

# Renting it Out Right – Managing for Stewardship

## Acronyms 7-2020

### AGENCY ACRONYMS

**BWSR – Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources:** a state agency that provides funding to SWCD's and other local units of government focused on conservation.

**EPA- Environmental Protection Agency:** an independent agency of the United States federal government for environmental protection. Also responsible for producing EIS's or **Environmental Impact Statements** for large project such as animal confinement facilities.

**FSA- Farm Service Agency:** an agency of the USDA that provides financial assistance for the **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**, price support and disasters programs, and farm loan programs. Can be a good place to ask about regional rental averages and financial assistance available for operators/farmers. [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

**MDA – Minnesota Department of Agriculture:** MN agency that hosts programs, including a cropland grazing exchange and various grants for farmers/operators. [www.mda.state.mn.us](http://www.mda.state.mn.us)

**MPCA- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency:** a MN state agency that monitors environmental quality, offers technical and financial assistance, and enforces environmental regulations within the state. Has watershed and regional engagement and outreach around water quality.

**NRCS - Natural Resources Conservation Service :** conservation agency of the United States Department of Agriculture that develops conservation plans and provides financial assistance to farmers to increase conservation practices.

**RMA – Risk Management Agency:** agency of the USDA that administers Federally Subsidized Crop Insurance. [www.rma.usda.gov/](http://www.rma.usda.gov/)

**SWCD (MN and SD) – Soil and Water Conservation Districts:** local units of government (LUG) in each county in MN and SD that are hubs of information for conservation practices. Often share space with other agencies like FSA and NRCS. Good place to start asking about available programs, to ask about local farmers with good practices, and often host informational field days on conservation practices.

**USDA- United States Department of Agriculture:** also known as the Agriculture Department, the U.S. federal executive department responsible for developing and executing federal laws related to farming, forestry, and food.

**USDA-ARS – USDA Agricultural Research Service:** the [U.S. Department of Agriculture's](http://www.ars.usda.gov/) chief scientific in-house research agency researching agricultural questions and problems.

**USFWS – US Fish and Wildlife Service:** an agency of the US federal government within the US Department of the Interior dedicated to the management of fish, wildlife, and natural habitats. Often the regional wetland management district has good information about working land easements, seed mixes and plant varieties, and native habitat management/restoration.

## **PROGRAM ACRONYMS**

**CREP- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program:** Similar to CRP, 10-15 year contracts to take sensitive ag land out of production, but differs in that CREP is a partnership between state governments and the federal government. That partnership is in place to address high priority conservation concerns. Land cannot be enrolled in CREP if your state does not have a CREP agreement.

**CRP-Conservation Reserve Program:** federally funded program with a 10 or 15 year contract with FSA to take erodible ag land out of production and put into conservation.

**CSP- Conservation Stewardship Program:** a conservation program of NRCS that helps farmers add additional conservation practices based on 5 year contracts.

**EQIP- Environmental Quality Incentive Program:** a conservation program of NRCS that provides cost-share for structural, management and vegetative practices that conserve natural resources like soil, water, air and nutrients.

**RIM- Reinvest in Minnesota:** Permanent easement program through BWSR where use of acres is limited to wildlife support. This program no longer accepts new acres.

## **NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION ACRONYMS**

**AFT – American Farmland Trust -** “We take a holistic approach to **farmland** and ranchland, protecting it from development, promoting environmentally sound farming practices, and keeping farmers on it.”

**AG – Agrarian Trust-** Nationally-supported, community-held land and agrarian property that supports diversified sustainable food production, shared ecological stewardship, agrarian community vitality, and the next generation of farmers and ranchers.

**FLAG- Farmer’s Legal Action Group:** a Minnesota based nonprofit law center dedicated to providing legal services and support to small to mid-sized farmers and their communities in order to help keep people on the land. Also can help with conservation lease questions. [www.flaginc.org](http://www.flaginc.org)

**PFI – Practical Farmers of Iowa:** a nonprofit, inclusive organization representing a diversity of farmers whose mission is to equip farmers to build resilient farms and communities. [www.practicalfarmers.org](http://www.practicalfarmers.org)

**PF – Pheasants Forever:** dedicated to the conservation of pheasants, quail and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public awareness, education, and land management policies and programs.

**SFA- Sustainable Farming Association:** a farmer to farmer network that supports bringing livestock back to farms, soil health/soil building, and sustainable farming practices. Created the grazing exchange in partnership with the MDA and hold an annual Soil Health Conference. There are local chapters around MN. [www.sfa-mn.org](http://www.sfa-mn.org)

**TNC – The Nature Conservancy-** a non-profit organization, with a mission to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. Can provide conservation easements and information about native habitat management.

**WFAN- Women in Farming and Agriculture Network:** a nonprofit organization that provides networking, education and leadership development for women in sustainable agriculture and food systems development.