



## **USDA-CSREES 2007 National Water Quality Conference**

### **New England Private Well Initiative**

The New England Private Well Initiative is one of 7 focus areas within the New England Regional Water Quality Program. The Initiative began as a joint partnership between US EPA – New England and the USDA CSREES New England Regional Water Quality Program in 2002. Since this time, the Initiative has expanded to include New England state drinking water agencies, including departments of health and environmental protection, and the Water Systems Council. The goal of the Initiative is focused on reducing the risks associated with private drinking water wells. According to the EPA, approximately 2.3 million people, or 20% of New Englanders, rely on private wells for their drinking water. This percentage increases to more than 40% for Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. Because private wells are not regulated to the extent that public water supplies are, private citizens are ultimately responsible for the safety and quality of their drinking water. This poster will present will current activities and discuss the efforts, impacts, and future direction of this New England Initiative.

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