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Miami East-MVCTC FFA To Host Test Your Well Fair

Casstown, Ohio - Is your home's well more than 40 years old? Is it less than 50 feet deep? Has it been more than a year since the water was tested? If you answered yes to any of these questions, bring a well water sample so that in less than 30 minutes you can learn if there might be a hazardous level of nitrate in your drinking water.

Monday, March 18 from 4:00 to 6:00pm in the Miami East High School cafeteria, 3925 North State Route 589, Casstown, the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter will host a Test Your Well Fair. It is a free, confidential nitrate screening of all self-contained wells for residents of Miami and surrounding counties.

While you wait you can learn about well maintenance, nitrate prevention, and well education from several area drinking water and well professionals. There will be fun children activities and free coffee, hot cocoa, and cookies.

To properly collect your well water sample:

- 1) Select any clean jar that seals tightly. Free sample bottles will be available in the Miami East High School office or via the Miami Soil and Water Conservation District on County Road 25A.
- 2) Remove any screen or filter from your faucet.
- 3) Run water for five minutes to clear the lines and bring in fresh water.
- 4) Do not touch the lip of the jar, inside the jar, or inside the cap.
- 5) Keep the sample refrigerated until the Test Your Well Fair. A fresh sample drawn the day of the fair is best.

Safe drinking water is important to human health. Groundwater provides drinking water for more than one-half of the nation's population and is the sole source of drinking water for many rural residents. Shallow and/or poorly capped wells are most vulnerable to nitrate contamination. Although there is not a widespread threat of contamination in Miami County, nitrate prevention and proper maintenance of self-contained wells is always necessary.

Nitrate is a nutrient. Nitrates come from nitrogen which are great for plant growth but can be harmful to human ingestion. It is generally from human or animal waste and inorganic fertilizers. Nitrates can also be traced to residential and lawn fertilizers, septic systems, and airborne nitrogen compounds given off by industry

and automobiles. Infant digestion systems cannot handle over ten parts per million (ppm), though adults can handle over 100ppm. Older or health-impaired people are more sensitive than healthy adults.

New this year two additional tests are being offered. For a much reduced price of \$15.00 per test, samples can be tested for arsenic and/or bacteria. The first 30 participants will receive this reduced price. After 30, the test will be \$25 per sample. Normal bacteria testing cost is \$70 and arsenic \$50. Further information will be offered at the Test Your Well Fair with payment due the night of the event. All tests will be provided by Belmont Labs in Englewood. This reduced cost is made possible from special funding through the Miami Conservancy District's Aquifer Preservation Sub district.

For more information about the Test Your Well Fair on March 18^h contact the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter by calling (937) 335-7070 ext. 3212.

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