



## Conservation Practice Overview

September 2020

### Monitoring Well (Code 353)

A well designed and installed to obtain representative ground water samples and hydrogeologic information.

#### Practice Information

A monitoring well is used to provide controlled access for sampling ground water near an agricultural waste storage facility, waste treatment facility, or other areas of concern to detect the occurrence of seepage and to monitor ground water quality through time. The main difference between a water well and a monitoring well is the monitoring well must be built so that water entering the well is only from the soil or rock layers of interest.



Before a monitoring well, or series of monitoring wells, is installed, a surface and subsurface investigation of the site is conducted to develop a conceptual hydrogeologic model of the site to identify potential ground water flow paths and determine the location of the target monitoring zone(s). Assistance from a professional geologist is required.

A buffer zone with a minimum 30-foot radius must be established around each wellhead. The buffer must be protected from access by motor vehicles and livestock.

#### Common Associated Practices

When the monitoring well has reached the end of its useful life, close the well in accordance with NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Well Decommissioning (Code 351).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.