

Project Name: Private Well Owner Education	
<i>Background/Need for Project:</i>	<p>Households that maintain their own water supply system, such as a well or a rainwater collection system, do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Safe Drinking Water Act. These predominantly rural households are responsible for the safety of their own drinking water supply. Accordingly, their informational need is significantly greater than their counterparts served by public water systems. Cooperators from the Land Grant universities and colleges that make up the Region 9 Water Program address informational needs at the consumer level by providing unbiased research-based information to the consumer through publication and outreach education.</p> <p>Private well owners in Arizona are responsible for the safety and quality of their drinking water. There are currently an estimated 95,000 domestic wells in Arizona which serve approximately 300,000 (5% of Arizona's population). These wells are not regulated by any state or federal agencies. Well water testing programs in Yavapai County have indicated elevated levels of nitrate and arsenic in private wells.</p>
<i>Location:</i>	Piloting in Arizona
<i>People involved:</i>	Kitt Farrell-Poe, Susan Pater, Jeff Schalau, Gary Woodard, Janick Artiola
<i>Started/ Expected end date:</i>	January 2007 – December 2008 for the pilot project
<i>Brief project description:</i>	<p><i>Project objectives:</i> Produce new fact sheets and update previously published fact sheets using science-based information to assist private well owners in maintaining the safety and quality of their drinking water. The fact sheets will be a part of a series and packaged in pocket portfolios and will be available on-line, at county Cooperative Extension offices, and through workshops. Workshops for the public will be piloted in Cochise and Yavapai Counties using the publications/materials developed through the project. Workshop participants will learn about the components of the well system (casing, pump, pressure tank, etc.), and wellhead protection, and also be shown on-line resources such as SAHRA's Arizona Wells Database where users can locate monitoring wells across Arizona and how groundwater levels have changed over time.</p> <p><i>Project activities to date:</i> Portfolio was developed and 1000 copies printed. Nine (9) fact sheets were developed for the first of two workshops. One workshop was conducted in early March 2008.</p> <p><i>Accomplishments/Findings:</i> Of the 84 people who attended</p>

	<p>first pilot workshop, 40 people completed an exit evaluation. Thirty-four (34) found the 3-hour workshop “highly valuable,” five people increased their knowledge three steps, and twenty-one people increased their knowledge two steps.</p> <p><i>Plans for the future:</i> Once the Private Well Owner Education project is more complete, it will be introduced to California, Nevada, and Hawaii through the Land Grant system and perhaps a regional workshop. Investigating what adaptations will need to be made for Pacific Island use. Improve the drinking water education portion of the Arizona state and regional websites.</p>
<i>Outcomes:</i>	<p>As a result of the first workshop, four more fact sheets were created and three others were modified significantly. All 13 fact sheets are out for peer review. Eighty-four people are more aware of the importance of monitoring drinking water quality and protecting the land area around their wells, and understand the components of their well.</p>

Graphic:

