

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: June 13, 2008 Afternoon report
CONTACT: Karen Brown, Fillmore County Coordinator/
Public Information Officer
PHONE: 507.765.4566 CELL: 507.951.5053
SUBJECT: Flooding update– Fillmore County

Two options are being offered next week in Fillmore County for free testing of private water supplies. The first option is for those impacted by recent flooding and the second option is for all residents.

County officials continue to encourage residents who have had flood water within 50 feet or on top of their private well to contact Public Health for a free test kit. Kits must be used for these samples. Drinking water could be contaminated with bacteria due to the recent heavy rainfall and flooding. If residents have concerns about the safety of their private wells, they should notify their city or township representative.

Next week or **June 16-20 (8:00 AM to 4:30 PM)**, Public Health will also be accepting water samples for nitrate testing. Anyone with a private well in Fillmore County is eligible for this free service. Homes in flooded areas are strongly encouraged to test their wells for nitrates. At least a cup of well water should be brought to Public Health located at 902 Houston St. NW, Preston in a clean glass jar or plastic Ziploc bag.

Residents impacted by the flood will be able to get water and supplies at two locations this weekend. Red Cross will be staffing the Preston Fire Hall to conduct assessments and provide drinking water and cleaning supplies. Contact the Red Cross at 507.287.2200 for the schedule. Mayor Donavee Johnson should be contacted at 507.429.8001 for appointments for residents in the Canton area to obtain drinking water and cleaning supplies. Salvation Army can be contacted for residents who need assistance due to the flood. Lynn Mensink can be contacted at 507.765.2761, during regular business hours, or you may call the main number: 877.357.2297.

Festivals will be held this weekend, as scheduled. The Root River Bike Trail is open west of Lanesboro. Visitors are welcome to proceed with most plans in Fillmore County this weekend!

END