

# Around the Door

## Egg Harbor Town Hall needs clean water

Egg Harbor seeking bids for purification system

By Peter J. Davlin  
Advocate correspondent

Bid for water for town hall system is being brought to the Egg Harbor area after a sample taken in late March revealed the presence of E. coli bacteria in the building's well water. It was learned Monday night that the town will be adding

to the immediate vicinity of a purification system.

In other action, the Town Board approved plans to increase the number of employees at the Harbor Village Community Center.

The proposal would add 12 positions to the staff. The town board also approved a resolution to request that the state Department of Natural Resources be notified of the town's water quality concerns.

"You can't drink (the water) and you can't cook with it."

— Pat Kravel  
2007-2008

"We've had requests for 2009 expansion and we also get requests from people who want to camp for a night or two," Kravel said.

There are no plans to sell any of the new campsites, even

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## DAILY CITIZEN

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February 23, 2005

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Weather

45 LOCAL

### Something smells in Juneau wells

By JENNIFER WOLDT

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## Problems with wells run deep at Kloten

Water contamination a real possibility, area residents learn

By Myrna Collins  
Post-Crescent staff writer

CHILTON — Mary Geier, who lives near Kloten, got good readings the second time her water was tested last month, but initial results that showed high nitrates and bacteria convinced her to start testing yearly.

Yearly testing was one of the steps urged by Calumet County conservationist Eugene McLeod, state Department of Natural Resources water quality specialist Liz Heinen and groundwater field specialist Michael Hanten at a meeting Tuesday of about five dozen men and women, most of whom live in the Kloten area, between Chilton and Stockbridge, an area where thin soil and fractured dolomite bedrock combine to make well contamination

a real possibility.

"Results from the first round of well testing were not encouraging," McLeod said.

"There was no pattern as to which wells were safe and which were not, showing that the problems are very localized," Hanten said, "but 74 percent of the wells in these first tests were found to contain either high nitrates or bacteria."

"Simple steps can help prevent the problem. If all you do is clean up your well, the problem eventually will return," Heinen told the gathering of homeowners, farmers and businesspeople.

Properly closing abandoned wells, avoiding fertilizers and chemicals near sinkholes, properly siting manure or compost piles, checking cisterns and periodic water sampling are among the recommended steps.

"We have to protect our groundwater," she said. "Some would dig deeper wells, but the water in the sandstone layer can be salty and have a mineral fla-

### Calumet County water concerns

About 850 families live in five areas of Calumet County targeted in a two-year program to identify contaminated wells and educate property owners about safeguards. The areas contain thin, rocky topsoil and bedrock of fractured dolomite, which preclude the filtering of surface water that might be carrying nitrate-heavy fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides, as well as leachate from septic systems, compost and manure piles, animal waste and road salt.

□ Target areas  
□ Community boundaries

Photo courtesy of Dan Heinen



vor. And where digging a well might cost \$2,500 to \$3,000, a deep well might cost \$15,000, and then you might not like the results.

"Really, prevention just means using common sense," Heinen said.

The meeting is one of a series that will be held in Calumet County as part of a two-year program to identify contaminated wells and work with owners to change daily practices that contribute to the contamination.

McLeod and Heinen are in charge of the project which is concentrating on five thin-soil areas in the county that are home to some 850 families, according to McLeod.

Well users in the Kloten area found they were getting smelly brownish water from their wells this spring, putting them first among the areas to be examined.

Myrna Collins can be reached at 920-991-1000 ext. 283 or by e-mail at mcollins@postcrescent.com.

## DNR confirms four more wells contaminated near Whitelaw

By Sara Karsak

Four more wells in the Whitelaw area have tested positive for bacteria, bringing the total number of affected wells to eight.

This means that water in the eight wells should not be ingested, at the very least.

Thirteen wells have been tested in the Town of Franklin after some residents complained of discoloration and odors in their water. Results were compiled and reported Tuesday morning by Liz Heinen, drinking water specialist for the state De-



### Well Spring of Trouble

Dan Grapengeting stands outside his rural Whitelaw home as contractors dig a new well on his property. His family is one of three known to have

well water contamination so severe that the water smells and looks bad and has likely caused illness. No source of the problem has been pinpointed yet, and further tests are being run on other area wells.

—Journal Photo

## Tainted water puts residents on edge

Rural Whitelaw families start digging new wells, as officials seek source of problem

By Sara Karsak  
Well contamination in the Town of Franklin had enough to cause illness has forced at least two families to dig new wells with a price tag of about \$10,000 each.

Bacteria has found its way into at least four wells in the Whitelaw area, causing some residents to become ill, and others the inconvenience of not being able to use their

in his water is measuring at 2,400 parts per million, which is the highest the chart will go. To get a better reading he was told that the water would need to be diluted first.

"It has the smell of manure," Bricker said of his well water.

Bacteria was found in the water and there may be other contaminants as well, said James Blaha, director of the Mani-

The new well the family will be digging will cost between \$10,000 and \$11,000, with insurance not covering runoff problems.

Even before the well contamination problems, he said he asked one of the farmers to reduce the amount of manure he spreads on his fields.

"I have asked him several times to light-



**Manitowoc**

**Brown**

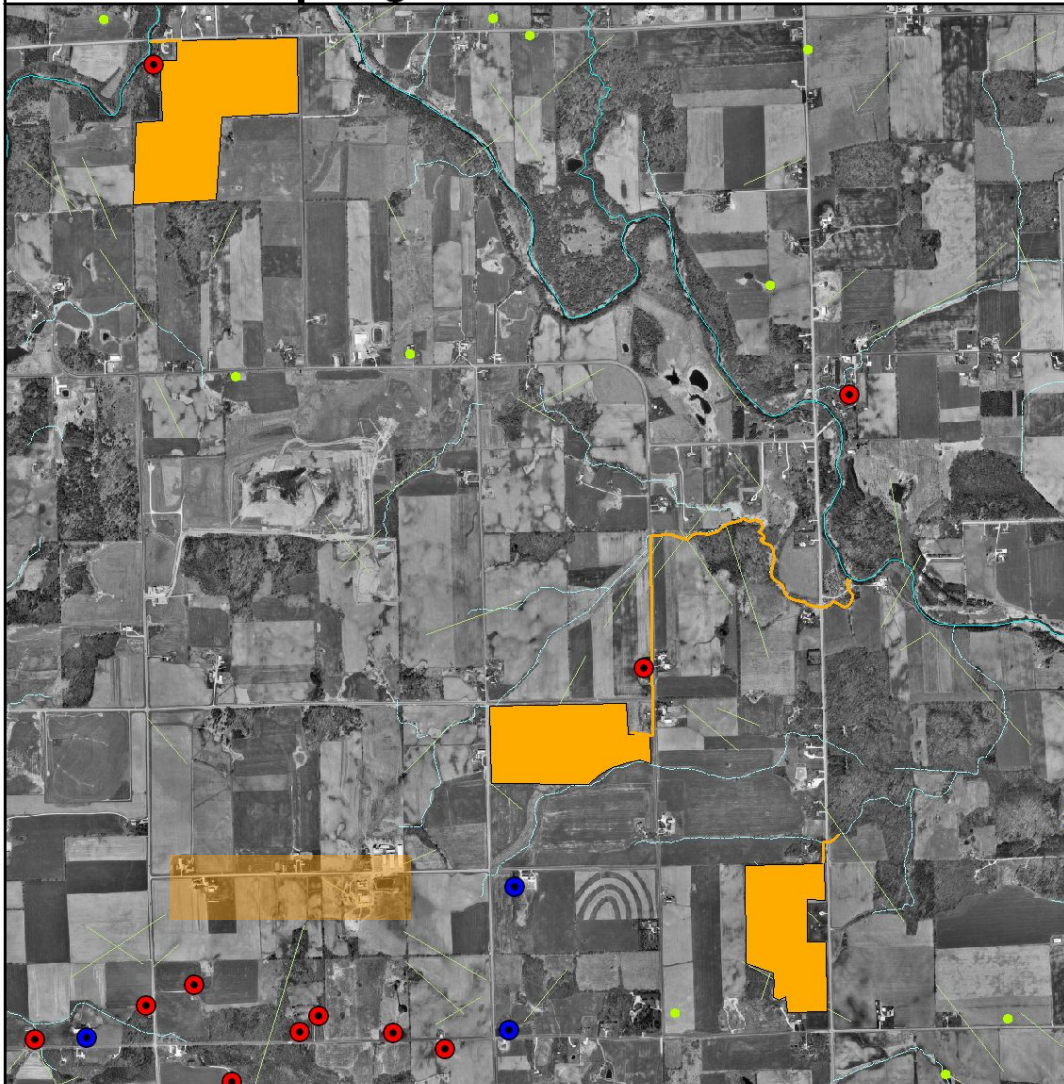
**Dodge**

**Green Lake**

**Calumet**

**Later.....Door**

# Documented Manure Runoff Events, Spring 2005 Manitowoc Co.



- Manure Runoff Events
- Wells Testing Safe
- Wells Testing Unsafe
- Karst
- Fracture
- 24K Rivers and Streams
- Perennial
- Intermittent



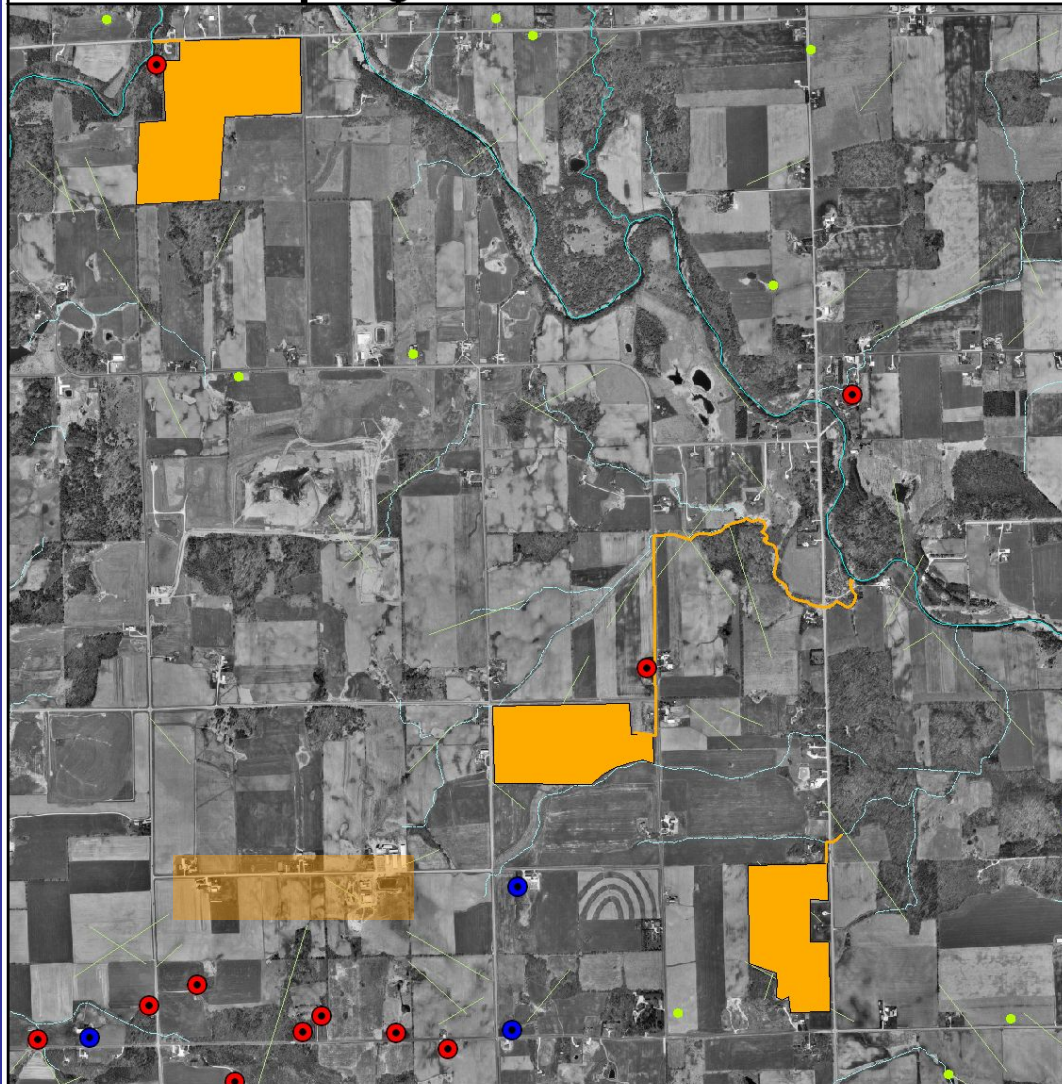
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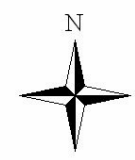




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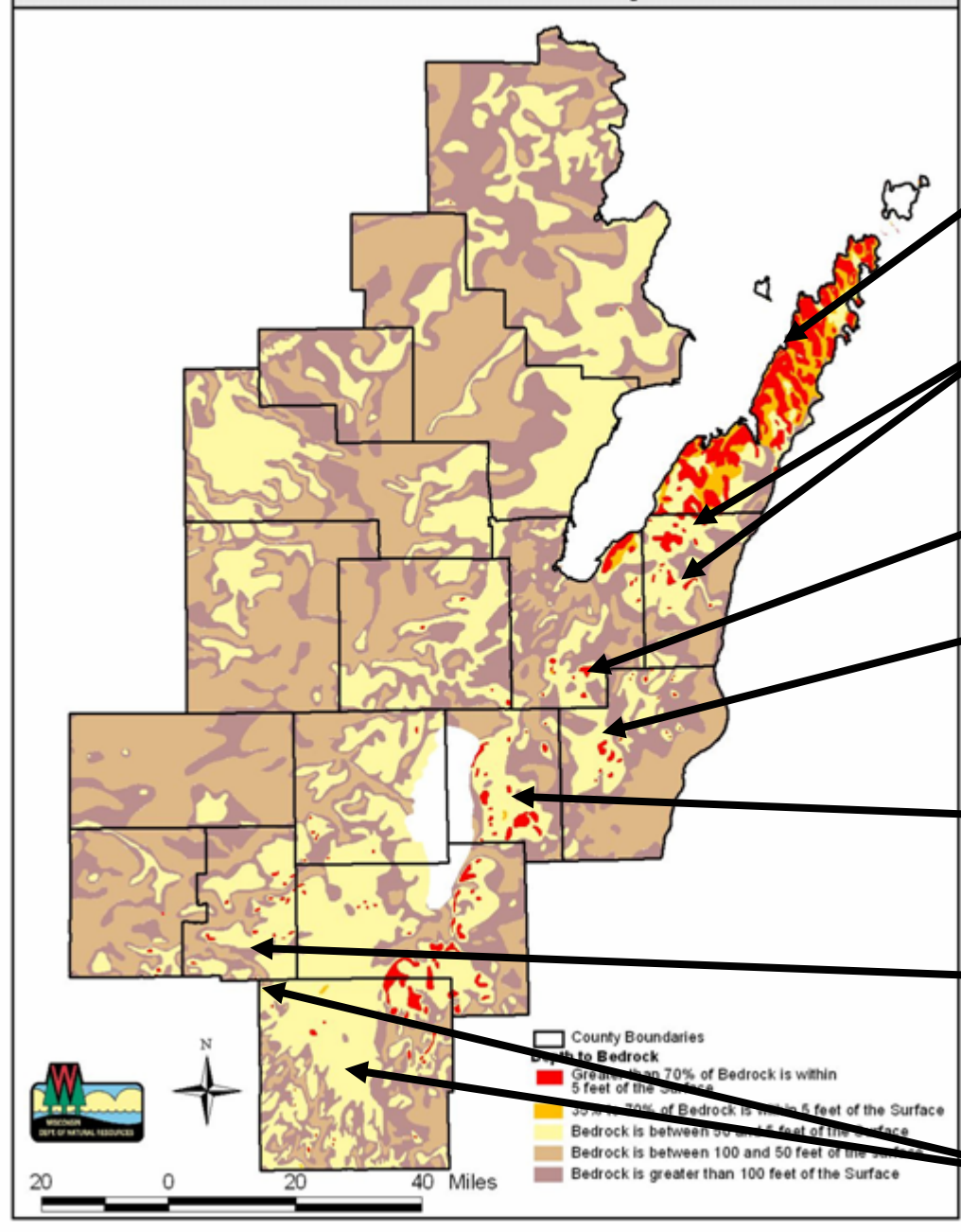
# How contaminated is the water?

- **2005 Dodge County**
  - Coliform >240,000/ 100 ml
  - E. coli 3,500/ 100 ml
- **2005 Green Lake Well**
  - Nitrates 56.2 ppm



# Northeastern Wisconsin Depth to Bedrock

# Well Contaminations



**Door Co. 2005**  
2 wells

**Kewaunee Co. 2004**  
3 wells

**Brown Co. 2005**  
10 wells

**Manitowoc Co. 2005**  
11 wells

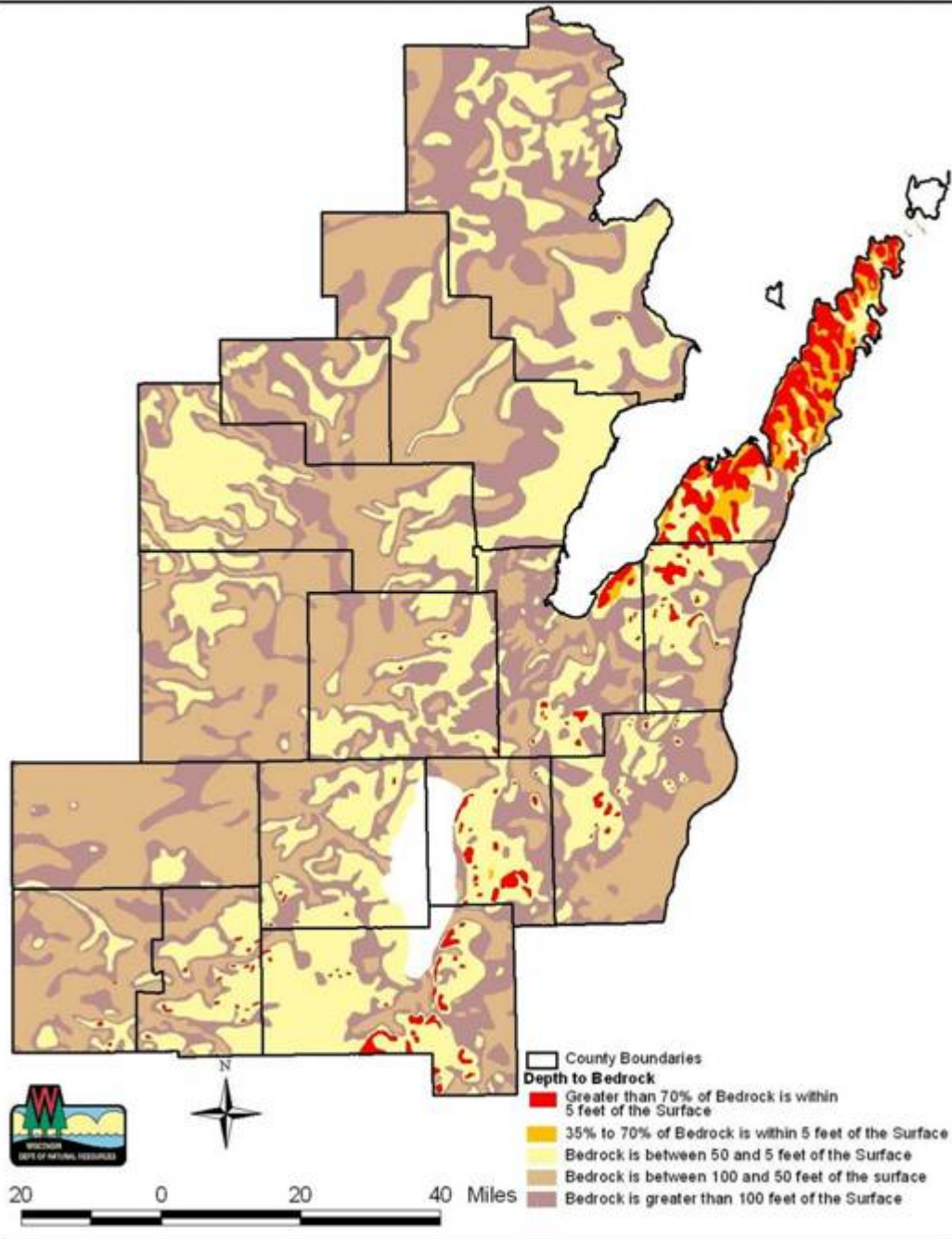
**Calumet Co. 2002**  
9 wells

**Green Lake Co. 2005**  
2 wells

**Dodge Co. 2005**  
6 wells



# Northeastern Region Depth to Bedrock



## Increasing herd size

1950 15

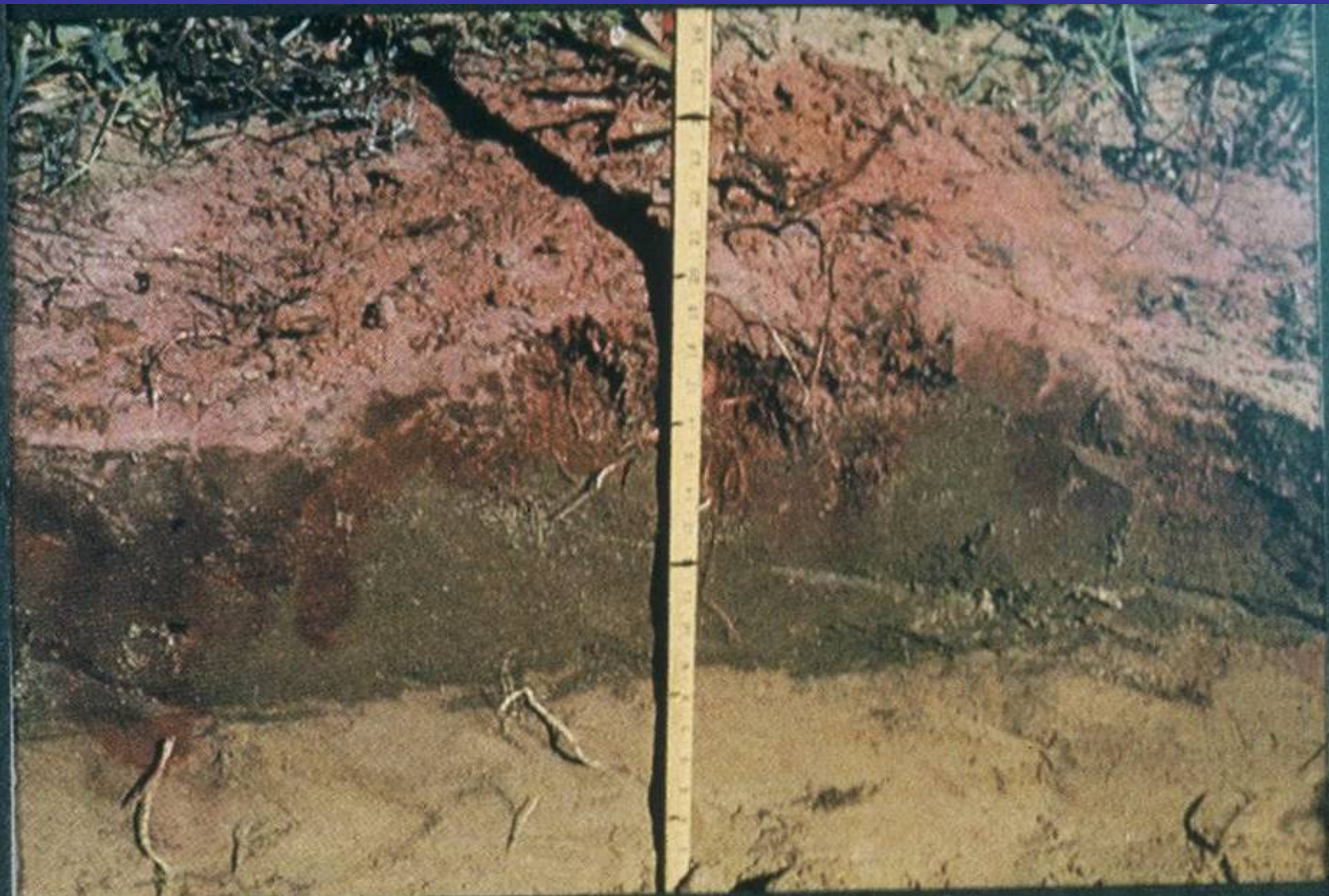
1974 34

1994 54









# Lessons in Soil and Water Management

- You can follow a nutrient management plan, or permit requirements, and still cause a problem.
- Be especially careful in areas of <20' to bedrock, and permeable soils!
- Consider light, thinner applications....NOT one heavy loading at one time!







