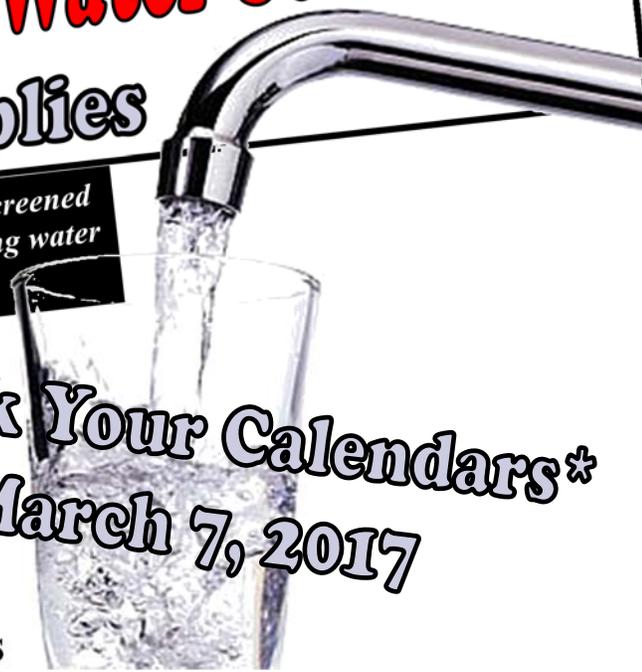


North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Ashe County Center

# Ashe County Drinking Water Screening for Private Water Supplies

Private drinking water supplies (wells and springs) should be screened each year for bacteria if your well is older than 5 years. Drinking water springs should be screened annually.



**\*Mark Your Calendars\***  
**March 7, 2017**

**Date:** Tuesday, March 7, 2017

**Time:** 7:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.  
(or until 150 bottles have been distributed)

**Cost:** \$10.00 Ashe County Residents  
\$12.00 Out of County Residents

**Where:** Agriculture Service Center Conference Room  
(134 Government Circle, Jefferson, NC 28640)

**To participate in the water screening:**

- Come to the Agriculture Service Center Conference Room on March 7, 2017 between 7:30 a.m.– 2:00 p.m.
- You will receive a sterile bottle for collecting your drinking water sample and directions on how to take the water sample for accurate results
- You will be given dates to choose when you would prefer to return your water sample to the Agriculture Service Center
- You will receive your screening results by mail in 2-3 weeks of your screening
- You will receive recommendations on how to clean your water system if bacteria is found

*For more information contact the North Carolina Cooperative Extension,*

**Coliform Bacteria:**

Coliform bacteria have no color, smell or taste. The only way to detect if water is contaminated is to have water screened. Coliform bacteria are “indicators.” If they are present in your water supply, this indicates the possibility that other potentially harmful bacteria are also present. Coliform bacteria are naturally present in the soil and can enter drinking water supplies that are not properly sealed.

**Fecal Coliform Bacteria:**

Fecal coliform bacteria come from the intestines of humans and warm-blooded animals. If they are present, this indicates that other potentially harmful bacteria and viruses from sewage, septic system leachate, or manure may also be present. Some of these can cause serious illnesses, such as dysentery, cholera and hepatitis. Others cause cramps and severe diarrhea, which can be fatal in young infants, the elderly, or people already in poor health or with compromised immune systems. Water with coliform bacteria or fecal matter has no odor, taste or color. The only way to know if water is contaminated is to have water screened.



**Sponsored by:**  
**North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Ashe County Center**  
**Town of Jefferson Water Resources**

Persons with disabilities and persons with limited English proficiency may request accommodations to participate by contacting Carolyn Shepherd, County Extension Director, at (336) 846-5850 or carolyn\_shepherd@ncsu.edu or in person at the County Extension Office at least five days prior to the event. North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status or disability. In addition, the two Universities welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation. North Carolina State University, North Carolina A & T State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.