- 20% of Nebraska's population depends on private wells for drinking water
- 15% of private water supplies are contaminated with coliform bacteria, have elevated nitrate levels, or both.

Nitrates

Water with nitrate levels higher than 10 parts per million is a concern for:
--Infants under 6 months of age
--Pregnant mothers
--Elderly
Boiling water will not reduce nitrate levels

Coliform Bacteria

--Coliform bacteria are microscopic and generally harmless organisms that live in the intestinal tract of many warm-blooded animals.
--These organisms are excreted through feces and can make their way to the ground water.
--Coliform bacteria are not direct disease causing but can be associated with other more dangerous strains of bacteria such as shigella, salmonella and E.coli.
--Treatment of coliform bacteria is relatively simple and inexpensive. Shock chlorination can be used to clean up a well.

CDHD recommends that anyone using a private well, test their water every year for coliform bacteria.

**To request a water sample kit please call the laboratory office at 308-385-5175 or email wate rlab@cdhd.ne.gov

Test costs

Coliform = $15.50
Nitrate = $13.00
Hardness = $13.00
Fluoride = $13.00
pH = $13.00

Swimming Beach Test Results 2013

Swimming Beach Test Results 2012

Swimming Beach Test Results 2011

Swimming Beach Test Results 2010

Swimming Beach Test Results 2009