



The Private Well Conference

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

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



The Private Well Conference

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

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



The Private Well Conference

Thursday, May 21, 2026

7:45 am	Morning Starter (Holiday Inn Conference Center Foyer)
8:20 am	Day Three Introduction <i>Steve Wilson, Illinois State Water Survey, Champaign, IL</i>
Session 5 – Education, Outreach, and Community Engagement	
8:30 am	Small Scientists, Big Impact: Empowering Communities Through a Third-Grade Private Well Citizen Science Project <i>Amy Latzel, North Central District Health Department, O'Neill, NE</i>
9:00 am	Tools to Educate Property Owners and Professionals on Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems <i>Sara Heger, National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association, Devils Lake, ND</i>
9:30 am	Coastal vs. Inland Wells: Results, Trepidation, and Outreach <i>Brett Capps & Stacey Scarce, Communities Unlimited, Fayetteville, AR</i>
10:00 am	Final Break – Chance to Check Out (But Come Back!)
10:30 am	Participatory Water and Mold Testing After Hurricane Helene: Lessons for Supporting Communities Served by Private Wells <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	Sampling Issues for Legionella and Non-Target Bacteria Occurrence in Homes Served by Private Wells <i>Steve Wilson, Illinois State Water Survey, Champaign, IL</i>
11:30 am	Group Discussion and Conference Wrap-up 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	Adjourn



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Lightning Talks

Tap Secret: Confessions from Your Kitchen Sink

John Scott, Illinois Sustainable Technology Center, Champaign, IL

Smarter. Faster. Safer. AI-Assisted Well & Pump Services

Clint Post, Alto Well and Pump, LLC, Kalispell, MT

Mapping Groundwater Spatial Trends with ArcGIS Hot Spot Analysis

Tim Propst, Oklahoma Water Resources Center, Stillwater, OK

Q & A Session for talks 1-3

Evolution over 20 years in Montana Well Test Programming

Adam Sigler, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT

Missouri's All-In-One Well Information Application

Justin Davis, Missouri Geological Survey, Rolla, MO

Oklahoma Get-Well Informed Events - An Efficient Sample Collection Approach for Rural Areas

Jeff Sadler, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK

Q & A Session for talks 4-6

Private Well Research Coordination Network: Strengthening Transdisciplinary Collaboration to Improve Health

Jojo Jaeger, Auburn University Department of Geoscience, Auburn, AL

Keeping your Cool: Challenging Conversations with Concerned Clients

Erin Ling, Virginia Tech / Virginia Cooperative Extension, Blacksburg, VA

Getting the Most Out of Your Water Well Professionals

David Henrich, Bergerson-Caswell, Maple Plain, MN

Q & A Session for talks 7-9

Tales from the Private Well Help Center

Sallie Dolan, Illinois State Water Survey, Champaign, IL

Extending Your Reach: Using Brochures to Amplify Your Message

Katie Buckley, Illinois State Water Survey, Champaign, IL

Tap Talk- The Drinking Water in Rural America Podcast

Steve Wilson, Illinois State Water Survey, Champaign, IL

Q & A Session for talks 10-12