

## Outreach and Education Opportunities

Your work as a volunteer may be as simple as talking to friends and family about managing their own water system.

VAMWON volunteers may:

- Make a presentation to a church, civic or service organization
- Talk to a neighbor or co-worker about well maintenance and water quality
- Staff information booths at home shows or agriculture fairs
- Write an article for the local newspaper
- Share innovative education methods with other volunteers.
- Maintain their own water system as a demonstration site.



## Virginia Master Well Owner Volunteers and Extension Agents work together to improve the water quality and health of Virginians.

The Virginia Household Water Quality Program provides education and outreach about private water supply systems to the citizens of Virginia.

Through county-based drinking water clinics facilitated by local extension agents (assisted by Master Well Owner volunteers), participants have the opportunity to learn about maintenance and protection of their private drinking water systems, water testing and sampling procedures, and potential water quality threats.

As part of these clinics, citizens take samples of their own drinking water, which are sent to a certified lab for chemical and bacteriological analysis. In a follow-up meeting, the results and possible treatment options will be explained clearly to participants.

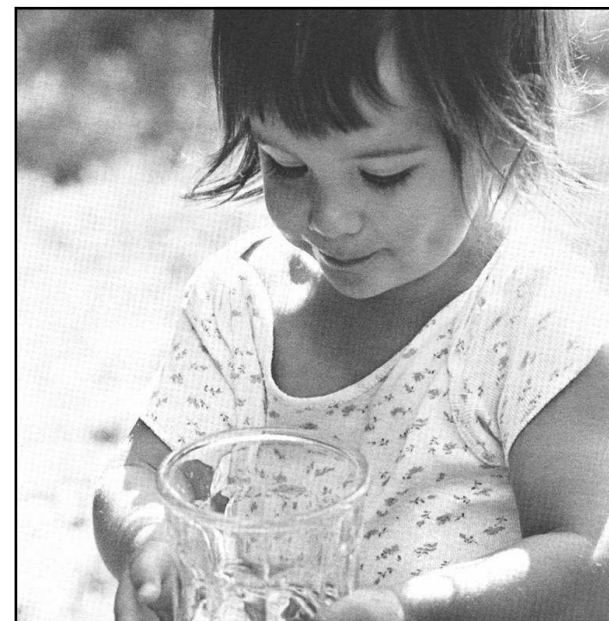
All information is kept strictly confidential.

Master Well Owner agents and volunteers also attend local fairs, festivals, home shows and other events across the state to teach others about proper well location and maintenance, water testing and treatment options.

# Virginia Master Well Owner Network



## Education for Protection of Private Home Water Supplies



## Virginia Master Well Owner Network

400 D Seitz Hall  
Virginia Tech  
Blacksburg, VA 24061  
[www.wellwater.bse.vt.edu](http://www.wellwater.bse.vt.edu)

ph 540-231-9058  
fax 540-231-3199  
email:  
[wellwater@vt.edu](mailto:wellwater@vt.edu)

Virginia  
Cooperative  
Extension



Biological Systems  
Engineering



CENTER for  
WATERSHED  
STUDIES  
at VIRGINIA TECH



VirginiaTech  
Invent the Future

[www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)



Applying knowledge to improve water quality  
Mid-Atlantic  
Water Program  
A Partnership of USDA NIFA  
& Land Grant Colleges and Universities

[www.wellwater.bse.vt.edu](http://www.wellwater.bse.vt.edu)



## Who is responsible for the safety of your private water supply?

### You are!

Over one million homes in Virginia rely on private wells, springs or cisterns.

Groundwater contamination is a common concern for residents using a private water supply. Unlike homes served by public water, homeowners using a private water supply are responsible for all aspects of water system management, including routine maintenance, regular water testing, interpretation of test results, and addressing water quantity or quality problems. All private water system owners should take the time to make sure their systems are working correctly and ensure that their water is safe to drink.

A clean, reliable source of water is not only essential for the health of your family, but also for maintaining property value. Preventative water testing and system maintenance are usually less expensive than waiting until a serious problem arises with your drinking water supply.

Protect yourself and your family by having your water tested, and inspect your water system every year.

## What is the Virginia Master Well Owner Network?

We are a network of trained Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) agents and volunteers promoting the proper construction and maintenance of private water systems in Virginia.

**We are currently seeking 240 volunteers across the state to be educated in all aspects of water quality, source water protection and proper well construction and maintenance.**

As a volunteer, after completing the required one day training, you will work with local VCE agents to educate others in your community about their private water supplies. As a Virginia Master Well Owner Volunteer, you will be a resource for other citizens that rely on private water systems.



Photo credits: Penn State University, USGS

## VAMWON Training Workshop

Each VAMWON volunteer will attend a local workshop, where you will receive training on the following topics:

- Water testing and interpretation
- Water treatment
- Water conservation
- Proper well location and construction
- Wellhead protection and land use impacts
- Groundwater flow and quality
- Springs and cisterns
- Drinking water standards and common pollutants
- Education and outreach methods

## Expectations of Volunteers

Once completing the training session, VAMWON volunteers are asked to make their best effort to educate 100 people. We also ask volunteers to give the VAMWON coordinator a brief annual summary of the type of education and outreach you completed during the year. There are opportunities for continuing education for volunteers.

**For more information about Virginia's Master Well Owner Network,**

**email [wellwater@vt.edu](mailto:wellwater@vt.edu)**

**call 540-231-9058 or visit [www.wellwater.bse.vt.edu](http://www.wellwater.bse.vt.edu)**