



# Protecting Drinking Water

## Cover Crops In the Whitewater Watershed

### WHITewater RIVER WATERSHED PROJECT

The Whitewater River Watershed project works to improve drinking and surface water quality, reduce erosion and flooding, and improve wildlife habitat.

### BACKGROUND

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture Township Testing Program identified areas where nitrate levels in groundwater is high. Increased use of cover crops in agricultural areas is an effective way to help protect drinking water.

### COVER CROP BENEFITS

- Reduce Soil Erosion
- Improve Soil Health
- Increase Soil Filtration
- Produce/Scavenge Crop Nutrients
- Increase Nutrient Recycling
- Protect Water Quality

### COST SHARE FUNDING

The Wabasha County Soil and Water Conservation District in partnership with the Whitewater Joint Powers Board, has funds available through the Whitewater Drinking Water Protection Grant. Funds are available for farmers in the Whitewater to try cover crops or improve their current cover crop seed mixes.

### PRIORITY AREAS

The Whitewater Watershed portions of Elgin and Plainview Townships have a high number of private wells with nitrate levels above the drinking water standard. This area is the primary focus of this project.

### BENEFITS TO PRODUCERS

Cover crop incentive payments available to producers include **\$30 per acre, up to 30 acres and up to three years.**

### HOW TO APPLY

Interested in learning more about cover crop technical and financial assistance? Call 651-565-4673



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