

# **USING THE SOURCE WATER PROTECTION SELF-ASSESSMENT GUIDE For Non-Municipal Public Water Supply Systems**



# Contamination Happens!

"I worry about it every day. They fight over everything instead of doing something about it."

**Terry Barnhart**  
owns auto repair shop near the Motor Wheel site

## Water Worries

Debate continues over cleanup of contaminated water in



## WELLS AREN'T WELL

*A chemical meant to clean the air now taints water*

By EMILIA ASKARI AND SALLY FARHAT

Kelly Gorham sits in her spacious Clarkston home with concern on her mind. A water cooler in a dining room corner hints at the source of her unease.

Gorham is one of hundreds of Michigan residents whose wells are tainted by a chemical known as MTBE. It seeped into their wells from leaking underground storage tanks at gas stations.

"I'm worried that when I take a bath I'm a guinea pig," said Gorham, who lives on Bluegrass Avenue west of I-75, about a block from a Shell sta-

tion that is suspected of being among those causing the contamination.

In northern Oakland County, where wells are common and sandy soil provides a porous path for MTBE to spread, residents are growing concerned about the gasoline additive.

MTBE, butyl ethyl ether, is both an odor and tasteless. In Oakland County, the contamination in 15 tainted wells in 11 different townships. Quality researchers have pro-

### SOME OF THE TAINTED WELLS

Three Oakland County wells contain 20 parts per billion or more of the gasoline additive MTBE. Thousands of other wells have not been tested.



A close-up photograph of a hand holding a clear glass under a chrome faucet. Water is being poured from the faucet into the glass, creating ripples and splashes. The background is a plain, light color.

What's Next?  
What Can You Do?

# Source Water Protection Guide

*Use the information to develop long-term strategies to protect your drinking water source*

Source Water Protection Guide for Non-Municipal Water Supplies	
Water Supply Name _____	WSSN _____
Water Supply Owner _____	County _____
Certified Operator _____	Operator ID _____
Well Record Available? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No _____	Date _____

**You are a Public Water Supply System!**

Source water assessments assigned a susceptibility rating to all public water supply systems. These ratings, designed to assess the potential for contamination of drinking water supplies, range from low to very high. Although little can be done to improve geologic sensitivity to afford more protection for your well, some actions can be taken to decrease susceptibility (lessen the potential for contamination). This might mean installing a new, deeper or grouted well, properly plugging an unused well, eliminating a potential source of contamination such as a fuel storage tank, a sewer line, or a septic system, or following best management practices. These practices include actions such as properly disposing of used motor oil or following recommended practices for lawn and garden fertilizer application.

**Purpose of this Guide**

This guide is designed to help you, the owner of the public water supply, to evaluate the level of risk that existing well conditions or current practices pose to the water supply. This evaluation will give you an indication of the potential risks and suggestions for how to increase water supply protection through best management practices. Answer the risk questions on the worksheets by selecting the statement that best describes conditions at your property. Indicate your risk level (low, medium or high) in the column to the right. Once you have completed all sections, you will list the practices that present medium or high risks to your water supply, and develop a plan to reduce the risks. You are encouraged to work with your certified operator to complete this evaluation of your public water supply.



# Self-Assessment Guide

- Well Integrity and Management
- Wastewater Management
- Managing Hazardous Products
- Storm Water Runoff Management
- Managing Site Waste

Assess risk

Low Risk

Medium Risk

High Risk

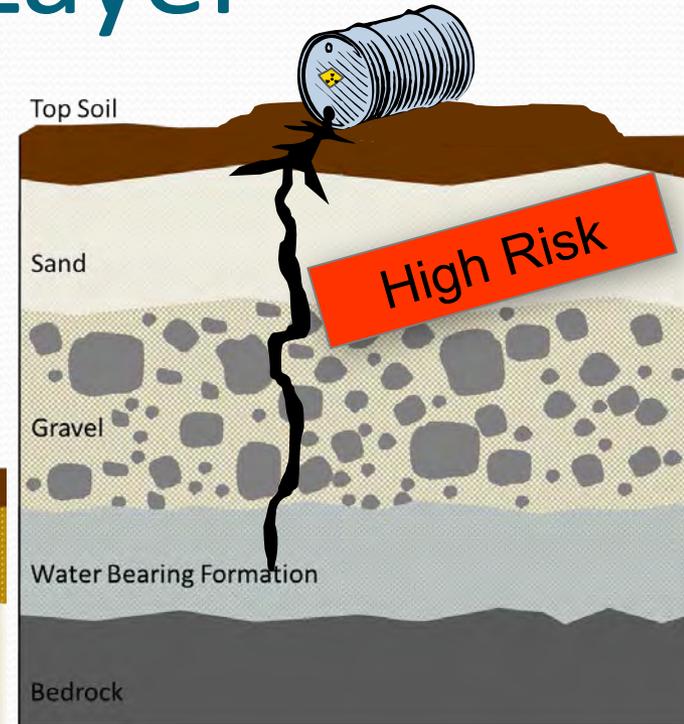
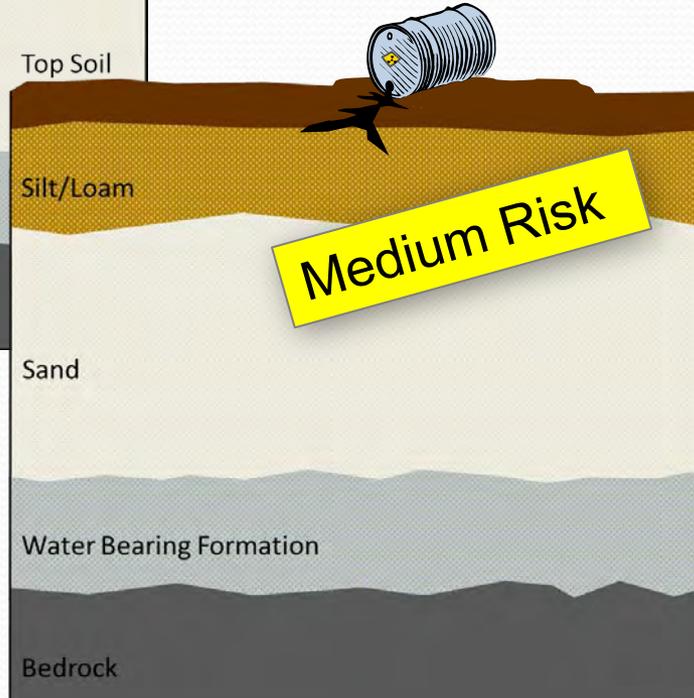
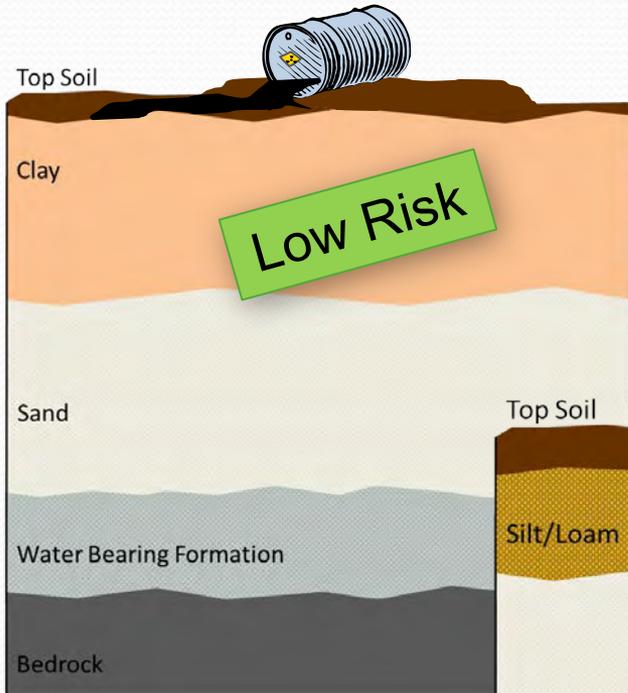
Develop an Action Checklist for Medium and High Risks



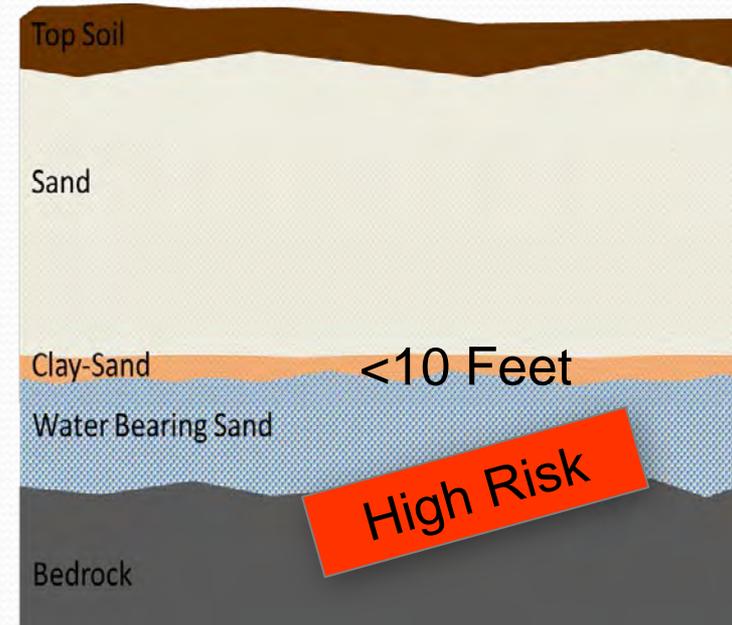
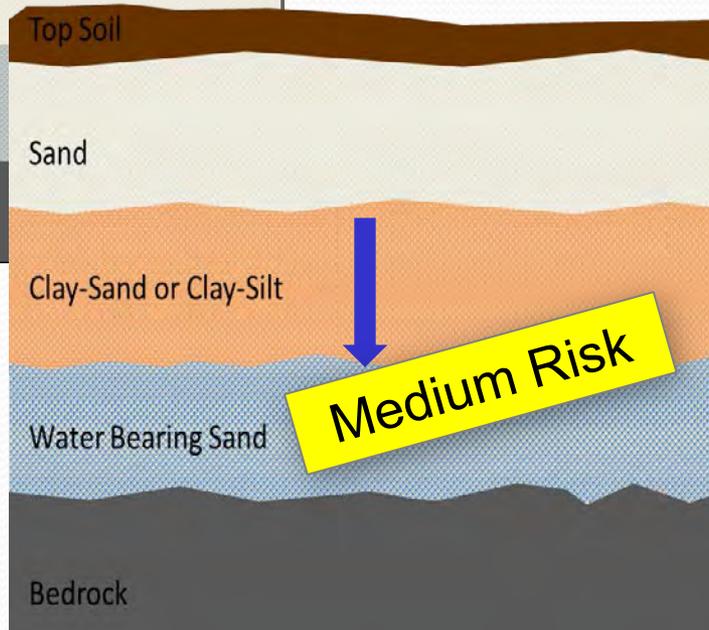
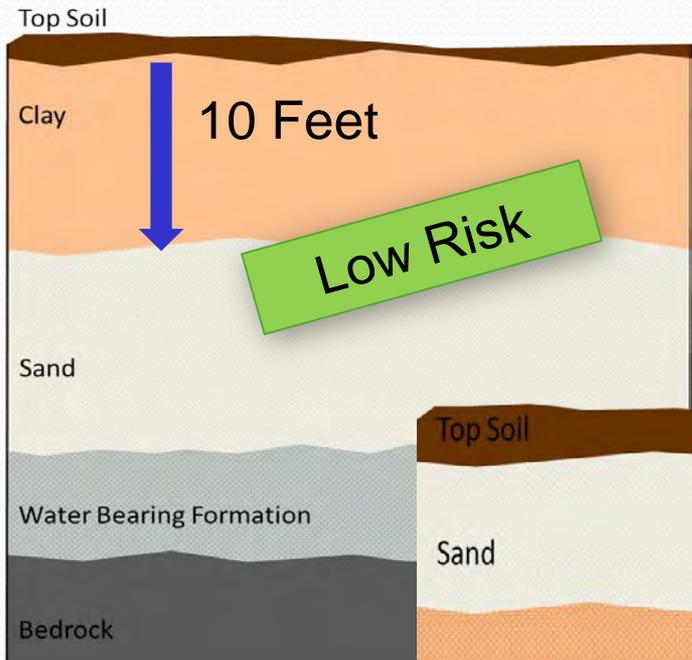
# Basic Soil Formation



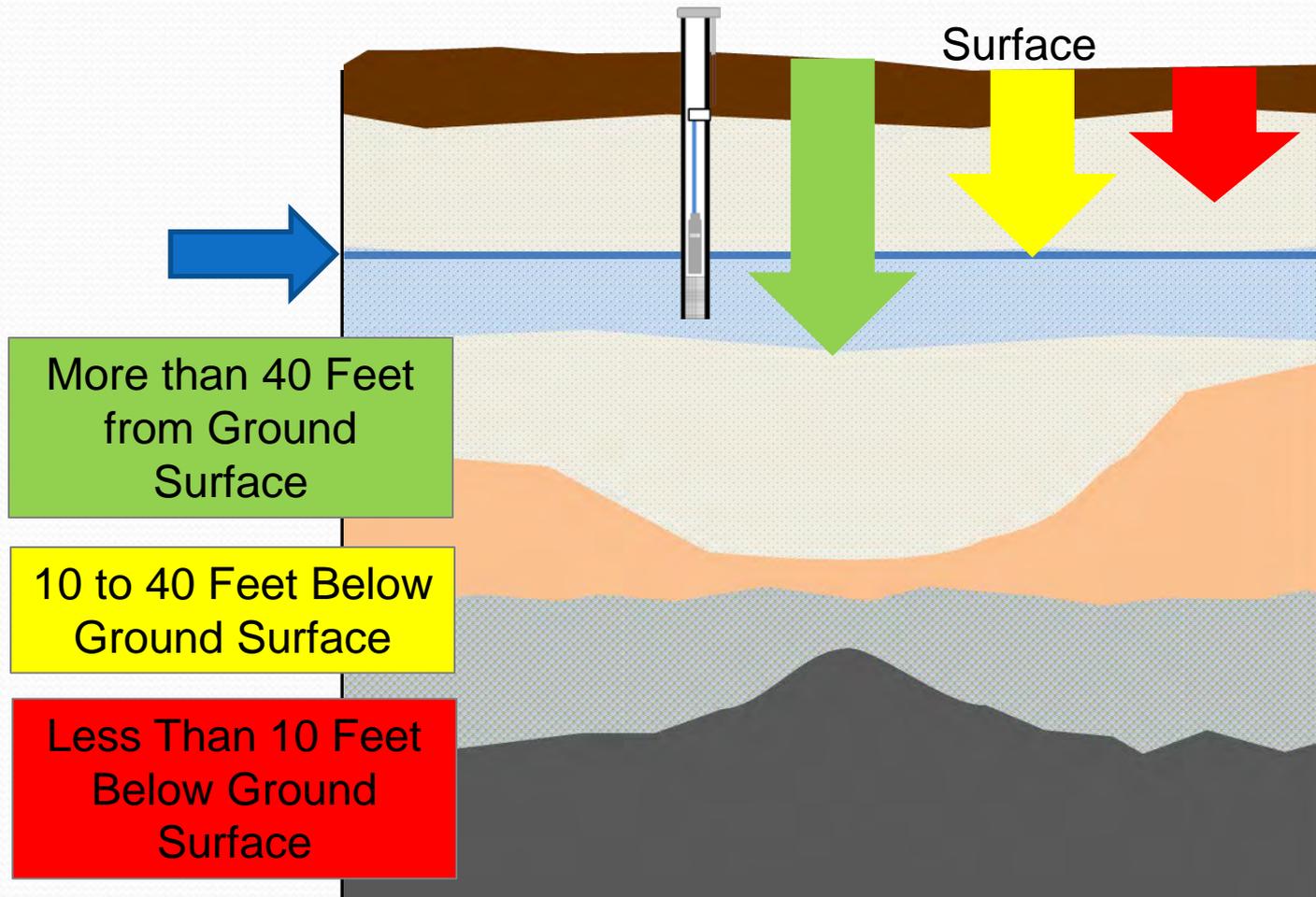
# Permeability of Top Layer



# Thickness of Protective Layer



# Static Water Level



# Age of the Well

Constructed After  
1994

Constructed  
Between 1976 &  
1994

Constructed Prior to  
1976



# Well Grouting

Grouted According  
to Current Rules

Partially or Poorly  
Grouted

Not Grouted



# Condition of Well Casing & Cap

Approved Cap  
No Holes or Cracks  
Tightly Secured  
Screened Vent

Unapproved Cap

Cracks, Holes, or  
Loose Casing, Cap,  
or Conduit



# Protection of Wellhead

No Chemicals  
Applied Onsite.  
Grade Slopes Away  
From Wellhead

No Chemicals  
Applied Near Well  
Casing. Grade  
Slopes Away From  
Wellhead

Chemicals Applied  
Near or At  
Wellhead. Grade  
Slopes Toward  
Wellhead

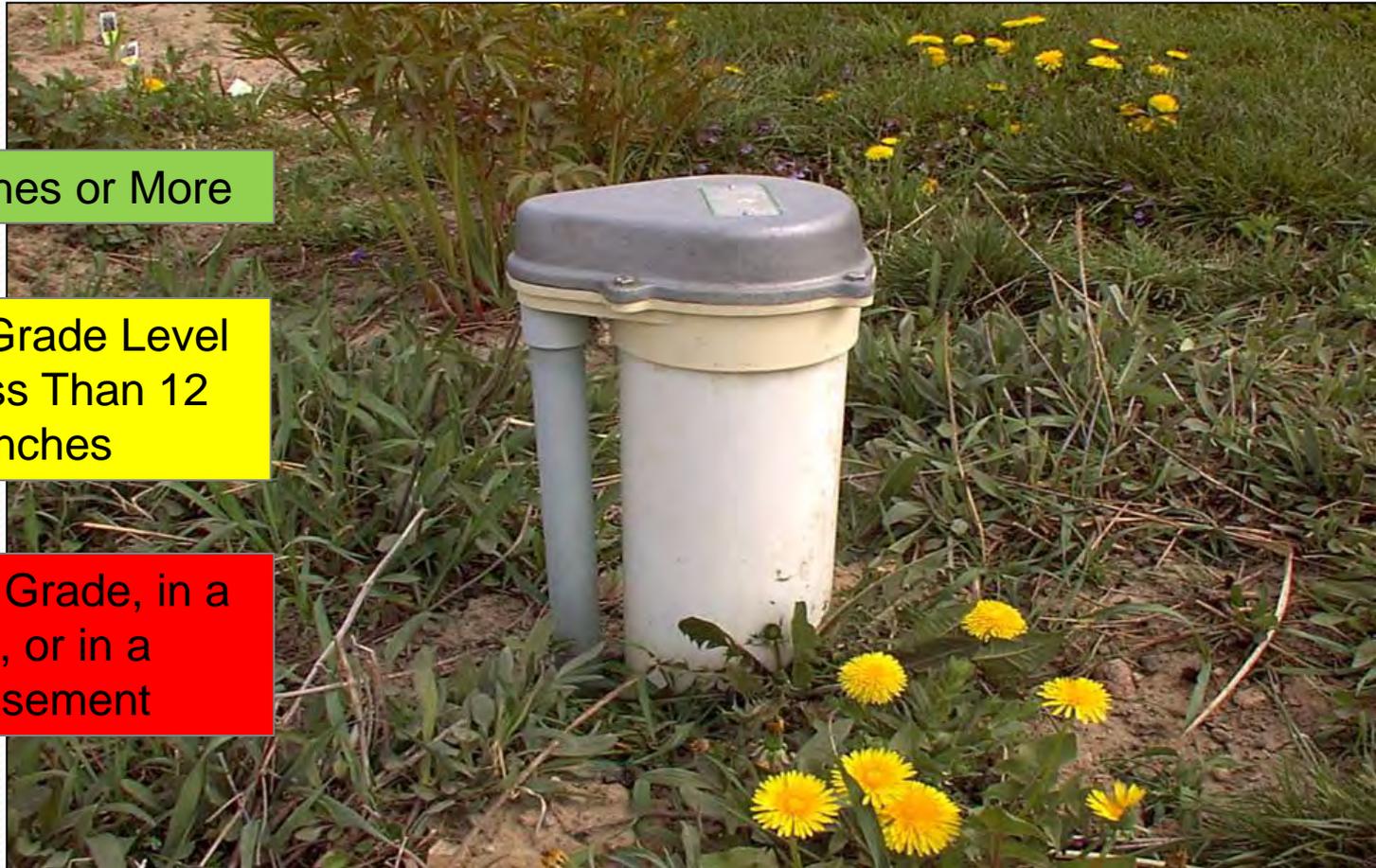


# Casing Height Above Grade

12 Inches or More

From Grade Level  
to Less Than 12  
Inches

Below Grade, in a  
Pit, or in a  
Basement

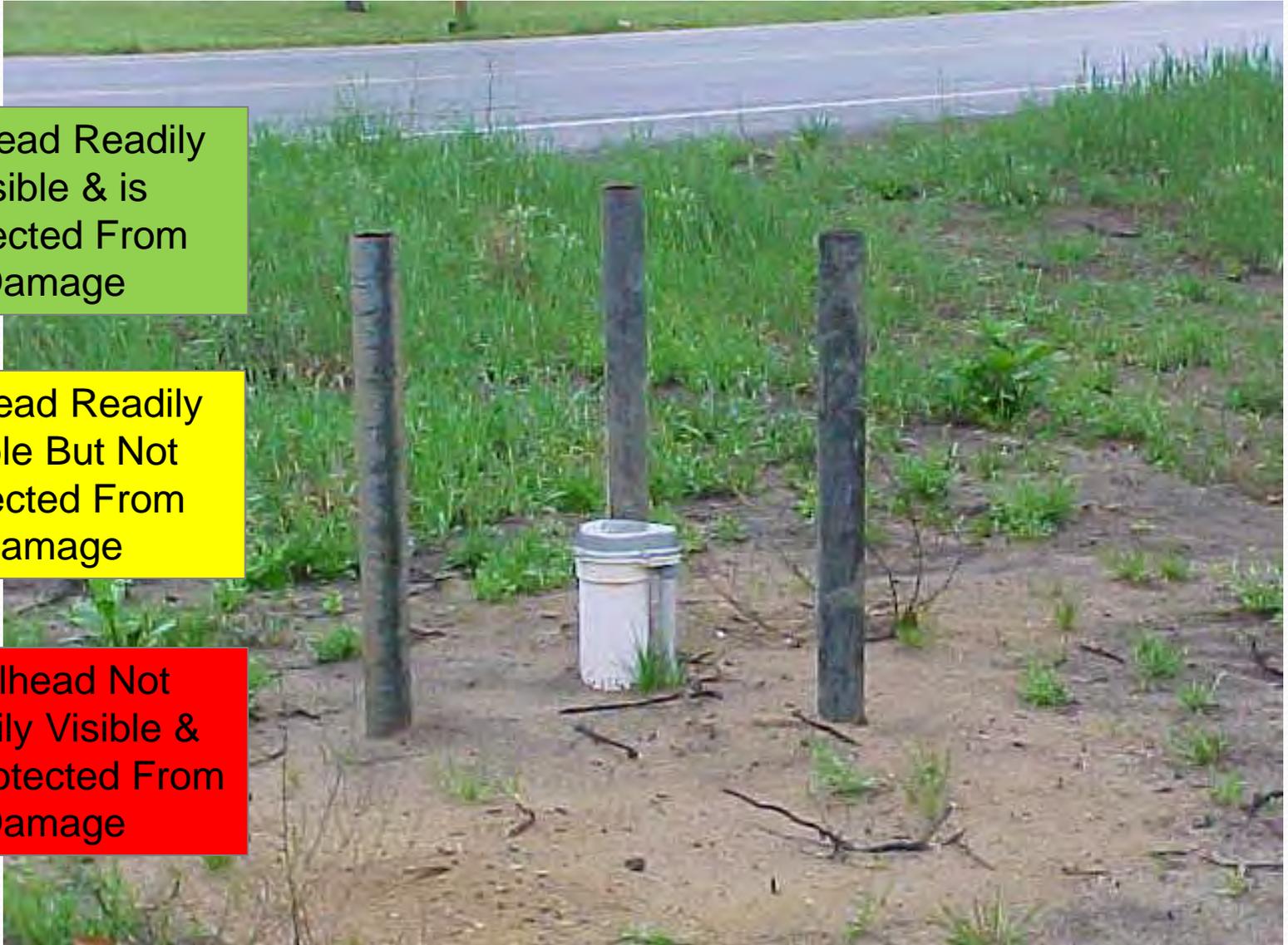


# Surveillance of Wellhead

Wellhead Readily  
Visible & is  
Protected From  
Damage

Wellhead Readily  
Visible But Not  
Protected From  
Damage

Wellhead Not  
Readily Visible &  
Not Protected From  
Damage



# Inspected by Registered Driller

Within the Past 10  
Years

Between 10 & 20  
Years Ago

More Than 20 Years  
Ago or Don't Know



# Wastewater Management

## On-Site Disposal



# Septic System Size/Age

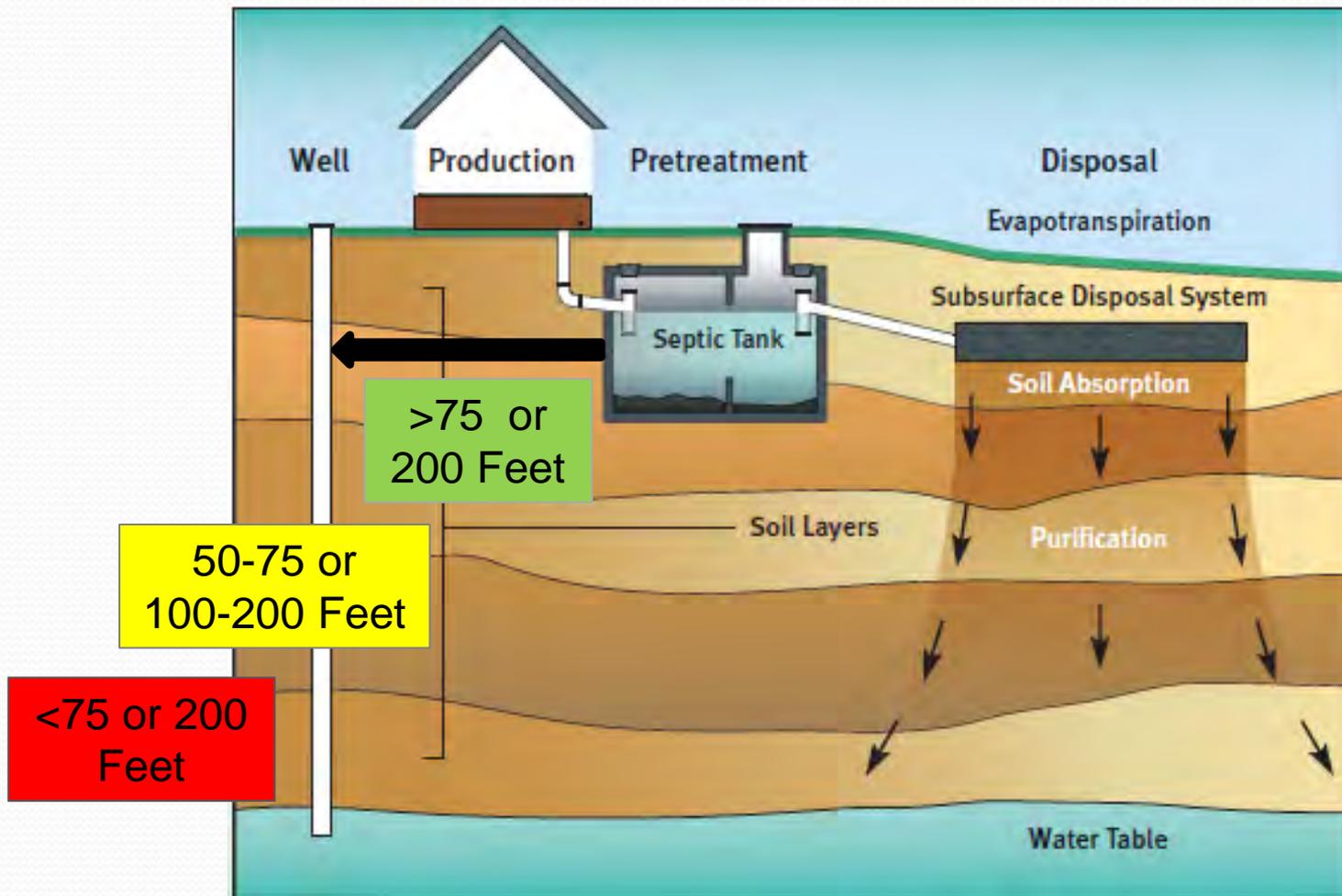


<5 Years Old

6 to 20 Years Old

More Than 20 Years Old

# Distance of Separation



# Septic Tank Last Pumped

Within the Past 5  
Years

5 to 10 Years

More Than 10 Years

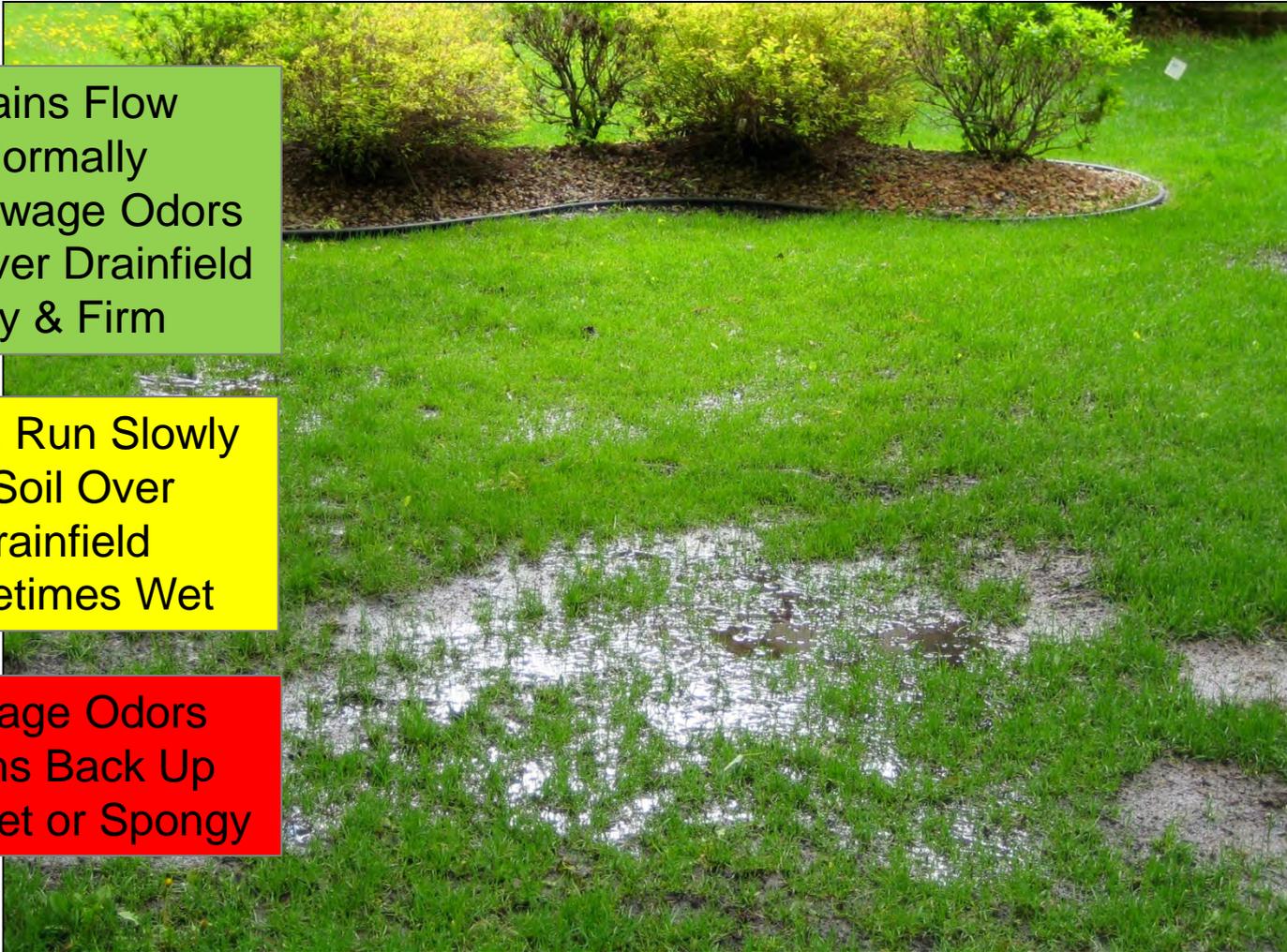


# Signs of Trouble

Drains Flow  
Normally  
No Sewage Odors  
Soil Over Drainfield  
Dry & Firm

Drains Run Slowly  
or Soil Over  
Drainfield  
Sometimes Wet

Sewage Odors  
Drains Back Up  
Soil Wet or Spongy



# Records Maintained

Good Map &  
Records of System  
Repairs &  
Maintenance

Some Records  
Maintained

No Map or  
Maintenance  
Records Kept



# Cleaners, Solvents & Other Chemicals Poured Down Drain

Moderate Use of Cleaning Products Discharged with Wastewater. No Hazardous Chemicals Poured Down Drain.

Moderate Use of Products. Very Small Amounts of Hazardous Chemicals Poured Down

Heavy Use of Products. Hazardous Chemicals Discharged in Wastewater



# Lagoons & Feed Lots



Outside WHPA  
>2000 or 800 Feet



Outside WHPA but  
<2000 or 800 Feet

Within the WHPA

# Managing Hazardous Products



# Pesticides, Fertilizers, Cleaning Agents & Fuel - Storage

No Products/Fuel  
Stored on Site.  
Any Storage >2000  
or 800 Feet.

Isolation Maximized  
Proper Storage,  
Secondary  
Containment.

Products in Well  
Room, No  
Containment, <200  
or 75 Feet.



# Pesticides, Fertilizers, Cleaning Agents & Fuel - Use

Pesticides &  
Fertilizers Not  
Applied or Applied  
as Directed

Pesticides Applied  
Away From  
Wellhead

Applied Too Close  
to Wellhead &  
Excessively



# Pesticides, Fertilizers, Cleaning Agents & Fuel - Disposal

Products Used or Completely Removed From Site

Waste Products Stored on Site and/or Disposed in Landfill

Products Disposed of Near Well, Surface Water or Poured Down a Drain



# Storm Water Management



# Paved Surfaces

Surface Runoff  
Diverted Away From  
Wellhead

Minimal Runoff  
Toward Wellhead

Excessive Amount  
of Runoff Runs  
Toward Wellhead



# Landscaping & Buffer Strips

Landscaping Slows Storm Water Flow & Provides Areas Where Water Soaks into Ground Away from Wellhead

Minor Landscaping Minimizing Runoff Toward Wellhead

No Landscaping to Slow Flow of Storm Water or Surface Water



# Distance From Surface Water

Well Located >200  
or 75 Feet From  
Surface Water

Well Located >200  
or 75 Feet From  
Surface Water with  
at Least 10 Feet of  
Protective Clay  
Layer

Well Located <200  
or 75 Feet From  
Surface Water with  
No Protective Clay  
Layer



# Managing Site Waste



# Waste Disposal

Only Organic  
Wastes are  
Disposed of On Site

Waste Stored On  
Site While Waiting  
for Removal/Use

Wastes Improperly  
Discarded to Land,  
Sewer or Storm  
Drains



# Waste Liquids



Kept in Secure  
Containers With  
Secondary  
Containment

Stored in Non-secure  
Containers and/or  
Without Secondary  
Containment

Improperly Disposed of  
at an On-Site Location

# Time To Evaluate & Reduce Your Risks!

## ACTION CHECKLISTS

Go back to the assessment charts in this worksheet. For each medium and high risk, write down the improvements you plan to make. Use recommendations from this worksheet and other resources to choose actions you are likely to complete. A target date will keep you on schedule. You don't have to do everything at once, but try to eliminate the most serious risks as soon as you can. Often it helps to tackle the inexpensive actions first.



Write all high and medium risks in this column:	What can you do to reduce the risk?	Target date for action:

Operator Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*Please send a copy of this completed form to:*

*The information in this guide was adapted with permission from the Farm\*Assessment System Farmstead Assessment System developed by Michigan State University Extension, FAS 107, Dec. 2003.*



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