

Financial Assistance for Water Treatment



Dakota County has grant funding to help well owners with the expense of drinking water treatment devices to reduce certain contaminants that are over the MN Department of Health drinking water guidelines.

| Grant-Eligible Contaminant | Drinking Water Guideline |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Arsenic | 2 µg/L (micrograms per liter) |
| Manganese | 0.100 mg/L (milligrams per liter) |
| Nitrate | 10 mg/L (milligrams per liter) |
| Coliform Bacteria | Any detection |
| Lead | Any detection |



To be eligible to apply for a Drinking Water Treatment System Grant, your household must meet financial eligibility requirements. For more information visit www.dakotacounty.us and search "Safe Drinking Water Grant" or scan the QR code above.

This program is first come, first serve so you are encouraged to apply right away.

Should you have any questions I can be reached at watertreatment@co.dakota.mn.us or 952-891-7549.

Free Irrigation Water Testing Events



Environmental Resources

Sampling instructions

Visit www.co.dakota.mn.us and search

Irrigation water testing or scan the QR code.



Tuesday June 17, 2-6:30 p.m.

Randolph City Hall
4365 292nd St. E., Randolph

Monday Aug. 4, 2-6:30 p.m.

Douglas Town Hall
12409 240th St., Hampton

Monday June 30, 2-6:30 p.m.

Dakota County Extension Office
4100 220th St. W., Farmington

Tuesday Aug. 19, 2-6:30 p.m.

Marshan Town Hall
12497 205th St. E., Hastings

Thursday July 10, 2-6:30 p.m.

Vermillion City Hall
105 Main St. E., Vermillion

Contact:

Matt Belanger
Groundwater Protection

Tuesday July 15, 2-6:30 p.m.

Hampton Town Hall
5450 260th St. E., Randolph

Environmental Specialist
952-891-7132



Dear Landowner,

Get your irrigation water tested for nitrate for free at several testing events in 2025.

How it works:

- Collect an irrigation water sample at any time. Samples that are taken ahead of time should be frozen until brought in for testing.
- Attend any drop-in session. You will receive your nitrate results within minutes.

Benefits of nitrate crediting:

- Saves significant costs by reducing fertilizer use. *For example: A farmer with 20 mg/L of nitrate can save ~\$18/acre by applying 8-inches of water during the growing season.*
- Receive your test results privately and learn how to credit your irrigation water for nitrogen from local experts.
- Improves soil health.
- Protects your drinking water.

Results are private and intended for your use only – there are no requirements for participation. After receiving results, you will learn how to credit nitrogen in your irrigation water for future nutrient management planning.



Environmental Resources

Western Service Center
14955 Galaxie Avenue
Apple Valley, MN 55124

Free
Irrigation Water
Testing Events

2022 – 2024 ACRE Monitoring Well Factsheet



Background

As part of the Agricultural Chemical Reduction Effort (ACRE) program, Dakota County installed 15 monitoring wells in rural parts of the county in 2021 and 2022. Since 2022, these wells are sampled three times annually in the spring, summer, and fall for nitrate, chloride, depth to water, and other measurements.

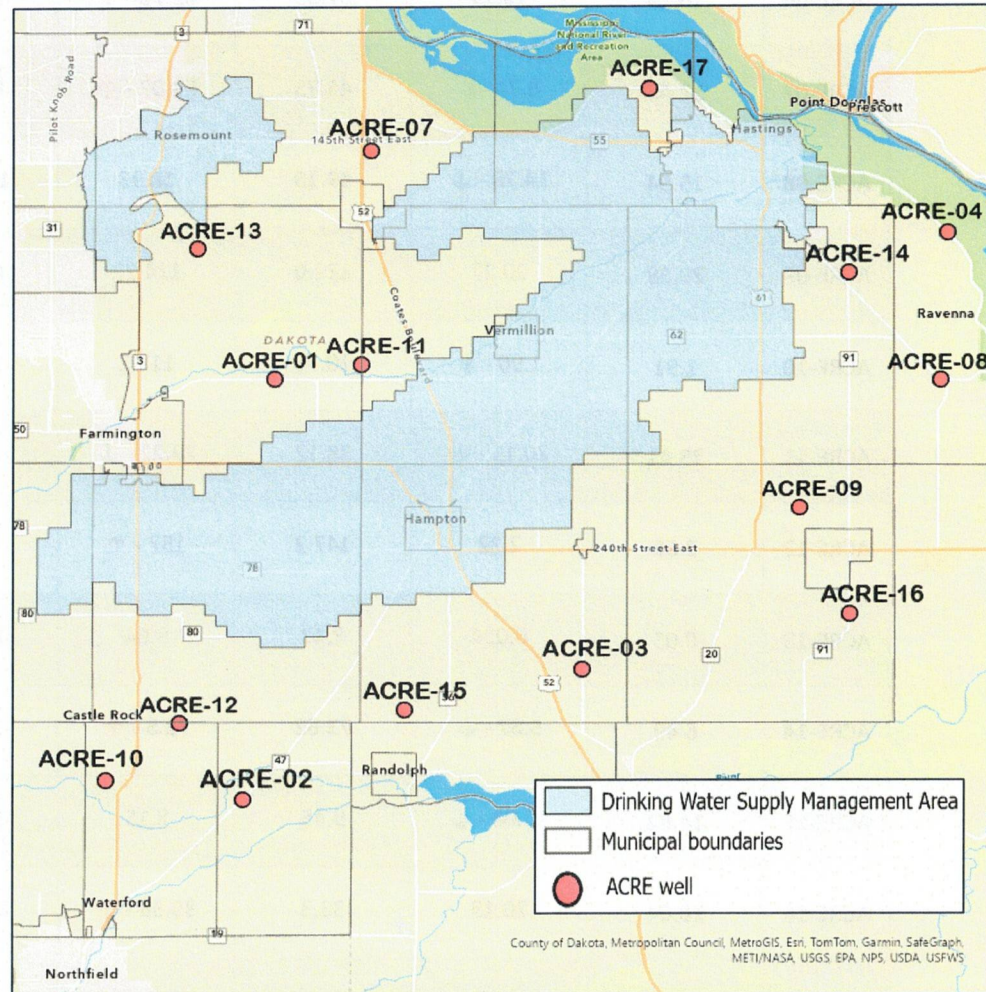
Dakota County will use the results to assess baseline nitrate conditions in vulnerable parts of the county, monitor trends in groundwater conditions through time, and evaluate progress in the ACRE program.

The map below shows the location of Dakota County's ACRE groundwater monitoring wells along with the Rosemount and Hastings Drinking Water Supply Management Areas (DWSMA) shaded in blue, which are areas where groundwater contamination can affect drinking water supplies.

Results from past sampling events can be viewed online with an interactive web-based dashboard. This tool allows users to select specific monitoring wells and dates to see results of all measurements at the time of sampling. To view the ACRE Monitoring Well Dashboard, go to www.dakotacounty.us and search ACRE.



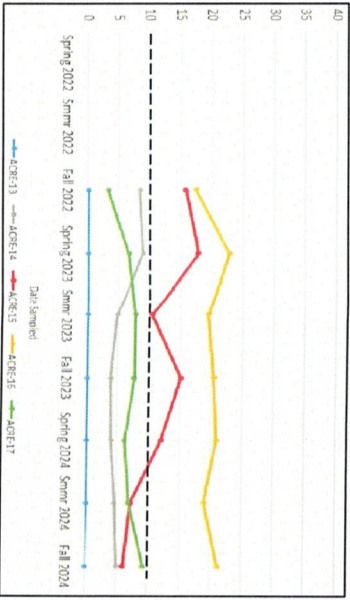
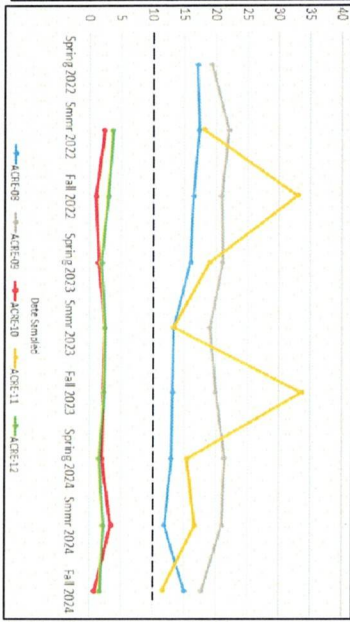
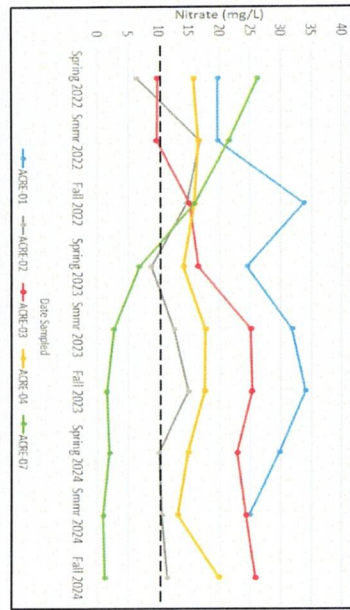
Funding for the ACRE Plan is provided through the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment, distributed by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to Dakota County



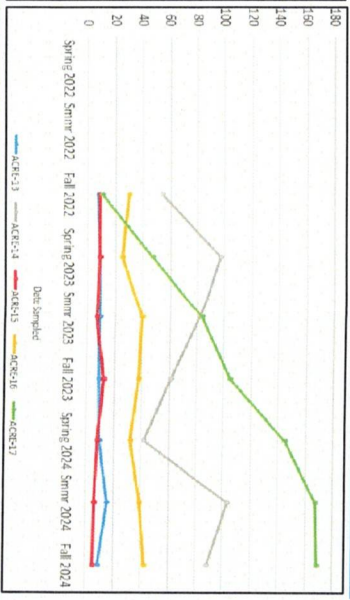
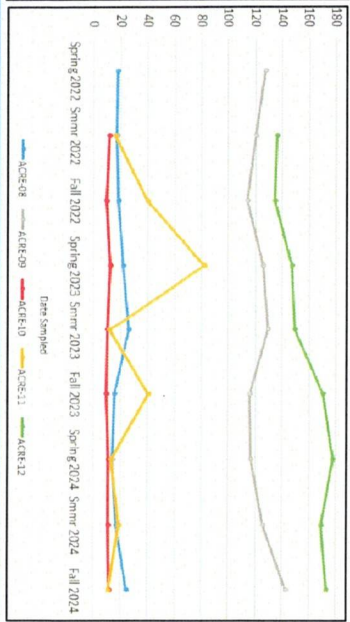
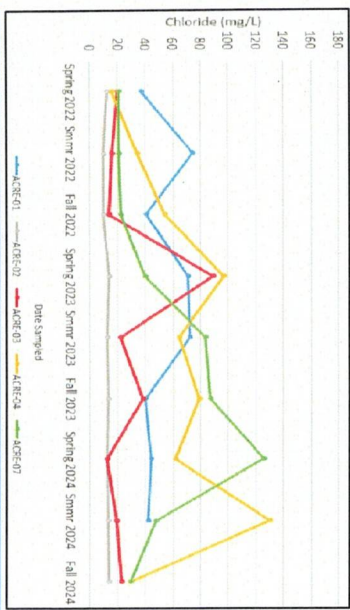
| ACRE Well ID | Average nitrate concentration 2023 (mg/L) | Average nitrate concentration 2024 (mg/L) | Average chloride concentration 2023 (mg/L) | Average chloride concentration 2024 (mg/L) | Average depth to water 2023 (ft) | Average depth to water 2024 (ft) |
|--------------|---|---|--|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ACRE-01 | 27.20 | 27.21 | 55.76 | 52.57 - ↓ | 10.27 | 9.95 |
| ACRE-02 | 12.35 | 11.79 - ↓ | 11.83 | 12.26 | 13.04 | 12.75 |
| ACRE-03 | 16.93 | 19.41 - ↑ | 33.35 | 28.38 - ↓ | 6.13 | 6.1 |
| ACRE-04 | 16.29 | 16.19 | 57.35 | 62.76 - ↑ | 18.58 | 18.65 |
| ACRE-07 | 12.43 | 8.74 - ↓ | 45.75 | 53.07 - ↑ | 86.32 | 86.39 |
| ACRE-08 | 15.54 | 14.78 - ↓ | 19.18 | 18.93 | 124.28 | 124.39 |
| ACRE-09 | 20.38 | 20.27 | 122.0 | 124.22 | 66.03 | 65.05 |
| ACRE-10 | 1.91 | 1.90 - ↓ | 10.76 | 11.02 | 10.92 | 10.53 |
| ACRE-11 | 23.41 | 20.11 - ↓ | 38.12 | 29.22 - ↓ | 6.64 | 5.47 |
| ACRE-12 | 2.66 | 2.32 | 147.2 | 157 - ↑ | 7.03 | 6.79 |
| ACRE-13 | 0.05 | 0.024 | 8.47 | 9.64 | 33.78 | 40.84 |
| ACRE-14 | 6.49 | 5.67 - ↓ | 73.62 | 75.5 - ↑ | 96.09 | 95.68 |
| ACRE-15 | 14.82 | 12.08 - ↓ | 9.45 | 8.15 | 17.81 | 14.94 |
| ACRE-16 | 20.04 | 20.19 | 33.3 | 35.38 - ↑ | 116.65 | 114.46 |
| ACRE-17 | 6.31 | 6.79 | 61.42 | 103.81- ↑ | 156.41 | 156.66 |

Table 1: Changes in nitrate, chloride, and water level from 2023 to 2024 monitoring. Red up arrows indicate an increase in concentration, while green down arrows indicate a decrease.

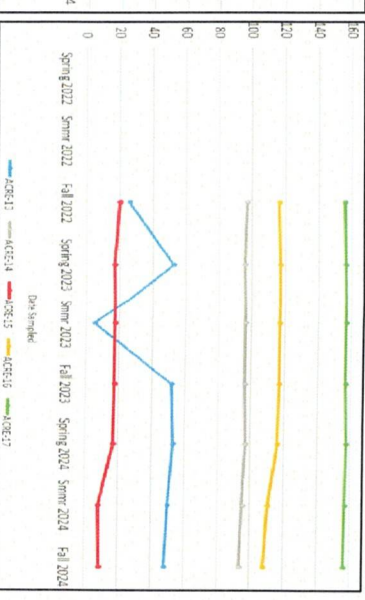
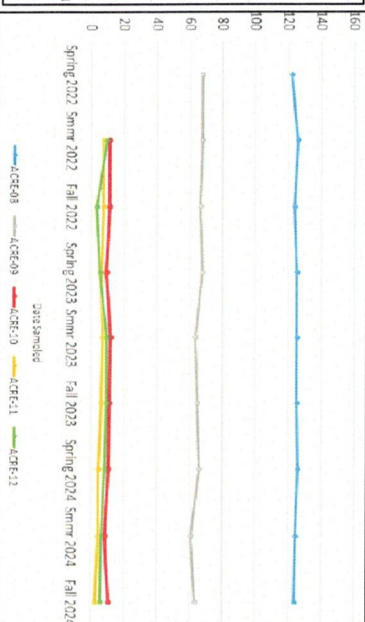
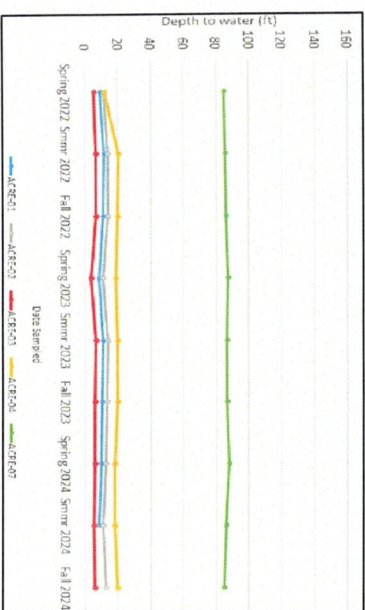
Nitrate drinking water guideline = 10 mg/L



Chloride drinking water guideline = 250 mg/L



Depth to water



COVER CROP INCENTIVES



SEEDING PLANS & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Cover crops are used to accomplish many goals such as reducing compaction, fixing nitrogen, suppressing weeds, reducing erosion, or providing additional forage. Common cover crops in Dakota County are cereal rye, oats, tillage radish, clover and winter wheat. One or more cover crop species may be selected based on specific goals.

SWCD staff can help you create a cover crop seeding plan with your goals in mind. Staff can also provide technical assistance and information on planting methods, termination timing, and herbicide and pest control decisions.

INCENTIVE PAYMENT PROGRAM

Apply under the Incentive Payment Practices Program and you could be eligible to receive:

- \$35 per acre under a 1-year contract (max \$5,600 or 160 acres)
- \$45 per acre per year under a multi-year contract (max \$21,600 or 160 acres)

Applications are prioritized for funding based on their potential to provide surface water and groundwater benefits. The number of applications approved may be limited by the funding and staff time available. Please contact the SWCD for specific eligibility requirements and program details.

APPLICATION TIMES:

- Applications are accepted year-round

POTENTIAL BENEFITS:

- Reduced soil erosion
- Reduced soil compaction
- Enhanced ability of soil to infiltrate water
- Reduced weed growth
- Increased nutrients in the soil
- Increased numbers of desirable insects and micro-fauna
- Potential yield increases

CONTACT:

- For more information, call the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District at (651) 480-7777



HARVESTABLE COVER INCENTIVES



WHAT ARE HARVESTABLE COVERS?

Harvestable covers are vegetative cover on cropland for protection from erosion and reduction of nutrient losses to groundwater. Harvestable covers are intended to provide soil and groundwater protection throughout as much of the year as possible. Harvestable covers allow for harvesting of a crop, which can provide income while protecting water resources. Examples of harvestable covers include winter camelina, intermediate wheat grass, winter wheat, or other crops that provide overwinter cover. One or more cover crop species may be selected based on specific goals.

INCENTIVE PAYMENT PROGRAM

Apply under the Incentive Payment Practices Program and you could be eligible to receive:

- \$25 per acre under a 1-year contract using a winter annual (max \$4,000 or 160 acres)
- \$35 per acre per year under a multi-year contract using a winter annual (max \$16,800 or 160 acres)
- \$35 per acre per year under a multi-year contract using a perennial (max \$16,800 or 160 acres)

Applications are prioritized for funding based on their potential to provide surface water and groundwater benefits. The number of applications approved may be limited by the funding and staff time available. Please contact the SWCD for specific eligibility requirements and program details.

APPLICATION TIMES:

- Applications are accepted year-round

POTENTIAL BENEFITS:

- Reduced soil erosion
- Groundwater protection
- Reduced soil compaction
- Enhanced ability of soil to infiltrate water
- Reduced weed growth
- Increased nutrients in the soil
- Increased numbers of desirable insects and micro-fauna
- Ability to generate income while protecting surface and groundwater

CONTACT:

- For more information, call the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District at (651) 480-7777

NATIVE PRAIRIE RESTORATION GRANT



FUNDING FOR NATIVE PRAIRIE ESTABLISHMENT AND ENHANCEMENT

Native plants provide multiple benefits to water quality, soil health, and pollinators. Grant funding is available for the installation of native vegetation in Dakota County that protects surface waters and groundwater, reduces erosion, or provides wildlife habitat. Project funds are also available for projects that enhance existing native vegetation.

Funding is sponsored by Dakota County through the Environmental Legacy Fund.

FUNDING DETAILS:

Apply for the Native Prairie Restoration grant program and you could receive up to 85% funding for eligible costs with the below limitations:

- \$4,000 per acre for projects that establish native grasses **and** pollinator-friendly species (flowering forbs).
- \$2,500 per acre for the establishment of native grasses.
- \$1,500 per acre for the enhancement of existing native grass plantings through the addition of pollinator-friendly species (forbs, sedges, & rushes).
- Maximum grant payment of \$15,000 per project.
- **Projects must be a minimum of 1/2 acre in size to qualify.**

All funding based on availability, SWCD Board Approval, and on percentage of actual installation costs.

APPLICATION TIMES:

- Applications are accepted all year and will be reviewed and ranked on a monthly basis.

PROJECT PRIORITIES:

- Stabilizing erodible soils
- Filtering runoff to waterways or wetlands
- Protecting groundwater
- Improving wildlife habitat, particularly for pollinators

PROJECT EXAMPLES:

- Site preparation, seed, and planting of native vegetation
- Enhancement of existing native vegetation with pollinator species

For more information, call the
Dakota County Soil and Water
Conservation District at
(651) 480-7777

SOIL HEALTH INCENTIVES



Stacking Conservation Practices

This program is well suited to fit with crop rotations and further conservation goals for healthy soils. Applicants must select a primary practice (cover crops, harvestable cover, or no-till/strip-till) in order to be eligible for a secondary practice (N-inhibitors, planting green, split rate N application, and irrigation water management). Contracts can be for one to three years. SWCD staff will work with applicants to best plan and schedule practices.

Applications are prioritized for funding based on their potential to provide water quality benefits. The number of applications approved may be limited by the amount of funding and staff time available.

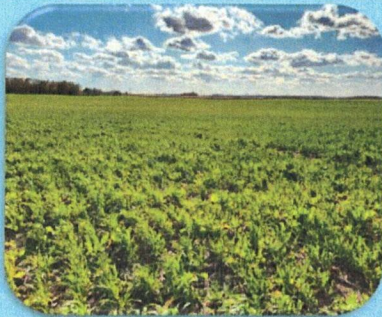
APPLICATION TIMES:

- Applications are accepted year-round

CONTACT:

- For more information, call the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District at (651) 480-7777

Primary Practices



Cover Crops

\$45/acre/yr (multi-year)
\$35/acre (single year)



Harvestable Cover

\$35/acre/yr (multi-year)
\$25/acre (single year)



No-Till/Strip-Till

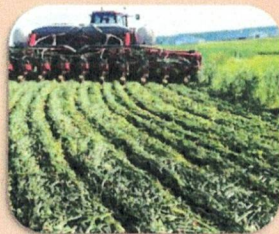
\$20/acre/yr (multi-year)
\$15/acre (single year)

Secondary Practices



Nitrogen Inhibitors

\$5/acre/yr



Planting Green

\$10/acre/yr



**Split Rate
Nitrogen Application**

\$5/acre/yr



**Irrigation Water
Management**

\$5/acre/yr