Hendricks County Private Well Testing Results

Fifty-eight private wells were voluntarily tested in July 2010 for several compounds, including Nitrate, Alachlor and Triazine. Water samples were tested at the National Center for Water Quality Research at Heidelberg University in Ohio. The testing program was sponsored by Hendricks County SWCD, Health Department, and Purdue Extension, with financial contributions made by Hendricks County Farm Bureau, Inc.

PERCENT OF WELLS TESTED ABOVE EPA DETECTABLE LEVELS
Above the EPA standard for drinking water or Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)

YEAR (# wells tested)	NITRATE	ALACHLOR	TRIAZINE
1991 (751)	1.2%	0%	2.4%
2000 (200)	0.9%	0%	1.9%
2005 (85)	0%	0%	0%
2010 (58)	0%*	0%†	0%β

* *Three wells tested were between 0.3-3.0 mg/L. Three wells were between 3.0-10.0 mg/L. All wells were below the 10.0 mg/L Nitrate MCL.*

† *All wells were below the 0.002 mg/L alachlor MCL.*

β *One well was between 1.5-3.0 µg/L. All wells were below the 0.003 mg/L atrazine MCL.*

Nitrate sources include runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits. Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.

Alachlor is found in runoff from herbicide used on row crops and may cause eye, liver, kidney or spleen problems; anemia; increased risk of cancer.

Triazines (atrazine, simazine, cyanazine, propazine) are found in runoff from herbicide used on row crops and may cause cardiovascular system or reproductive problems.

A list of water contaminants and their MCLs is available at http://water.epa.gov/drink/contaminants/index.cfm#List