



**Free Drinking Well Water Sampling!!
Bring your samples to the St. Clair Conservation Districts'
MAEAP Table at the St. Clair Earth Fair April 24th and 25th**

The St. Clair / Sanilac Conservation Districts, the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) and Michigan Department of Agriculture Rural Development will sponsor a free domestic drinking water well screening during the St. Clair Earth Fair, April 24th and 25th. Those that wish to have their **domestic** well water tested free of charge can bring water samples to the MAEAP Table at the Earth Fair (next to the tree sale).

Samples from drinking water wells will be screened for **nitrate** and **nitrite**. The screening is open to everyone who uses a personal well for drinking water. Information and forms should be filled out **in advance** and are available at: the St. Clair and Sanilac Conservation District offices and online at www.sanilaccd.org.

This service is for **private drinking water wells only. Public water supplies are tested regularly.** Please do not bring samples from public water supplies or non-drinking water sources. Only drinking water well samples will be tested. You do not have to use a special bottle for this screening. Any small clean jar (free of any contaminants) will work—one ounce of water is enough.

Please follow the directions below to sample your well. Collect samples just before getting them to the sample drop-off. Samples must be **less than 48 hours old** for a valid nitrate result.

1. Fill out the water Sample Information Sheet.
2. Pick a tap that supplies water that has not run through any treatment devices (water softener, carbon filter, etc.). An outdoor faucet often works well.
3. Run the water for 20-30 minutes before collecting the sample. This will give the pump time to flush the water pressure tank and plumbing so you can collect a valid sample. Disconnect any hoses before collecting the sample; do not sample through a hose. Rinse the sample bottle and lid thoroughly in the water to be sampled; then fill and cap the bottle. (Make sure you have a clean bottle free from any possible residues).
4. Label the bottle clearly with your name, the sampling date, and the well name (cottage well, Mom's well, etc.) using a waterproof pen- if sampling more than one well. Put the sample information sheet into a waterproof bag, and then seal the water sample and the information into a second waterproof bag (to avoid possible spillage in your car).
5. Keep the sample dark and cool until it is dropped off.

All results are confidential. You will get your results onsite at our table, as information on what to do should nitrite or nitrates show up in your drinking water. If your farm is perusing a MAEAP verification and you bring your water samples in for screening and no Nitrates are detected you may be exempt from having to pay for Nitrate sampling at the State Lab. Ask MAEAP Technician, Kyle, for more details.

Please fill out our **Sample Information Sheet completely** and bring it with your water sample to the drop-off. You can get more information from any of our Staff members at the Sanilac Conservation District Office at 810.648.2998 x5, at the St. Clair CD office 810.984.3001 x5 or via email: kyle.mccarty@mi.nacdnet.net