Drainage Identification Process for ACEP-ALE Eligibility

These procedures should be used to evaluate whether or not hydric soils meet the drainage requirements to qualify as prime or statewide soils for ACEP ALE land eligibility purposes. Entities submitting applications where footnoted soils are used in calculating percentage of prime or statewide importance toward ACEP-ALE eligibility criteria should keep records for the basis of their decision as not all of these procedures may work on a given site. Entities are not required to submit this information at the time of application unless requested by NRCS. Not all of these procedures are applicable on every site, and other procedures not listed may be used. The basic lesson is that due diligence must be done in some manner to confirm that footnoted soils support program eligibility.

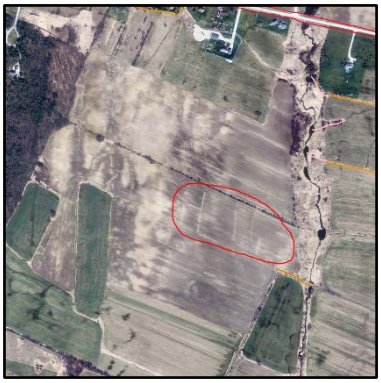
A. Landowner Interview
   1) Ask landowner about fields that have ditches, tile drains, land levelling, bedding or other types of drainage.
   2) Many recently installed tile drainage systems have locations noted via GPS and can be acquired from the farmer's drainage contractor.
   3) Ask landowner how often they typically maintain their ditches. (This may vary between cropland, hay land, and pastureland. Note the differences if applicable).

B. Conduct an Aerial Photography Review
   1) Look for ditches, ditched streams, or drainage patterns that indicate tile drainage is installed. Suggested Layer: ESRI World Imagery Basemap.

Ditches

Ditched Streams (A & B)

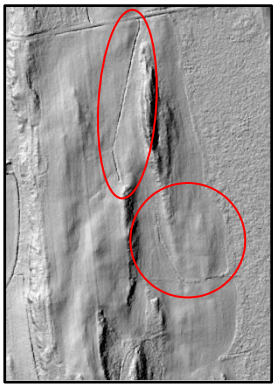
Tile Drainage



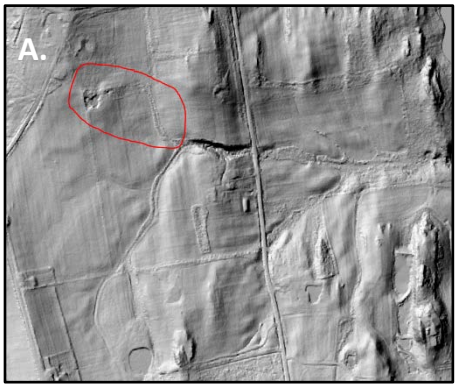
C. Conduct a Lidar Hillshade Review

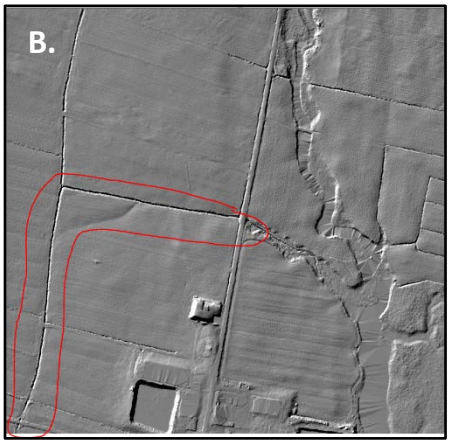
1) Review Lidar-derived hillshade data for presence of ditches.

Ditches

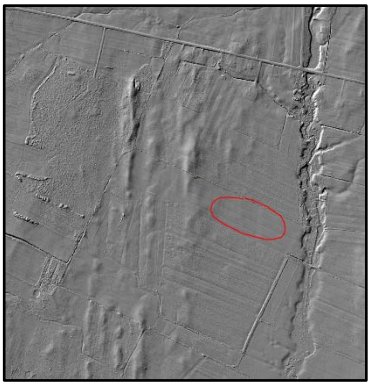


Ditched Streams (A & B)





Tile Drainage*



*Notice there is no evidence of tile drainage in the Hillshade Layer.

D. Conduct a Crop History Review

1) Receive permission from landowner to review Farm Service Agency crop reports

2) Note if annual crops have been grown on the field in the past 10 years. (Knowing a farmer's crop rotation will be very valuable for this work). If 5 continuous years of successful annual cropping are noted then drainage can be inferred from this evidence. Check with NRCS for guidance if some cropping is indicated but not 5 years' worth).

E. Conduct a Field Review
   1) Check ditches or other drainage structures in the field to note if they have been maintained and provide drainage. (NRCS can provide technical assistance with this if needed)

Frequently Flooded Soils Barrier Identification Process for ACEP ALE

F. Landowner Interview
   1) Ask landowner about berms, dikes, or other water control structures that might exist along rivers and streams.

G. Conduct an Aerial Photography Review
   1) Look for ditches, berms, dikes, or other water control structures that might exist along rivers and streams.

H. Conduct a Lidar Hillshade Review
   1) Review Lidar-derived hillshade data for presence of ditches, berm, dikes, or other water control structures along rivers and streams.

Potential Berm (Ground truth suggested)

Potential Berm (hillshade)

Attachment A to SI_VT_440_528_1

I. Conduct a Field Review
    1) Check for ditches, berm, dikes, or other water control structures along rivers and streams.