



PRESS RELEASE

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Land Services Department**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Well Water Nitrate Testing to be Offered at Crow Wing County Fair

Crow Wing County Land Services would like to remind landowners about available resources and simple steps they can take to protect our groundwater. Groundwater protection is identified as a priority in the Crow Wing County Water Plan, and most of Crow Wing County's residents rely on groundwater for their source of drinking water. The following groundwater related services are available to area residents:

Free Nitrate Testing

Crow Wing County and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture are pleased to once again offer free nitrate testing for residents of Crow Wing County and surrounding areas during the Crow Wing County Fair held August 4-8. Landowners can bring in a fresh sample of water from their tap to the County booth in the Natural Resources building. The test takes a matter of seconds. For best results, a 1 cup sample should be taken after running the tap for several minutes and before any filtering is done. Participants are also encouraged to bring the unique well number which can be found on the well and the approximate age and depth of the well.

After the fair, testing will be offered on a regular basis at the Crow Wing County Land Services Building located at 322 Laurel Street in downtown Brainerd during normal business hours from 8 to 5. Nitrates and other contaminants are not detected by sight, smell, or taste, so Crow Wing County encourages landowners to regularly test their water.

Because the County only tests for nitrates, residents can contact one of several certified laboratories in the Brainerd area to conduct a wider range of tests, including for lead, arsenic, and bacteria in their well water. AW Laboratories in Brainerd has donated \$5 dollar coupons to reduce the cost of testing well water for arsenic. Coupons will be available first come first serve at the Land Services Booth at the County Fair.

Low-Income Septic System Upgrades

Crow Wing County and the Region Five Development Commission also have remaining funds to assist with replacement or repair of septic systems for low income landowners in order to improve and protect groundwater quality in Crow Wing County. For more information or to have an application mailed to you, please contact Sandy Voigt at Region 5: 218-894-6017 or svoigt@regionfive.org. Funding for this grant is from the Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment.

The Land Services Department is committed to providing excellent customer service while helping landowners make wise choices that protect Crow Wing County's extraordinary natural resources. Citizens are encouraged to contact the Environmental Services Office at (218) 824-1125 or environmental.services@crowwing.us to discuss AIS or other land use related activities.

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Our Vision: Being Minnesota's favorite place.

Our Mission: Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

Our Values: Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.