

2016 IONIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT WELL WATER SCREENING

The Ionia Conservation District will screen drinking water well samples for nitrate on July 11th, from 9 am to 5 pm. The screening is sponsored by the Ionia Conservation District and the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP). It is paid for by funds generated from Michigan pesticide and fertilizer registration and tonnage fees. There is no fee to participants for this service.

Samples from drinking water wells will be screened for nitrate and nitrite only. The screening is open to everyone who uses a personal well for drinking water; however, the number of samples that can be tested is limited to 3. Bring your samples to 431 Swartz Ct #300, Ionia, MI 48846. Information and forms are also available at ioniacd.org.

This service is for private drinking water wells only. Public water supplies are tested regularly. Please do *not* bring samples from public water supplies or non-drinking water sources. Only drinking water well samples will be tested. You do not have to use a special bottle for this screening. Any small clean jar will work—one ounce of water is enough.

Please follow the directions below to sample your well. *Collect samples just before getting them to the sample drop-off. Samples must be less than 48 hours old for a valid nitrate result.*

1. Fill out the water Sample Information Sheet.
2. Pick a tap that supplies water that has not run through any treatment devices (water softener, carbon filter, etc.). An outdoor faucet often works well.
3. Run the water for 20-30 minutes before collecting the sample. This will give the pump time to flush the water pressure tank and plumbing so you can collect a valid sample. Disconnect any hoses before collecting the sample; do not sample through a hose. Rinse the sample bottle and lid thoroughly in the water to be sampled; then fill and cap the bottle.
4. Label the bottle clearly with your name, the sampling date, and the well name (cottage well, Mom's well, etc.) using a waterproof pen. Put the sample information sheet into a waterproof bag, and then seal the water sample and the information into a second waterproof bag.
5. Keep the sample dark and cold (on ice or refrigerated) until it is dropped off.


All results are confidential. You will be mailed a copy of your results in 8 to 10 weeks, with information about what to do if the concentration of nitrate or nitrite is too high.

Be sure to fill out the Sample Information Sheet completely and bring it with your water sample to the drop-off. **We need a complete mailing address to get your results back to you.** You can get more information from the Ionia Conservation District Office at (616) 527-2620, or from your local MAEAP stewardship technician at (616) 527-2620 ex. 113.



This program is sponsored by the Ionia Conservation District, the MAEAP Water Stewardship Program, and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. It is funded through the Michigan Groundwater and Freshwater Protection Act, the MDARD, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



 *over for sample information sheet*



**MI AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSURANCE PROGRAM
2016 DRINKING WATER WELL SCREENING
SAMPLE INFORMATION SHEET**

**Please complete this form and turn it in with your well water sample.
Complete one form for each sample submitted.
Please write clearly!**

**Sample Code Number
(Please Leave Blank)**

Name _____

Sampling Address (where sample was taken)

Mailing Address for Results (if different)

Street _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Phone _____

County _____

County _____

Date Sampled: _____

Sampling Point: *It is very important to identify the sample clearly with a name (cottage well, mom's well, etc.)* _____

Well depth, feet (estimate if unknown) _____ Age of well, years: (estimate if unknown) _____

Well diameter (circle the correct figure, estimate if not known): 2" 4" 5" 6" Other _____

Do any pregnant women or infants under 6 months old regularly live in this home? Y N

IF above is **No**, skip this line. If **Yes**, do they drink the water supplied by this well? Y N

Please indicate the distance in feet from the well to:

Nearest farmed field (not pasture) _____

Nearest pasture with grazing livestock _____

Nearest septic system drain field _____

Nearest animal yard/feedlot (horse, cattle, chickens, pigs, etc.) _____

Nearest pesticide or fertilizer storage or mixing area _____

Nearest inland lake or pond _____

Please put a check by the best description of your general soil texture:

_____ Very coarse/sand _____ Sandy loam _____ Silt loam _____ Loamy or sandy clay

_____ Heavy clay _____ Organic/muck Other _____

Please circle or describe the main land uses within half a mile of your well (row crop, pasture, orchard, forest, rural residential, suburban, commercial, industrial, etc.) _____
