



CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

Continuous Sign-Up

For Cropland
Within Wellhead
Protection Areas
(WHPA)

Protecting Your Drinking Water



USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Continuous CRP is a voluntary program available to help producers establish native vegetation on fragile agricultural lands. Native vegetation is established on agricultural land to protect surface water and drinking water resources, conserve soil, and enhance wildlife habitat. Producers who enroll are compensated for their commitment and management of the CRP practices established on their property.

Wellhead Protection (WHP) is a program established to protect groundwater and drinking water resources. The goal of WHP is to prevent well contamination by managing potential contaminant sources in all or a portion of a well's recharge area. For public water supply wells in Minnesota, a Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA) is designated and approved by the MN Dept. of Health. Enrolling land in CRP is one of the best ways to protect both public and private drinking water supplies which may be impacted by agricultural activities.



Continuous CRP for Wellhead Protection — Eligibility Requirements

Acreage **MUST BE:**

- Located in a State-approved WHPA,
- Considered cropland by FSA,
- Cropland planted to an agricultural commodity four of six years,
- Owned for at least one year prior to offering land for enrollment.
- You can enroll your land anytime by contacting your local FSA office.

Terms: producers enter into a 10 to 15 year contract and agree to maintain and manage the practice.

Rates: annual per acre rental based on 3 most predominant soils.

Other Payments Include: up to 50% cost share assistance to establish practice, 40% practice incentive payment, and increased soil rental rates for land located in a Wellhead Protection Area.

Groundwater aquifers directly connected to the land surface have the potential to become contaminated by a variety of agricultural and other land use activities. The Continuous CRP provides producers with an opportunity to help protect public drinking water resources and be compensated for establishing and maintaining native vegetation in a State-approved WHPA.

Visit these Web sites:

MN Dept. of Health WHP: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/whp/index.htm

USDA FSA: www.fsa.usda.gov

MN Rural Water Association: www.mrwa.com



This factsheet was developed by Minnesota Rural Water Association in cooperation with the Minnesota USDA FSA and Minnesota Department of Health.