



220 Center Ave.
PO Box 81
Curtis, NE 69025

Phone: 800-873-5613
Fax: 308-367-4285
Email: rlawson@mnrnd.org

Middle Republican Natural Resources District

*Information and
Education*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday July 8, 2010

MIDDLE REPUBLICAN NRD PROTECTS WATER QUALITY BY TESTING WELLS

Curtis, NE--To protect and insure a safe water supply the Middle Republican NRD offers private well owners sampling kits to test for pollutants. Pollutants may impact both surface and groundwater, including domestic drinking water. Flood waters have certainly made an impact in several parts of Nebraska this year and as the water recedes it is uncertain what has been left behind. Run-off from roof tops, parking lots and agricultural fields can carry sediment and many different pollutants. Cities and villages are required to test well water on a regular basis and more often if there are concerns of contamination. There are no requirements for private wells.

The Middle Republican NRD encourages private well owners to test for harmful bacteria that may have contaminated the well with the increase runoff. The test provides an analysis that determines the presence or absence of total coliform bacteria. The presence of total coliform bacteria will indicate there is a high likelihood the well has been impacted.

Sample bottles can be mailed from or picked up from the Middle Republican NRD office. Samples must be returned directly to Olsen's Laboratory in McCook or another reputable Ag water testing facility. Results are available 24 hours after submitting the sample. Should the results be positive, information and guidance can be provided to address the problem. Most often contamination can be fixed with shock chlorination of the well using household bleach.

For more information contact Middle Republican at (308) 367-4281.

#####

Roger Lawson
Information & Education Coordinator
(308) 367-4281

rlawson@mnrnd.org