

The Network News

A Newsletter for the SE MN Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Network

SE MN Water Resources Board • <http://news.winona.edu/semnwrbl/> • Phone (507) 328-7051

2018 Sample Kits Have Been Mailed Out

RMB Laboratories collecting samples for 2018 Season

By now all enrolled participants in the Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Network should have received their sample kits for the 2018 sampling round. You may have noticed this year that we have used a new lab to run the samples. RMB Environmental Laboratories was selected to assist in our sampling efforts due to staff changes at our usual lab, Southeastern Minnesota Water Analysis Laboratory.

Late this summer RMB Labs sent out notices to all volunteers to inform you of the change in laboratory to avoid any confusion. Sample kits were mailed out the first week of September.

If you have not sent in your sample kit yet please send them back in the self-addressed envelopes to RMB Lab no later than November 1st. This year we will not be able to accept samples submitted after our cutoff date.

Have you received multiple requests for water samples from your well?

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is currently in the processes of conducting a separate study to assess nitrate-nitrogen concentrations in private wells at the township scale as part of the state's Nitrogen

Fertilizer Management Plan. The well sample you submit for this study is separate from the Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Network study, but your participation in both studies is greatly appreciated.

If you reside in Houston County you may receive a sample request from the MDA in 2018. In 2019, Mower County residents may receive a sample request for the Township Testing Program.

For more information on this program please visit <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/townshiptesting> or contact your local well network coordinator.

The Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Network is a low-cost, sustainable means of obtaining long-term trend data for nitrate occurrence in private drinking water supply wells.

2017 Sampling results

In 2017, 341 private drinking water wells were sampled for nitrate - nitrogen throughout the nine participating counties in SE MN. Below is a summary of those sample results.

- 68.9% were < 3 mg/L
- 21.1% were 3<10 mg/L
- 10.0% were ≥10 mg/L

Wells testing at or over 10mg/L are over the state's Health Risk Limit and should not be consumed. If nitrate is detected in your water, there may be other contaminants in the water as well. The MN Dept. of Health website outlines steps that should be taken for

these well owners which can be found here:
<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/contaminants/nitrate.html#Protect>

Wells with results in the range of 3 to 10 mg/L are considered impacted but safe for drinking; the water is above natural levels of nitrate but below the Health Risk Limit. Groundwater in this range is being impacted by activities on the land surface.

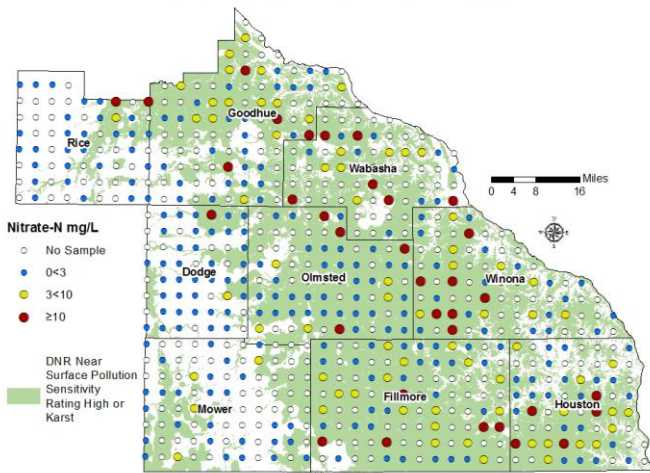
For more information on the 2017 results or past results please visit the Minnesota Department of Agriculture’s website at:

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/southeast-minnesota-volunteer-nitrate-monitoring-network>.

Volunteer Appreciation Event

Unfortunately, the annual volunteer appreciation event scheduled in June was canceled due to a low number of RSVPs received. We do apologize to those that RSVP’d and appreciate your understanding. We are hoping to hold multiple local events next year so more volunteers will be able to attend. These events are a great opportunity to meet other volunteers, enjoy a snack, and learn how our testing results are being used.

Southeast Minnesota Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Network 2017 Results



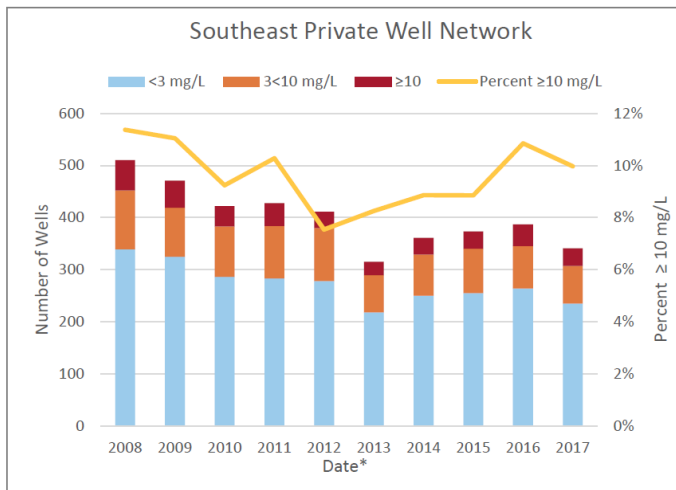
Questions?

If you have any questions about this program, please feel free to call your County Well Network Coordinator or the SE MN Water Resources Board

County Well Network Coordinator:

- Dodge County: 507-635-6273
- Fillmore County: 507-765-3878 Ext 3
- Goodhue County: 651-923-5286
- Houston County: 507-724-5261
- Mower County: 507-434-2603
- Olmsted County: 507-328-6396
- Rice County: 507-333-3871
- Wabasha County: 651-565-4673
- Winona County: 507-457-6522
- SE MN Water Resources Board:
507-328-7051

Southeast Private Well Network



*In 2008 and 2009, 2 samples were taken per year. The Fall sampling is represented for the purpose of consistency.