRDs).



In 2021, 2022 and 2023, the Nebraska Water Center awarded Know Your Well grants to Chadron State College and Doane University, expanding the program leadership to additional undergraduate institutions. The latest grant, from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded to the Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, will develop classroom curriculum to help teachers become part of the growing Know Your Well network in high schools.

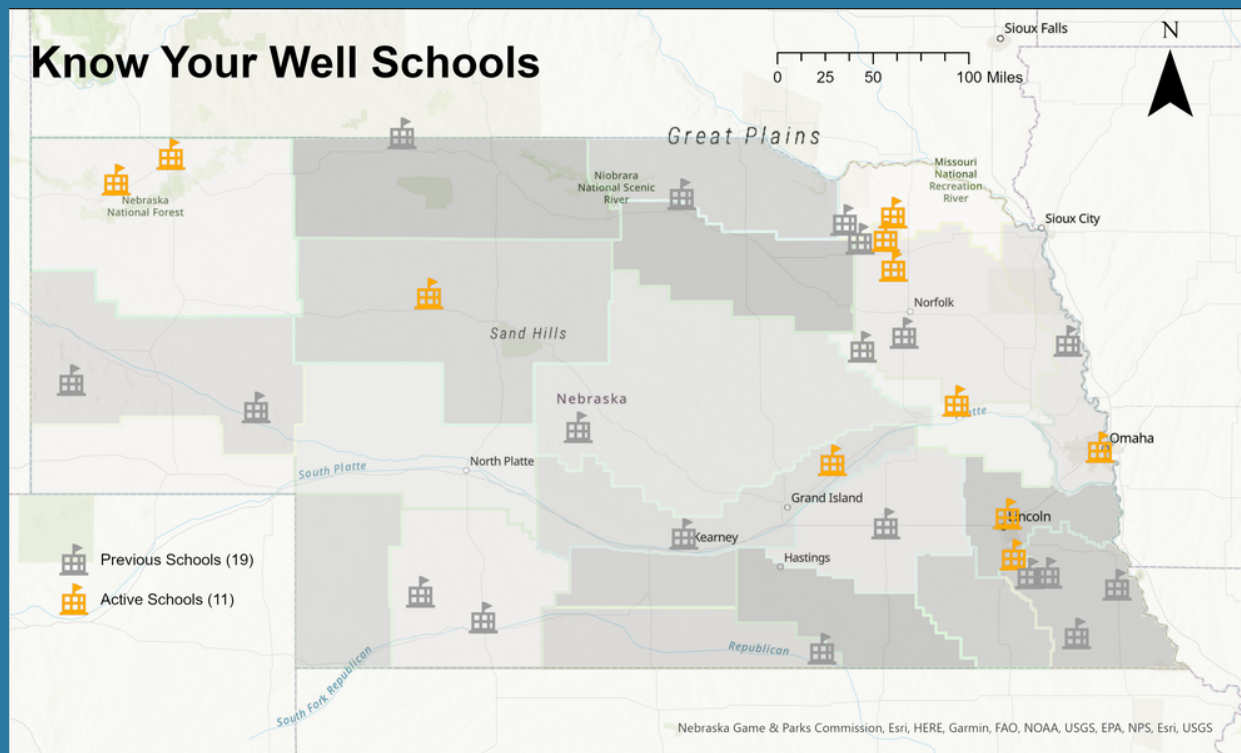




# Where we are going

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Our goal in the next two years is to recruit at least 50 schools and test over 1,000 domestic wells through shared leadership among partners across the state, including Nebraska NRD's working with schools in their area. By recruiting more NRD staff to participate, and in turn recruiting more schools who will use the curriculum made possible by the US EPA grant, we are growing the network statewide and providing a sustainable program involving multiple organization and stakeholders.



Map of previous participants and active participants for the 2023-24 school year



## How to get involved

### IT TAKES A VILLAGE

There are so many levels and ways to get involved! We need NRD members who want to recruit and train high school teachers. We need teachers who want to participate with their class in the program. We need students who want to test wells and present that information to their community. We need well owners who want to get free water quality testing. We need teachers and experienced curriculum writers to assist in creating our formal curriculum. We need organizations and individuals that want to financially support STEM programs for high school students. If any of these sound like you, email us at [knowyourwell@unl.edu](mailto:knowyourwell@unl.edu) to get involved.

## Thanks to our Partners

