

Colin Stine, of Elmwood Farm has expressed concerns about the study's findings. He states that the models used to determine whether there is sufficient water is a generalized model which works 95% of the time. However he thinks that it does not emphasize the importance of karst, and Jefferson County is primarily karst. Therefore the models for water that were used are likely to be inaccurate. The most recent map of wells in the county was done in 2012 and includes less than 10% (~950) of the 15,000+ wells in the county. Ground water streams and wells need to be mapped before accurate models can be produced. The assessment also does not report on the groundwater dye experiments done for USGS. The assessment does not do justice to our karst system. Sinkholes in Jefferson County have direct connections to the groundwater and the groundwater flows rapidly in karst (limestone).

According to Colin Stine, whose family has lived and farmed in Jefferson County since the 1940s, the water flow on his farm from the underground aquifer has significantly decreased in the past 30 years. The farm has five permanent springs, three seasonal springs and Rattlesnake Run which flows through the center of the property. During the last ten years three of the permanent springs have gone dry in the fall, if the season is dry enough. In 1999 a portion of the Run which passes through the farm went dry for the first time. Since then a portion of the Run has gone dry during the fall in most years and in the past decade has gone dry every year, except in 2018. A portion of the Run goes dry because of an estevalle in the stream in the middle of the farm. An estevalle is a form of sinkhole with a dual function. It either discharges water as a spring or allows water to sink into the aquifer, depending on the groundwater conditions. The water problems of the Run on the farm have not yet affected the downstream water flow because there is one spring that has never gone dry and the Run is fed by other water sources. Another local farmer also reported that the Run through his property went dry because a sink hole opened up on the bank of the stream and all the water flowed into the sink hole. The water flow in the Run was restored once the bank was rebuilt. Also in 1999, "Elmwood Farm Spring" which is usually eight inches deep in the spring house, was down to about two inches deep. Thus the potential further lowering of the water table would cause that spring to go dry and affect the downstream water flow in the Run.