Drinking Water Needs Assessment of the Midwest

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Introduction

- Groundwater is an important resource throughout the world with many people relying on it for a source of drinking water
- There is a need to increase the educational programming throughout the Midwest on where drinking water comes from and how safe it is.

Objectives

The objective of this project was to create a needs assessment that could be done quickly and throughout different states to identify information gaps surrounding groundwater and drinking water.

Methods

- Created a short needs assessment to identify knowledge gaps, this was done through a 10-question survey on Qualtrics, with an additional 7 questions on demographic information.
- Survey was distributed by:
- Sharable link online
- Paper responses to a printed version of the survey
- In a Clicker format

Survey Questions

- 1. What best describes you in terms of audience?
- 2. What is/are your well(s) used for?
- How often do you test your well? 3.
- 4. If you have tested your well, was there an issues if so, what was it?
- 5. Where did you find the information to address your issue?
- Do you think water quality is an issue in your area? 6.
- 7. Rank issue of water quality in importance to you.
- Where do you go for information about groundwater and water quality?
- What other topics would it be beneficial for you to know about groundwater?
- 10.What format would it be best for you to receive this information?

Looking Forward

The authors are working towards developing educational materials on these topics, with plans to develop;

- **Educational Videos**
- Facilitation guide
- Informational packets

These projects have been delayed until the summer of 2022.











Other agricultural use Other:

Municipal drinking source

Livestock drinking water Human drinking water

The largest source of information was from the audiences University Extension Service followed by State Agency and Local Government. 62% agreed water quality was an issue in their area

Every 10+ years Every 5-9 years Every 2-4 years

• Factors affecting water quality

Aquifer formation and groundwater location

Much of the audience indicated they prefer their information in a PDF format and online, followed by in-person presentations.

50% 40% 30% 20%

10% 0%



Results

271 Responses

What is/are your well(s) used for?

Crop irrigation





The top four topics of interest were

How/When to Test

What to do if the test shows an irregularity

