



## Farmland Ownership and Rental: Managing for Stewardship



### Acronyms 1/24/18

#### Agency Acronyms

**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)** is a conservation agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) that develops conservation plans and provides financial assistance to farmers to increase conservation. In Minnesota <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/mn/home/>

**Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD)** local units of government in each county in MN. In some states like WI they are called Land Conservation Departments in each county.

<https://www.maswcd.org/>

**Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)** is a state agency that provides funding to SWCDs and other local units of government focused on conservation.

<http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/>

**Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA)** Among other programs that host a Cropland Grazing Exchange to connect row crop farmers with farmers who have cattle.

<http://www2.mda.state.mn.us/webapp/GrazingExchange/MDAHome.html>

**Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota (SFA-MN)** is a farmer to farmer network that supports bringing livestock back. They partner with the MDA on the grazing exchange and hold an annual Soil Health Conference. There are also local chapters around the state.

<http://www.sfa-mn.org/>

**Farm Service Agency (FSA)**, an agency of the USDA that provides financial assistance for the Conservation Reserve Program, price support and disaster programs, and farm loan programs.

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Minnesota/index>

**Risk Management Agency (RMA)**, is an agency of the USDA that administers Federally Subsidized Crop Insurance. <https://www.rma.usda.gov/>

#### Program acronyms

**Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)** a 10 or 15-year contract with FSA to take productive ag land out of production and put into conservation.

**Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)** is a conservation program of NRCS that helps farmers add additional conservation based on 5 year contracts.

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** is a conservation program of NRCS that provides cost-share for structural, management and vegetative practices that while conserve natural resources like soil, water and air.