

AG WATER SAFETY

SAFELY USING WELL WATER FOR CROP PRODUCTION

- Agricultural water, used to irrigate crops, carry fertilizers, and for spray applications, has the potential to house and transfer harmful microorganisms from animal & human waste to produce

- Water from a well has the lowest risk of contamination if the well is properly constructed, in the right location, & properly maintained

What increases contamination risks?

- cracked casing
- located too close to septic tanks, flood zones, livestock operations, & manure storage areas

If the water from your well comes into contact with produce that will be eaten raw, consider mitigation measures to ensure the safety of your products

Mitigation measures:

- ensure lid and casing aren't cracked or broken
- choose well location away from septic lines
- schedule regular maintenance and evaluation of your entire irrigation system
- use drip irrigation rather than overhead watering
- test your well water for the presence of E. coli four or more times per year

Well water must be tested to ensure there is no presence of generic E. coli before using for post harvest activities

