



# The Private Well Conference

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

7:15 am	<b>Registration</b> (Holiday Inn Conference Center Foyer)
8:15 am	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b> <i>Steve Wilson &amp; Jenna Shelton, Illinois State Water Survey, Champaign, IL</i>
<b>Session 1 – Public Health &amp; Communication</b>	
8:30 am	<b>A Covenant With Our Children: Safe Drinking Water</b> <i>Dr. Alan Woolf, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA</i>
9:30 am	<b>Well Aware: Using Private Well Testing as a Gateway to Preventive Health in Rural Communities</b> <i>Victoria Clower, Georgia Southern University, Savannah, GA</i>
10:00 am	<b>Break</b>
10:15 am	<b>Understanding and Communicating a Statewide Cumulative Human Health Risk Assessment of Inorganics-Contaminated Groundwater Wells, Montana, USA.</b> <i>Margaret (Mari) Eggers, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT</i>
10:45 am	<b>Private Well Drinking Water Quality and Public Communication: Findings From a Free Testing Program in Southeastern Minnesota</b> <i>Anne Nelson, Minnesota Department of Health, St. Cloud, MN</i>
11:15 am	<b>Good Ways to Give Bad Answers: Communicating With Well Owners When Uncertainty Is Involved</b> <i>Shannon Harrower-Nakama, Rhode Island Department of Health, Providence, RI</i>
11:45 am	<b>Lunch (on your own)</b>
<b>Session 2 – Drillers’ Perspective &amp; State Programs</b>	
1:15 pm	<b>Private Well Drillers’ Perspective &amp; Panel Discussion</b> <i>David Henrich, Bergerson-Caswell, Maple Plain, MN</i> TBD TBD
2:45 pm	<b>Well Sealing &amp; Grouting</b> <i>Kirby Donald, Baroid Industrial Drilling Products, Castle Rock, WA</i>
3:15 pm	<b>Break</b>
3:30 pm	<b>Part 127 Michigan Water Well and Pump Installation Code — Performing a Balancing Act Between Local Health Departments and the Drilling Community</b> <i>Kathy Gardner; Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy; Holt, MI</i>
4:00 pm	<b>New Jersey Private Well Testing Act</b> <i>Heidi O’Neill, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Trenton, NJ</i>
4:30 pm	<b>Permitting Wells in Areas of Known Contamination</b> <i>Wilson Mize, North Carolina Department of Health &amp; Human Services, Louisburg, NC</i>
5:00 pm	<b>Adjourn</b>



# The Private Well Conference

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

7:45 am	<b>Morning Starter</b> (Holiday Inn Conference Center Foyer)
8:20 am	<b>Day Two Introduction</b> <i>Steve Wilson, Illinois State Water Survey, Champaign, IL</i>
<b>Session 3 – Contaminants &amp; Visualizing Data and Results</b>	
8:30 am	<b>Emerging Contaminants and Private Wells: What We Know and What's Next</b> <i>John Scott, Illinois Sustainable Technology Center, Champaign, IL</i>
9:00 am	<b>PFAS in Rural Private Well Water Across the United States: Using a Participatory Science Approach to Identify, Evaluate, and Communicate Risks and Recommendations</b> <i>Jackie MacDonald Gibson, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC</i>
9:30 am	<b>Responses to PFAS in Private Wells</b> <i>Marty Nessman, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Madison, WI</i>
10:00 am	<b>Break</b>
10:15 am	<b>Telling the Virginia Well Water Quality Story Through ArcGIS Story Maps</b> <i>Meredith Snyder, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Blacksburg, VA</i>
10:45 am	<b>Aggregating Private Well Testing Data to Understand Groundwater Quality Across Wisconsin</b> <i>Abby Johnson &amp; Cayla Cavey, University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point, Stevens Point, WI</i>
11:15 am	<b>Virginia Department of Health's Private Well Data Platform: Visualizing Well Data and Using It to Make Data-Driven Public Health Decisions</b> <i>Scott Vogel, Virginia Department of Health, Richmond, VA</i>
11:45 am	<b>Lunch (on your own)</b>
<b>Session 4 – Treatment &amp; Testing</b>	
1:15 pm	<b>Using Reverse Osmosis Treatment on Private Wells</b> <i>Eric Yeggy, Water Quality Association, Lisle, IL</i>
1:45 pm	<b>Which Mitigation Strategy Is Best: A Cost-Benefit Analysis for Private Well Users and Program</b> <i>Sophia Walsh, Minnesota Department of Health, Saint Paul, MN</i>
2:15 pm	<b>Expanding Local Laboratory Capacity to Improve Access, Demand, and Efficiency in Private Well Water Testing</b> <i>Tristin Faust, Eau Claire City-County Health Department, Eau Claire, WI</i>
2:45 pm	<b>Data-Driven Sampling Intervals for Arsenic: Empowering Private Well Owners and Programs</b> <i>Nicholas A. Procopio, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Trenton, NJ</i>
3:15 pm	<b>Break</b>
3:30 pm	<b>Lightning Talks</b> (12 speakers, 5-minute presentations, 20 slides) <i>There will be time for questions after each set of three speakers and at the end. See Lightning Talks speaker list for more information.</i>
5:00 pm	<b>Adjourn</b>



# The Private Well Conference

## Thursday, May 21, 2026

7:45 am	<b>Morning Starter</b> (Holiday Inn Conference Center Foyer)
8:20 am	<b>Day Three Introduction</b> <i>Steve Wilson, Illinois State Water Survey, Champaign, IL</i>
<b>Session 5 – Education, Outreach, and Community Engagement</b>	
8:30 am	<b>Small Scientists, Big Impact: Empowering Communities Through a Third-Grade Private Well Citizen Science Project</b> <i>Amy Latzel, North Central District Health Department, O'Neill, NE</i>
9:00 am	<b>Tools to Educate Property Owners and Professionals on Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems</b> <i>Sara Heger, National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association, Devils Lake, ND</i>
9:30 am	<b>Coastal vs. Inland Wells: Results, Trepidation, and Outreach</b> <i>Brett Capps &amp; Stacey Scarce, Communities Unlimited, Fayetteville, AR</i>
10:00 am	<b>Final Break – Chance to Check Out (But Come Back!)</b>
10:30 am	<b>Participatory Water and Mold Testing After Hurricane Helene: Lessons for Supporting Communities Served by Private Wells</b> <i>Andrew George, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC</i> <i>Jackie MacDonald Gibson, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC</i>
11:00 am	<b>Sampling Issues for Legionella and Non-Target Bacteria Occurrence in Homes Served by Private Wells</b> <i>Steve Wilson, Illinois State Water Survey, Champaign, IL</i>
11:30 am	<b>Group Discussion and Conference Wrap-up</b> Where do we go from here? What are your takeaways? How do we elevate this discussion nationally? Topic suggestions for the 2027 Private Well Conference? Bring your thoughts and ideas! <i>Steve Wilson, Illinois State Water Survey, Champaign, IL</i>
12:00 pm	<b>Adjourn</b>