The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has designed a Township Testing Program to determine current nitrate-nitrogen conditions in private wells. Townships are initially selected if 30% of the township is vulnerable to groundwater contamination and 20% is in row crop production.

The figure presents the initial (first year) testing results by township. These results represent the percent of tested wells that exceed the drinking water standard for nitrate regardless of the potential source of nitrate. Townships will undergo a follow-up testing period and a process to remove faulty wells (i.e. cracked casing) and those near potential non-fertilizer sources of nitrate before final results are released. Initial results may change based on follow-up sampling and well assessments. Detailed sampling results are available at: www.mda.state.mn.us/townshiptesting.