

Appendix D: Safe Water for the Future Web Site

Award-winning Purdue Extension Web site promotes drinking water protection

Hoosiers looking for ways to protect their water supplies can start by visiting Purdue's "Safe Water for the Future" Web site, which recently won a blue ribbon from a national agricultural engineering Educational Aids competition. Information on the site can help rural homeowners protect water from private wells and can help communities safeguard drinking water from public wells or reservoirs.

You'll find the site at <http://www.ecn.purdue.edu/SafeWater>. It's divided into four main sections.



Farm*A*Syst and Home*A*Syst

Farmers and homeowners can use the Farm*A*Syst or Home*A*Syst self-assessment programs to identify and reduce potential environmental problems and risks to drinking water. You'll find assessment materials and fact sheets at this site. The assessments ask questions such as "Has it been more than three years since your drinking water was tested for contaminants?" "Do you store fuel or oil in an underground tank?" and "Has it been more than three years since your septic tank was inspected?" Fact sheets provide best management practices. Assistance is available by email or telephone from the Coordinator, or by contacting your local Purdue Extension office.

Wellhead protection

Indiana communities that use ground water for their drinking water must complete a wellhead protection program by the year 2002. The Indiana Wellhead Protection Rule that requires this presents a particular challenge to small community water suppliers. This Web site describes each required component of a wellhead protection plan and links to publications that provide more detail.

Watershed protection


More than 50 communities in Indiana use surface water (reservoirs or rivers) for their drinking water. This site includes an overview of local water-related issues and resources for educators, county government, planning commissions and citizen groups. It includes watershed maps for each public water supply system that uses surface water. It also has information on *E. coli* contamination, and the effects of land use change on water quality.

Drinking Water Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Because many of you ask questions related to water testing and treatment, we've listed some frequently asked questions (and our answers) on these issues. Questions include "What contaminants should I be concerned about in my drinking water?", "Where can I get my water tested in Indiana?", and "Is bottled water safer than tap water?"

Safe Water for the Future - Netscape
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Bookmarks Location <http://www.ecn.purdue.edu/SafeWater/index2.htm> What's Related

- Safe Water Home
- Wellhead Protection
- Watershed Protection
- Farm*A*Syst Home*A*Syst
- Drinking Water FAQs
- Publications
- Contact Us
- Safe Water for Kids!
- Links



Safe Water for the Future focuses on protecting the water that Indiana citizens use for drinking. Besides ensuring that today's water supply is clean and safe, protective action we take today can also help ensure that future generations will have a plentiful supply of safe drinking water.

Safe Water for the Future is an education program of [Purdue Extension](#). It focuses on helping both communities and individuals protect water supplies and the environment through understanding risks and taking actions to prevent problems.

Safe Water for the Future provides information on four main topics related to water quality protection: [wellhead protection](#), [watershed protection](#), [protecting home well water quality](#), and general [drinking water information](#).

Helping Hoosiers protect their drinking water

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Indiana Farmstead Assessment System - Netscape


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Bookmarks Location <http://www.ecn.purdue.edu/CEM/Water/farmstead/farm.htm> Who's Online

Indiana Farmstead Assessment System



"The biggest lesson to come out of this was understanding all the things that can impact water quality. I raised my awareness of how my activities on the farm affect my own drinking water. I recommend this program to everyone." - Clinton County Grain and Hog Farmer





The [introductory worksheet 'Basic Questions'](#) (available in pdf format) provides an overview of the Farm*A*Syst program and help guide you to specific Farmstead surveys.

Farm*A*Syst consists of a set of surveys and worksheets on eleven areas of your farm that could present water quality issues.

Each survey will take from 15 - 30 minutes to complete. You are encouraged to develop an action plan for any activities that you identify as high risk. Helpful contact information for technical questions is provided in each survey companion information sheet. Take time today to ensure safe water for future!

 [Drinking water well](#)
 [Livestock waste storage](#)

 [Pesticide storage and handling](#)
 [Livestock yard management](#)

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Home Assessment System - The Home Assessment System - Netscape

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Bookmarks Location <http://www.ecn.purdue.edu/CEM/Water/farmstead/farm.htm> Who's Online


Personal Toolbar

Home*A*Syst

The Home Assessment System, also known as Home*A*Syst, is a pollution prevention tool that you and your family can use to ensure the safety and health of your home environment, while also making sure that your water supply is protected from contamination. The Home*A*Syst guide contains chapters full of relevant and easy to use information in making your home and environment safe and healthy.

Home*A*Syst provides tools to evaluate your home in the following areas:


- Drinking water
- Stormwater management
- Household wastewater
- Hazardous household products
- Lead
- Lawns and gardens
- Fuel storage
- Household waste
- Indoor air quality



[Links for Home*A*Syst Topics](#)

Online Tutorials, developed by Purdue University and EPA, provide more information on the following topics:

[Well Water Location & Condition](#)



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Drinking Water Information - Netscape

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Bookmarks Location <http://www.ecn.purdue.edu/SAFE/Water/DrinkInfo/index.htm> What's Related

Drinking Water Information

How much do you know about the water you drink? Check out the following links to find information on your drinking water questions.

- [What are the contaminants I should be concerned about in my drinking water?](#)
- [Where can I get my water tested in Indiana?](#)
- [Is bottled water safer?](#)
- [What kind of water filters are available and which one is right for me?](#)
- [We have a private well. What are some things we can do to protect our drinking water?](#)
- [Our home is in farm country. Should we be worried about our drinking water?](#)
- [How should I store water for emergencies?](#)
- [We get our drinking water from a public water system. How can I find out about the water quality?](#)



Information about all sorts of drinking water topics is available through the EPA publication "Water on Tap" or at the EPA Web page "[Drinking Water and Health: What You Need to Know](#)".

- **Safe Water Home**
- **Wellhead Protection**
- **Watershed Protection**
- **Farm*A*Syst Home*A*Syst**
- **Drinking Water FAQs**
- **Contact**

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We have a private well. What are some things we can do to protect our drinking water? - Netscape

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Bookmarks Location <http://www.ecn.purdue.edu/SAFE/Water/DrinkInfo/private.htm> What's Related

We have a private well. What are some things we can do to protect our drinking water?

Living in a rural area can mean taking on more personal responsibility in many areas of life. One of those includes your private well that provides your drinking water. Since no other agency is responsible, it is up to you to maintain and protect your well. At the very minimum you should:

- [Test annually](#) for nitrates and bacteria. A pesticide screening can also give you useful information.
- You should also test at least once for Lead.
- Make sure your well is properly constructed with no cracks in the well casing.
- You should maintain safe distances from your well to other potential contaminant sources such as your septic system and fuel storage.
- Maintain your septic system by having it inspected and pumped every three to five years.
- Take a few hours today to complete either the [Home*A*Syst](#) or [Indiana Farmstead Assessment program](#).

These programs will help you answer many questions, including those above. Both programs are a service of Purdue Extension for you to use in protecting your drinking water and keeping your home safe and healthy.



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