

SESSION 9: *Protecting Your Water Supply*



T W O N

T E X A S
Well Owner
NETWORK

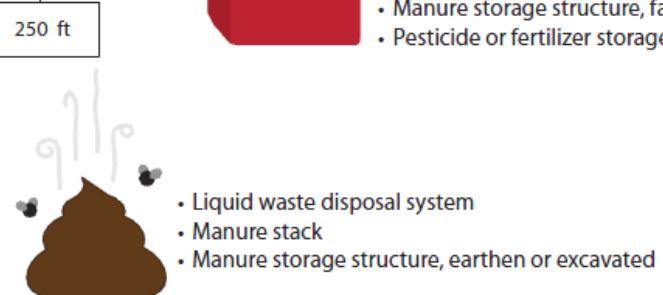
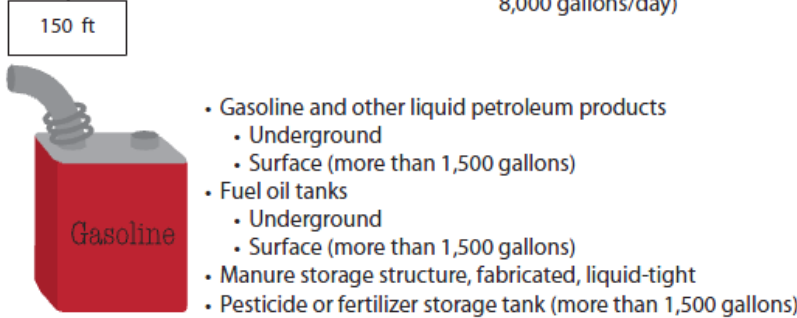
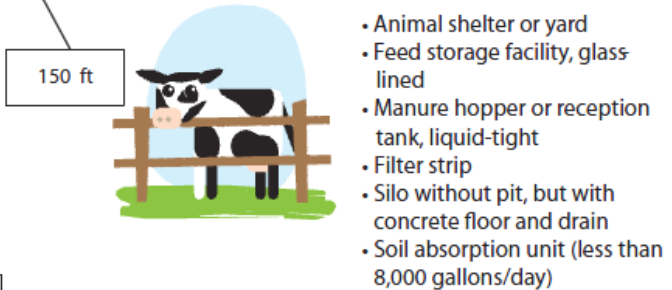
Protecting Your Water Supply

- Protect your water supply
- Well maintenance
- Plugging abandoned wells
- Capping abandoned wells





- Pesticide or fertilizer storage tank (less than 1,500 gallons, nonpotable walls only)
- Cistern
- Nonpotable well



Protection starts at home

Keep potentially contaminating activities a safe distance from the wellhead



Keeping a Safe Distance

Keep animals away that could contaminate your well



Not only protect well from damage by animals, but also keep a larger buffer from potential run-off

Keeping a Safe Distance



Protecting the well

- Pump house should not be used as a storage shed for
 - Pesticides
 - Chemicals
 - Feed sacks
- Don't winterize the well with fertilizer bags

Water Well Construction Checklist

- ✓ Locate well, septic tank, drain field
- ✓ Well construction records
- ✓ Always use a licensed driller
- ✓ Proper separation
- ✓ Well depth
- ✓ Well yield



Homeowner's Maintenance Checklist

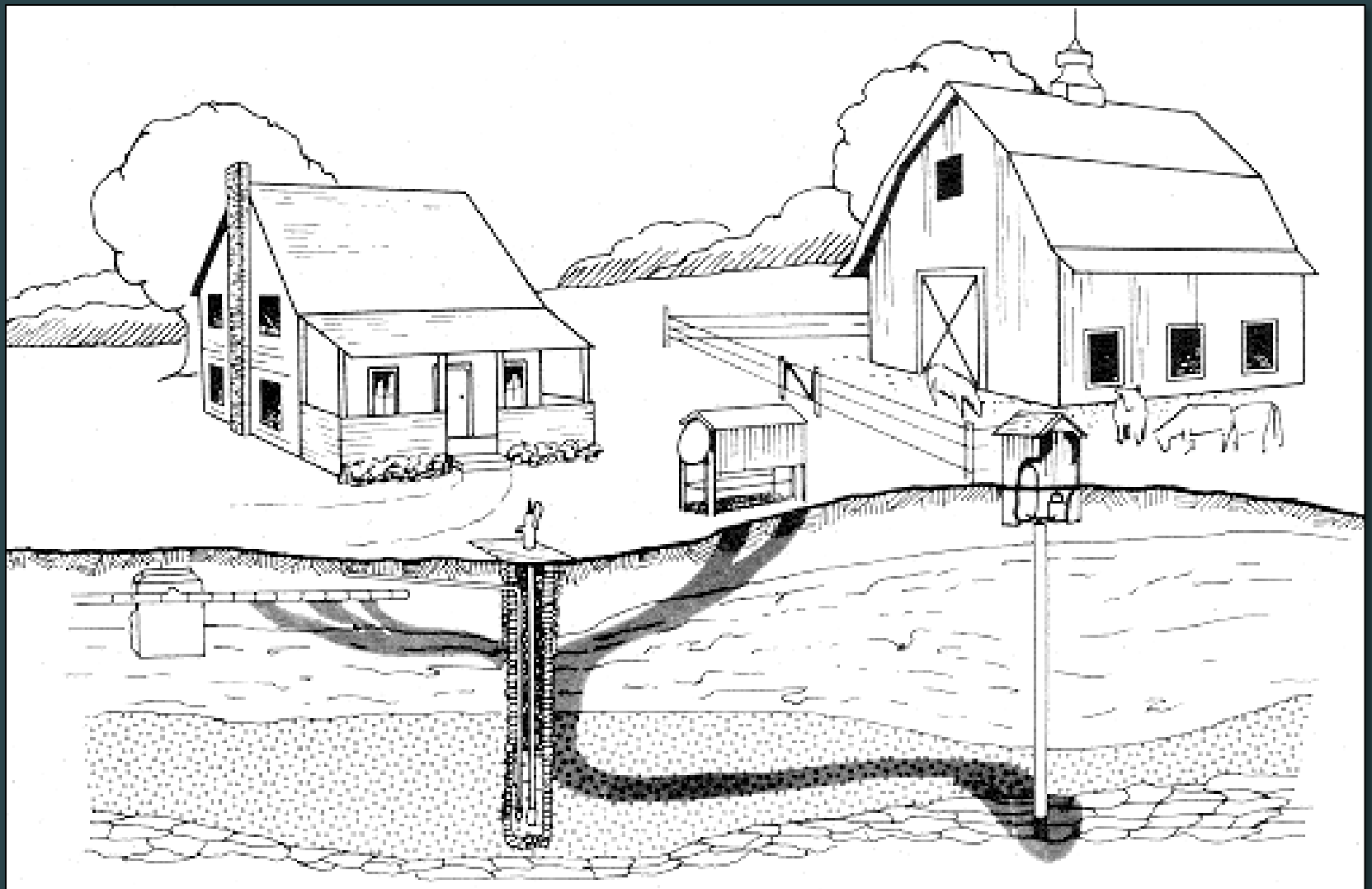
- ✓ Annual test
- ✓ Check well cover
- ✓ Keep hazardous material away
- ✓ Prevent backflow from outdoor faucets
- ✓ Landscaping - keep slope away from well
- ✓ Beware of changes
- ✓ Have your septic tank pumped
- ✓ Limit lawn and garden chemicals



Abandoned Wells

- **What is it?**
 - Unused for six consecutive months
 - Or a non-deteriorated well with casing, pump or has been capped
- **Why a problem?**
 - Safety
 - Nuisance
 - Environmental
 - Legal
- **Who can plug the well?**
 - Licensed well driller
 - Licensed pump installer
 - Landowner





Abandoned wells can be pathways for pollutants

Abandoned Wells



Abandoned Wells



Local News

Text message saves Kemp police chief after falling in abandoned well



Credit: WFAA

Kemp Police Chief Jimmy Council was rescued from an abandoned water well Tuesday morning after he fell in while responding to a loose livestock call.



Tweet 4



Recommend 310



+1



MORE

by JOSH DAVIS

WFAA

Posted on May 7, 2013 at 12:20 PM

Updated yesterday at 12:20 PM

KEMP -- Kemp Police Chief Jimmy Council was rescued from an abandoned water well Tuesday morning after he fell in while responding to a loose livestock call.

Around 9 a.m., Chief Council met a Kaufman County Sheriff's deputy at the scene near FM 2860 about halfway between US Highway 175 and FM 1985.

A short time later, the chief contacted Kemp City Hall by text message to

Gallery



SEE ALL 3 PHOTOS »

Who Should Plug the Well?

A landowner may plug wells with less than 100 feet of standing water in the well.




But, a contractor may have **better equipment** and **understanding** of the **geological conditions** that affect how the well should be plugged.

Plugging an Abandoned Well

- Understand the regulations that apply
- Obtain the water well driller's report
- Determine well depth and height of standing water
- Remove obstructions from well
- Remove as much casing as possible
- Disinfect the well by adding bleach
- Fill the well with plugging material
- Complete and submit a state well plugging report to TDLR and a local groundwater conservation district

B-6238
04/10

AgriLIFE EXTENSION
Texas A&M System



A hand-dug well used to access shallow groundwater.

Plugging Abandoned Water Wells

TCEQ REGULATORY GUIDANCE
Texas Groundwater Protection Committee
RG-347 • Revised March 2010

Landowner's Guide to Plugging Abandoned Water Wells

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Step 1. Understand the regulations regarding the plugging of an abandoned well	5
Step 2. Obtain the water well driller's report for the well	5
Step 3. Determine depth of the well and height of standing water in the well	6



Measuring the Depth of Water

Try to find the driller's log first

- TWDB database
- GCD records
- Driller's records

Water depth –
measured distance of
depth of water in the
well



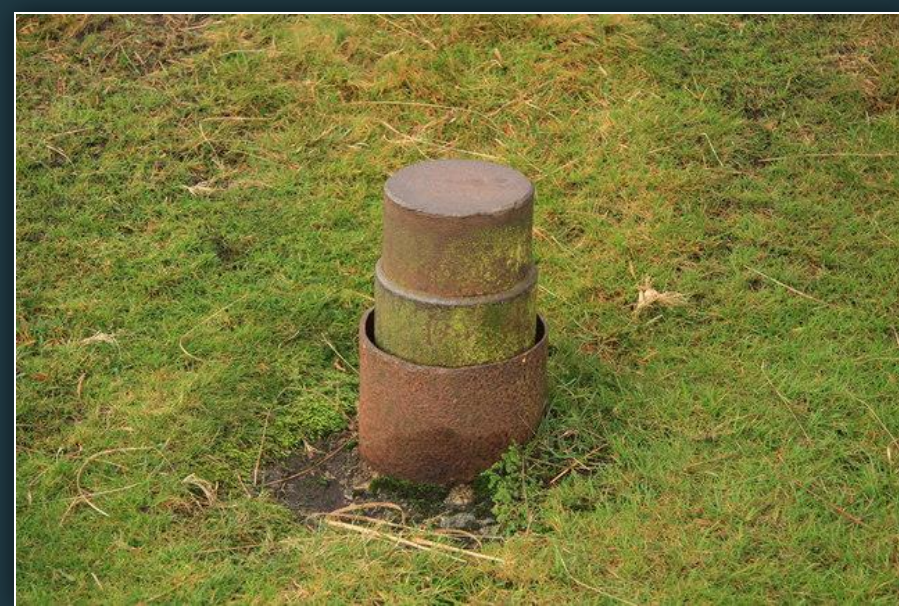
- Tie a weight to some string and drop it to the bottom of the well.
- Retrieve the string and measure the portion of the string that is wet.

Materials for Plugging Abandoned Wells



Capping Abandoned Wells

- Under Texas law, the landowner is responsible for plugging abandoned water wells and is liable for any water contamination or injury that results
- Another alternative is to cap the well
 - If the well is “non-deteriorated” and in good condition



Capping a Well

Three criteria for capping a well

- A cap must fit tightly and be properly sealed to prevent surface pollutants from entering well
- The cap should support 400 pounds to minimize the risk of a person falling into the well
- To protect children and animals, the cap should not be easily removed by hand and not easy to lift.



Key Points to Remember

- As the private well owner you are the operator of your water system: drilling, maintenance, regulating, testing
- Protect your well and your water supply with easy preventive steps
- It is cheaper to prevent issues than to repair them
- **TEST** your water well every year!

Questions?



Questions?

