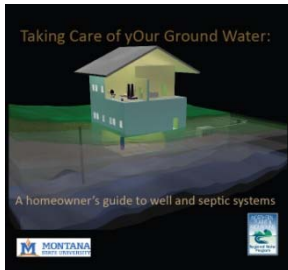




## Montana State University Extension Water Quality

The well test program was first offered in 1989 by the Montana State University Extension Water Quality (MSUEWQ). Since its inception, the program has reached thousands of well owners. In the spring of 2010, the program targeted the top 17 Montana counties with the highest rate of new well drilling and attracted over 480 participants.



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.

### 2010 Water Quality Summary

Over 30 parameters were available for testing in 2010. Following is a summary of results for selected parameters.

Parameter	# Participants Who Tested for Parameter	Samples Meeting EPA Drinking Water Goals and Standards	Samples Not Meeting Drinking Water Goals and Standards	EPA Maximum Contaminant Level (mg/L)
Bacteria ( <i>E.coli</i> )	451	99%	1%	0%
Bacteria (total coliforms)	451	79%	21%	5.0%
Cadmium	89	100%	0%	0.005
Copper	55	96%	4%	1.3
Fluoride	300	99.9%	0.1%	4.0
Nitrate	457	96.7%	3.3%	10
Selenium	61	100%	0%	0.05

Parameter	# Participants Who Tested for Parameter	EPA Drinking Water Goal	Samples Meeting EPA Drinking Water Goal	EPA Drinking Water Standards	Samples Meeting EPA Drinking Water Standards	Samples Not Meeting EPA Goals & Standards
Arsenic	127	0.000 mg/L	55%	< 0.010 mg/L	39%	6%
Lead	84	0.000 mg/L	75%	< 0.015 mg/L	23.8%	1.2%