



The Village of Swanton is Our Wellhead Protection “Spotlight Community”

By Mike Lucas, Source Water Specialist

The Village of Swanton is a warm and friendly community of 131 residents in southern Saline County. The Chairman of the Village Board said that it is a privilege to serve this community. The system is served by two wells. Well #1 was drilled in 1936 and well #2 was drilled in 1981. The elevated storage tank has approximately 35,000 gallons of storage. There are 7 business and 58 residential non-metered service connections. The local COOP is the largest water consumer.

Nitrate contamination of the drinking water has become a concern. Nitrate concentrations have fluctuated but have generally increased over the past 10 years by approximately 2 milligrams per liter (mg/l). Certified laboratory tests currently reflect concentrations ranging between 7 and 9 mg/l. The present EPA drinking water maximum contaminant level (mcl) for nitrates is 10 mg/l. If the current trend continues, the EPA nitrate maximum mcl will be exceeded in less than 10 years. The Village Board recognized the problem, discussed their concerns and are responsibly addressing the issue with an annually reviewed wellhead protection area management plan.