

Working Well Program Update



April 2016

Issue 9



Clean Water. Well Protected.

Working Well is a province-wide, multi-agency collaborative effort that encourages Alberta's water well owners to manage and protect their wells and common groundwater supplies. The program is led by Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) with the support of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AAF), Alberta Health (AH), Alberta Health Services - Environmental Public Health (AHS), Alberta Water Well Drilling Association (AWWDA) and rural municipalities. The overarching goal of the program is to ensure safe and secure groundwater supplies for water well users in Alberta.

IN THIS ISSUE:

2014-2015 Program Report	1
Facts, Figures and Feedback	1
Workshop Statistics	1
Participant Reaction, Learning and Action	2
Hosts, Staff and Resources	3
Workshop Locations Map	4

2014-2015 Program Report

The Working Well program uses four key elements to engage and educate water well owners: hands-on workshops for well owners, interactive activities and exhibits, information resources, and community outreach. Workshops are the cornerstone of the program, and the primary tool for engaging well owners. The following is an overview of the information collected and results achieved from the workshops conducted **between April 1, 2014 and March 31, 2015.**

WORKING WELL
Clean water.
Well protected.

WORKING WELL PARTNERS:

Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP)
Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AAF)
Alberta Health (AH)
Alberta Health Services (AHS)
Alberta Water Well Drilling Association (AWWDA)
Alberta's Counties and Municipal Districts

Facts, Figures and Feedback

Evaluation is a key strategic priority of the Working Well program. Workshop statistics, as well as participant and host feedback is collected to:

- Track performance of and improve workshops to help achieve Working Well program outcomes.
- Maintain accountability and credibility through transparent reporting on program performance.
- Provide the rationale for continued program support by partners.

Workshop Statistics

This section summarizes how many workshops were delivered, total number of participants and average workshop attendance in 2014-2015.

Summary Workshop Statistics	Total	Average	Total Since 2008
Total workshops requested	33		226
Total workshops completed	29		198
Total number of participants	855		5461
Average attendance per workshop		29	
Total delivery staff participating	91		

CONTACT US:

AEP Information Centre
Toll Free Alberta 310-3773
Email ESRD.Info-Centre@gov.ab.ca



Workshop Feedback

Feedback is collected at every workshop from participants. Surveys are also conducted post-workshop with workshop hosts as well as participants who requested a follow up call. Here are highlights of the information gathered in 2014-2015:

Participant Reaction

As they have since the program began, participants continue to be very supportive of the workshops and appreciative of the information provided. Many participants value the workshop format, the information provided during the sessions, the hands-on element of the draw your well exercise, the displays and well model, the general knowledge they gained about how water wells work, and the importance of well maintenance. Overall, participants felt the workshops were thorough and informative, very well prepared, well presented and worth their time to attend.

Participants find the workshops worthwhile, they appreciate the valuable and useful take-home resources (i.e. the workshop binder and fact sheets), and are glad to have access to knowledgeable, experienced technical experts (workshop delivery staff).

Participant Learning

In surveys completed immediately after the workshop:

- 97% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that the workshop **increased their understanding of how groundwater works.**
- 98% of participants strongly agreed or agreed that the workshop **increased their understanding of how their well works.**
- 98% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that the workshop **increased their understanding of well drilling reports.**
- 98% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that the workshop **increased their understanding of common well problems and contamination hazards.**
- 98% of participants agreed or strongly agreed

that their **understanding of well maintenance, monitoring and management** increased as a result of attending the workshop.

- 98% of participants agreed that **the workshop provided information that will be helpful in maintaining and managing their water wells.**

Participant Action

Since the start of the program, hundreds of follow-up surveys have been conducted with workshop participants 6 to 8 months post-workshop. More than 250 follow up calls were made to workshop participants in 2014-2015.

These calls enable the program to reconnect with participants, and gather valuable information on what participants have done with what they learned at the workshops. In 2014-2015, of those participants who said they would:

- 92% regularly inspected their well and the area around their well.
- 88% ensured the ground around their well is mounded to prevent water from pooling.
- 94% checked to ensure their well is properly set back from potential contamination sources.
- 94% avoided over pumping their wells.
- 93% avoided over applying manure, fertilizers or pesticides.
- 93% ensured their well was securely capped.



Did you Know?

Since the program started in 2008:

- More than 5,400 Albertans have attended a Working Well workshop.
- Nearly 200 workshops have been delivered in communities across the province.
- More than 1,600 follow-up surveys have been conducted with workshop participants who requested a follow-up call.



Finally, 85% of follow-up survey respondents indicated they had shared what they learned at the workshop with others (primarily family, friends, neighbours and co-workers), and 100% of those surveyed also said YES, they would recommend others attend a Working Well workshop.

Workshop Hosts

Workshop hosts play a very important role by helping to bring the workshops to their communities. Hosts, which include Counties, Municipal Districts and not-for-profit community and agri-environmental organizations, arrange for venues, advertise and promote workshops, and take registrations.

Hosts continue to be very supportive and appreciative of the information the program provides and the ability to bring these workshops to their local communities.

Program Partners and Delivery Staff

The workshops would not be possible without the commitment and participation of the program partners and the workshop delivery staff who represent them.

Delivery staff contribute significant time to present at the workshops, provide technical expertise and address questions from workshop participants. Delivery staff include representatives from:

- Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
- Alberta Environment and Parks
- Alberta Health Services
- Alberta Water Well Drilling Association (licensed water well contractors)

In 2014-2015, 91 delivery staff participated in the workshops, delivering the presentation and providing valuable technical assistance to workshop participants.

The participation of these individuals is critical to the ongoing success of the workshops and the Working Well Program.



Working Well Resources

Find the e-Learning tool, fact sheets, e-books, program updates, instructional videos and much more at www.WorkingWell.alberta.ca.

Want to Attend a Workshop?

A workshop is coming to a community near you. Visit www.WorkingWell.alberta.ca for dates, locations and host contact information for upcoming workshops.

Pre-registration is required for all workshops. If you are interested in attending a workshop, please pre-register by calling the workshop host.



Clean Water. Well Protected.

Working Well offers many information resources, free of charge, to people interested in learning how to protect and maintain their water wells.

Find the information you want and the resources you need at:

www.WorkingWell.alberta.ca

Have questions?
Want more information?

Email us at ESRD.Info-Centre@gov.ab.ca.

Alberta
Government

