



## 2008 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 2008, and targeted the top 17 Montana counties with the highest rate of new well drilling attracting over 425 participants. The program has reached over 1325 participants from 2005 – 2008. 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.

### 2008 Water Quality Summary

Over 30 parameters were available for testing in 2008. 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	106	54.7%	42.5%	12.3%
Bacteria ( <i>E.coli</i> )	425	98.8%	goal same as standard	1.2%
Bacteria (total coliforms)	425	86.4%	goal same as standard	13.6%
Cadmium	82	100%	goal same as standard	0%
Copper	84	98.8%	goal same as standard	1.2%
Fluoride	206	97.6%	goal same as standard	2.4%
Lead	102	95.1%	4.9%	0%
Nitrate	429	97.9%	goal same as standard	2.1%
Selenium	83	98.8%	goal same as standard	1.2%

### 2008 Survey Results

The following are results from 100 mail surveys returned from 2008 program participants.

- 100% of participants stated they would participate in the program again.
- More than 50% of participants started a well file with materials from the program (almost half the respondents already had a well file)
- More than 97% of participants indicated a better understanding of the importance of regular well testing due to the program.
- More than 98% of participants indicated a better ability to monitor their drinking water quality due to the program.
- More than 92% of participants indicated a better ability to understand maintenance and upkeep needs of their private well due to the program.