



TAKING CARE OF YOUR WELL

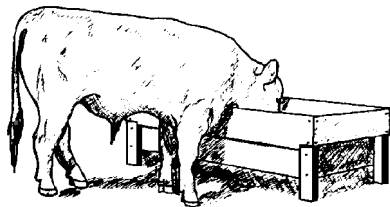
Lesson Guide

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Your Goal As a Teacher

After teaching this lesson, I expect the homemaker / client to:

- Know the best place to drill a new well.
- Know to test the well water once a year and what tests to run.
- Learn how to disinfect the well using household bleach.
- Understand that the well casing must extend above ground level, that the well must be capped or sealed, and that the casing needs to be inspected every year.
- Realize how important it is to the quality of the well water that the septic system work properly.
- Know the well should be far away from chemical storage area, fuel tanks, feed lots and animal pens.



Teaching Tools

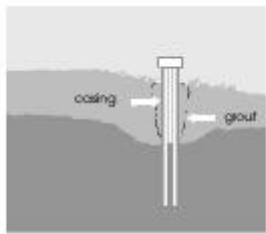
- Flipchart -- Taking Care of Your Well (Available for loan by contacting Kim Henken, (859)257-7775 or khenken@ca.uky.edu.)
- Video -- Ground Water Basics (12 minutes - available through the Ag. Communications Video Library)
- Handout -- Do's and Don'ts of Taking Care of a Well
- Handout -- What You Need to Know About Having Your Well Water Tested
- Handout -- Disinfecting Your Well

Points to Stress

1. Drill new wells away from septic systems, fuel tanks, chemical storage areas, and animal feedlots or pens.
2. Make sure the area around the well is sloped so surface water drains away.
3. Test the well water once a year. The best time is in the late spring after a good rain. Test for total coliform bacteria, acidity (pH), total dissolved solids, hardness, and nitrates. Use a state certified lab.
4. Extend the well casing above the ground level so surface water does not run into the well.

Points to Stress (cont'd.)

5. Put a well cap or seal at the top of the casing to keep out surface water.
5. Inspect the well casing once a year for cracks or holes.
6. Make sure the septic system is working properly.

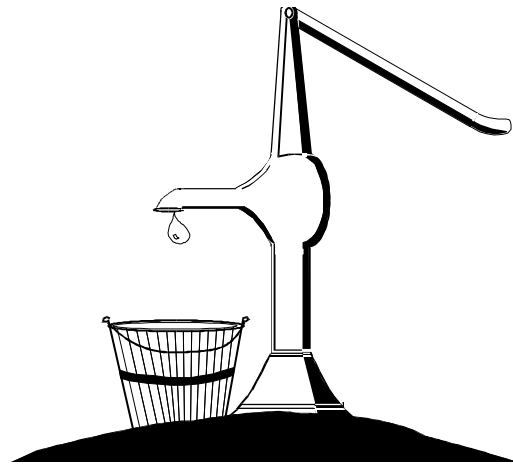


7. Never mix or use pesticides, herbicides, fertilizer, fuels or degreaser within 100 feet of a well.
9. Disinfect the well at least once a year or anytime work is done on the well. Use regular household bleach. Do not drink the water while the bleach is in the well and pipes.



Ideas For Teaching the Lesson

1. Use the flipchart that is provided and go through it carefully with the homemaker.
2. Discuss with the homemaker the current location of their well. Go with the homemaker to the well and find out what is being done to take care of the well.
3. Review with the homemaker the importance of having the well water tested once a year and what tests to run.
4. Go over with the homemaker the proper procedure for disinfecting the well. Use the table on "Disinfecting Your Well" to figure out how much bleach the homemaker needs to use.
5. Discuss with the homemaker any problems you see with the well.



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