

Wetland Determination Identifiers

Overview

As part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) use of digital mapping technology to increase efficiency, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) use point symbols to identify wetland determination locations on FSA maps. NRCS has the ability to make wetland determinations based on landowners' requests. FSA and NRCS use point symbols, known as wetland determination identifiers, to show the approximate location of NRCS wetlands on digital maps making those areas more easily identifiable for producers.

The maps are used primarily for producer information when making crop acreage reports, changing field boundaries or requesting a map of their land from FSA.

Wetland Point Symbols

Red, yellow and green symbols represent different categories of wetland determinations and a legend provides an explanation of the various levels of use that are allowed on these wetlands.

Red octagons represent "Restricted Use" determinations; upside-down yellow triangles represent "Limited Restrictions" determinations and; green circles represent "Exempt from Conservation Compliance Provisions" determinations.

- Restricted Use = 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 = FW (Farmed Wetland); FWP (Farmed Wetland Pasture); CWNA (Converted Wetland, Non-ag Use); AW/FW (Artificial Wetland/Farmed Wetland); CWTE (Converted Wetland Technical Error); 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 = PC (Prior Converted); NW (Non Wetland); PC/NW (Prior Converted/Non Wetland); CC (Commenced Conversion); NW/NAD (Non Wetland, National Appeal Decision); AW (Artificial Wetland).

The wetland determination identifiers do not represent the size, shape, exact location or exact category of wetland determination, and the maps are not used for wetland conservation compliance.. USDA participants remain responsible for self-certifying compliance with USDA wetland conservation provisions.

For More Information

The maps with the identifiers are not the official USDA wetland determination maps. Producers who have questions about the size, shape, exact location or exact category of the determination should refer to the determination information previously provided to them by NRCS on form CPA-026e and attached maps, or contact their local NRCS office. Both FSA and NRCS have the USDA wetland determination maps

available for landowners and operators. Copies of these original maps have previously been provided to all producers. Producers may request a replacement copy through their local FSA or NRCS office if they no longer have the original.

Resources

To view a sample current FSA Map visit www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_Image/wlnewmap.jpg

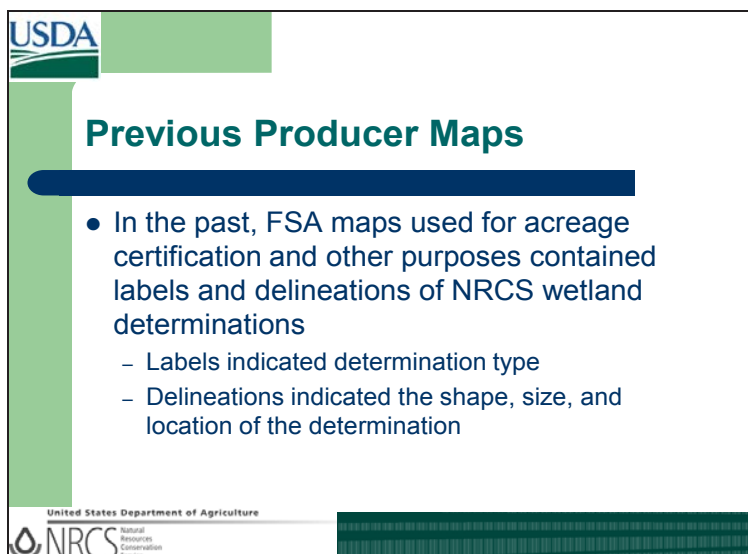
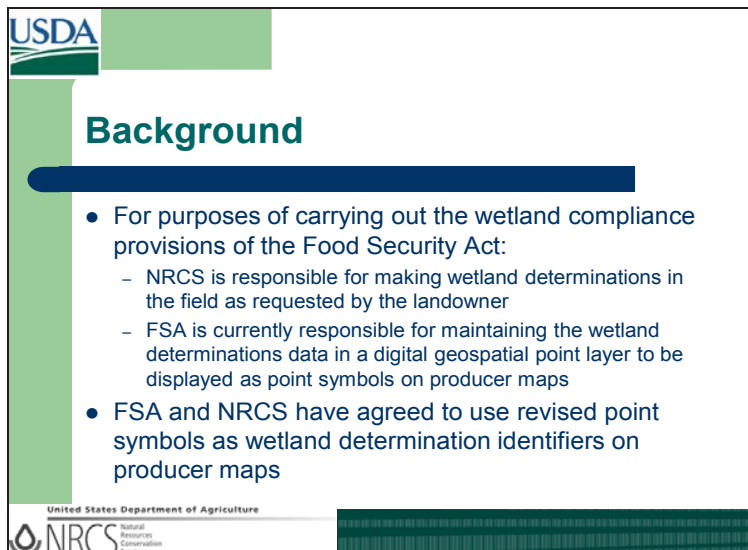
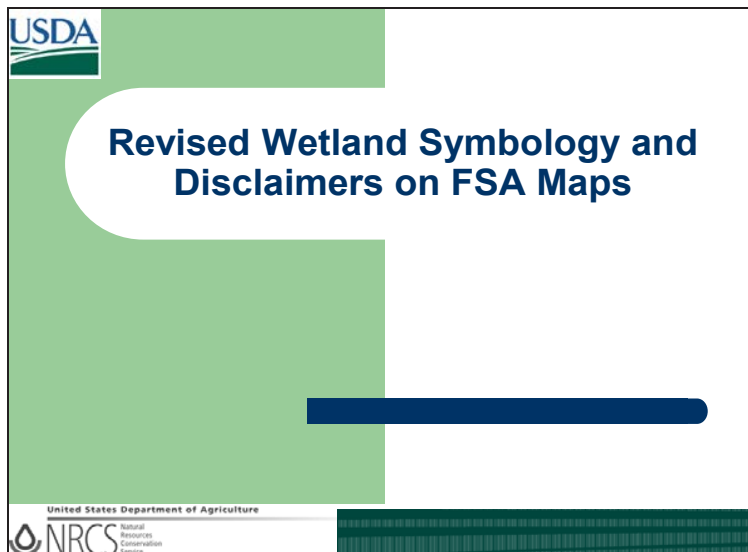
To view a sample legend visit www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_Image/wlkey.jpg


Slides from a PowerPoint presentation can be viewed on pages 2 through 6 of this fact sheet.

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Blue Dots

- When FSA began using digital geographic data for mapping purposes, a blue dot was used to indicate that a wetland determination had been completed for an area.



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Blue Dots

- The blue dot indicated only the fact that NRCS had made a wetland determination in the approximate area of the blue dot.
- The blue dot **did not** indicate the type of determination, nor did it indicate the size or the shape of the determination.


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Blue Dots

- The blue dots did not signify any change in existing FSA or NRCS policy regarding wetland determinations and wetland conservation compliance; the blue dots were simply used as a means of symbolizing the determinations.


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Red, Yellow, and Green Point Symbols

- In response to concerns, FSA and NRCS jointly agreed to change the blue dot symbols to red octagons representing 'Restricted Use' determinations, upside-down yellow triangles representing 'Limited Restrictions' determinations, and green squares representing 'Exempt from Conservation Compliance' determinations.
- As with the blue dots, this change in mapping procedure **does not** change any FSA or NRCS policy regarding wetland determinations.







Examples




Example: USDA Wetland Determination Map




Example: Blue Dot Wetland Symbol Map



Example: Revised Wetland Symbol Map; See following pages for legend and information on determination categories







Red, Yellow, and Green Point Symbols

- The new legend on FSA producer maps will look approximately as follows:

Wetland Determination Identifiers


- Restricted Use
- Limited Restrictions
- Exempt from Conservation Compliance Provisions






Red Octagon Symbol – Restricted Use


- **Represents these wetland determinations:**
 - 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


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Yellow Triangle Symbol – Limited Restrictions


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


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Green Square Symbol – Exempt from Wetland Compliance Restrictions

- **Represents these wetland determinations:**
 - PC – Prior Converted
 - NW – Non Wetland
 - PC/NW – Prior Converted/Non-Wetland
 - CC – Commenced Conversion
 - NW/NAD – Non Wetland, NAD Decision
 - AW – Artificial Wetland




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Disclaimer




- FSA producer maps also now include the following disclaimer:

Wetland identifiers do not represent the size, shape, or specific determination of the area. Refer to your original determination (CPA-026 and attached maps) for exact wetland boundaries and labels, or contact NRCS.

Note

- Maps with these symbols are not the official USDA wetland determination maps. Both FSA and NRCS have the USDA wetland determination maps available for landowners and operators. Copies of these original maps have previously been provided to all producers.

Summary

- The new wetland point symbols do not represent any change in FSA or NRCS policies or procedures concerning wetland determinations.
- The change in symbols is intended to give producers a more informative representation of the wetland determinations present on their land.
- Contact FSA and/or NRCS at your local USDA Service Center with questions or concerns.

