

## **Free Nitrate Testing For Private Well Owners**

Several areas within the Magic Valley have been designated as a “Nitrate Priority Area” by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and are subject to Nitrate contamination in groundwater. Many wells in the area, both private and public, have been impacted by Nitrates. In some cases, the level of Nitrates detected has exceeded the maximum level allowed by state and federal drinking water standards. While the DEQ regulates public drinking water wells for Nitrates and many other contaminants, private or domestic wells are unregulated. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the well owner to ensure that their water is safe for human consumption.

At the Earth Day celebration, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality will be offering free Nitrate testing to owners of private wells. This testing will help determine if your water has been impacted by Nitrates, and if further testing is required. Private well owners are encouraged to bring a sample of their drinking water in a clean glass jar. The test takes just a few minutes and the results are confidential. Please note that if you are utilizing a municipal water supply, testing will not be performed, as municipalities already undergo extensive water quality monitoring.

If you are a private well owner, the safety of your water is your responsibility. Please take advantage of this free testing to ensure the quality of your water!

For more information please contact Chad Chorney at the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality at phone number (208) 736 – 2190, or via e-mail at [robert.chorney@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:robert.chorney@deq.idaho.gov)