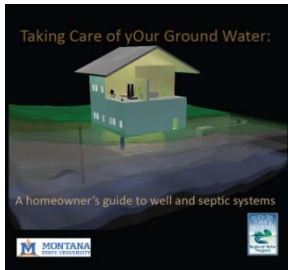




## Montana State University Extension Water Quality

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 2011, the program targeted the top 17 Montana counties with the highest rate of new well drilling and attracted over 615 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.

### 2011 Water Quality Summary

Over 615 participants tested their water quality in 2011. Participants had 30 parameters to choose from, the 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
Bacteria ( <i>E.coli</i> )	597	98%	2%	Not Applicable
Bacteria (total coliforms)	597	79%	21%	Not Applicable
Cadmium	61	100%	0%	0.005 mg/L
Copper	69	96%	4%	1.3 mg/L
Fluoride	361	98.7%	1.3%	4.0 mg/L
Nitrate	608	93%	7%	10.0 mg/L
Selenium	76	97.4%	2.6%	0.05 mg/L

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	178	0.000 mg/L	64%	< 0.010 mg/L	30%	6%
Lead	117	0.000 mg/L	83.8%	< 0.015 mg/L	15.3%	0.8%