Water Wells ...that last ...for generations

The M.D. of Wainwright supports Ag Safety Week

Proper Care and maintenance of your well and groundwater are key to protecting your water supply.

9 *Things you can do to Protect your well & Groundwater*

1 **Install a properly designed and constructed water well - get rid of your well pit!** Select a reputable water well driller.

2 **Plug Old Wells & Holes.** While the driller is on your property drilling a new well it's a good idea to have him plug any old or unused wells. This is called decommissioning the water well. Surface water draining down through old wells can contaminate the aquifer tapped by your new well. Also make sure seismic shotholes on or around your property are properly plugged.

3 **Understand Your Drillers Report.** These reports contain important information needed to help you manage and protect your well. Make sure the driller gives you a copy.

4 **Do NOT Over-pump.** Over pumping is one of the biggest causes of well problems. Make sure the drilling contractor does a full pump test and provides a recommended pumping rate for your new well.

5 **Manage Activities on your land.** Manage land uses on your property to minimize seepage of contaminants into groundwater, especially if you have sandy or gravelly soils or a shallow well. Don't over apply manure, fertilizers and pesticides to your fields and gardens.

6 **Inspect Your Well.** You should regularly inspect your well and the area around your well to ensure that:

- The well cap is secure and the vents are not blocked.
- There are no open gaps around the outside of your well casing.
- There is no ground settling or water ponding around the well casing.
- The pressure tank and water treatment system are operating properly.
- Your septic system is working properly and is the recommended distance away from the well

7 **Test Your Well Water.** Water testing can tell you if there are problems with your water supply and whether you need to disinfect your well. Your regional health authority will test your well water. Test your well water twice a year (more frequently if your well is shallow) and a routine water chemistry test every two years.

8 **Disinfect Your Well.** If your well water tests positive for coliform bacteria your health authority will advise you on a course of action, which may include disinfecting your well by shock chlorination.

9 **Keep Records.** It is important to keep records of your drillers reports, well inspections, water tests and treatments.

Watch for up upcoming decommissioning workshops.
Call Aimee Wonsik, Assistant Agriculture Fieldman, M.D. of Wainwright at 842-4454

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