

Funding for Abandoned or Unused Well Decommissioning

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The **Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP)** is a program offered under the Canadian Agriculture Partnership (CAP), which **provides producers funding to decommission abandoned or unused wells**. This program is available to agriculture producers, First Nations, Rural Municipalities and agri-businesses.

If you are a landowner in a RM, but do not earn farm income, the RM can apply on your behalf to the program to decommission wells on your property. **This program covers 90% of the eligible costs** to properly decommission wells throughout rural Saskatchewan.

There are several reasons why abandoned and unused wells should be decommissioned. All water wells provide a direct pathway from the surface to the aquifer. When a well is no longer in use, or is not being properly maintained, rodents, snakes and debris can fall into the abandon well and cause groundwater contamination. Abandoned and unused wells are also a safety concern for people and animals.

Eligible activities for decommissioning wells include:

- Excavation (removing casing),
- Bentonite and chlorine,
- Gravel or clay (must be third party purchase)
- Costs related to well decommissioning including sealing and capping water wells by a registered well driller.

Pre-approval is required for all well decommissioning activities.

- Large diameter well decommissionings require a FRWIP Pre-Approval Application and Well Decommissioning Worksheet
- Small diameter well decommissionings require a FRWIP Pre-Approval Application, and work must be completed by a Registered Driller
- All well decommissioning must comply with Water Security Agency (WSA) recommended practices

Applicants are encouraged to contact an Agri-Environmental Technical Service (AETS) provider for assistance in completing the applications and pre-approval worksheets. **In the Wascana & Upper Qu'Appelle Watersheds, Sarah Tranberg is the AETS contact.** Technicians will work one-on-one with producers to assist in applying to the program and filling out your pre-approval worksheets. To read more on decommissioning wells visit www.wsask.ca.

For more information on FRWIP or other CAP programs, contact WUQWATR's Agri-Environmental Program Coordinator, Sarah Tranberg, at 306-529-5125 or sarah@wuqwatr.ca