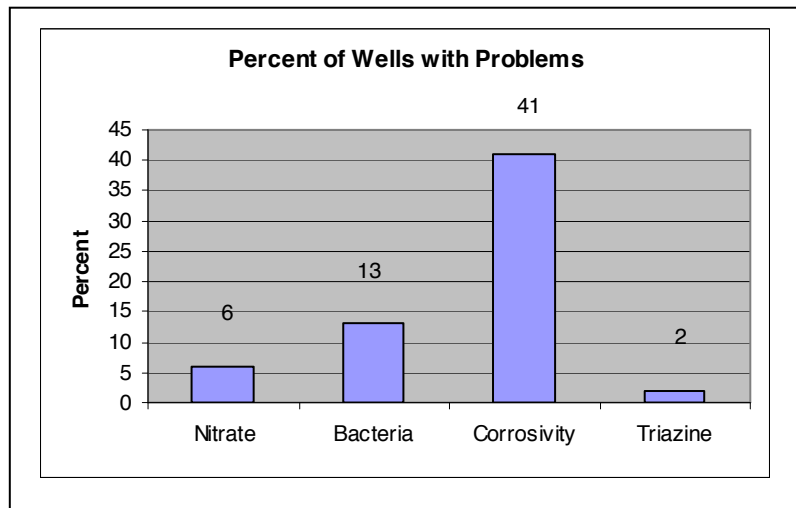


Private Well Owners are Responsible for Testing Their Own Water Quality



Key Facts

- 6% of 2,454 wells tested in Wood County since 1997 have exceeded the safe level for nitrates.
- 13% of 2,833 wells in Wood County since 1997 tested positive for bacteria.
- 41% of wells tested in Wood County since 1997 tested positive for corrosivity.
- Triazine was detected in 2% of 828 wells tested in Wood County.
- Contact your Health Department, Extension Office or Water Utility for information on testing your drinking water.

Why is the Information Important?

Many Wood County residents rely on private wells to provide water for household use. Healthy water affects our quality of life.

Private Wells

The exact number of private wells in Wood County is unknown. Since 1988, at least 4,000 new wells have been drilled for private use. Additional wells have been installed using driven points. It is estimated that over 15,000 wells exist in the county.

Nitrate problems are more common in areas with sandy soils, shallow water tables, intense crop fertilization or closely spaced septic systems. Bacteria problems occur more frequently in wells with mechanical problems such as a cracked casing or a missing cap or vent cover. Corrosive water occurs in sandy areas and can cause leaky pipes. Triazine is a herbicide found in agricultural areas.

Well constructors are required by state code to sample for bacteria from new wells and to report when a well is entered for repair or maintenance. Testing of wells installed by private individuals is voluntary. Testing programs are also available through local and county agencies.

Sources: Wisconsin DNR; Central Wisconsin Groundwater Center, Wells tested since 1997