



## WELL EDUCATED PROGRAM BACKGROUND

### **What is the *Well Educated* program?**

Montana State University Extension's goal of the *Well Educated* program is to provide private well owner education about water quality as it relates to health and quality of life. The program is a collaborative effort between MSUEWQ and partners in participating counties that provides well owners with materials to sample their well water quality. The outcome is a service that helps prevent nonpoint source groundwater contamination from private wells through well owner education while simultaneously providing means to monitor groundwater quality. The Gallatin Conservation District has teamed up with the Gallatin Local Water Quality District to help distribute these well test kits in Gallatin County.

### **Why test my water?**

When you are a private well owner your water is not monitored by the city, state, government, or any municipal agencies. You are responsible for monitoring the quality of your drinking water and ensuring its safety. It is best to sample routinely, even when there are no apparent changes, as some issues do not present any visible signs or smells. The *Well Educated* program is designed to streamline the process to help homeowners readily test and understand their water quality.

### **When should I get my water tested and how often?**

Private well owners should test their water for bacteria and nitrate annually.

In addition, drinking water should be tested if:

- You notice a change in your water quality (change in water taste, color, or smell)
- People drinking the water suffer from an illness that may be waterborne
- There is a flood or large storm that may have carried contaminants into your well
- Maintenance is done on the well infrastructure
- A pregnant person, a person anticipating pregnancy, or an infant under the age of six months becomes a water user

### **Where can I pick up a free well testing kit?**

Test kits for the *Well Educated* program are available at two locations:

Gallatin Local Water Quality District  
215 W. Mendenhall Street, Suite 300  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
(406)582-3168

Gallatin Conservation District  
120 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite B104  
Manhattan, MT 59741  
(406)282-4350

### **Where to test?**

Test kits and payment must be sent to the **Energy Laboratories in Billings, MT.**



WELL EDUCATED PROGRAM WELL TESTING COST SHARE OPPORTUNITY

**Gallatin Conservation District is offering a cost share opportunity in support of the *Well Educated* program's free well testing kits in Gallatin County.**

To make the *Well Educated* program even more affordable for landowners testing their private wells, Gallatin Conservation District is offering a 75/25 cost share opportunity. This opportunity reimburses up to 75% of well testing costs for Gallatin County residents who test their wells through the *Well Educated* program. We do require that all residents seeking cost share assistance agree to share their testing results with all three avenues listed on the *Well Educated* registration form (items I – N). We wish to promote the sharing of these results with water resource managers and water quality databases so that these resources can be used to further understand the water quality of Gallatin County and what we can do to protect our water.

**Required Application Forms and Deadlines for *Well Educated* program Cost Share Opportunity**

- Residents seeking cost share assistance for the *Well Educated* program must fill out the *Well Educated* Program Well Testing Cost Share Application form (found on the 3<sup>rd</sup> page of this document).
- Provide the following to the Gallatin Conservation District by the second Thursday of the month.
  - *Well Educated* Program Well Testing Cost Share Application form
  - *Well Educated* Registration Form
  - Test Results from Energy Laboratories
- If approved, the Gallatin Conservation District reimburses the landowner up to 75% of the costs paid.

**Please contact Elizabeth Emeline at [elizabeth@gallatincd.org](mailto:elizabeth@gallatincd.org) or (406)282-4350 for any questions about applying for Cost Share assistance.**



WELL EDUCATED PROGRAM WELL TESTING COST SHARE APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a resident of Gallatin County? \_\_\_\_\_ Length of residency in Gallatin County: \_\_\_\_\_

Landowner and/or lessee name, address, telephone (if other than applicant):  
\_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about this Cost Share opportunity?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Well Location: \_\_\_ 1/4, \_\_\_ 1/4, \_\_\_ 1/4, Section \_\_\_\_, Township \_\_\_\_, Range \_\_\_\_

Nearest Town \_\_\_\_\_ OR Latitude/Longitude Coordinates: \_\_\_\_\_

**Are you willing to share your *Well Educated* test results and well location with county health and research organizations and databases? (Items I – N on the *Well Educated* Registration Form): Yes No**

Which parameter package(s) will you be testing for? \_\_\_\_\_

Total cost incurred by the well owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Total cost requested for reimbursement by GCD (up to 75% of total costs): \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE**

I hereby declare that the information and all statements attached to this application are true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Applications can be submitted to Elizabeth Emeline at [elizabeth@gallatincd.org](mailto:elizabeth@gallatincd.org), mailed to the GCD office at Gallatin Conservation District, PO Box 569, Manhattan, MT 59741, or physically dropped off at the office drop box (or inside the office) at 120 S 5th St, Suite B104, Manhattan, MT 59741.

**A copy of your *Well Educated* well test results must be turned into the GCD before receiving reimbursement.**