I am a technician with NRCS and want to clarify what Kelsi is asking for when it comes to water testing for drip irrigation.

We are looking for anything that might cause emitters to clog.

Typically these are most likely problems to show up in well water.

pH, - a measure of acidity

Electrical Conductivity (EC),- a measure total salinity or total dissolved solids

Total suspended solids, -a measure of particles in suspension

Iron

Potential Problem	Low	Medium	Severe
Physical			
• Suspended solids, ppm	< 50	50 -100	> 100
Chemical			
• pH	< 7.0	7.0 – 8.0	> 8.0
• TDS, ppm	< 500	500 – 2,000	> 2,000
• Manganese, ppm	< 0.1	0.1 – 1.5	> 1.5
• Iron, ppm	< 0.1	0.1 – 1.5	> 1.5
• Hydrogen sulfide, ppm	< 0.5	0.5 – 2.0	> 2.0
Biological			
• Bacteria population - no. per mL 1/	< 10,000	10,000 – 50,000	> 50,000

Marty Rankin
USDA-NRCS
Civil Engineering Technician
Mt. Vernon, WA 98273
360 488-4823