

# texas well owner network

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Private water wells have a greater risk for exposure to compromised water quality than publicly monitored wells, with nitrate and coliform bacteria being the most common contaminants. This project is educating private well owners about potential pollutant sources and what steps can be taken to lessen potential impacts from these sources.

## TWON TEXAS Well Owner NETWORK

More than a million private water wells in Texas provide water to citizens in rural areas and to those living in small acreages at the growing rural-urban interface. Private well owners are independently responsible for

monitoring the quality of their wells and are at a greater risk for exposure to compromised water quality.

The Texas Water Resources Institute along with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service's Department of Soil and Crop Sciences and Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering developed the Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) to deliver a science-based, community-responsive education curriculum. It focuses on protecting groundwater quality and aquifer integrity and complements the successful Texas Watershed Stewards program by emphasizing best management practices (BMPs). AgriLife Extension offers voluntary private water well screening events and TWON trainings. As a result, participants have a better understanding of the relationships between practices in or near wells and the quality of water available for drinking and irrigation.

The goal of the **Preventing Water Quality Contamination through the Texas Well Owner Network** project is to train Texans regarding water quality and BMPs for protecting their wells and surface waters.

This knowledge will help avert off-site transport of contaminants to surface waters, prevent contamination of underlying aquifers and safeguard the health of landowners and their families.

### Objectives

- Develop TWON educational materials and curriculum
- Deliver TWON trainings and private well water screenings

### Collaborators

- Texas Water Resources Institute
- Texas AgriLife Extension Service
- Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts
- Texas Water Development Board
- Texas Groundwater Protection Committee

### Funding Agencies

- Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

