

# CRP

## CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

### IT PAYS

- CLEAN WATER
- WILDLIFE HABITAT
- FUTURE GENERATIONS

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

The USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) can be contacted at <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/>

The DNR's Sourcewater Protection Program works with Iowa communities to decrease risks to their drinking water systems. For more information, contact Becky Ohrtman, program coordinator, at (515) 281-0932 or [Rebecca.Ohrtman@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Ohrtman@dnr.iowa.gov).

Converting cropland around wellheads to grasses or trees can help protect public drinking water wells. DNR private lands biologists and foresters are available to help you consider plantings. For more information, visit our website at: [www.iowadnr.gov/wildlife/privatelands/](http://www.iowadnr.gov/wildlife/privatelands/) or call (515) 281-5918.

#### OTHER PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

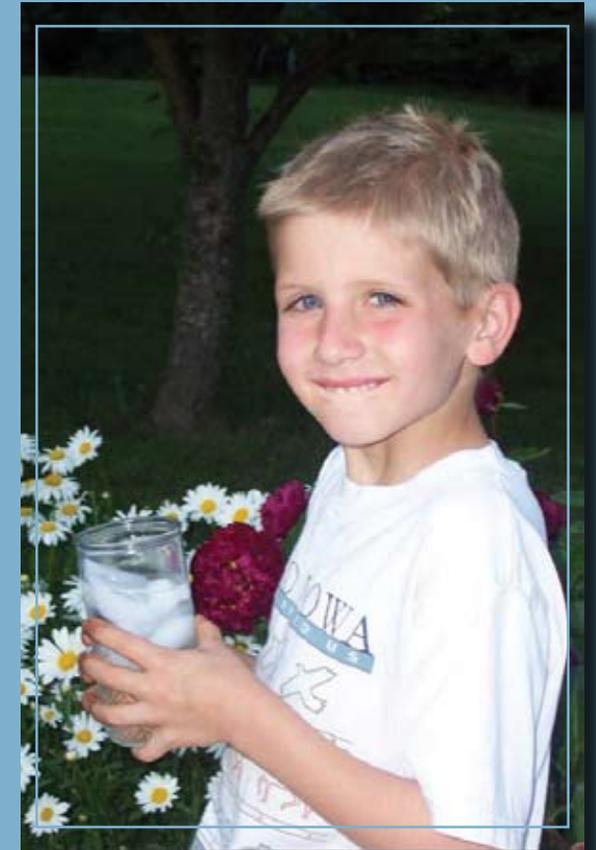
- *USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service*  
[www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov)
- *IDALS/DSC – Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship/ Division of Soil Conservation*  
[www.iowaagriculture.gov](http://www.iowaagriculture.gov)



New construction of a wellhead. Note grass and trees surrounding the wellhead.

USDA  
Farm Service Agency  
State Farm Service Agency  
10500 Buena Vista Court  
Des Moines, IA 50322

# PROTECTING YOUR COMMUNITY'S DRINKING WATER



#### CRP CONTINUOUS SIGN-UP:

- Protects community well water
- Helps improve water quality
- Pays producers to protect drinking water

## CONTINUOUS SIGN-UP

# CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM FOR COMMUNITY WELL WATER

Communities and producers can benefit from a continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for sourcewater protection. The program helps Iowans protect areas around community drinking water wells from excess nitrates and other contaminants. Nearly 900 public water systems are eligible for this program.

### HELP YOUR COMMUNITY

Communities, especially those with elevated nitrate levels in their water, can benefit by reducing contaminants reaching drinking water wells. Landowners who crop land around their community wells can help protect the public drinking water by converting from crops to grasses or trees. Protecting drinking water is not only an investment in the health of our families, but is important for our communities' economic health, too.

### PROTECT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The wells most vulnerable to contamination are shallow wells with sandy or silty soils around the wellhead. For example, when fertilizer or manure is applied to areas

around a wellhead, nitrogen can reach the wells by percolating through the soil. When rainfall or snowmelt soaks into the ground, contaminants can be carried into the groundwater that many Iowans use for drinking water.

Converting cropland around wellheads to permanent grass or trees with CRP may reduce the risk of nitrates and other contaminants (bacteria, pesticides, etc.) that can reach the well water.

### SAVE MONEY

Landowners who decide to enroll in CRP not only receive rental payments, but may help save their communities the substantial cost of purchasing all or part of their water from another source, installing treatment systems or having to dig another well.

### HOW TO HELP

Producers who own land within 2,000 feet of an eligible public wellhead can sign up for CRP at their local USDA Farm Service Agency office. Contact your local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service office or an Iowa Department of Natural Resources private lands biologist for assistance in selecting plant materials, completing a seeding plan and to learn about other possible incentives.

The white shed in the center of this cornfield houses the public well. The 2,000-foot radius of the well is eligible for CRP, which could decrease the risk to the public well.



### WHAT CRP DOES

- Improves water quality
- Filters out fertilizers, pesticides, bacteria and pathogens
- Provides habitat for wildlife
- Potential to improve income
- Provides long-term protection for drinking water and groundwater

### PAYMENTS

#### *Cost-share*

- 50 percent cost-share with a 10 percent incentive added to the rental rate
- 40 percent for establishment costs
- \$2 per acre per year for maintenance
- Additional local incentives may be available

#### *Rental rate*

- Based on maximum rental rates established for the three predominant soils
- 10- to 15-year contract length

#### *Added Incentives*

- Check with local officials for added incentives and sign-up bonuses

### ELIGIBILITY

- Up to 288 acres on land within a 2,000-foot radius of an eligible well
- Communities that may have eligible wells are listed at <http://watershed.iowadnr.gov/sourcewater.html>
- Eligible land must have been cropped four out of six years between 1996 and 2001

### MAINTENANCE

- Mow as needed to control weeds during establishment
- After establishment, no mowing between May 15 and Aug. 1 to protect nesting wildlife
- No haying or grazing