

For Immediate Release
April 29, 2021

Groundwater Study Announced

Study area identified and drinking water testing opportunities available

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment and Fort Hays State University (FHSU) are beginning a two-year study to collect water samples from private domestic drinking water wells in three river basins in northwest Kansas. FHSU will collect samples of groundwater used for drinking water in portions of the valley aquifers of Beaver, Sappa and Prairie Dog Creeks.

This study offers private drinking water well owners the opportunity to have their wells tested for free for common mineral contaminants and allows KDHE to understand the extent of the mineral levels in the area and inform the public of the condition of their drinking water. Test results will be provided back to the well owner and used in the broader study to determine overall regional groundwater quality. Please note, water from public water supply systems is routinely tested and meets all safe drinking water standards, and therefore is not included in this study.

FHSU will be collecting water samples upon confirmation of interest from private domestic well owners. This will be a phased approach starting with Prairie Dog Creek in Norton and Phillips Counties in June 2021, followed by Sappa Creek in Decatur County and Beaver Creek in Rawlins County in Summer 2022. Those who use their well(s) for drinking water purposes are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to help evaluate the water quality data in this study area. Participation in this study is voluntary.

For more information please visit www.kdheks.gov/NWmineralization/index.htm or call FHSU at (785) 628-5349 to schedule well sampling if the private well is in the study area or KDHE at (785) 296-7770 for general questions related to the study.

