

# Does your Drinking Water have Nitrates?

## Get your well water tested !

Todd County Soil and Water Conservation District (Todd SWCD) is hosting a Nitrate Clinic to provide free nitrate testing of well water. The testing will determine if Nitrates are present in your drinking water.

### FREE NITRATE WATER TESTING CLINIC

**DATES:** Thursday, August 15 9:00 to 4:00

Friday, August 16 9:00 to 4:00

**WHERE:** Todd County Soil and Water Office  
215 1<sup>st</sup> Ave S, STE 104, Long Prairie

**PHONE:** 320-732-2644 – Mon-Fri – 8:00 -4:30



### HOW TO TAKE A WATER SAMPLE



Water Samples should be collected after the tap has been left running for 5 minutes. With the faucet running, collect the water in a clean plastic sandwich bag or plastic/glass container. **Collect one cup of water no more than 24-hours before the test will be completed.** Keep water refrigerated until the clinic. If your house uses water treatment equipment other than a softener, it is recommended to take a sample before and after treatment to determine if your treatment system is working properly. Water softeners will have no effect on the level of nitrates in your water. Samples will be analyzed on the spot. The process usually takes less than 5 minutes, and results will be given directly to the customer during their visit.

### HOW OFTEN SHOULD I TEST MY WATER?

At a minimum, check your well every Spring to make sure there are no mechanical problems; test it once each year for a total coliform bacteria, nitrates, total dissolved solids, and pH levels. If you suspect other contaminants, you should test for those all well. However, spend time ahead identifying potential problems as these tests can be expensive. The best way to start is to consult a local expert, such as the local health department, about local contaminants of concern. You should also have your well tested if:

- There are known problems with well water in your area
- You have experience problems near your well (i.e. Flooding, land disturbances)
- You replace or repair any part of your well system
- You notice change in water quality (i.e. taste, color, odor)

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/private/wells/testing.htm>