

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

**WELL WATER TESTING**

(No.)

**CODE 355**

**DEFINITION**

Testing for physical, biological and chemical characteristics of well water.

**PURPOSE**

To determine the quality of a water supply for the intended use.

**CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES**

This standard applies to water supplies that are used or have potential to be used on farms or ranches.

**CRITERIA**

Identify the specific use of the water and the water quality concerns.

Determine the required tests and applicable standards based on the planned use of the water.

Collect and analyze water samples in accordance with established procedures. Contact the testing entity for specific guidance.

Obtain interpretation of test results and recommendations for remedial actions, as necessary, from a knowledgeable source appropriate to the test and purpose.

**CONSIDERATIONS**

Water quality is affected by the location, depth, and construction (dug, drilled, cased, etc.) of supply; the type of geology; and the history of the site.

Sources of potential contamination include surface water, septic systems, chemical storage facilities, roads, and animal waste storage or treatment facilities.

A computerized total farm record keeping system will ease input, analysis, and retrieval of data.

Consider using a state certified laboratory.

**PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Provide plans and specifications for water testing consistent with this standard to achieve the desired results.

Specify guidelines describing required processes for collection, storage, transport, testing, and reporting.

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

Records of water testing information will include:

- date water sample taken
- name and title of person collecting sample
- standard collection procedure followed
- water test received and analysis date
- laboratory used
- contaminants for which tested
- schedule of additional testing at required frequency according to applicable standard
- records to evaluate trends and the effects of remedial action
- weather data
- other records as required

**REFERENCE**

Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, 21<sup>st</sup> Edition

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard contact your Natural Resources Conservation Service [State Office](#), or download it from the [electronic Field Office Technical Guide](#) for your state.

**NRCS, Alabama  
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