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**NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT – Monitor Your Well Water**

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I'm Roger Lawson, the Information & Education Coordinator for the Middle Republican Natural Resources District in Curtis, NE

–Pause- This is the Natural Resources Report.

Those of us who live in a city have few concerns over the quality of our water. We know that the city tests on a routine basis and notifies us of any problems. Those of us who have our own wells don't have this convenience and often go years without having our water supply checked for contaminants.

If you are a well owner, you should have your well water tested at least once a year and more often if there is a known problem. It's important that your water be sampled correctly and handled properly when being transported to a lab for analysis. Most NRDs have trained staff that can collect your sample and deliver it to the lab. Some NRDs have cost-share assistance for these samples or even provide some analysis free of charge.

You should always sample your water for nitrates and coliform bacteria. A broader range of testing is done with the household or drinking water suitability test. Of course, the more things you test for the more expensive the test. Total dissolved solids, sodium hardness, iron and several other ions are included in these expanded tests. If your water has an odor or different taste, make sure that you let the technician know so they can decide with the lab whether additional tests are needed.

Water quality is important and with your local NRD protecting ... can help keep it safe.

Thank you for listening. This is Roger Lawson, keeping you informed about your natural resources. Protecting Lives, Protecting Property, Protecting the Future.