

For more information

The USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) can assist with CRP enrollment. For information, visit the website at <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=ia&agency=fsa>.

The USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) can assist with seeding plans and maintenance information. For information, visit the website at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ia/contact/local/>.

The Iowa DNR Private Lands Biologists and foresters will assist with seeding plans, CRP maintenance and estimating costs. For information, visit the website at www.iowadnr.gov/wildlife/privatelands/ or call (515) 725-8200.

The Iowa DNR's Source Water Protection Program works with Iowa communities to decrease risks to their drinking water source.

The Source Water Protection for Targeted Community Water Supplies Program (communities with existing contamination levels) website is www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/WaterQuality/SourceWaterProtection.aspx.

Other participating organizations

USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/>

IDALS/DSC – Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship/Division of Soil Conservation
www.iowaagriculture.gov

The Iowa Source Water Agricultural Collaborative has a website at www.cleanwateriowa.org.



New construction of a wellhead with grass and trees planted in the capture zone.

CRP Pays

- ◀ CLEAN WATER
- ◀ SOIL QUALITY
- ◀ WILDLIFE HABITAT
- ◀ FUTURE GENERATIONS

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- Protect community well water
- Help improve water quality
- Receive 10 percent more for land rental within EPA-designated wellhead protection areas

CRP-WHP PROTECTS COMMUNITY WELL WATER



The white shed in the center of this cornfield houses a public well. The capture zone of the public well is eligible for CRP-WHP. Enrolling eligible land within the capture zone of a public well into CRP-WHP can decrease risk to the community's drinking water supply.

Producers and communities both benefit from the continuous Conservation Reserve Program – Wellhead Protection Program (CRP-WHP). Enrolling in CRP-WHP can help public drinking water supplies decrease risk from excess nitrates and other contaminants entering their drinking water sources. Currently 880 Iowa public water supplies are eligible for this conservation program. Landowners in the area around a community well that is the focus of protection efforts can contact their local USDA Service Center for additional information on eligibility.

Protect drinking water

Communities, especially those with elevated nitrate levels in their water, can benefit from the planting of CRP grasses or trees in their well capture zones. These plants have extensive roots that take up nitrate from the soil, reducing what infiltrates the groundwater.

Shallow alluvial water wells, typically less than 100 feet deep, are the most vulnerable to contamination from land use practices. These wells often have sandy or silty soils in their capture area overlaying good aquifers. When pesticides

and commercial fertilizer or manure are applied on the land in the capture area, those substances percolate into the soil. When precipitation falls on the ground, it moves downward through the soil profile, accumulating available fertilizers and other contaminants and transporting them into the groundwater. The groundwater is then pulled into public wells in these susceptible areas.

Converting cropland around wellheads to permanent grasses or trees with CRP can reduce the risk of nitrates and contaminants — such as bacteria and pesticides — from reaching well water.

It pays the landowner; reduces risk for the community

Landowners who decide to enroll in CRP-WHP will receive cost share to establish the practice and annual rental payments. They will also help decrease risk to their local community's water supply, both environmentally and economically. Costs to communities with poor water quality can include installing treatment systems, drilling additional public wells, and purchasing water from a source outside of the community.

Enroll eligible land

Producers interested in enrolling eligible land can contact their local USDA Farm Service Agency office. Producers may contact their local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service office or an Iowa Department of Natural Resources private lands biologist for assistance with seeding plans and CRP maintenance, and to learn about other possible incentives in their area.

CRP-WHP

- Improves water quality
- Takes up excess fertilizer
- Provides habitat for wildlife
- Guarantees income
- Protects drinking water and groundwater now and into the future

Payments

- 50 percent cost-share for practice establishment
- 40 percent incentive payment for eligible establishment costs
- Annual rental payments based on maximum rental rates established for the three predominant soils plus 10 percent incentive
- 10- to 15-year contract length

Check for added Incentives

- Check with your local city leaders and wildlife organizations for potential added incentives

Eligibility

- All Iowa communities with eligible public wells are listed at the following website: <https://programs.iowadnr.gov/sourcewater/>
- A ten-year time of travel capture zone area of a public water supply well is eligible if land within the capture zone area has been cropped four out of six designated years

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