

FARM NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Doc.No. **2.47**

Title: **Policy for Maintaining Water Delivery Systems\***

Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_ GAP Coordinator, Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Well Maintenance**

1. Well testing is conducted annually for bacteria and any contaminants of local concern. Wells may also be tested:
  - a. Any time there is a change in taste, odor, or appearance
  - b. Any time there is a problem related to the well contamination related to removal of the well cap.
  - c. If family members experience incidents of gastrointestinal illness
  - d. If an infant is living in the home
  - e. If you want to monitor efficiency of home water treatment equipment
2. Water tests are conducted by a GLP Certified laboratory.
3. All hazardous chemicals such as paint, fertilizer, pesticides and motor oil are kept away from the well.
4. The well cover is checked annually to ensure it is in good repair.
5. Proper separation is maintained between the well and buildings, waste systems- both septic and animal, or chemical storage facilities.
6. A backflow preventer is installed between the well and discharge devices.
7. The well head is at least one foot above land elevation. Any overflow runs away from the well head.
8. Care is exercised during landscape maintenance, mowing and snow removal operations.
9. Records including water tests are kept current and readily available. (DOC 4.11)
10. Any repairs or changes to the well and the area around it are noted (DOC 4.31\_4.32)

### **Irrigation System Maintenance**

1. Inspect the total system monthly. Look for the following:
  - a. Leaks
  - b. Broken or clogged sprinkler heads
  - c. Clogged screens and micro-irrigation filters
2. Adjust overhead sprinklers and spray patterns regularly.
3. Monitor micro-irrigation emitters for clogging
4. Check the system pressure
5. Monitor any known water issues that may contribute to plugging.
  - a. pH
  - b. bicarbonate
  - c. iron
  - d. sulfides
  - e. manganese
6. Flush filters regularly
7. Chlorinate systems (1-5 ppm) to remove bacterial growth and oxidize organic matter
8. Inject acid to modify pH to treat plugging by calcium carbonate (lime)

\*National Groundwater Foundation and Texas A&M University