

## York Countians Should Check Water

**YORK (York Co.)** — Is your drinking water safe? Maybe not, especially if you have your own well.

Data from previous York County tests show that 14 percent of private wells are contaminated with bacteria and 14 percent are above standards for nitrate.

Find out for sure what's in your water. Participate in Cooperative Extension's Educational Water Testing Program and get your testing done at reduced rates. Water

testing can cost less than a trip to the doctor.

Who needs to test their water supply? Every household drawing water from their own well. If you don't test your own water, no one else will either.

You should test your water once a year and any time repair work is done on your well or pump. Testing is especially important if there has been earth disturbance near your home or you live in an area prone to sinkholes.

If you have a disinfection unit, you may want to consider testing the treated water to be sure that the equipment is working.

Three groups of tests will be provided this year. Group one is a bare minimum test that includes coliform bacteria and nitrate. Group two is a recommended set of tests for coliform bacteria, nitrate, lead, pH, and total dissolved solids. Group three is a recommended series of tests to be done once every three years or so. It

includes coliform bacteria, nitrate, lead, pH, total dissolved solids, chloride, and sulfate.

Coliform bacteria indicates the potential presence of disease-causing organisms. They originate from soil, sewage, or manure. Nitrate is of concern when infants under six months drink the water. Nitrate enters the groundwater from heavily fertilized areas such as farm fields, home lawns, or septic systems.

Lead at high levels in the blood affects nerves, kidneys, and the brain. Children absorb more of the lead in their diet than adults do. Lead comes primarily from solder joints in copper pipe. pH measures the acidity of the water and is a measure of the tendency of water

to corrode plumbing.

Total dissolved solids is useful for keeping track of the overall quality of the water. It is related to hardness, taste, and corrosion tendencies. Chloride is also related to long-term changes in quality. Sources include highway runoff, sewage, and manure. Sulfate can affect the taste and odor of water.

Test kits can be purchased at the York County Cooperative Extension Office during the week of May 6-10 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Water samples will need to be returned by noon on May 14.

For more information, contact the extension office at 112 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402, (717) 757-9657.

## Association Elects Officers



These Angus breeders were elected as officers and directors of the West Virginia Angus Association at the group's annual meeting. Seated from left are officers Patrick Leggett, West Union, reporter; Oscar Wallace Jr., Ripley, vice president; Thomas Simmons, Franklin, president; Don Peterson, Horner, secretary; and Clark Taylor, Buckhannon, treasurer. Standing left to right are directors Doris Bonner, Kerens; John Spiker, Jane Lew; Richard Niehaus, Cameron; Byron Duncil, Worthington; Dale Thayer, Walton; M.R. McClung, Morgantown; and Byron Tuckwiller, Lewisburg.

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