



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Jacob Frie

Phone: (218) 824-1010

CROW WING COUNTY TO OFFER FREE NITRATE TESTING AT MMBA HOME SHOW

The Crow Wing County Land Services Department is pleased to offer free nitrate testing at the Mid-Minnesota Builders Association Home & Outdoor Show for residents of Crow Wing County and surrounding areas on March 22nd – March 24th, at the Crow Wing County Land Services booth. Free nitrate testing is also available at the Customer Service counter in Land Services, Monday to Friday, 8 am – 5 pm, year round.

The test takes a matter of seconds and will be conducted by Land Services staff. For best results, a 1 cup sample should be taken after running the tap for several minutes and before any filtering is done. A disposable bottle or container should be used to collect the sample in case county staff is unable to run the test right away. In that case, the results will be sent to the landowner. Participants are also encouraged to bring the unique well number which can be found on the well and the approximate depth of the well.

Nitrates are a common contaminant found in many wells in Minnesota. Too many nitrates in drinking water can cause serious health problems for young infants, including “blue baby syndrome” (or methemoglobinemia). Nitrates in our environment come from decomposition of plants and animal wastes. People also add nitrates to the environment in the form of fertilizers. Although natural nitrate levels in Minnesota are generally quite low, elevated levels are often found in agricultural areas where nitrate sources are often concentrated. Nitrates are tasteless and odorless, so routine testing is important, especially for landowners with shallow wells. If high nitrate levels are detected, landowners will be directed to a certified lab for further analysis.

Groundwater protection is one of the key priorities of the Crow Wing County Water Plan. Water planning is identifying what works best to protect and enhance Crow Wing County’s surface and groundwater resources by identifying existing and potential threats to these resources and implementing actions to minimize them. Most of Crow Wing County’s residents rely on groundwater for their source of drinking water. Protecting this resource is one of the most important things we can do to help keep our water clean.

The Land Services Department is committed to providing excellent customer service while helping landowners make wise choices that protect Crow Wing County’s extraordinary natural resources. Citizens are encouraged to contact the Land Services Office at (218) 824-1010 or landservices@crowwing.us to discuss land use and water protection activities. Crow Wing County water quality information and resources can be found at www.crowwing.us/water.

Land Services Department

322 Laurel Street, Ste. 14
Brainerd, MN 56401

Office: (218) 824-1010

Fax: (218) 824-1126

www.crowwing.us

Our Vision: Being Minnesota's favorite place.

Our Mission: Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

Our Values: Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.