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Sharon Skipton

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, sskipton1@unl.edu

Bruce I. Dvorak

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, bdvorak1@unl.edu

Wayne Woldt

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, wwoldt1@unl.edu

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Drinking Water: Approved Water Testing Laboratories in Nebraska

By Sharon Skipton, Extension Educator
Bruce Dvorak, Extension Environmental Engineering Specialist
Wayne Woldt, Extension Specialist

Many Nebraska laboratories offer testing services that include drinking water analyses. Some of these laboratories are operated by government agencies and others are private commercial laboratories. A degree of reliability and accuracy can be expected when testing is performed in an approved laboratory situation.

For additional information on drinking water analyses, see the NebGuide G89-907, *Drinking Water: Testing for Quality*.

Laboratory Approval/Certification

The Nebraska Health and Human Services System Department of Regulation and Licensure administers the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Act. This includes approval (certification) of laboratories to test drinking water samples.

A laboratory must use approved test methodology and equipment and meet requirements outlined by the Environmental Protection Agency. An approved laboratory may not be approved to test for all potential drinking water contaminants. Approval is given to laboratories to analyze specific contaminant(s) and a laboratory must meet criteria for each individual analysis for which it wants to be approved.

Regulatory approval provides some assurance that the laboratory has the capability to perform water quality analyses within an acceptable range of accuracy, and will provide reliable and accurate results. It is not a guarantee that a specific water sample analysis has been or will be performed accurately.

The Nebraska Health and Human Services System Public Health Laboratory either is approved or has a

contract with an approved laboratory to test for every EPA Safe Drinking Water Act publicly regulated drinking water contaminant. In addition, it can provide information on request regarding all laboratories located and approved in Nebraska, and can provide information on the specific contaminants for which each is approved.

Nonapproved laboratories may use the same equipment and procedures as an approved laboratory. Such laboratories may provide accurate analyses, but there is no independent information about the laboratory's ability to obtain reliable results for a particular analysis.

Approved (Certified) Water Testing Laboratories in Nebraska

The laboratories listed are those located in Nebraska that are approved in Nebraska (as of February 2005) to test private drinking water supply samples. This list is not meant to be an endorsement of any organization. Each laboratory offers different testing services. Most of the laboratories are certified to perform the most common water quality tests, such as coliform bacteria and nitrate. As of January 2005 only two laboratories; Midwest Laboratories and Nebraska Health and Human Services System, are certified to perform tests for some of the less commonly tested parameters such as herbicide, Volatile Organic Chemicals, heavy metals and arsenic. Currently, only Nebraska Health and Human Services System tests for uranium. Testing certification and services provided by laboratories can change. Check with laboratories at the time testing is to be done to determine if they are certified to perform the specific tests in which you are interested.

Government Operated Approved Laboratories

Central District Health Department
1137 South Locust
Grand Island, NE 68801
(308) 385-5175

Douglas County Health Department/Laboratory Services
4102 Woolworth Ave.
Omaha, NE 68105
(402) 444-7496

Nebraska Health and Human Services System
Department of Regulation and Licensure
Public Health Laboratory
3701 South 14th
Lincoln, NE 68502
(402) 471-8426

Commercial Operated Approved Laboratories

Enviro Service, Inc.
818 South Beltline Highway East
Scottsbluff, NE 69361
(308) 632-3933

Midwest Laboratories, Inc.
13611 B Street
Omaha, NE 68144
(402) 334-7770

Olsen Agricultural Laboratory
210 East First Street
P.O. Box 370
McCook, NE 69001
(308) 345-3670

Servi-Tech Laboratories
1602 Park West Drive
Hastings, NE 68901
(402) 463-3522

Contacting a Laboratory

Contact the Nebraska Health and Human Services System to ask which laboratories are approved to test for the specific contaminant(s) you are considering. Ask individual laboratories about test fees, sampling bottles or kits, and sampling instructions. Typically there will be a fee for each contaminant tested, however some laboratories offer "package tests" which will include testing for a number of contaminants for a specified fee. For many contaminants there are special sample containers, preservatives and sampling procedures that must be used. Always be sure to carefully follow the sampling instructions provided by the laboratory.

Non-Drinking Water Testing

The information in this NebGuide refers to testing water for human domestic consumption and use. There may be occasions when tests are needed to determine the suitability of water for other uses. Many of the laboratories listed above provide testing for uses in addition to domestic use. Reputable nonapproved laboratories also may provide nondrinking water testing.

Related Drinking Water Publications

G04-1539 *An Introduction To Drinking Water*
G02-1471 *Decommissioning Water Wells: An Owner's Guide*

Related Drinking Water Contaminant Publications

G89-907 *Drinking Water: Testing for Quality*
G90-989 *Drinking Water: Bacteria*
G96-1274 *Drinking Water: Hard Water*
G96-1275 *Drinking Water: Sulfates and Hydrogen Sulfide*
G96-1279 *Drinking Water: Nitrate-Nitrogen*
G96-1280 *Drinking Water: Iron and Manganese*
G96-1282 *Drinking Water: Man-made Chemicals*
G97-1333 *Drinking Water: Lead*
G98-1360 *Drinking Water: Copper*
G98-1376 *Drinking Water: Fluoride*
G98-1369 *Drinking Water: Nitrate and Methemoglobinemia*
G02-1448 *Drinking Water: Bottled or Tap?*
G04-1536 *Drinking Water: Storing An Emergency Supply*
G04-1552 *Drinking Water: Arsenic*

Related Drinking Water Treatment Publications

EC03-703 *Drinking Water Treatment: An Overview*
G03-1488 *Drinking Water Treatment: What You Need To Know When Selecting Water Treatment Equipment*
G03-1489 *Drinking Water Treatment: Activated Carbon Filtration*
G03-1490 *Drinking Water Treatment: Reverse Osmosis*
G03-1491 *Drinking Water Treatment: Water Softening (Ion Exchange)*
G03-1492 *Drinking Water Treatment: Sediment Filtration*
G03-1493 *Drinking Water Treatment: Distillation*
G03-1494 *Drinking Water Treatment: Emergency Procedures*
G04-1496 *Drinking Water Treatment: Continuous Chlorination*
G95-1255 *Shock Chlorination of Domestic Water Supplies*
NF02-505 *Drinking Water: Chloramines Water Disinfection in Omaha Metropolitan Utilities District*

Reviewed by:

Sandi Irons, Nebraska Health and Human Services System
Dalton Johnson, Nebraska Health and Human Services System
Mary K. Warner, University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension
Dr. King, Midwest Laboratories, Inc.

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