

## **For Immediate Release**

### **County receives well grant funds**

Grundy County has received grant funds again this year to plug an abandoned well, rehabilitate an old well, or have well water tested for nitrates and bacteria. Grants to homeowners are available on a first-come, first-served basis through June 2007 or until the fund is depleted. Due to a grant through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, funds are made available annually to counties who apply, to handle some of the problems associated with old or faulty well casings, pits, and caps on private water wells. The funds are administered through the county sanitarian on a cost-share basis with the landowners depending on work to be done.

In the case of well water testing, the funds pay for all laboratory and collection fees associated with the water sampling process. Both nitrate and bacteria testing (including E. Coli) are free to the landowner. Additional tests can be done for a fee. There is no application process and you simply call the county sanitarian at 319-824-1212 or stop by 706 G Avenue, to set up an appointment.

Plugging an abandoned private well can save the landowner up to \$400 through the grant. The work must be done by a certified well contractor or witnessed by the county sanitarian in order to qualify. Contact the Sanitarian for a list of approved contractors

Rehabilitating a well in order to prevent contamination of an aquifer can save the landowner up to \$600. Please call for a list of Grundy County criteria. There is a minimal application process for rehabilitation funds.

A common misconception is if a problem is found with a well, it will be shut down or quarantined. Local and state officials are merely here to educate and assist and have no jurisdiction to force landowners not to use the well water.

Please call to set up an appointment for water testing or site evaluation. Contact Carie Sager, Grundy County Sanitarian, or visit [www.state.ia.us/epd/prgrmdsc/wsprogrrm/well.htm](http://www.state.ia.us/epd/prgrmdsc/wsprogrrm/well.htm) for more information.

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