

# 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Greene County Test Your Well Event

November 2, 4 – 6 pm at GC Environmental Services (recycling center)

## Well Water Testing Opportunity

If you get your water from a well, you can have a free nitrate screening at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Greene County Test Your Well Event scheduled for November 2, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Greene County Environmental Services building, 2145 Greene Way Blvd in Xenia (across Progress Drive from Kroger). Greene County residents who have a well are eligible for free and low cost testing to evaluate their water quality.

Wells more than 40 years old or less than 50 feet deep are more likely to have high levels of nitrate. Nitrate and bacteria are among the things well owners should test for every year because the levels can change over time and become a health hazard to your family. In addition, organizers are offering free arsenic screening with assistance from Central State University. Arsenic is naturally occurring and elevated levels are found in twenty percent of wells in Southwest Ohio.

Bring a well water sample to the event anytime between 4 and 6 p.m. and within about 30 minutes, you will know if there might be a hazardous level of nitrate in the water. To take a sample for nitrate screening, use a clean container, able to hold one cup of water, and collect the sample on November 2. Fill the clean container and cover. Be careful not to touch the inside of the lid. Keep the sample refrigerated until you bring it to the event.

Arsenic bottles and instructions for sampling can be picked up from Ohio State University Extension Office, (937) 372-9971; Greene County Environmental Services, (937) 562-5925; or Greene County Combined Health District, (937) 374-5600. Arsenic bottles may be turned in at the November 2 event or picked up then and submitted by the following Wednesday to the Greene Soil & Water Conservation District. A maximum of 60 free arsenic screenings will be available.

Reduced cost bacteria testing will be possible thanks to a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and Miami Conservancy District. Bacteria testing coupons (normally costing \$50) can be purchased for \$15 (cash or check) at the November 2 event. Directions and sample bottle will be provided. A maximum of 60 reduced cost bacteria coupons will be available.

The Test Your Well Event offers information on well maintenance, water quality protection and water conservation. Vendors from the public and private sector will be on-hand to answer your questions on nitrates, bacteria, and arsenic.

The Test Your Well Event is sponsored by the Greene County FFA. The other sponsors include the Greene County Combined Health District, Greene Soil and Water Conservation District, Greene County Sanitary Engineering, Xenia City Water Treatment, Miami Conservancy District, OSU Extension Service, Greene County Farm Bureau, Central State University, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Resources. For more information on well testing, call the Greene Soil and Water Conservation District at (937) 372-4478 or e-mail [jill.obanion@oh.nacdnet.net](mailto:jill.obanion@oh.nacdnet.net).