



USDA-CSREES 2007 National Water Quality Conference

[The WELL EDUCATED Program](#)

Private well owners can play an important role in protecting and monitoring ground water quality. Reaching this audience is the primary goal of the WELL EDUCATED Program. This program was offered the first time by Montana State University Extension Water Quality (MSUEWQ) in 1989, and has been offered a number of times since. The program involves collaboration between MSUEWQ, a private testing laboratory and county based facilitators to reach the private well owner audience. The program guides the private well owner through the process of testing their water quality, provides materials to help interpret test results, and offers insight on ways to help protect drinking water resources. In addition to the baseline bacteria and nitrate testing, the 2006 program incorporated a number of new choices for participants including arsenic testing. The 2006 program also piloted the use of Google Earth for attaching geographic coordinates to the test results. The goal of this effort was to incorporate a simple, cost effective way to identify the water quality results spatially for entry into a database for subsequent assessment using Arc Map. The 2006 WELL EDUCATED program marked another innovative and successful year in a continually evolving program.

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