



Wednesday, April 12, 2006

Almost Free water tests available

Reservation deadline April 14

By BRANDON WILSON

Staff Reporter

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The Almost Free water-testing program for private well owners will be offered during National Drinking Water Week, May 1-7. Those interested in testing their wells need to contact the Master Watershed Stewards of Yavapai County or the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Offices for Yavapai County by the end of this week in order to receive testing kits.

"It's been a very successful program," Program Coordinator Russ Radden said. "We try to help tell them what their water looks like and tell them how they can change it. The bottom line is that these kits are within five-percent accuracy of extensive lab tests at a tenth of the cost."

The basic, five-parameter kits cost \$8 and are on-site "shirt-pocket" kits that are easy to use. The basic kits test for nitrates, nitrites, hardness, pH and alkalinity.

These parameters examine corrosiveness, bacteria and toxins.

A Well Water-Plus test is available for \$24. This includes the basic test and an accurate, reliable arsenic test. These arsenic tests were introduced to the program last year after Environmental Protection Agency's recent requirements on arsenic composition.

To reserve a kit, send a check payable to the University of Arizona at UA-Cooperative Extension, Attn: WWT, 2006, 840 Rodeo Drive, Building C, Prescott, AZ 86305. The deadline for reserving a kit is Friday, April 14.

"If we don't receive a check by Friday, we cannot assure a kit," Radden said. "We will try to honor reservations for kits after Friday, and if not, we will refund their money."

Checks can also be brought to the Cottonwood office at 2657 Village Drive.

This will be the eighth year the testing program has been offered.

"We've probably tested over 2,000 wells in the last eight years," Radden said. "We try to keep information as confidential as possible."

To get a well-testing kit...

Where: Send check for \$8 (basic test) \$24 Well Water-Plus kit) to:

UA-Cooperative Extension

Attn: WWT, 2006

840 Rodeo Drive, Bldg C Prescott, AZ 86305

Or come by the Cottonwood office at 2657 Village Drive

When: Checks must be received by Friday to assure a kit

Contact: Russ Radden 928-445-6590 Ext. 227 (Prescott) or the Cottonwood office at 646-9113

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