

CLASS NOTES

Season 2, Episode 4 - From Wells to Wellness: Understanding Florida's Drinking Water Systems

Featured Guests: Dr. Weizhe Weng, UF/IFAS Food and Resource Economics Assistant Professor, Dr. Andrea Albertin UF/IFAS NW Extension District Water Resources Regional Specialized Agent, and Dr. Yilin Zhuang, UF/IFAS Central Extension District Water Resources Regional Specialized Agent



Key Takeaways

- Safe drinking water is essential for human health and well-being.
- In Florida, drinking water systems have been classified into four categories: public drinking water systems, limited-use public drinking water systems, multi-family water systems, and private water systems.
- While public water drinking systems are regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act, Limited-Use Public Systems and Private Water Systems are not.
- It is important for private well owners to maintain their wells and ensure the quality of the drinking water sourced from those wells through regular monitoring and testing.
- The Florida Well Owner Network is a readily available resource for private well users.

Additional Resources

- From Wells to Wellness: An Introduction to Drinking Water Systems in Florida by Weizhe Weng, Andrea Albertin, and Yilin Zhuang : <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/FE1156>
- Florida Well Owner Network: <https://water.ifas.ufl.edu/well>

Discussion Questions

- Where are you from? Do you know what source your water comes from - a Lake, Aquifer, River or Something Else?
- Do you know anyone who gets their water from a private well? What considerations do they have that are different from someone who relies on the public water system?
- What are the different ways that you interact with potable water in your daily life? How might concern over potential contaminants impact these activities?
- In this episode, we discussed the 50th Anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Has it improved public health in the United States since its enactment? How do you think drinking water regulation might continue to evolve over time?
- Activity: Using the internet, can you find out what water contaminants are common in your area? What risks do they pose, and how might they be identified and removed?

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