



## Farmers Savings Bank Radon Mitigation Initiative

**Farmers Savings Bank** has created a radon mitigation initiative with the availability of low rate financing for radon mitigation costs. The bank took this step after learning from the Iowa Bankers Association about the extent of the issue in Iowa during January's National Radon Action Month, designated by the Iowa Radon Coalition and the American Lung Association in Iowa. For more information about this low rate financing program, call us at **641-752-2525**.

**Marshalltown:** Jasmine, Cindy, or Jerrod

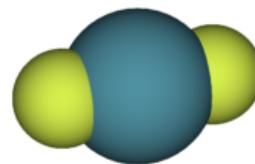
**Beaman:** Jay or Paul



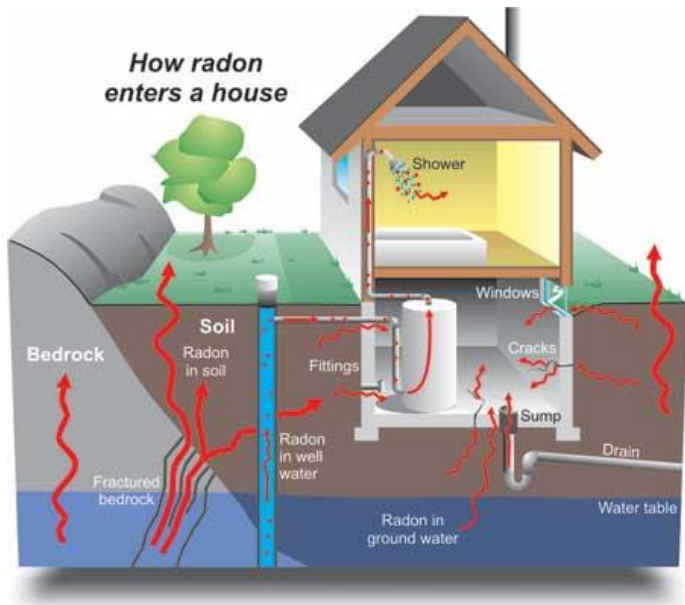
### *Frequently Asked Questions*

#### *What is radon?*

Radon is a colorless, odorless and radioactive gas that comes from the breakdown of naturally occurring uranium in the soil. It can be present in any home or building, and is especially prevalent in Iowa.



## Where is radon found?



Radon can be found anywhere and any home is at risk, regardless of the address, how old the home is or how solid the foundation.

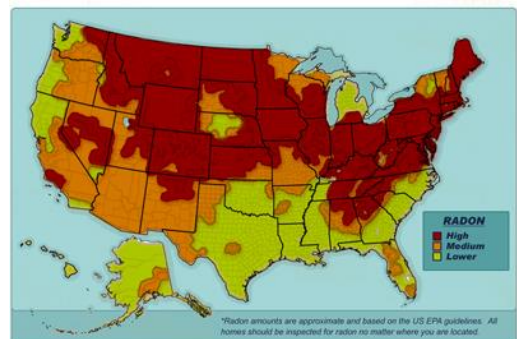
## How would I get sick from radon?



The risk occurs when the gas enters buildings and the decaying products are breathed in causing damage to the lungs and potentially lung cancer.

## Who is at risk for being exposed to radon?

Everyone is at risk for being exposed to radon and in Iowa, the exposure is more than six times the national average. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), an estimated 400 deaths per year in Iowa are caused by radon-inducing lung cancer. That is approximately the same number of Iowans who die in traffic accidents each year. EPA surveys in Iowa have found that seven in 10 homes contain radon concentrations above the EPA's radon action level of four picoCuries/liter (pCi/L).



## What would I have to do if the radon levels are high?



At the four pCi/L level, the EPA would recommend that radon mitigation (radon reduction measures) be performed to reduce the level of risk within the home.



## How do I test for radon? And how often should I test?

A simple test can detect radon levels in any building, and recommendations from experts are that all homes should be tested for radon, at least once every two years. Test kits are easy to use and are available by calling the Iowa Radon Hotline at (800) 383-5992 or at [www.healthhouse.org](http://www.healthhouse.org). The kits are available for a \$15 donation which includes the test kit, shipping & handling, and lab fees. Note that if radon testing is part of the contract when buying or selling a home, a home test kit is not enough and a professional company must do the test.

## What exactly is a radon mitigation method?



The most common and effective method is to install a vent pipe and fan system that draws air from underneath the foundation and vents it outside the home or building. The type and cost of a mitigation system depends on the size of the house, the house design, the foundation type, and the sub-slab material.



## *How much will it cost make changes?*



The cost of a radon mitigation system installed by a certified Iowa contractor is comparable to the price of other home improvements or maintenance, ranging from \$800 to \$2,500 depending on the characteristics of the home and the choice of radon reduction methods.

## *Where can I get more information about radon and radon mitigation?*

More information is available at **Farmers Savings Bank** – call us at 641-752-2525.

Additional Resources:

**Iowa Radon Hotline 1-800-383-5992**

**American Lung Association of the Midwest** at [www.HealthHouse.org/iowa.cfm](http://www.HealthHouse.org/iowa.cfm)



**Iowa Department of Public Health** at [www.idph.state.ia.us/Radon/](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/Radon/)



**Iowa Cancer Consortium** at [www.BreathingEasier.info](http://www.BreathingEasier.info)

