



USDA-CSREES 2007 National Water Quality Conference

Southern Region Down-Well Camera Team

As a special project in the CSREES Southern Region Water Coordination Project, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas were equipped with cameras capable of inspecting water well bore holes. With these down-well cameras, wellhead protection programs are going beyond traditional above-ground inspections, opening a new realm of information explaining water quality problems due to well construction. This approach replaces conjecture with visual facts and recognizes regional problems that Extension should be addressing. Groundwater is protected; eliminating direct avenues for contaminants to enter groundwater, by identifying improper constructed or maintained wells. Objectives are to expand the information base of down-well videos across the Southern Region and work toward a regional publication on water well maintenance and abandonment. The Southern Region Down-Well Camera Team will share experiences, wellhead-photos, case studies, and down-well videos identifying regional well construction and maintenance problems through a computer network linked through the Internet. As a result, state groundwater protection agencies may need to revisit and revise their water well construction standards to correct reoccurring problems.

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