



2009 CSREES National Water Conference; St. Louis, MO

Joining Forces to Assess Water Quality in Rural North Dakota

Roxanne Johnson*
North Dakota State University
*roxanne.m.johnson@ndsu.edu

Abstract:

Extension water quality specialists from the Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Department at North Dakota State University accepted water samples from private wells, dug outs, rural water systems and other locations as part of the Research Center's Field Days across North Dakota this summer. Over 150 samples were analyzed for pH, TDS, and nitrates on site, with sterile water samples being delivered to a laboratory for bacteria testing. An agreement was made with a local laboratory to do the bacteria testing for one third regular price as a means to promote private water testing; Hack testing kits were funded by our Region 8 CSREES grant. This was an opportunity to work with individuals on specific issues they were having and provide publications and options for treatment. It also gave us a database of the quality of privately owned water sources across the state.

At the 2008 Spring Conference, Extension personnel from across the state were given a survey asking about water quality issues in their county and their knowledge level of the issue. The 2 sets of data were compared to see if areas of high water quality knowledge parallel areas of good water quality or if there is a need for further programming in specific areas of the state.

Impact Statement:

Working with 8 Research Centers and the local county agents and staff made us more aware of the importance of training needs prior to an activity. Using grant funds and working with private industry to fund this project opened the doors to many individuals who may not have understood where to have the testing done or what the results mean to them. We now have a data base of private water sources that was not available to us and know where and who we need to address our programming.

Category: Other Water Resource Topics
Type of Presentation: Oral Presentation