

October 5, 2016

Water well owner training set for Nov. 2 in Wheelock

Contact: Drew Gholson, 979-845-1461, dgholson@tamu.edu

WHEELLOCK -- Anyone interested in private water well management is invited to a Texas Well Owner Network training Nov. 2 in Wheelock.

The training, which is free and open to the public, will be from 8:30 a.m.–12 p.m. at the Wheelock Bloodworth Community Center, 12403 S. Farm-to-Market Road 46.

“The TWON program is for Texas residents who depend on household wells for their water needs, so they can learn about improving and protecting their community water resources,” said Drew Gholson, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service program specialist and network coordinator, College Station.

Gholson said the program was established to help well owners become familiar with Texas groundwater resources, septic system maintenance, well maintenance and construction, and water quality and treatment.

He said participants may bring well-water samples to the training for screening. The cost is \$10 per sample, due when samples are turned in.

“Water samples will be screened for nitrates, total dissolved solids and bacteria,” Gholson said.

Well owners who would like to have their well water sampled can pick up two sample containers from the AgriLife Extension offices in [Robertson County](#), 2458 N. Farm-to-Market Road 46 in Franklin; in [Brazos County](#), 2619 Highway 21 W. in Bryan; or at the [Brazos Valley Groundwater Conservation District](#), 112 W. 3rd St. in Hearne.

Bringing water samples to the training is not required, Gholson said, but those wanting to have water samples analyzed must attend.

He said space is limited, so attendees are requested to register at <http://twon.tamu.edu/training> or by calling 979-845-1461 or 979-279-9350 as soon as possible.

The training is one of 30 being conducted statewide through the Preventing Water Quality Contamination initiative of the Texas Well Owner Network project.

“The core content of this program is the same as other trainings, but the information is tailored to local water quality issues and aquifers,” Gholson said.

More than 1 million private water wells in Texas provide water to citizens in rural areas and increasingly to those living on small acreages at the growing rural-urban interface, according to Gholson.

“Private well owners are independently responsible for monitoring the quality of their wells,” he said. “They are responsible for ensuring their drinking water is safe. This means they are responsible for all aspects of the water system – testing, inspecting, maintaining – and this training will help private well owners to understand and care for their wells.”

Funding for the Texas Well Owner Network is through a Clean Water Act nonpoint source grant provided by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The project is managed by the [Texas Water Resources Institute](#), part of [Texas A&M AgriLife Research](#), [AgriLife Extension](#) and the [College of Agriculture and Life Sciences](#) at [Texas A&M University](#).