

Small Systems Bulletin

Minnesota Rural Water Association



January 2021 | Winter News

Onsite Technical Assistance

We are still available to help answer any questions that you may have regarding your drinking water system, operator renewals or training. If you are in need of onsite technical assistance at your public water system, please feel free to contact us to set up an appointment. Our contact information is listed below. We look forward to seeing you soon!

MRWA Corporate Partners



About Us

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Happy New Year 2021

Dear Lori,

Welcome to this edition of the Small Systems Bulletin. The purpose of this bulletin is to keep you informed on issues concerning your water system. We issue this bulletin quarterly. Topics covered in the bulletin include: operation and maintenance, treatment, backflow/cross-connections, regulations, operator training, management, and many others. Dates and locations of future workshops are included.

If you have suggestions about topics that you would find helpful give us a call at 800-367-6792 or send us an e-mail at kyle.kedrowski@mrwa.com or jennifer.koenig@mrwa.com. Maybe you had a unique experience at your water system that you would like to write about and submit for the bulletin. We're always looking for volunteer writers! We hope this bulletin will be of assistance to you in operating your water system.

Watch for this quarterly newsletter and we'll see you at a future small system training workshop!

MRWA Wellheadlines:

Preventing Nitrate Build-Up: Is Kernza the Answer?

By: Aaron Meyer & Scott Hanson

One of the challenges Minnesota faces is elevated nitrate levels in its drinking water. This is most evident in areas where extensive row crop agriculture occurs in regions that are geologically highly vulnerable to surface contamination. In Minnesota, the areas with the greatest potential for nitrate contamination are the southeast and southwest corners of the state. The southeast area is dominated by Karst geology, the region referred to as the central sands region where irrigation is prevalent. The southwest region relies on superficial aquifers, which have quality and quantity issues. Efforts in these regions to protect aquifers from nitrate contamination have focused on nitrogen management practices, applying nitrogen as economically feasible and environmentally friendly as possible. Nitrate trends are showing



that even utilizing the best management practices available, nitrates continue to reach groundwater in the most vulnerable recharge areas.

The Project at the City of Edgerton:

Edgerton is a small farm community located in Pipestone County in southwest Minnesota. This small public water supplier has been battling elevated nitrates in their drinking water since the late 1980s. To address this issue, the city began working with the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Rural Water Association to develop a wellhead protection plan.

[Read More>>>](#)

In-Person Training Update

Our in-person training workshops are still on hold and we are hoping to get them rescheduled as soon as possible once it is safe to do so. We will continue to follow guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as it relates to holding in-person training.

Online Training Update

We have started offering one-hour online remote training sessions using Zoom. Attending these online remote trainings will help keep you in compliance with the certification rule. If you have not received these email invites for the Zoom online training sessions, please email mrwa@mrwa.com and provide your name, public water system name, and email address to us so that we can add you to our email list. If you have received emails from us in the past but not these Zoom notices, please check your Junk/Spam folder. You will be notified via email of the date and time of each online remote training session. **An email address will be needed to register for these online remote training sessions. Each operations specialist must register and sign-in separately on your own device to receive credit for attending the online remote training session.**

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