



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

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NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ACT MANUAL (NFSAM)  
Third Edition, Amendment 2  
180-V-NFSAM, Amendment WI22

Purpose: To provide a state supplement to the NFSAM to all Wisconsin NRCS offices.

SUBJECT: Release of NRCS Wetland Inventory Maps

Effective Date. Upon receipt.

**Background:** In an effort to be consistent statewide and based on guidance from the NRCS National Headquarters, NRCS wetland inventory maps are not to be released to the general public. The inventories are available as a tool to our partners: WDOT, WDNR, DATCP, LCD, Zoning, FWS, and COE. Released maps must be labeled "Draft" or "Not Official." Anyone can view the inventory maps in our offices, but may not be allowed to make copies.

The Food Security Act of 1985 contained wetland conservation provisions that denied program benefits to landowners who manipulated wetlands. NRCS is the agency responsible for informing producers where wetlands occur on their property and any associated restrictions by making wetland determinations. To help locate and classify Farm Bill wetlands, NRCS used teams from 1989 to 1991 to make wetland inventory maps. The maps were made by reviewing soil surveys, topographic maps, Wisconsin Wetland Inventory maps, rainfall data, stereo pair air photos, and Farm Service Agency 35mm aerial slides. Some counties had ten years of slides to review while others only had five. NRCS wetland inventories only show potential wetlands and were produced as a tool to predict the presence and approximate boundary of wetlands (NFSAM p. 513-21). NRCS does not contend that the inventory is accurate. Inventory labels are only relevant to USDA programs.

Pre-July 3, 1996, wetland determinations were based solely on the wetland inventory map. The producer would appeal inaccurate determinations and NRCS would go to the field to document, make corrections to, and accurately delineate any wetlands.

Certified wetland determinations are all determinations that were appealed, because NRCS field documentation was required, AND all determinations completed after July 3, 1996, because field verification is required after that date prior to issuing the determination (NFSAM p. 514-4). NRCS only completes certified wetland determinations upon receipt of an NRCS-CPA-38 from a program participant for agricultural purposes. Certified wetland determinations are public information and are available through FOIA (NFSAM p. 514-58).

**Filing Instructions:** File this bulletin in the NFSAM after p. 513-21.

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.



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