



North Dakota Fact Sheet USDA Crop Acreage Report Maps - Wetland Identifier Symbols

November 2007

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has made the decision to create a wetland map layer which will incorporate all of the Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland determinations that have been completed to date. The purpose of these maps is to provide a representation of the various levels of manipulation that are allowed on these wet areas. In response to this effort, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) would like to provide the following clarifications to any map that you may receive:

- ◆ **The USDA map containing the new map symbols is not the official wetlands map.**
- ◆ **This map does not represent any change in wetland procedures, determinations, or regulations.**
- ◆ The 1985 Food Security Act allows landowners to maintain any manipulation to a wetland that occurred prior to December 23, 1985.
- ◆ The NRCS has maintained the same wetland labeling system since the Act was implemented in 1985.
- ◆ FSA has digitized a symbol to indicate that some type of NRCS wetland or HEL determination (either an inventoried official or a certified) has been made on the cropland acreage represented on the map. **All** previous NRCS determinations have been put on these FSA maps. These new FSA maps are used primarily for acreage reporting **and not wetland compliance.**
- ◆ Both FSA and NRCS have the original wetland determination maps available for landowners and operators. Copies of these maps have been provided to all producers. If lost, maps can be provided to these individuals again.
- ◆ Wetland determinations made by NRCS prior to 1996 are not considered certified wetland determinations. These determinations do not provide landowners the necessary protection for manipulating

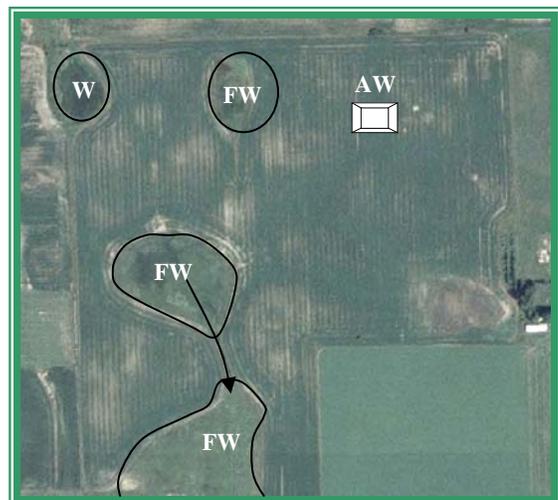
wetlands that may or may not be on the map. Therefore, NRCS recommends that a landowner or operator request a certified wetland determination if there is a question about the status of a wetland.

- ◆ In order to determine if an area is a wetland, three criteria need to be met. "Wetland criteria need to have specific soils, plants, and hydrology." This three-parameter approach has been in place since 1985.

Below are examples of a new USDA-FSA Crop Acreage Map and an Official Wetland Map.



Crop Acreage Map with Wetland Symbols



Official Wetland Map

New Wetland Points Symbology and Disclaimer

New Wetland Symbol Grouping and Legend

The wetland types will be grouped into the following three categories referred to as Wetland Determination Identifiers on the new maps:

◆ **“Restricted Use” is represented by a red octagon.**

- **W** (Wetland)
- **CW, CW+YR** (Converted Wetland + Year)
- **AW/W** (Artificial Wetland/Wetland)
- **GFW, GFW+YR** (Good Faith Wetland + Year)
- **RSW, RSW+YR** (Restored Wetland + Year)
- **RPW** (Replacement Wetland)

◆ **“Limited Restrictions” is represented by an upside-down yellow triangle.**

- **FW** (Farmed Wetland)
- **FWP** (Farmed Wetland Pasture)
- **CWNA** (Converted Wetland, Non-ag Use)
- **AW/FW** (Artificial Wetland/Farmed Wetland)
- **CWTE** (Converted Wetland Technical Error)
- **CC** (Commenced Conversion)
- **TP** (Third Party Conversion)
- **WX** (Manipulated Wetland) MW
- **CMW** (Minimal Effect Wetlands)
- **MIW, MWM** (Mitigation Wetlands)
- **NI** (Not Inventoried)
- **OW** (Other Waters)
- **Easement**

◆ **“Exempt from Conservation Compliance Provisions” is represented by a green square.**

- **PC** (Prior Converted)
- **NW** (Non Wetland)
- **PC/NW** (Prior Converted/Non Wetland)
- **NW/NAD** (Non Wetland, National Appeal Decision)
- **AW** (Artificial Wetland)

Wetland Determination Identifiers Legend



Restricted Use



Limited Restrictions



Exempt from Conservation Compliance Provisions

Wetland Symbol Disclaimer

“Wetland determination identifiers do not represent the size, shape, or specific determination of the area. Refer to your original CPA-026 determination and attached maps from NRCS for identified wetland boundaries and labels, or contact your local NRCS office.”