

Technical Service Provider Initiative Notification and Agreement on Release of Information

Section 2004 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 mandates that information provided by individuals to NRCS or to contractors or consultants or partners of NRCS, to participate, in conservation programs, is not considered public information and is not releasable to the public by any employee, contractor, or consultant or partner. Information, including the location of National Resources Inventory data collection points, may be disclosed only if it has been converted into a statistical or aggregate form that does not allow the identification of the individual supplier. In limited circumstances, non-public information obtained from individuals may be disclosed or released only to the extent necessary to enforce natural resources conservation programs or to assist in providing technical or financial assistance for any natural resources conservation program administered by NRCS or the Farm Service Agency.

The Freedom of Information Act, (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552, as amended by the Freedom of Information Reform Act of 1986, generally provides that any person has a court enforceable right to access Federal agency records, except when portions of those records are protected from disclosure by one of nine exemptions or by one of three new special law enforcement record exclusions. The Government recognizes the importance of protecting sensitive, commercial, and personal interests that can be implicated in Government records.

The Privacy Act (PA) of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a, was enacted to protect individuals against unwarranted invasions of their privacy stemming from the collection, maintenance, use, and disclosure of personal information about them by Federal agencies.

NRCS, consultants, or contractors of NRCS should not provide any non-public information that: reflects on the owner's operator's or producer's personal, commercial, and financial matters; causes substantial harm to the competitive position of the owner, operator, or producer; or impairs the Government's ability to obtain necessary information in the future. Unauthorized disclosure to any person can result in a fine up to \$10,000.00 or imprisonment for up to a year. As a general matter, requests for personal information contained in files referenced by a personal identifier are exempt from release under exemptions (b) (3) and/or (b) (6) of the FOIA, and therefore should be denied under the PA. **The FOIA Officer should be contacted if questions arise whether to release information covered by the FOIA and PA pursuant to one of the exemptions under the Acts.**

To: United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

September 20, 2006

**Technical Service Provider Initiative
Notification and Agreement on Release of Information**

I hereby authorize the release of my individual records that are in the custody of the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

I authorize release of records to the following named individual(s) or representative(s) of the following organization(s):

List name(s) or organization(s)

_____ ; _____
_____ ; _____
_____ ; _____

I authorize release of the following information:

Any information in my files (initial this block)

or

Only the following information (initial this block)

I understand and acknowledge that NRCS cannot be responsible for ensuring the confidentiality of released records.

Name (Please Print:

Signature:

Date Signed:
