



## **USDA-CSREES 2006 National Water Quality Conference**

### **Southern Region Down-Well Camera Team**

Built upon successful education programs in Georgia using a down-well camera the Southern Region Water Coordination Project funded a special project to equip several other states with down-well cameras. With a down-well camera, wellhead protection programs can go beyond traditional aboveground inspections opening a new realm of information explaining water quality problems due to well construction. Scientifically, this approach replaces conjecture with visual facts and recognizes regional problems that Extension should be addressing. Environmentally, groundwater can be protected; eliminating direct avenues for contaminants to enter groundwater, by identification of improperly constructed or maintained wells. Economically, prevention of groundwater contamination is essential because once contaminated, cleanup is often economically impractical or impossible. Objectives are to expand the information base of down-well videos beyond the geological and hydrological conditions found in Georgia and use this broader information to enhance regional efforts to educate well owners and protect groundwater resources. The Southern Region Down-Well Camera Team will share experiences, wellhead-photos, case studies, and down-well videos identifying regional well construction and maintenance problems through a computer network and Internet access. As a result, States may need to revisit and revise their water well construction standards to correct reoccurring problems. Additionally, as an example private water well owners in Georgia may drive changes to well construction techniques by demanding practices that reduce or prevent common problems such as grouting the entire casing rather than only the top ten feet.

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