# 2023 Consumer Confidence Report

## Water System Information

Water System Name: FOSTER FARMS FERTILIZER PLANT

Report Date: 2/16/23

Type of Water Source(s) in Use: GROUND WATER

Name and General Location of Source(s): The Foster Farms Fertilizer Plant’s water comes from a well which is located on site. This facility is in Livingston, CA in Merced County

Drinking Water Source Assessment Information: 2002- The source is considered most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with contaminants detected in the water supply: Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations. A copy of the assessment can be requested by contacting California Department of Public Health at (559) 447-3300

Time and Place of Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings for Public Participation: NONE

For More Information, Contact: DENISE HOLMES (209) 394-5352

## About This Report

We test the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by state and federal regulations. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2022 and may include earlier monitoring data.

## Importance of This Report Statement in Five Non-English Languages (Spanish, Mandarin, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Hmong)

Language in Spanish: Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Favor de comunicarse [FOSTER FARMS FERTILIZER PLANT] a [12997 HWY 140 LIVINGSTON, CA (209)394-5352] para asistirlo en español.

Language in Mandarin: 这份报告含有关于您的饮用水的重要讯息。请用以下地址和电话联系 [FOSTER FARMS FERTILIZER PLANT] 以获得中文的帮助: [12997 HWY 140 LIVINGSTON, CA].

Language in Tagalog: Ang pag-uulat na ito ay naglalaman ng mahalagang impormasyon tungkol sa inyong inuming tubig. Mangyaring makipag-ugnayan sa [FOSTER FARMS FERTILIZER PLANT 12997 HWY 140 LIVINGSTON, CA] o tumawag sa [(209)394-5352] para matulungan sa wikang Tagalog.

Language in Vietnamese: Báo cáo này chứa thông tin quan trọng về nước uống của bạn. Xin vui lòng liên hệ [FOSTER FARMS FERTILIZER PLANT] tại [(209)394-5352] để được hỗ trợ giúp bằng tiếng Việt.

Language in Hmong: Tsab ntawv no muaj cov ntsiab lus tseem ceeb txog koj cov dej haus. Thov hu rau [FOSTER FARMS FERTILIZER PLANT] ntawm [Enter Water System’s Address or Phone Number ] rau kev pab hauv lus Askiv.

## Terms Used in This Report

| **Term** | **Definition** |
| --- | --- |
| Level 1 Assessment | A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system. |
| Level 2 Assessment | A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions. |
| Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) | The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water. |
| Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) | The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). |
| Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) | The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants. |
| Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) | The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants. |
| Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS) | MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements. |
| Public Health Goal(PHG) | The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency. |
| Regulatory Action Level(AL) | The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow. |
| Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS) | MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels. |
| Treatment Technique(TT) | A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. |
| Variances and Exemptions | Permissions from the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions. |
| ND | Not detectable at testing limit. |
| ppm | parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L) |
| ppb | parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L) |
| ppt | parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L) |
| ppq | parts per quadrillion or picogram per liter (pg/L) |
| pCi/L | picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation) |

## Sources of Drinking Water and Contaminants that May Be Present in Source Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

* Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
* Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
* Pesticides and herbicides, that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
* Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
* Radioactive contaminants, that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

## Regulation of Drinking Water and Bottled Water Quality

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and the State Board prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and California law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

## About Your Drinking Water Quality

### Drinking Water Contaminants Detected

Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8 list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The State Board allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old. Any violation of an AL, MCL, MRDL, or TT is asterisked. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.

Table 1. Sampling Results Showing the Detection of Coliform Bacteria

Complete if bacteria are detected.

| **Microbiological Contaminants**  | **Highest No. of Detections** | **No. of Months in Violation** | **MCL** | **MCLG** | **Typical Source of Bacteria** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *E. coli* | (In the year)2 | 2 | (a) | 0 | Human and animal fecal waste |

(a) Routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either is *E. coli*-positive or system fails to take repeat samples following *E. coli*-positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for *E. coli*.

Table 2. Sampling Results Showing the Detection of Lead and Copper

Complete if lead or copper is detected in the last sample set.

| **Lead and Copper**  | **Sample Date** | **No. of Samples Collected** | **90th Percentile Level Detected** | **No. Sites Exceeding AL** | **AL** | **PHG** | **Typical Source of****Contaminant** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Lead (ppb) | 6/21/23 | 5 | 0.0027 | NONE | 15 | 0.2 | Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits |
| Copper (ppm) | 6/21/23 | 5 | ND | NONE | 1.3 | 0.3 | Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives |

Table 3. Sampling Results for Sodium and Hardness

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)** | **Sample Date** | **Level Detected** | **Range of Detections** | **MCL** | **PHG (MCLG)** | **Typical Source of Contaminant** |
| Sodium (ppm) | 11-15-1311-7-1611-19-19 | 39 | 26-46 | None | None | Salt present in the water and is generally naturally occurring |
| Hardness (ppm) | 11-15-13 | 141.83 | 77-197.8 | None | None | Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium, and are usually naturally occurring |
| **Chemical or Constituent****(and****reporting units)** | **Sample Date** | **Level Detected** | **Range of Detections** | **MCL [MRDL]** | **PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]** | **Typical Source of Contaminant** |
| Nitrate (mg/L) | 6/20/23 | ND | N/A | 10(as N) | 10(as N) | Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits |
| 1,2,3-Trichloropropane [TCP] (µg/L) | 1/26/234/17/237/17/2310/17/23 | 0.00805\* | 0.0069-0.0094\* | 0.005 | 0.0007 | Discharge from industrial and agricultural chemical factories; leaching from hazardous waste sites; used as cleaning and maintenance solvent, paint and varnish remover, and cleaning and degreasing agent; byproduct during the production of other compounds and pesticides. |
| 1,2,3-Trichloropropane [TCP] (µg/L) RO Oxidation Filtration System | JAN-DEC2023MONTHLY | ND | ND | 0.005 | 0.0007 | Discharge from industrial and agricultural chemical factories; leaching from hazardous waste sites; used as cleaning and maintenance solvent, paint and varnish remover, and cleaning and degreasing agent; byproduct during the production of other compounds and pesticides. |
| Benzene (µg/L) | 6/20/23 | ND | N/A | 1 | 0.15 | Discharge from plastics, dyes and nylon factories; leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills |
| Carbon Tetrachloride (ng/L) | 6/20/23 | ND | N/A | 500 | 100 | Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities |
| 1,2-Dichlorobenzene (µg/L) | 6/20/23 | ND | N/A | 600 | 600 | Discharge from industrial chemical factories |
| 1,1-Dichloroethane (µg/L) | 6/20/23 | ND | N/A | 5 | 3 | Extraction and degreasing solvent; used in manufacture of pharmaceuticals, stone, clay and glass products; fumigant |
| 1,2-Dichloroethane (ng/L) | 6/20/23 | ND | N/A | 500 | 400 | Discharge from industrial chemical factories |
| 1,1-Dichloroethylene (µg/L) | 6/20/23 | ND | N/A | 6 | 10 | Discharge from industrial chemical factories |
| cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (µg/L) | 6/20/23 | ND | N/A | 6 | 13 | Discharge from industrial chemical factories; major biodegradation byproduct of TCE and PCE groundwater contamination |
| trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene (µg/L) | 6/20/23 | ND | N/A | 10 | 50 | Discharge from industrial chemical factories; minor biodegradation byproduct of TCE and PCE groundwater contamination  |
| Dichloromethane (µg/L) | 6/20/23 | ND | N/A | 5 | 4 | Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories; insecticide |
| 1,2-Dichloropropane (µg/L) | 6/20/23 | ND | N/A | 5 | 0.5 | Discharge from industrial chemical factories; primary component of some fumigants |
| 1,3-Dichloropropene (ng/L) | 6/20/23 | ND | N/A | 500 | 200 | Runoff/leaching from nematocide used on croplands |
| Ethylbenzene (µg/L) | 6/20/23 | ND | N/A | 300 | 300 | Discharge from petroleum refineries; industrial chemical factories |
| Methyl-tert-butyl ether (µg/L) | 6/20/23 | ND | N/A | 13 | 13 | Leaking underground storage tanks; discharge from petroleum and chemical factories |
| Monochlorobenzene (µg/L) | 6/20/23 | ND | N/A | 70 | 70 | Discharge from industrial and agricultural chemical factories and dry cleaning facilities |
| Styrene (µg/L) | 6/20/23 | ND | N/A | 100 | 0.5 | Discharge from rubber and plastic factories; leaching from landfills |
| 1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane (µg/L) | 6/20/23 | ND | N/A | 1 | 0.1 | Discharge from industrial and agricultural chemical factories; solvent used in production of TCE, pesticides, varnish and lacquers |
| Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) (µg/L) | 6/20/23 | ND | N/A | 5 | 0.06 | Discharge from factories, dry cleaners, and auto shops (metal degreaser) |
| 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene (µg/L) | 6/20/23 | ND | N/A | 5 | 5 | Discharge from textile-finishing factories |
| 1,1,1-Trichloroethane (µg/L) | 6/20/23 | ND | N/A | 200 | 1000 | Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories; manufacture of food wrappings |
| 1,1,2-Trichloroethane (µg/L) | 6/20/23 | ND | N/A | 5 | 0.3 | Discharge from industrial chemical factories |
| Trichloroethylene [TCE] (µg/L) | 6/20/23 | ND | N/A | 5 | 1.7 | Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories |
| Toluene (µg/L) | 6/20/23 | ND | N/A | 150 | 150 | Discharge from petroleum and chemical factories; underground gas tank leaks |
| Trichlorofluoromethane (µg/L) | 6/20/23 | ND | N/A | 150 | 1300 | Discharge from industrial factories; degreasing solvent; propellant and refrigerant |
| 1,1,2-Trichloro-1,2,2-trifluoroethane (mg/L) | 6/20/23 | ND | N/A | 1.2 | 4 | Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories; dry-cleaning solvent; refrigerant |
| Vinyl Chloride (ng/L) | 6/20/23 | ND | N/A | 500 | 50 | Leaching from PVC piping; discharge from plastics factories; biodegradation byproduct of TCE and PCE groundwater contamination |
| Xylenes (mg/L) | 6/20/23 | ND | N/A | 1.750 | 1.8 | Discharge from petroleum and chemical factories; fuel solvent |

Table 5. Detection of Contaminants with a Secondary Drinking Water Standard

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)** | **Sample Date** | **Level Detected** | **Range of Detections** | **SMCL** | **PHG (MCLG)** | **Typical Source****of****Contaminant** |
| Specific Conductance | 6/22/2021 | 460 | N/A  | 1,600 µS/cm | 1,600 µS/cm | Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence |

### Additional General Information on Drinking Water

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. U.S. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Lead-Specific Language: If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. [FOSTER FARMS FERTILIZER PLANT] is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. [Optional: If you do so, you may wish to collect the flushed water and reuse it for another beneficial purpose, such as watering plants.] If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.

Additional Special Language for Nitrate, Arsenic, Lead, Radon, and *Cryptosporidium*: [Enter Additional Information Described in Instructions for SWS CCR Document]

State Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR): [Enter Additional Information Described in Instructions for SWS CCR Document]

|  |
| --- |
| 1,2,3 Trichloropropane testing shows to exceed the MCL. Some people who drink water containing 1,2,3 TCP in  |
| excess the MCL may have a higher risk of getting cancer |
| *E. coli* are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely-compromised immune systems. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments. |

### Summary Information for Violation of a MCL, MRDL, AL, TT, or Monitoring and Reporting Requirement

Table 7. Violation of a MCL, MRDL, AL, TT or Monitoring Reporting Requirement

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Violation** | **Explanation** | **Duration** | **Actions Taken to Correct Violation** | **Health Effects Language** |
| 1,2,3-Trichloropropane maximum containment level violation compliance order 03-11-18R-017 | Foster Farms Fertilizer Plant has received water sample results with the containment 1,2,3 TCP over the MCL | 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th quarter of 2023. | Water results from well 1 came back with 1,2,3 TCP readings over the MCL. Foster Farms Fertilizer Plant installed a POU-RO in December 2020. Samples are taken monthly to monitor 1,2,3 TCP levels stay under the MCL.  | Some people who drink water containing 1,2,3-trichloropropane in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. |

### For Water Systems Providing Groundwater as a Source of Drinking Water

Table 8. Sampling Results Showing Fecal Indicator-Positive Groundwater Source Samples

| **Microbiological Contaminants (complete if fecal-indicator detected)** | **Total No. of Detections** | **Sample Dates** | **MCL [MRDL]** | **PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]** | **Typical Source of Contaminant** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *E. coli* | (In the year)1 | 11/27/2312/27/23 | 2 | (0) | Human and animal fecal waste |
| Enterococci | (In the year)0 | N/A | TT | N/A | Human and animal fecal waste |
| Coliphage | (In the year)0 | N/A | TT | N/A | Human and animal fecal waste |

### Summary Information for Fecal Indicator-Positive Groundwater Source Samples, Uncorrected Significant Deficiencies, or Violation of a Groundwater TT

|  |
| --- |
| **Special Notice of Fecal Indicator-Positive Groundwater Source Sample:** Well cycle test was performed in January 2024, following December 2023 positive, and all samples from the well had presence of E.coli. Chlorine was introduced into the system and showed results of no detection. The chlorine system has now been removed and we are to continue monitor bacteria presence at the distribution site.  |

Table 9. Violation of Groundwater TT

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Violation** | **Explanation** | **Duration** | **Actions Taken to Correct Violation** | **Health Effects Language** |
| E. Coli Violation03-11-24C-003 | In November of 2023, the routine samples for bacti showed positive for the bacteriological contaminant. This carried through to December as well.  | 11/27/23-1/24/24 | Repeat samples were taken. A well cycle test was performed and the introduction to a chlorine system was installed. The results following the installation have come back clean. DDW then required the chlorination system be removed and continue monthly monitoring of the distribution for bacteria. Do Not Drink notices were posted by the water system and given to employees.  | *E. coli* are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely-compromised immune systems. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments. |

### Summary Information for Revised Total Coliform Rule Level 1 and Level 2 Assessment Requirements

If a water system is required to comply with a Level 1 or Level 2 assessment requirement that is not due to an *E. coli* MCL violation, include the following information below [22 CCR section 64481(n)(1)].

#### Level 1 or Level 2 Assessment Requirement not Due to an *E. coli* MCL Violation

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.

The water system shall include the following statements, as appropriate:

During the past year [1] Level 2 assessments were required to be completed for our water system. [1] Level 2 assessments were completed. In addition, we were required to take [1]

#### Level 2 Assessment Requirement Due to an *E. coli* MCL Violation

*E. coli* are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems. We found *E. coli* bacteria, indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.

We were required to complete a Level 2 assessment because we found *E. coli* in our water system. In addition, we were required to take [1] corrective actions and we completed [1] of these actions.