### WELL PROTECTION

**FARMSTEAD BMP #4**

**Description:**
Protect wells from potential sources of contamination.

**AWQA Minimum Requirements:**
Develop and implement a *Groundwater Protection Plan (GPP)* to protect your water source. At a minimum, a well should be located at the required distance from potential sources of contamination.

**Human Consumption Wells:**
- When installing drinking water wells, use certified well drillers. Contact Division of Water (DOW), Groundwater Section for a list. All drillers are required to be certified and to follow state regulations 401 KAR 6:310.
- Producers, their agents, or contractors shall not alter the design of wells. (e.g., cutting off casing below ground level).
- Location of new wells relative to septic drainage fields, septic tanks, etc. is subject to the requirements of 902 KAR 10:085.

**General Use Wells:** wells constructed or improved to provide water for livestock, irrigation or recreation.
- Protect wells from contamination.
- Locate new wells at least 50 feet from septic tank (70 feet from lateral field) in accordance with 902 KAR 10:085.
- Locate wells up gradient from animal waste area, pesticide, fuel or waste storage.
- See NRCS standards and specifications for water wells.

**Recommendations:**
Follow the *Division of Water Generic Groundwater Protection Plan*. Conduct basic water testing annually. Properly maintain each well over the life of its use, including repairing damage, removing sediment accumulations, and addressing other concerns dealing with the integrity of the well.
- Keep a log for well maintenance.
- Keep a log for well testing and well disinfection.

### Technical References

- **State Resources**
  - [Generic Groundwater Protection Plan for Domestic Wells](#), DOW
  - [Water Well Owners Guide](#), DOW
  - [Kentucky Division of Public Health Protection and Safety](#)

- **USDA/NRCS Publications**
  - Practice Code 642 Water Well
  - Practice Code 381 Water Well Decommissioning

### Funding Assistance Options

- **State Cost Share**
  - No cost share assistance is available for this practice at this time.

- **Kentucky Ag. Development Fund (KADB/KAPC)**
  - Select from available program options [here](#).

- **NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**
  - Select from available program options [here](#).

### Important Considerations

- **Water Quality Benefit**
  - [KEY: good, best: see STEPL Model](#)

---

*Photo courtesy of USDA ARS*