

Free Private Drinking Water Supply Testing Available

Private water testing will be made available to low income persons through a grant that Headwaters RC&D Council received through the Colcom Foundation. Clinton County will be part of eight counties offering this program, and we will be in the third round of testing scheduled for next year during March and April, with an educational workshop planned for May 9th.

\$150,000 has been secured through the Colcom Foundation's grant program "Marcellus Environmental Fund" for the Headwaters RC&D Quality Drinking Water Project to provide low income families in Jefferson, Elk, Potter, Cameron, Clearfield, Clinton, Centre, and McKean Counties with funding to secure chain of custody water sample analyses of their private water supplies prior to Marcellus Shale Gas Well Drilling activities. Additionally, we are providing mandatory educational workshops and material explaining how to interpret the water quality results, when do things become toxic, and what the homeowner should do in case something does happen to their water supply. RC&D will partner with various organizations and agencies including PA-DEP, Penn State Cooperative Extension and the local school districts and conservation districts.

The third set of water samplings will take place in Cameron and Clinton Counties. Testing will be conducted March 12, 2012, through April 20, 2012, with a mandatory educational workshop following. For Clinton County, the workshop will be held on Wednesday, May 9th, 2012, from 5-7 pm, location to be determined. For those living in Cameron County, the workshop will be held on Thursday, May 10th, 2012, from 5-7 pm, location to be determined.

The first set of water samplings will take place in Jefferson and Clearfield Counties. Testing will be conducted October 24, 2011, through December 2, 2011, with a mandatory educational workshop following. For Clearfield County, the workshop will be held on Wednesday, December 14th, 2011 from 5-7 pm, location to be determined. For those living in Jefferson County, the workshop will be held on Thursday, December 15th, 2011 from 5-7 pm, location to be determined.

The second set of water samplings will take place in Elk and Centre Counties. Testing will be conducted January 9, 2012, through February 17, 2012, with a mandatory educational workshop following. For Centre County, the workshop will be held on Wednesday, March 7th, 2012, from 5-7 pm, location to be determined. For those living in Elk County, the workshop will be held on Thursday, March 8th, 2012, from 5-7 pm, location to be determined.

The fourth set of water samplings will take place in McKean and Potter Counties. Testing will be conducted May 14, 2012, through June 22, 2012, with a mandatory educational workshop following. For folks living in McKean County, the workshop will be held on Wednesday, July 11th, 2012, from 5-7 pm, location to be determined. For Potter County, the workshop will be held on Thursday, July 12th, 2012, from 5-7 pm, location to be determined.

For more information contact Kelly Williams, Clearfield County Conservation District's Watershed Conservationist at 814-765-2629 or kwilliamsccd@atlanticbbn.net. You may also contact the Clinton County Conservation District at 570-726-3798, or conserve@comcast.net. Applications can be obtained through either the Clearfield or Clinton County Conservation District or online at www.headwaterspa.org or www.clintoncountypa.com.