

**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

The specific use of the water and the water quality concerns shall be identified.

The required tests and applicable standards shall be determined based on the planned use of the water.

Water samples shall be collected and analyzed in accordance with established procedures. Contact the testing entity for specific guidance.

Interpretation of test results and recommendations for remedial actions, as necessary, shall be obtained from a knowledgeable source appropriate to the test and purpose.

CONSIDERATIONS

The following items should be considered in planning water supply testing:

- Location and depth of supply, type of geology, and history of site in relationship to sources of potential contamination such as surface water, septic system, chemical

storage facility, road(s), and animal waste storage or treatment facility

- Water supply construction practices used such as dug, drilled, casing, or spring development
- Using a computerized total farm record keeping system for ease of data input, analysis, and retrieval
- Using a state-certified lab
- While the Kansas Department of Health and Environment does not require private well owners to test the quality of water from their wells, it does recommend that water from those wells be tested for bacteria and nitrates.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for water testing shall be consistent with this standard to achieve the desired results.

Specify the guidelines that describe the process of collecting, storing, transporting, testing, and reporting.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Records on water testing information will include the following:

- Date water sample taken
- Name and title of person who collected sample
- Standard collection procedure followed
- Water test analysis date
- Laboratory used
- Contaminants tested for

- 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