

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

WELL WATER TESTING

(No.)

CODE 355

DEFINITION

Testing for physical, biological, and chemical characteristics of groundwater in wells or spring developments.

Interpretation of test results and recommendations for remedial actions, as necessary, shall be obtained from a source knowledgeable of the testing procedures and objectives.

PURPOSE

This practice may be applied as part of a conservation management system to determine the quality of a groundwater supply for the following intended uses: irrigation, livestock, fish and wildlife habitat, aquaculture enterprises, or other agricultural uses.

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 facilities, landfills, roads, and animal waste storage or treatment facilities or naturally occurring sources of contamination.
- Water supply construction practices used such as dug, drilled, or cased well 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.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

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

This standard does not apply to groundwater for human consumption, to wells for monitoring groundwater hydrology, or to contamination associated with animal waste storage or treatment installations.

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. Specific parameters, sampling procedures, and laboratory analyses may be specifically required by local, state, tribal, or federal laws and regulations. Contact the testing entity for specific guidance.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

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

Plans and specifications for water testing shall include a description of the process of collecting, storing, transporting, and testing samples and reporting test results.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Water testing records that shall be maintained will include:

- Sample site, location, and depth.
 - In situ or remotely-sensed records of water quality conditions within the well such as pH, conductivity, and turbidity.
 - Date and time water sample taken.
 - Name and title of person who collected sample.
- Type of sampler and sample taken.
 - Standard collection procedure followed.
 - Water test analysis date.
 - Laboratory performing the analysis.
 - Tested contaminants.
 - Schedule of additional testing at required frequency according to applicable standard.
 - Records to evaluate trends and the effects of any remedial actions to produce water of sufficient quality for the intended purpose.
 - Rainfall data.
 - Observations on well condition.
 - Other records as required.