

## University of Iowa unveils new water well map



Many Iowans rely on wells for their water | Photo by Pedro Craveiro on Pexels.com

Natalia Welzenbach-Marcu | June 25th, 2019

Varies research teams at the University of Iowa recently launched an interactive private well map for Iowa residents. Lead by CHEEC (The University of Iowa Center for Health Effects of Environmental Contamination), the Iowa Geological Survey and the UI Hydroinformatics Lab, the Iowa Well Forecasting System—otherwise known as the IWFOs—is a powerful tool for the public.

Users looking to build new wells can use the map to determine the new well site and the quality of the water in that area. By looking at the water quality data of existing wells adjacent to the potential new build, a safe location for a new source of water can be determined.

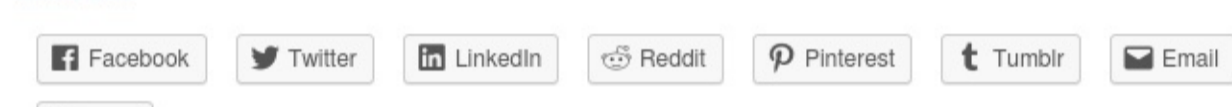
Thousands of Iowans rely on wells for their water. CHEEC director David Cwierthy estimates that roughly 60% of Iowans rely on groundwater, with about 300,000 Iowans relying on private wells specifically. While recent news about nitrate levels from agricultural fertilizers has been concentrated on Iowa's rivers, Iowa's wells suffer from contamination issues too, and the comprehensive data that IWFOs provides is vital for those looking to expand a town's water resources.

Well forecasts—the details of well water quality and the locations of safe private wells—have been available through the Iowa Geological Survey for years, but these forecasts were generally only available during business hours. IWFOs is accessible 24/7 and uses IGS's geological info for the well locations, combining this with datasets on well water quality from the Private Well Tracking System that the Iowa Department of Natural Resources manages.

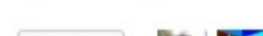
Transparency with our water quality data is one of the best ways to ensure that safe natural resources are available for all Iowans, all the time.

[Check out IWFOs.](#)

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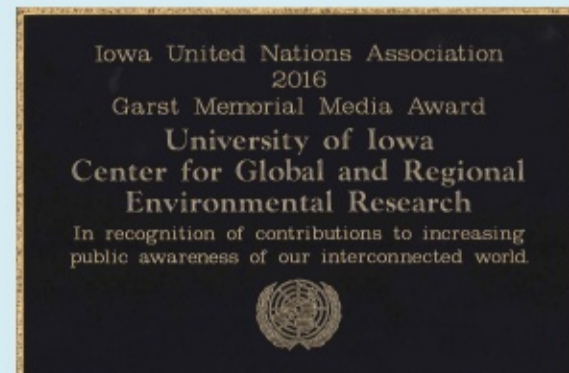
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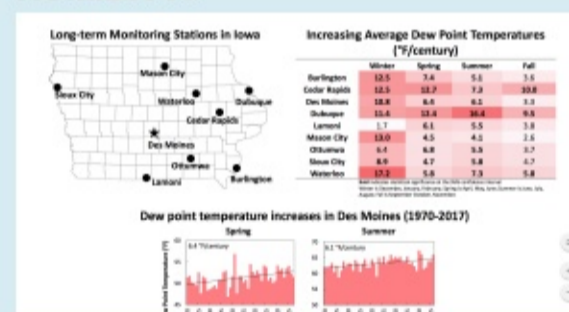
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