Water — a precious resource

A reliable source of water is a precious resource for all country people. The quality of water from bores, wells, creeks, rivers and farm dams can vary widely, with common problems including hardness, iron and salinity.

Water quality can impact on plant growth and animal production, and can affect irrigation equipment. NSW Department of Primary Industries Environmental Laboratories offer a NATA accredited, world standard water testing service for farmers and graziers. This service can determine the suitability of water for agriculture and domestic purposes.

Our standard water test reports include:
- pH
- Hardness
- Chloride
- Alkalinity
- Turbidity
- Saturation index
- Sodium absorption ratio
- Electrical conductivity (an indicator of salinity).

Your professional choice for laboratory testing

Water Testing Service
NSW Department of Primary Industries
Environmental Laboratory
1243 Bruxner Highway
WOLLONGBAR NSW 2477

For more information or to determine your water testing requirements contact our Customer Service centre on: 1800 675 623 or (02) 6626 1103
Email: wollongbar.csu@dpi.nsw.gov.au or visit our website at: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about-us/services/laboratory-services/
Water Testing Service

Results are accompanied by advice on the suitability of the water for different agricultural applications. Further advice can be provided by Local Land Services advisory staff.

Other tests that may be requested on the water sample include:

- ICP scan useful in determining what elements are present in your water
- Nitrate, ammonium and phosphate important when considering applications of fertiliser via irrigation water
- Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus
- Total Dissolved Solids
- Total Suspended Solids
- Total coliforms & E coli
- Wastewater Analysis

Why test water?
Water quality can affect plants, soils, livestock, irrigation equipment, domestic use and general farm activities. Farm water comes from a number of different sources and so its quality varies. Knowing your water quality allows you to plan for water treatments to avoid problems caused by poor water quality. It is important to identify and correct water quality problems that may affect on-farm use and productivity.

Chemical changes cannot be detected by eye or smell and require chemical analysis to be detected. If you have any doubts about the quality of water you intend to use for irrigation, stock or domestic purposes, you should get it tested.

When and how often?
Water quality can vary from season to season and may need to be monitored regularly. It is recommended that your water be tested before and sometimes during use. Regular monitoring will allow you to take remedial action before too much damage occurs or there is a loss of production.

Depending on the intended use of the water, the frequency of testing required will vary. Local Land Services advisory staff may be able to assist with planning when and how often to test your water.

Using the kit
Sampling kits are available through NSW Department of Primary Industries offices, our Customer Service Centre on 0266261103 or internet www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about us/services/laboratory services/kits and media

- Collect a water sample from the source you wish to test following the instructions on the kit
- Mail the kit back to the laboratory.

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Answers you can use from technology you can trust