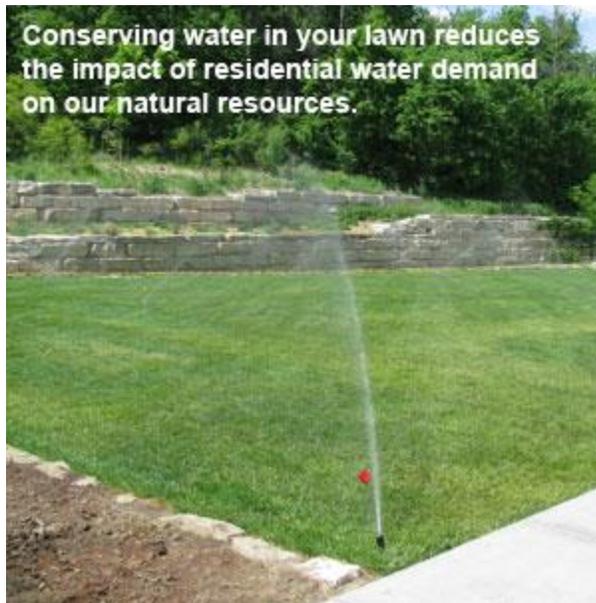


UNL Extension: Acreage Insights

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Make Every Drop Count Publications Can Help You Use Water Wisely In and Around Your Home
By [Sharon Skipton](#), UNL Extension Water Quality Educator



Wise use of water can reduce the strain on private drinking water wells during drought conditions and beyond. It's no surprise that water use in homes varies with climate, household size, efficiency of equipment, water use patterns, and income. Research shows that people in the United States tend to use 70 to 100 gallons per person per day. That's twice as much as those in western European cities. A study in Lincoln, NE showed families there were on the conservative side of the range, using 70 gallons per person per day.

Although the amount of water used might vary, research indicates the primary water use in homes is for flushing toilets, washing clothes, and showering. In addition to household use, water is used for lawn and landscape irrigation.

The University of Nebraska – Lincoln Extension wants to help you become more efficient in your use of water in and around your homes. We recently released three newly-edited publications containing research-based information to help you make wise water use choices. The publications are:

[Make Every Drop Count in Your Home](#)

[Make Every Drop Count in Your Lawn](#)

[Make Every Drop Count in Your Landscape](#)

If you have a private well, you rely on groundwater for your supply. Groundwater comes from natural underground layers of sand or gravel that contain water in the small spaces between particles. Groundwater is a renewable resource, replenished mostly by precipitation. However, it is not limitless. Groundwater levels decline when use exceeds recharge. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration released its Spring Outlook report recently. They predicted it is not likely that many drought-stricken areas of the United States will see relief this spring.

With the drought of 2012 and the possibility of continued drought in 2013, it is especially important to use water wisely.