



## 2007 Program Summary

### Montana State University Extension Water Quality

Montana State University Extension Water Quality (MSUEWQ) offered the well test program for the first time in 1989. Most recently the program was offered in the spring of 2007, and targeted the top 17 Montana counties with the highest rate of new well drilling attracting over 280 participants. The program has reached over 933 participants from 2005 – 2007. The Well Educated program guides private well owners through the process of testing water quality, provides materials to help interpret test results, and offers insight on ways to help protect drinking water resources. The program is offered as a service for Montana well owners to provide affordable well testing services accompanied by test result interpretation, while simultaneously providing a useful water quality data source for managers.

### 2007 Water Quality Summary

Over 30 parameters were available for testing in 2007. Following is a summary of results for selected parameters.

Parameter	# Participants Who Tested for Parameter	Samples with Quality Exceeding EPA Drinking Water Goals	Samples Not Meeting Goals but Meeting Standards	Samples Not Meeting Drinking Water Standards
Arsenic	67	71.6%	20.9%	7.5%
Bacteria ( <i>E.coli</i> )	283	98.6%	goal same as standard	1.4%
Bacteria (total coliforms)	283	82.3%	goal same as standard	17.7%
Cadmium	50	100%	goal same as standard	0%
Copper	53	100%	goal same as standard	0%
Lead	63	90.5%	9.5%	0%
Nitrate	288	96.9%	goal same as standard	3.1%
Selenium	52	100%	goal same as standard	0%
Fluoride	153	98%	goal same as standard	2%

### 2007 Survey Results

The following are results from 67 mail surveys returned from 2007 program participants.

- 97% of participants stated they would participate in the program again.
- More than 46% of participants started a well file with materials from the program (almost half the respondents already had a well file)
- More than 94% of participants indicated a better understanding of the importance of regular well testing due to the program.
- More than 92.5% of participants indicated a better ability to monitor their drinking water quality due to the program.
- More than 88.1% of participants indicated a better ability to understand maintenance and upkeep needs of their private well due to the program.