



Benton County is offering **FREE** testing for Nitrate, Arsenic and Bacteria in domestic well systems for Benton County. We would like for you to come meet with us to discuss the program in more detail.

This will be a great opportunity for you to ask questions and for us to learn more about your water system.

OSU Extension will be performing the nitrate testing while Edge Analytical will test for bacteria and arsenic. We are excited to be part of this program and look forward to meeting with you.

Benton County Health Services
Environmental Health Division
4077 SW Research Way
Corvallis, OR 97339
Phone (541) 766-6841



BENTON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



Free Well Water Testing



Benton County Environmental Health will be offering free well testing and education to a maximum of 90 Benton County residents in four target areas between now and August 30th, 2014. Since you have received this brochure you are in one of the target areas. If you wish to participate in this **FREE** testing here is what you may expect:

Benton County Environmental Health will provide you with free testing for nitrates, arsenic, and coliforms.

An inspection of your well and a review of your well log will be made. If you do not have a well log we will attempt to locate your well log for you.

You will receive a letter summarizing your test results with recommendations for protecting your well and your groundwater source.

Your participation in this project will also help us better understand ground water concerns in our county.

DOMESTIC WELL

In order to protect the health and ground water resources Oregon's Domestic Well Safety Program (DWSP) focuses on assessing and managing risks associated with private and domestic wells.

Water Quality Concerns

NITRATES

Nitrates are naturally occurring in air, animal waste, human sewage waste and commercial fertilizers. Nitrate is an essential component of living things although it is harmful in large or concentrated doses.

<http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater>

ARSENIC

Arsenic occurs naturally in earth's soil where it can contaminate the water that flows through rock formations into the groundwater. Arsenic has historically been used as pesticides in orchards and weather treating in wood.

<http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater>

COLIFORM (BACTERIA)

Most coliforms are a natural flora in the digestive tract of humans and warm-blooded animals. Most of these bacteria are found where there is fecal contamination. The most common harmful coliform found is E-Coli.

<http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater/Monitoring/Documents/health/colibact.pdf>

Safety Program

Twenty three percent of Oregon population relies on domestic or private wells for their drinking water, indicating that 23% of the population is potentially at risk of consuming contaminated drinking water unknowingly.

The Sources



Nitrogen fertilizer



Faulty septic systems



Old orchards



Old or closed wood mills



Animal Waste



Human waste