

2017 Best-Tasting Water Award



DISPLAYING HONORS recently presented were staff of the Auburn Board of Public Works water plant. From left are Ken Swanson, Quentin Kieler, Jeremy Griepenstroh, Alan Slater, Jay Theye and Bob Wintz. Swanson is water and wastewater manager. The others are water operators.

Nemaha County Herald photo by David Swanson

Auburn BPW's Water Voted Best-Tasting in Treated Category

Auburn's drinking water was rated the best-tasting in the treated category. The recognition came during a tasting contest at the Nebraska Section American Water Works Association's (AWWA) annual conference. The meeting took place in Kearney on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

"Winning this award is a testament to the commitment and goal of our operators and staff to provide Auburn's water customers with the highest quality potable water possible," stated Ken Swanson, Auburn Board of Public Works (BPW) water/wastewater manager.

Auburn's water took top honors of the 10 submissions whose water is chlorinated. The city's drinking water is pumped from 11 wells and then to the treatment plant. Impurities are removed there before water is being piped out to BPW customers.

Water supply systems from across the state were invited to submit a sample of their drinking water for the ninth annual Best Drinking Water in Nebraska taste test, said Mary Poe. She is Nebraska Section AWWA secretary/public information committee chair.

Water from North Platte, which is not treated in any way, was voted the overall winner. This is the first year that either winner has submitted a sample in the contest, Poe noted.

Other submissions came from the municipal water supplies in Aurora, Beatrice, Blair, Columbus, Fremont, Lincoln, Omaha (Metropolitan Utilities District), Norfolk, North Platte, Norfolk Iron and Metal, Papillion and Utica. A panel of six tasters was asked to rate each sample on a 1 to 10 scale for appearance, scent, flavor and aftertaste.

The water department also earned a Certificate of Safety Achievement from the Nebraska Section of AWWA. It was recognized for continued improvement towards safety during 2016.