

Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District

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In 2002 the state estimated there were over 100,000 improperly sealed or abandoned wells in Illinois. The district believes abandoned wells pose a significant threat to local health and safety by being a direct conduit for pollutants to enter aquifers and contaminate groundwater in Warren County. The district sponsored five well sealing demonstrations prior to 2001. In 2002 the district sponsored a cost-share program to seal abandoned wells. In the first four years, 101 wells were sealed through the district's cost-share program. An average of nine wells per year has been sealed since 2006.

The average payment is \$317 per well. Funding has been provided by the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District (32%); Warren County Board (24%); Illinois Department of Agriculture block grant (20%); and Partners for Conservation, formerly C-2000 (24%). We are able to continue this program with funds from the Warren County Board and the Partners for Conservation.

The entire population of Warren County benefits from this program. By sealing abandoned wells, this reduces the probability (occurrences) of contamination to our ground water supply. This program also improves safety for the general population.

Find additional information on the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District at their web site: www.frontiernet/~swcd