

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

Know Your Well is a Nebraska Environmental Trust funded project training high school students how to sample and test water quality. The initial phase of this program began in 2017 with 16 participating schools and a goal of over 300 private wells to be tested for nitrates, nitrites, metals, pesticides, and coliform bacteria. Students collect land use and other data to help determine vulnerability to contamination. Well owners are supplied with test results and provided with information to help them evaluate their water quality.



**Nebraska
Water Center**

Daugherty WaterforFood Global Institute



PAPIO
MISSOURI RIVER
NRD



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**A program for High School
Student Scientists**

GROUNDWATER IN NEBRASKA

Eighty-five percent of Nebraskans rely on groundwater as their source of drinking water. One in five gets drinking water from private wells. Such wells are seldom tested for contaminants. How do they know if their private well water is healthy?

Test the well water annually!

KNOW YOUR WELL PROJECT:

This project is designed for Nebraska High School science students to engage in hands-on, engaging groundwater research. This approach helps water users (young and old) understand the quality of their water and involves them in solutions now and for the future.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

Over the course of a semester, students will complete the Know Your Well Project. NRD and UNL staff will work with the teacher to organize in-class presentations, sample collection (field) days, and lab testing. Through this collaboration, students gain a new insight into groundwater and the impact humans have on our natural resources!



Tekamah-Herman High School students work with NRD and UNL experts to sample private domestic wells in the area.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The benefits transcend well testing and student education, the entire community benefits! Well owners receive the results and students are given an opportunity to share what they learned with local leaders.

This program is offered at no cost, funded through the Nebraska Environmental Trust!