

April 4, 2005

NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ACT MANUAL (NFSAM)  
Third Edition, Amendment 6  
180-V-NFSAM, Amendment WI 26

**Subject:** Release of NRCS Wetland Inventory Maps and other technical or financial information

**Purpose:** To revise NFSAM Amendment WI 22 and provide a state supplement to the NFSAM to all Wisconsin NRCS offices.

**Effective Date:** This supplement is effective upon receipt.

**Background:** Section 2004 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill) mandated changes to the NRCS Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) policy.

As a result of the enacted legislation, information now provided by individuals to NRCS to participate in conservation programs is not considered to be public information and is not releasable to the public by any employee. NRCS wetland inventory maps are not to be released to the general public or other agencies.

The 2002 Farm Bill includes specific statutory language pertaining to the release of technical and financial assistance information. In general:

- NRCS technical and financial information is not releasable to the public, and
- It cannot be released to any person, Federal agency, local agency, or Indian tribe outside USDA.

However, technical information can be released to cooperating persons and agencies for limited reasons. It may be released to:

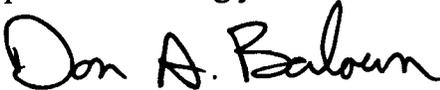
- A person, Federal, State, local, or Tribal agency working in cooperation with USDA to provide technical and financial assistance or in collecting information from data gathering sites (NRI).

Also, Certified Wetland Determinations are NOT a matter of public record and cannot be released through FOIA.

If inventories are made available as a tool to our partners (WDOT, WDNR, DATCP, LCD, Zoning, FWS, COE, etc.) while working in cooperation with USDA, label released maps "Draft" or "Not Official". Anyone can view the inventory maps in our offices, but are not allowed to make copies.

**Filing Instructions:** File this bulletin in the NFSAM after p. 514-58. Discard: NFSAM, Third Edition, Amendment 2, 180-V-NFSAM, Amendment WI22.

These items address information needs as outlined in the NFSAM and as requested in guidance from NRCS-NHQ. If you have any questions about this bulletin, contact the NRCS Wetland Specialist assisting your office.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don A. Baloun". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "D" and "B".

Acting for

PATRICIA S. LEAVENWORTH  
State Conservationist