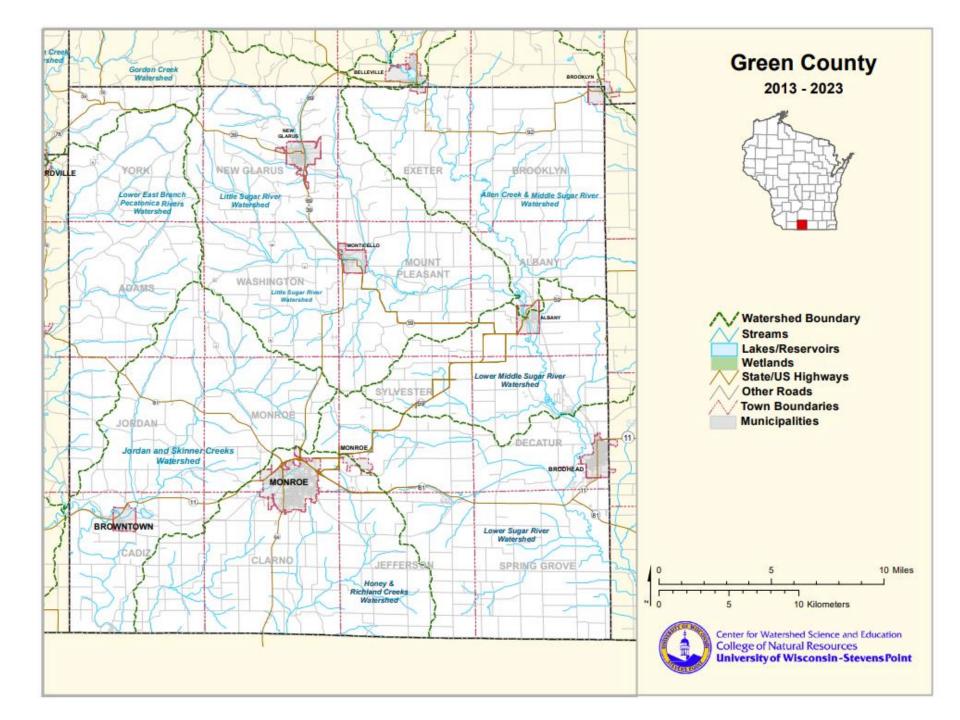
Green County Water WELLness 2024

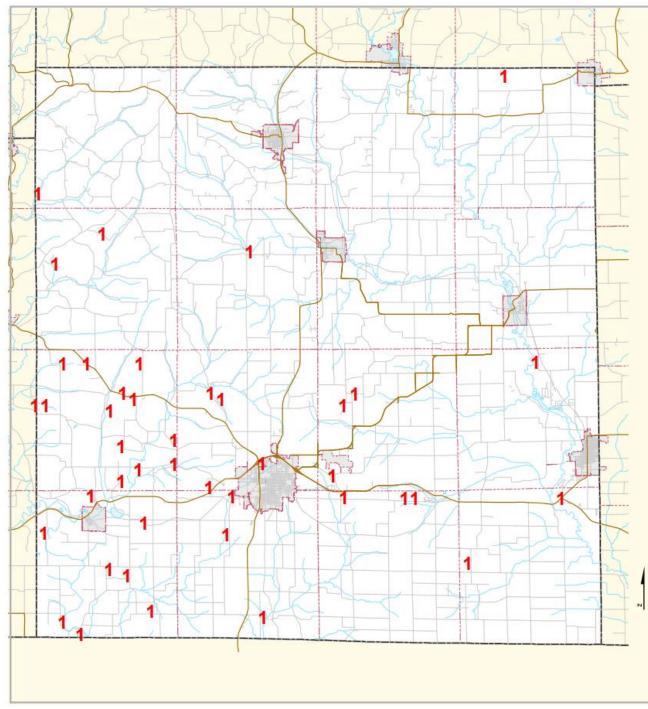










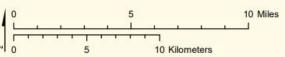


Green County March 2024

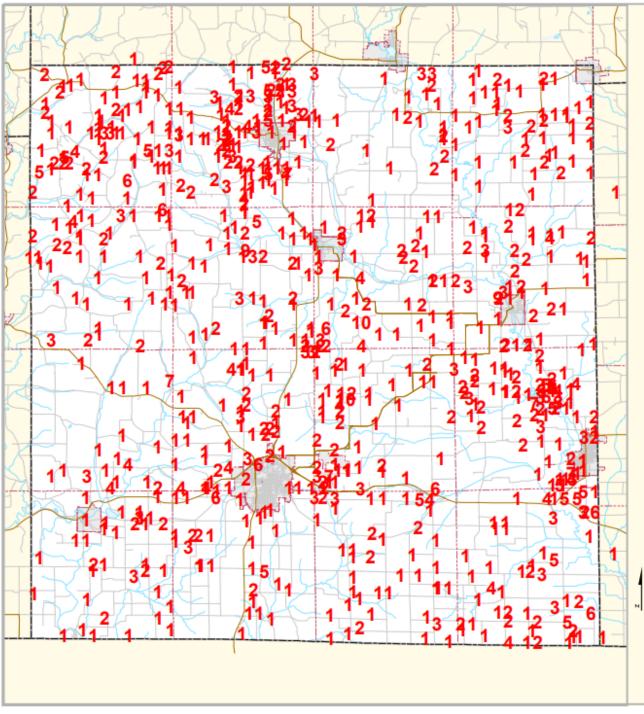


SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION

NUMBER OF SAMPLES per 1/4 1/4 SECTION







2013 - 2023



SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION

NUMBER OF SAMPLES per 1/4 1/4 SECTION

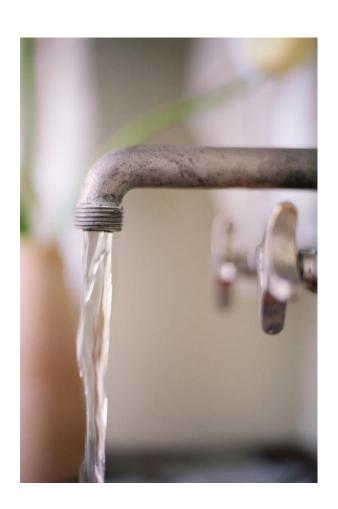




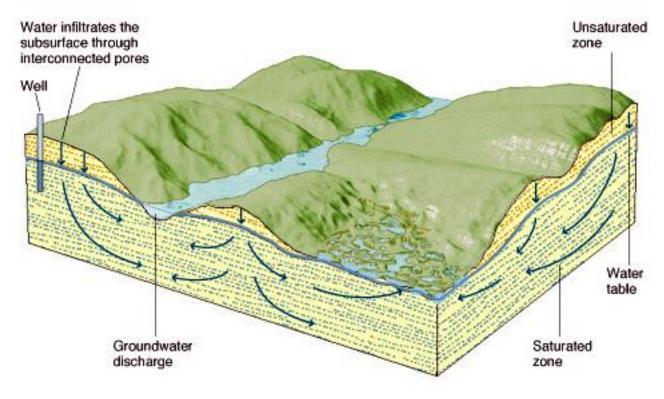
Center for Watershed Science and Education College of Natural Resources University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Today's presentation

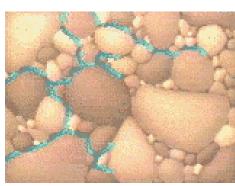
- Groundwater Basics: Where does my water come from
- Well Construction
- What do my individual test results mean?
- General groundwater quality in Green County
- Improving your water quality



Groundwater Movement







Groundwater Basics: Where does my water come from? How does your water quality compare? Look for data in your area

Learn about well construction

Interpret my water test results

How to improve my water quality

Who to contact if I need additional assistance



What is Groundwater?

Watersheds of Wisconsin

Aquifers: Our groundwater storage units

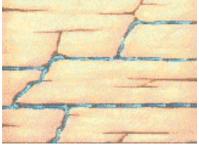
Factors that affect groundwater quality

Better Homes and Groundwater

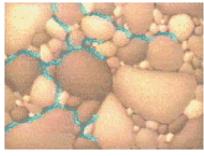
Aquifers: Our groundwater storage units

Aquifers are geologic formations that store and transmit groundwater.

The aquifer properties determine how quickly groundwater flows, how much water an aquifer can hold and how easily groundwater can become contaminated. Some aquifers may also contain naturally occurring elements that make water unsafe.



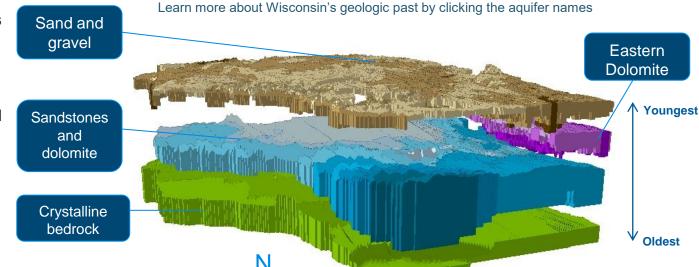
Water and contaminants can move quickly through cracks and fractures.



Water moving through tiny spaces in between sand particles or sandstone moves slower and allows for filtration of some contaminants.

Diagram courtesy of WGNHS

Wisconsin's geology is like a layered cake. Underneath all of Wisconsin lies the Crystalline bedrock which does not hold much water. Think of this layer like the foundation of your house. All groundwater sits on top of this foundation. Groundwater is stored in the various sandstone, dolomite and sand/gravel aquifers above the crystalline bedrock layer. The layers are arranged in the order which they formed, oldest on the bottom and youngest on top.



Green County Geology



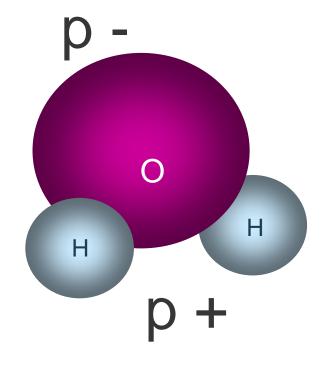
This resource characteristic map was derived from generalized statewide information at small scales, and cannot be used for any site-specific purposes.

Map source: Schmidt, R.R., 1987, Groundwater contamination susceptibility map and evaluation: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin's Groundwater Management Plan Report 5, PUBL-WR-177-87, 27 p.

Figure created for the "Protecting Wisconsin's Groundwater Through Comprehensive Planning" web site, 2007, http://wi.water.usgs.gov/gwcomp/

water basics

- > "Universal Solvent"
- ➤ Naturally has "stuff" dissolved in it.
 - Impurities depend on rocks, minerals, land-use, plumbing, packaging, and other materials that water comes in contact with.
- Can also treat water to take "stuff" out



Interpreting Drinking Water Test Results

Tests important to health:

- Bacteria
- Sodium
- Nitrate
- Copper
- Lead
- Triazine
- Zinc
- Sulfate
- Arsenic

Tests for aesthetic (taste,color,odor) problems:

- Hardness
- Iron
- Manganese
- Chloride

Other important indicator tests:

- Saturation Index
- Alkalinity
- Conductivity
- Potassium

Red = human-influenced Blue = naturally found

Health Concern Categories

Acute Effects

 Usually seen within a short time after exposure to a particular contaminant or substance.

(ex. Bacteria or viral contamination which may cause intestinal disease)

Chronic Effects

- Result from exposure to a substance over a long period of time.
- Increase risk of developing health complications later in life.

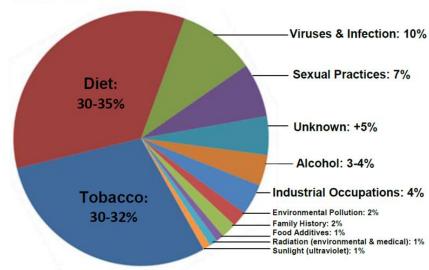
(ex. Arsenic or pesticides can increase the risk of developing certain cancers)



Chronic related health concerns are generally about risk management

National Cancer Risk Factors with Percentages





Being struck by lightning	0.16 in 1,000 chance.
0.010 mg/L of arsenic in drinking water.	3 out of 1,000 people likely to develop cancer.
2 pCi of indoor radon level.	4 out of 1,000 people likely to develop lung cancer. ¹
2 pCi of indoor radon combined with smoking.	32 out of 1,000 people could develop lung cancer.1

Drinking water quality is only one part of an individual's total risk.

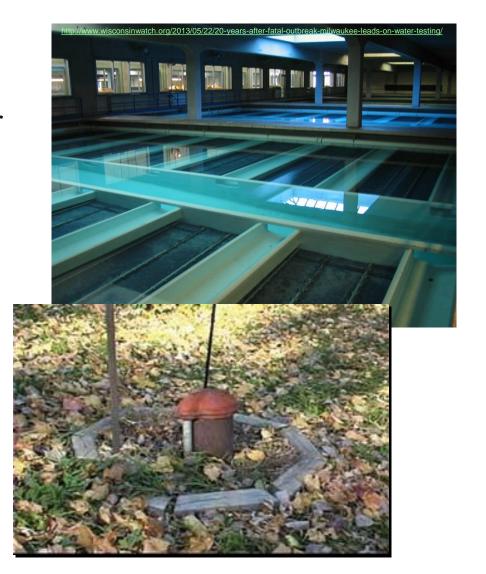
Private vs. Public Water Supplies

Public Water Supplies

 Regularly tested and regulated by drinking water standards.

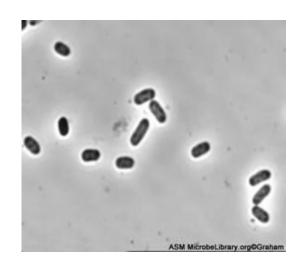
Private Wells

- Not required to be regularly tested.
- Not required to take corrective action
- Owners must take special precautions to ensure safe drinking water.



Coliform bacteria

- Generally do not cause illness, but indicate a pathway for potentially harmful microorganisms to enter your water supply.
 - Harmful bacteria and viruses can cause gastrointestinal disease, cholera, hepatitis
- Well Code: "Properly constructed well should be able to provide bacteria free water continuously without the need for treatment"
- Recommend using an alternative source of water until a test indicates your well is absent of coliform bacteria
- Sources:
 - Live in soils and on vegetation
 - Human and animal waste
 - Sampling error



Greater than or equal to 1

Present = Unsafe

Zero bacteria Absent = Safe

If coliform bacteria was detected, we also checked for e.coli bacteria test

- Confirmation that bacteria originated from a human or animal fecal source.
- E. coli are often present with harmful bacteria, viruses and parasites that can cause serious gastrointestinal illnesses.
- Any detectable level of E.coli means your water is unsafe to drink.

Contaminants	Sources	Symptoms
BACTERIA		
Escherichia coliform (E. coli) Salmonella Campylobacter E. coli 0157 (Requires a special water test for detection. Causes similar, but more serious illness than other E.coli strains. Requires medical treatment.)	Infected human and animal feces Manure Septic systems Sewage	Gastrointestinal illness Low-grade fever Begins 12 hrs - 7 days after exposure
Leptosporidia MICROSCOPIC PARASITES	Urine of livestock, dogs and wildlife Manure	High fever, severe headache and red eyes Gastrointestinal illness Begins 2-28 days after exposure
Cryptosporidia Giardia VIRUSES	Infected human and animal feces Manure Septic systems Sewage	Gastrointestinal illness Begins 2-14 days after exposure
Norovirus	Infected human feces and vomit Septic systems Sewage	Gastrointestinal illness Low-grade fever & headache Begins 12-48 hrs after exposure
Nitrate	Fertilizers Manure Bio-solids Septic systems	Methemoglobinemia or "Blue Baby Syndrome" – No documented cases in Door County, but elevated nitrate levels in well water may indicate risk of contamination by additional pathogens.
Atrazine (trade-name herbicide for control of broadleaf and grassy weeds)	Estimated to be most heavily used herbicide in the U.S. in 1987/89, with its most extensive use for corn and soybeans in the Midwest, including WI. In 1993, it became a restricted-use herbicide nationally. U.S. EPA set a max. contaminant level (MCL) at 3 parts per billion for safe drinking water.	Short-term exposure above the MCL may cause: congestion of heart, lungs and kidneys; low blood pressure; muscle spasms; weight loss; damage to adrenal glands. Long-term exposure above MCL may cause: weight loss, cardiovascular damage, retinal and some muscle degeneration; cancer.

Well Construction Defects



Is the well cap or casing cracked?

Well Construction Defects



Does your well have a verminproof cap?





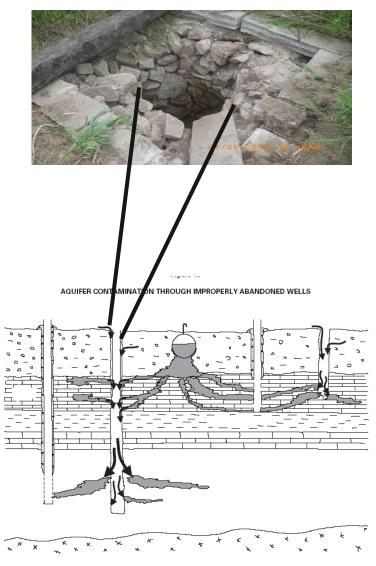
Other Well Construction Defects





- Electrical conduit not installed correctly
- Don't leash pets within 10 feet of the well
- Avoid bird feeders and other decorations directly above the well

Well Construction Defects



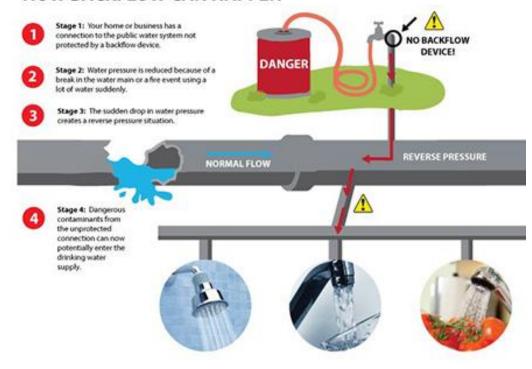
- Are there old wells on the property?
 - Wells are a direct conduit to groundwater
 - Consider having them properly filled and sealed

Well Construction Defects



Do yard hydrants, livestock waterers, and service to outbuildings have proper backflow prevention?

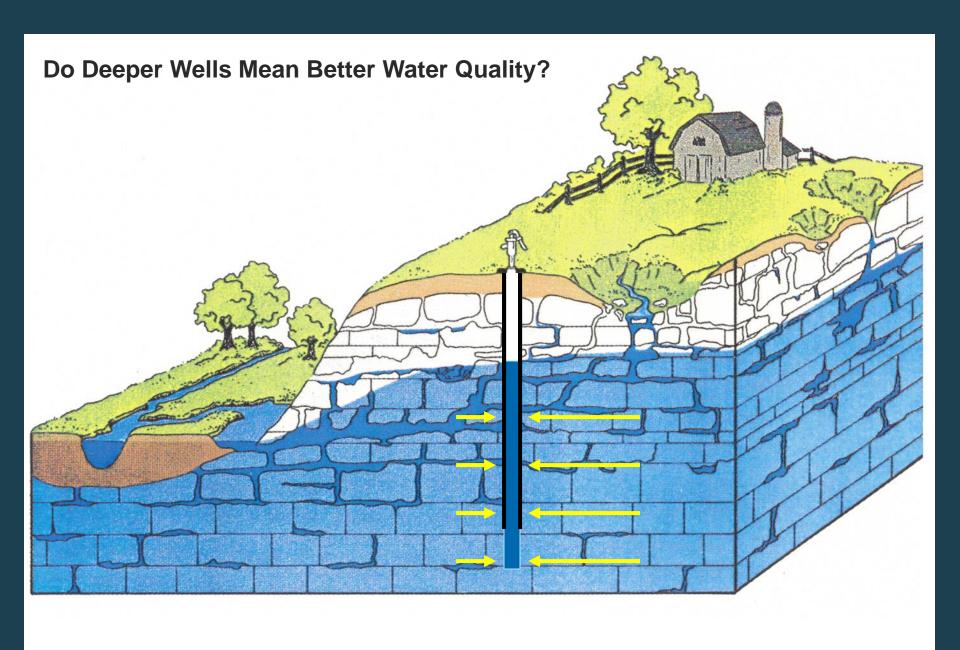
HOW BACKFLOW CAN HAPPEN



What makes a good well....



- Vermin proof cap
- Casing extends at least 12" above grade
- Area around well free and clear of debris or other obstructions
- Down spouts or runoff from driveways/other surfaces not directed towards the well



What should I do if coliform bacteria was present?

- 1. Use alternative source of water for drinking
- 2. Retest
- 3. Try to identify any sanitary defects
 - Loose or non-existent well cap
 - Well construction faults
 - A nearby unused well or pit
 - Inadequate filtration by soil
- 4. Disinfect the well
- 5. Retest to ensure well is bacteria free.
- For reoccurring bacteria problems the best solution may be a new well or if new well is unlikely to remedy the problem because of geology, may seek approval for treatment.

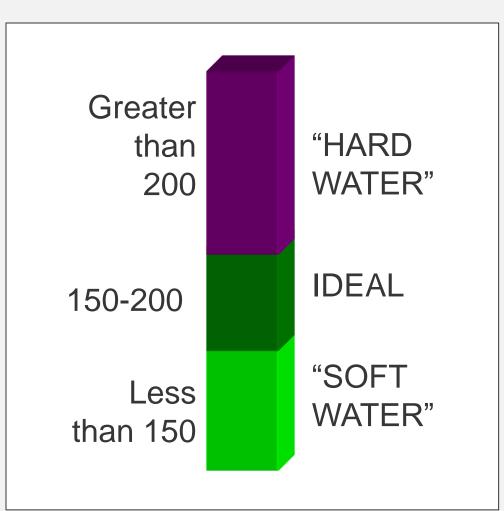


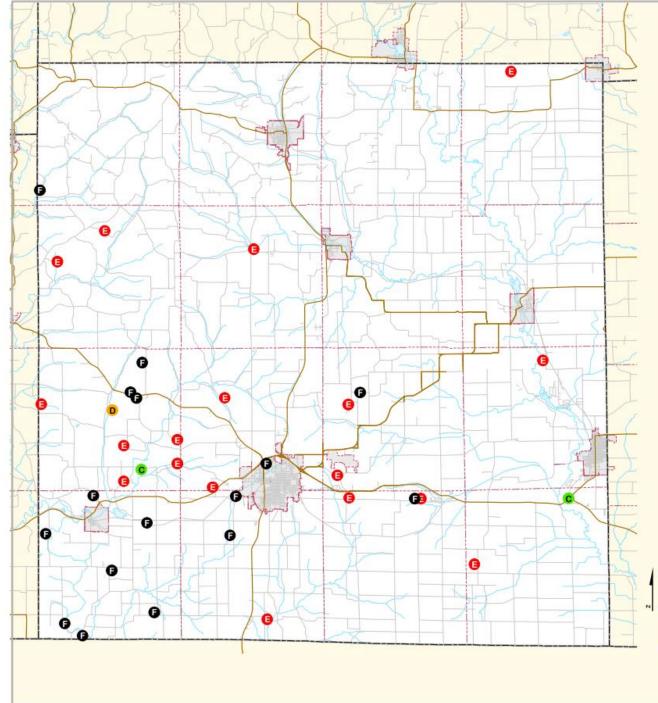
Tests for Aesthetic Problems

Hardness

- Natural (rocks and soils)
- Primarily calcium and magnesium

 Problems: scaling, scum, use more detergent, decrease water heater efficiency





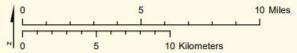
March 2024



TOTAL HARDNESS (ppm CaCO3)

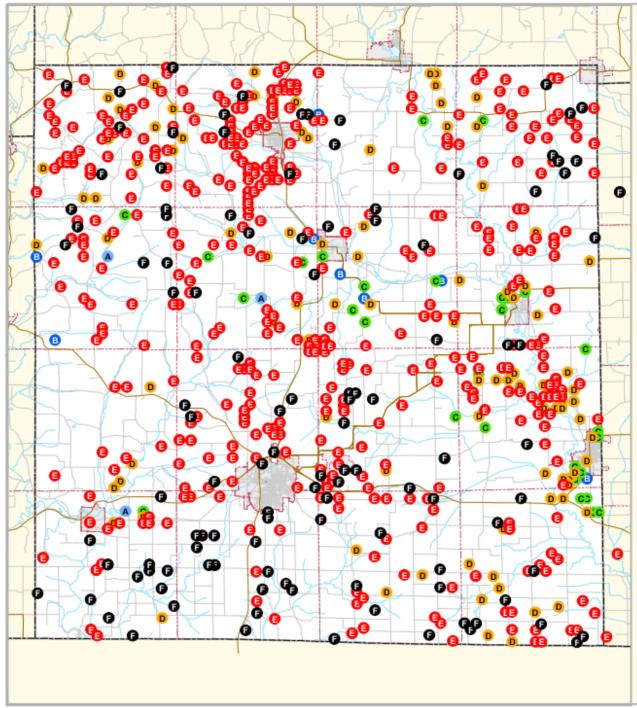
A 50	4	10%
B 51 - 100	0	0%
C 101 - 200	2	5%
D 201 - 300	1	2%
301 - 400	18	44%
6 401	16	39%

Mapped value is the average for the 1/4 1/4 section Treated samples not mapped





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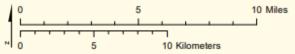
2013 - 2023



TOTAL HARDNESS (ppm CaCO3)

A 50	161	13%
3 51 - 100	21	2%
C 101 - 200	72	6%
D 201 - 300	173	14%
301 - 400	608	51%
3 401	163	14%

Mapped value is the average for the 1/4 1/4 section Treated samples not mapped



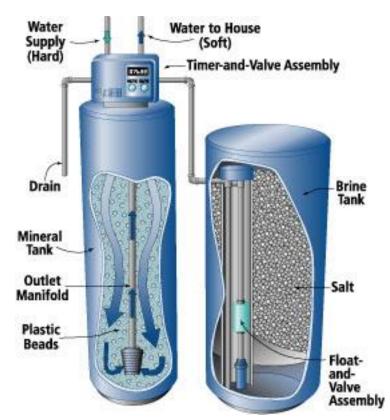


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Water Softening

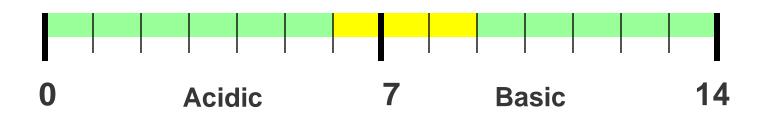
Water softeners remove calcium and magnesium which cause scaling and exchange it for sodium (or potassium).

- Negative: Increases sodium content of water.
- Suggestions:
 - Bypass your drinking water faucet.
 - Do not soften water for outdoor faucets.
 - If you are concerned about sodium levels – use potassium chloride softener salt.

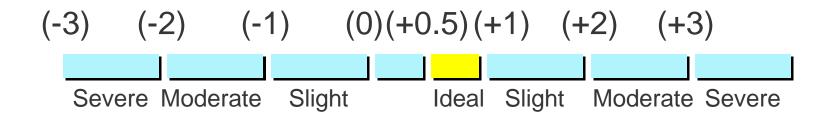


Tests for Overall Water Quality

- Alkalinity ability to neutralize acid
- Conductivity
 - Measure of total ions
 - can be used to indicate presence of contaminants (~ twice the hardness)
- pH Indicates water's acidity and helps determine if water will corrode plumbing



Tests for Overall Water Quality Saturation Index

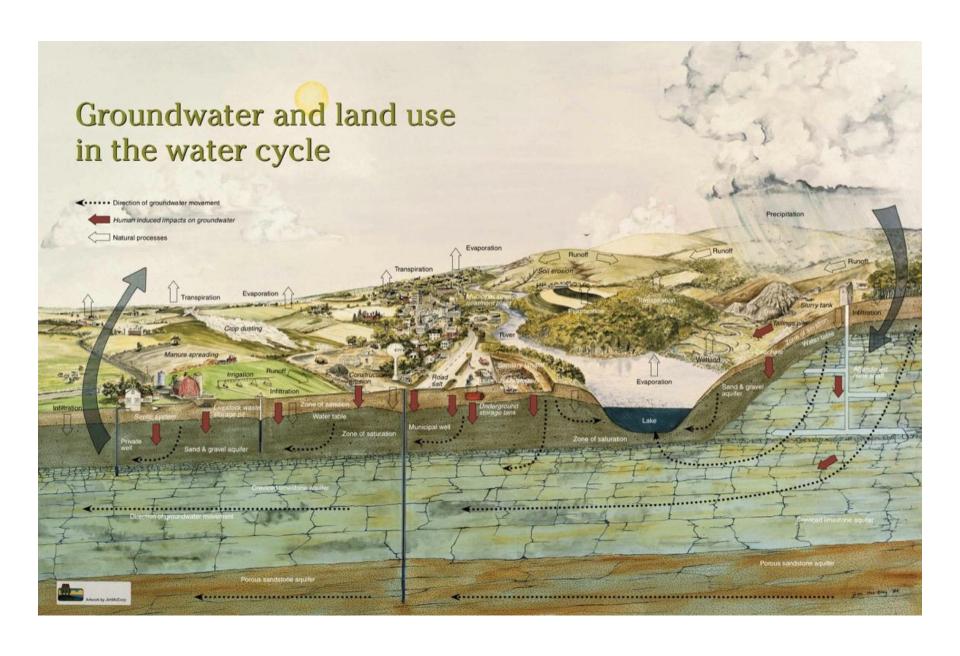


Corrosion occurs



Scaling occurs





Nitrate-Nitrogen

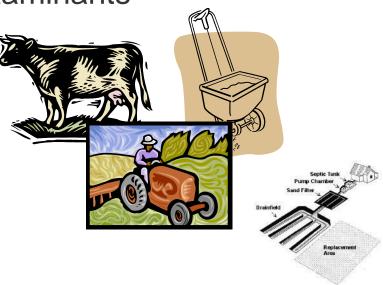
Health Effects:

- Methemoglobinemia (blue baby disease)
- Possible links to birth defects and miscarriages (humans and livestock)
- Indicator of other contaminants

Sources:

- Agricultural fertilizer
- Lawn fertilizer
- Septic systems
- Animal wastes



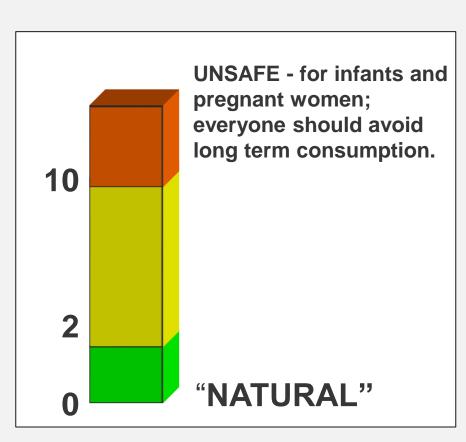


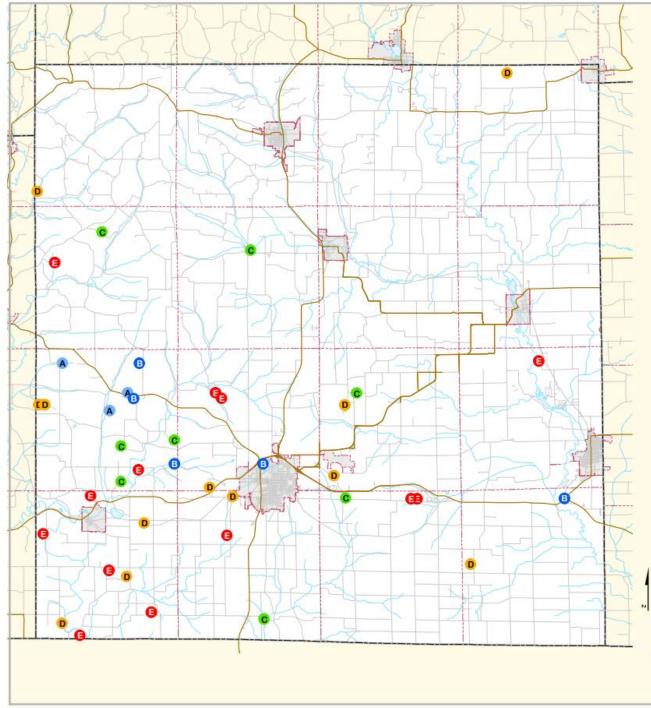
Test Important to Health

Nitrate Nitrogen

- ➤ Greater than 10 mg/L

 Exceeds State and Federal Limits
 for Drinking Water
- Between 2 and 10 mg/L
 Some Human Impact
- Less than 2.0 mg/L "Transitional"
- Less than 0.2 mg/L "Natural"





March 2024



NITRATE-NITRITE (ppm N)

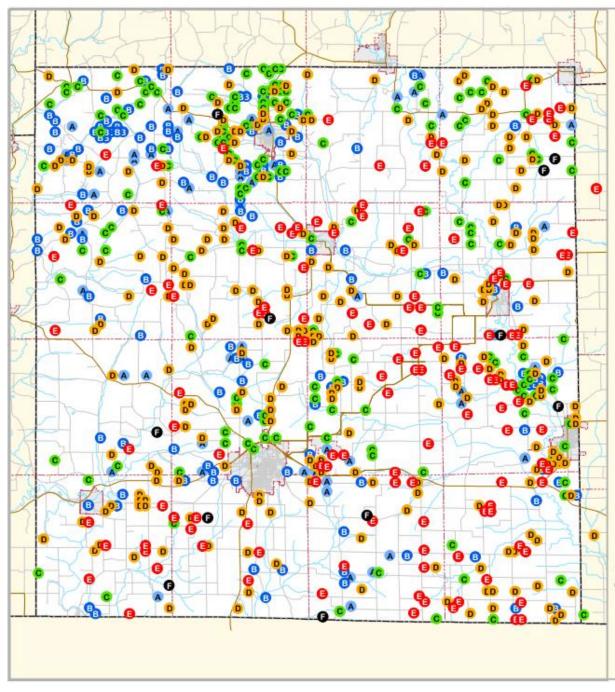
A None Detected	3	7%
3 2.0	5	12%
C 2.1 - 5.0	8	20 %
D 5.1 - 10.0	12	29 %
(3) 10.1 - 20.0	13	32 %
3 20.1	0	0%

Mapped value is the average for the 1/4 1/4 section Treated samples not mapped





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2013 - 2023



NITRATE-NITRITE (ppm N)

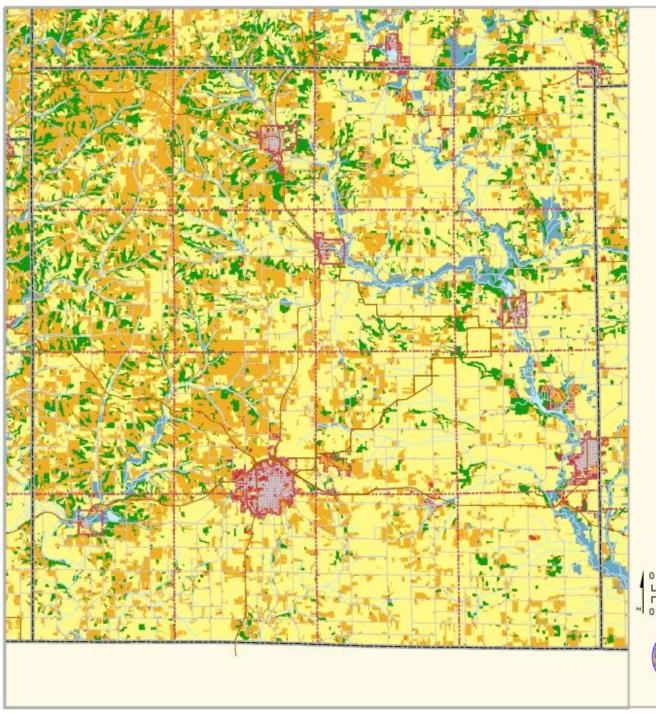
A None Detected	124	10 %
3 2.0	211	17%
C 2.1 - 5.0	289	23 %
D 5.1 - 10.0	386	31 %
(3) 10.1 - 20.0	212	17%
3 20.1	15	1%

Mapped value is the average for the 1/4 1/4 section Treated samples not mapped





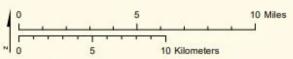
Center for Watershed Science and Education College of Natural Resources University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point



2013 - 2023



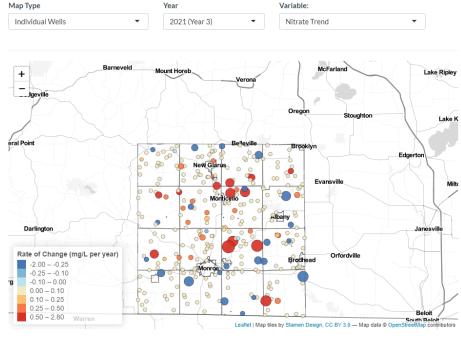






Nitrate Trends

Green County Well Water Monitoring Project









Center for Watershed Science and Education in partnership with Green County Created by: Kevin Masarik, Abby Johnson, Grant Moser, and Jennifer Dierauer Last modified: February 16, 2023. Contact us for questions ABOUT the Project LEARN about Tests LEARN about other Variables EXPLORE project data

Overview

Green County is conducting a five-year project to gather information on well water quality. The water quality data collected is intended to understand whether groundwater quality is changing over time. This project has established a network of private well owners to perform annual testing for a period of five years.

- 2019 348 well owners participated in Year 1
- 2020 323 well owners participated in Year 2
- 2021 307 well owners participated in Year 3
- 2022 294 well owners participated in Year 4

The information collected through these efforts will be used to analyze where and what factors may be contributing to any changes in groundwater quality observed over time. The well network is intended to be representative of Green County (i.e. accounting for the wide variety of geology, soils, land-use, and well construction found throughout the area).

Using the Map

Map Type

Individual Wells: When individual wells are selected, this map view allows you to see the water quality test results for each well that was sampled. The well points are approximate locations in order to protect the privacy of participants. Clicking on the points will provide the water quality result for whichever test is selected.

Municipality: When the municipality view is selected, the map displays the average concentration for each of the water quality tests conducted. Clicking on the municipality will provide summary statistics by town.

Year

This drop down menu allows you to see results from different years. Additional data will be made available as the project progresses.

Variable

This drop down menu switches allows you to view the different analytes or various attributes associated with the wells according to the different analytes or various attributes associated with the wells are the different analytes or various attributes associated with the wells are the different analytes or various attributes associated with the wells are the different analytes or various attributes associated with the wells are the different analytes or various attributes associated with the wells are the different analytes or various attributes as a sociated with the wells are the different analytes or various attributes as a sociated with the wells are the different analytes or various attributes as a sociated with the wells are the different analytes or various attributes as a sociated with the wells are the different analytes or various attributes as a sociated with the well are the different analytes of the different analytes are the different a

LEARN about tests

Samples are analyzed for nitrate-nitrogen, chloride, alkalinity, total hardness, pH, and conductivity. Nitrate and chloride are useful for understanding the degree to which groundwater has been affected by human activities. Click on the 'LEARN about tests' tab To learn more about the specific tests and what they tell us about groundwater.

LEARN about other variables

Other attributes associated with the well construction or land use are can be useful for understanding what factors may be influencing well water quality. Other variables include: Percent Agriculture, Percent Dairy Rotation, Percent Row Crops, Percent Hay/Pasture, Uppermost Bedrock Type, and Casing Depth Below the Water Table. Click on the 'LEARN about other variables' tab To learn more about other variables and what they tell us about groundwater.

What can I do to reduce my nitrate levels?

Solution:

Eliminate contamination source or reduce nitrogen inputs

Short term:

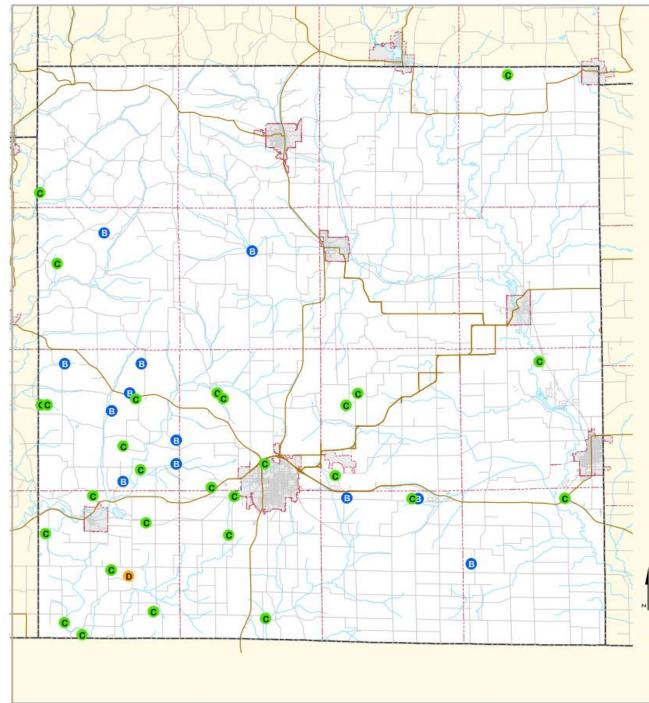
- Change well depth or relocate well
- Carry or buy water
- Water treatment devices
 - Reverse osmosis
 - Distillation
 - Anion exchange

Tests for Aesthetic Problems

Chloride

- Greater than 250 mg/l
 - No direct effects on health
 - Salty taste
 - Exceeds recommended level
- Greater than 10 mg/l may indicate human impact
- Less than 10 mg/l considered "natural" in much of WI
- Sources: Fertilizers, Septic Systems and Road Salt

250 mg/l Less than 10 mg/l



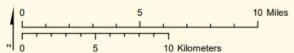
March 2024



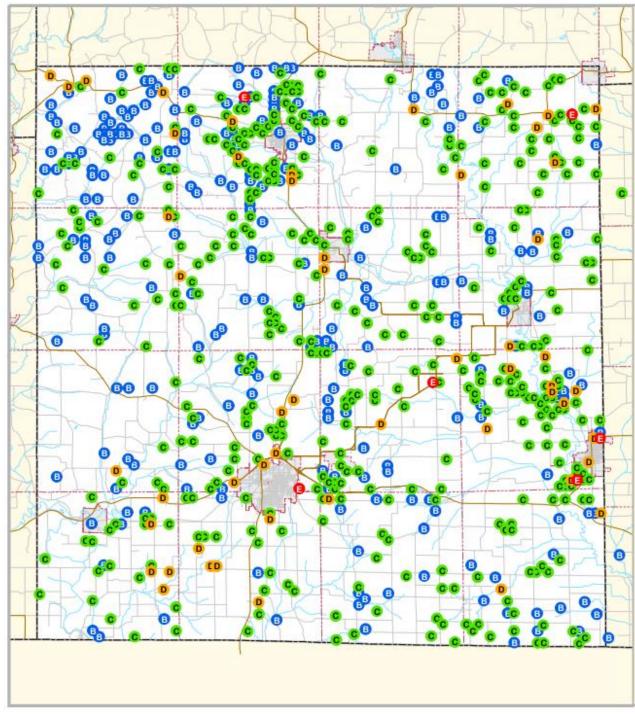
CHLORIDE (ppm)

A None Detected	0	0%
B 10	12	29 %
© 11 - 50	28	68 %
D 51 - 100	1	2%
(3) 101 - 200	0	0%
3 201	0	0%

Mapped value is the average for the 1/4 1/4 section Treated samples not mapped







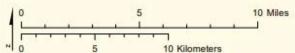
2013 - 2023



CHLORIDE (ppm)

A None Detected	2	<1 %
3 10	437	36 %
C 11 - 50	644	54 %
D 51 - 100	101	8%
(3 101 - 200	17	1%
3 201	0	0%

Mapped value is the average for the 1/4 1/4 section Treated samples not mapped





Test Important to Health

Arsenic

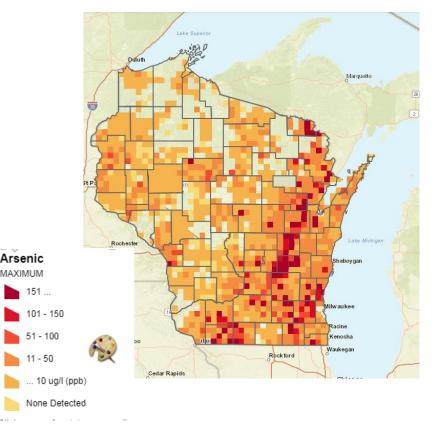
Sources: Naturally occurring in

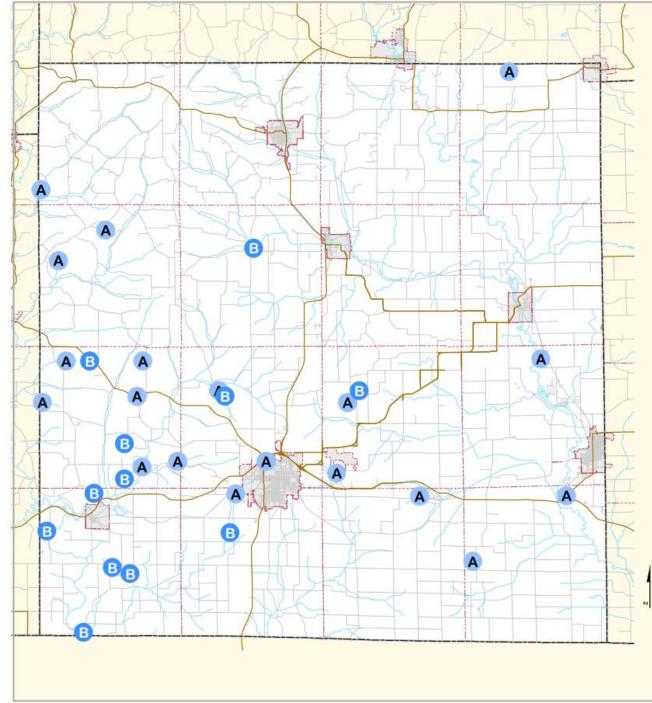
mineral deposits

Standard: 0.010 mg/L (10 ppb)

Health Effects:

- Increased risk of skin cancers as well as lung, liver, bladder, kidney, and colon cancers.
- Circulatory disorders
- Stomach pain, nausea, diarrhea
- Unusual skin pigmentation





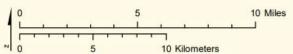
March 2024



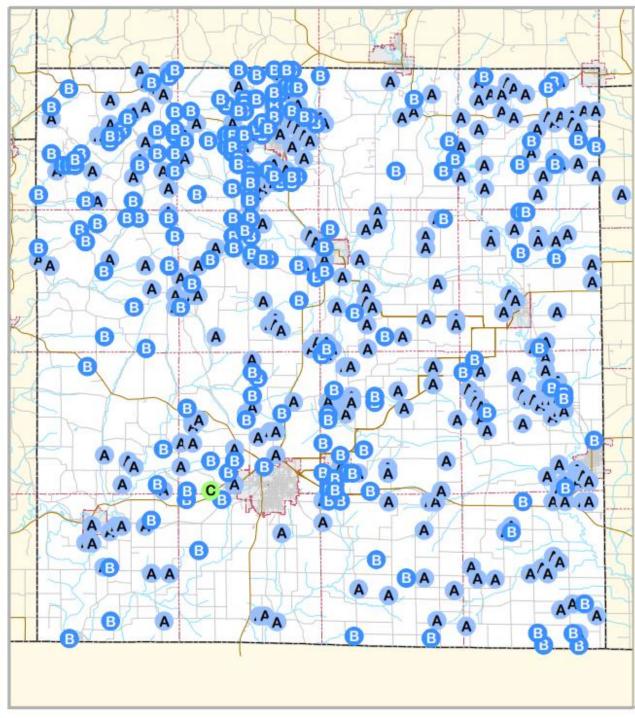
ARSENIC (mg/l)

A None Detected	21	64 %
3 0.010	12	36%
C 0.011 - 0.050	0	0%
D 0.051 - 0.100	0	0%
(3 0.101 - 0.150	0	0%
3 0.151	0	0%

Mapped value is the average for the 1/4 1/4 section Treated samples not mapped







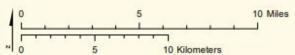
2013 - 2023



ARSENIC (mg/l)

A None Detected	390	61 %
3 0.010	243	38 %
C 0.011 - 0.050	6	<1 %
D 0.051 - 0.100	0	0%
(3 0.101 - 0.150	0	0%
6 0.151	0	0%

Mapped value is the average for the 1/4 1/4 section Treated samples not mapped





Tests for Aesthetic Problems

Iron

- Natural (rocks and soils)
- May benefit health
- Red and yellow stains on clothing, fixtures
- If iron present, increases potential for iron bacteria
 - · Slime, odor, oily film



Greater than 0.3 mg/L

Aesthetic problems likely

Less than 0.3 mg/L

Test Important to Health

Copper

- Sources: Copper water pipes
- Standard: Less than 1.3 mg/L is suitable for drinking



Health Effects:

- Some copper is needed for good health
- Too much may cause problems:
 - · Stomach cramps, diarrhea,
 - vomiting, nausea
 - · Formula intolerance in infants

Test Important to Health

Lead

Sources: Lead solder joining copper pipes (pre-1985) or brass fixtures

Standard: 0.015 mg/L (15 ppb)

Health Effects:

- Young children, infants and unborn children are particularly vulnerable.
- Lead may damage the brain, kidneys, nervous system, red blood cells, reproductive system.



Lead and Copper

Solutions:

- Allow water to run for a minute or two before using for drinking or cooking
- Use a treatment device, but generally not necessary



Pesticides in Drinking Water

- Pesticides include: insecticides, herbicides, fungicides and other substances used to control pests.
- Health standards usually only account for parent compound.
- Parent compounds breakdown over time.
- Little research into health effects from the combination of chemicals..



Most frequently detected pesticides in Wisconsin:

- Alachlor* and its chemical breakdown products
- Metolachlor and its chemical breakdown products
- Atrazine** and its chemical breakdown products
- Metribuzin
- Cyanazine and its chemical breakdown products.

Tests Important to Health

DACT Screen

Sources: Triazine pesticides (mainly atrazine used on corn crops)

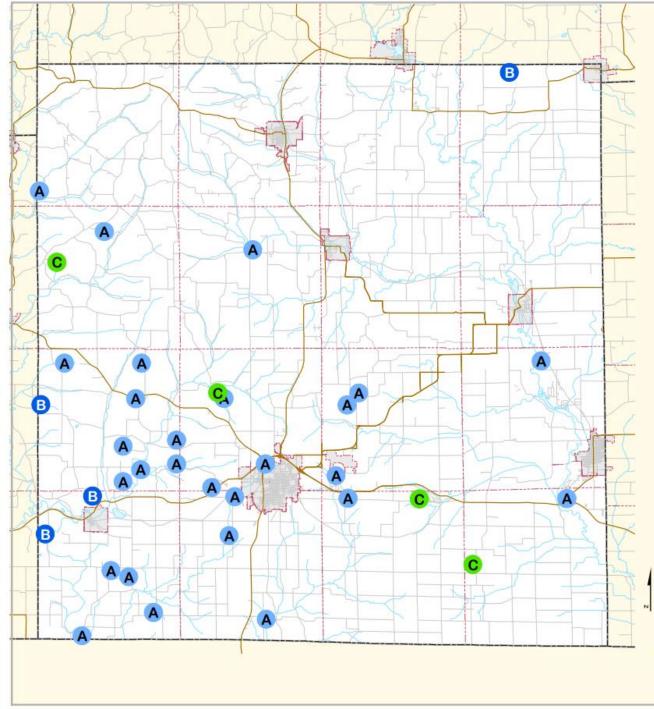
DACT Screen: Only measures the diaminochlorotriazine (DACT) residue levels of triazine type pesticides (atrazine, simazine, propazine, cyanazine, etc)

Specific to diaminochlorotriazine (DACT), does not account for parent compound or other breakdown components

Drinking water limit:

• **3 ppb of total atrazine** (atrazine + the 3 breakdown components)





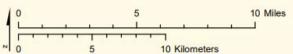
March 2024



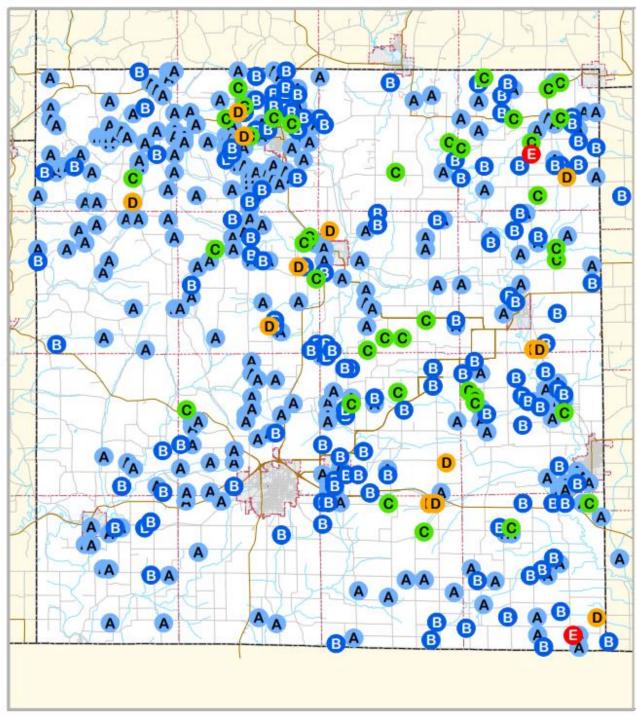
DACT (ug/l)

27	77%
4	11 %
4	11 %
0	0%
0	0%
0	0%
	4 4 0 0

Mapped value is the maximum for the 1/4 1/4 section Treated samples not mapped







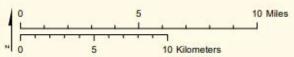
2013 - 2023



DACT (ug/l)

A None Detected	368	62 %
3 0.3	165	28 %
C 0.4 - 1.0	48	8%
D 1.1 - 2.0	13	2%
3.1 - 3.0	2	<1 %
3 .1	0	0%

Mapped value is the maximum for the 1/4 1/4 section Treated samples not mapped





Improving water quality

Long-term improvements

Eliminate sources of contamination

Short-term improvements

- Repair or replace existing well
- Connect to public water supply or develop community water system
- Purchase bottled water for drinking and cooking
- Install a water treatment device
 - Often the most convenient and cost effective solution

Where do you go from here: Recommended next steps

- Test well annually for bacteria, or if water changes color or clarity.
- Consider testing annually for nitrate, particularly if your levels are approaching 10 mg/L.
- If your nitrate level was greater than 5 mg/L consider testing for pesticides
- If you haven't checked for arsenic consider testing.
- If arsenic was present, test again in 15 months to see if levels have changed significantly.

Operating your private water utility:

- Periodically inspect and maintain the area around your well
- Test your water regularly to evaluate common water quality concerns
- If necessary, take corrective actions*



Contact Info:

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Thanks to you and the following for helping sponsor this program:

- Green County Extension
 - Towns of Cadiz
 - Town of Clarno
 - Town of Jordan
 - Town of Monroe



