

Ground water protection in the Municipality of Aarhus is based on a combination of information, voluntary agreements and mandatory restrictions. In the Municipality of Aarhus 12.100 hectares is designated as ground water protection zones. That's about 25% of the municipal area. The designation is based on hydrogeological and chemical mapping. The ground water resource is stressed because of nearly fully exploitation of the resource and pesticide pollution in 1/3 of the abstraction wells. In Denmark, ground water is the only drinking water source. In the Municipality of Aarhus there has been no use of pesticides on public owned land in drinking water areas since the late nineties and in this period, the water companies has been car-



rying out several protection schemes aimed at farmers and owners of private gardens. The water companies have offered fully compensated voluntary agreements to farmers. Since year 2000, approximately 100 farmers have agreed to non-pesticide farming covering around 1400 hectares. There are still many areas, where groundwater protection is needed. The council has in 2013 decided to use regulatory instruments. In 2016 the council has decided to start up the process with prohibiting the use of pesticides in specific ground water protection zones. Notification has been given for the first 13 injunctions. The farmers are fully compensated by the water companies.