

FARM WATER TESTING

HOW TO TEST YOUR SURFACE OR GROUNDWATER IRRIGATION SOURCE FOR FOOD SAFETY PURPOSES



COLLECT SAMPLES REGULARLY

Test your water source several times throughout each growing season. Avoid collecting samples after a large rain event or other disturbance.



CHOOSE YOUR SITE

Collect samples from the point that best represents the water in contact with produce.

For example, if using drip irrigation, you may choose to take your sample from an in-line valve.

Let the water run for several minutes before filling your bottle.

USE CLEAN TOOLS

Always sanitize tools between samples. Use a telescoping water sample dipper to reach several feet out into ponds and creeks.



USE A STERILE SAMPLE BOTTLE

Use a 100 mL water sampling bottle provided by your lab. Fill the bottle to the shoulder. Avoid touching the inside of the bottle or cap when transferring.



ONE SAMPLE FOR EACH WATER SOURCE

Be sure to label each sample. Use a naming or numbering system to differentiate. Include date and time of collection on the label.



FIND A LAB NEAR YOU



Scan the code to the left to see a map of labs that can process your samples. Contact the lab ahead of time to confirm available drop-off times and days.

DELIVER YOUR SAMPLES

Deliver samples within 6 hours of collection. Transport samples upright in a clean cooler to the lab.



FILL OUT PAPERWORK

The lab will provide you with a form to complete when you arrive. Be sure to request results for levels of Total Coliform and E. coli rather than "absence" or "presence."

INTERPRET AND RECORD RESULTS

Once you get the results, make a plan and take corrective measures, if needed, to ensure against produce contamination. KHC can provide guidance for interpreting results, contamination prevention, and planning for corrective measures.



IMPORTANT NOTE:

A single sample is not sufficient to determine the safety of your irrigation source. You will need to continue collecting and analyzing samples regularly to understand the quality of your water.

Funding from:



- In Partnership With -



For Info Email:
info@kyhortcouncil.org