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# Food Security Act Mapping Conventions and Wetland Labels

# Mapping Conventions

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A set of accepted practices used to guide the wetland delineator in making off-site wetland determinations on agricultural lands

# Mapping Conventions

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- Based on field-tested correlations between off-site information and on-site wetland determinations
- Vary by state or region due to regional differences in wetland characteristics and availability of off-site data

# Mapping Conventions

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**In general, mapping conventions require:**

- 5 years of CFSA slides, if available
- Years of normal precipitation, or equal numbers of wet and dry years
- Consideration of any unusual precipitation events preceding the dates of photography
- Evaluation of signatures that reflect long-term hydrologic conditions

# Mapping Conventions

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## Wetness signatures include:

- Hydrophytic vegetation
- Surface water
- Saturated soils
- Flooded or drowned-out crops
- Stressed crops due to wetness

# Mapping Conventions

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## Wetness signatures include: (continued)

- Inclusion of wet areas as set-aside
- Differences in vegetation patterns due to different planting dates
- Unharvested crops
- Isolated areas not farmed with the rest of the field
- Patches of greener vegetation during dry periods

# Mapping Conventions

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- Review where available:
  - National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps
  - State or local wetland maps
  - Soil Survey maps
  - Aerial photography or CFSA slides
  - Climatological data to determine high, low, or normal precipitation prior to the dates of photos
- Use the appropriate State wetland mapping conventions

# FSA Definitions and Labels

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## Manipulation

- Alteration of the hydrology and/or the removal of woody vegetation (including stems and stumps) on a wetland

# FSA Definitions and Labels

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## Manipulation may result from:

- Dams
- Dikes
- Ditches
- Diversions
- Subsurface drains
- Pumps
- Terraces
- Dredge and fill

# FSA Definitions and Labels

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## Converted Wetland

- A wetland that has been drained, dredged, filled, leveled, or otherwise manipulated (including the removal of woody vegetation or any activity that results in impairing or reducing the flow, circulation, or reach of water) for the purpose of, or to have the effect of, making possible the production of an agricultural commodity...

# FSA Definitions and Labels

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## Prior Converted Cropland (PC)

- A converted wetland where conversion occurred prior to December 23, 1985, an agricultural commodity had been produced at least once before December 23, 1985, and as of December 23, 1985, the converted wetland did not support woody vegetation *and did not meet farmed wetland hydrology criteria*

# FSA Definitions and Labels

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Prior Converted Croplands converted before December 23, 1985 are exempt from Food Security Act and Clean Water Act provisions. PCs retain this label as long as they are in agricultural use

# FSA Definitions and Labels

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## Farmed Wetlands (FW)

- Wetlands that were drained, dredged, filled, leveled, or otherwise manipulated before December 23, 1985, for the purpose of, or to have the effect of, making the production of an agricultural commodity possible, *and continue to meet specific wetland hydrology criteria*

# FSA Definitions and Labels

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## Farmed Wetland Hydrology Criteria:

- If the area is a playa, pothole, or pocosin, it is inundated for at least 7 consecutive days or saturated for at least 14 consecutive days during the growing season

# FSA Definitions and Labels

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## Farmed Wetland Hydrology Criteria:

- If the area is not a playa, pothole, or pocosin, it has a 50 percent chance of being seasonally ponded or flooded for at least 15 consecutive days during the growing season, or 10 percent of the growing season, whichever is less, under normal conditions

# FSA Definitions and Labels

Farmed  
Wetland



Prior  
Converted  
Cropland



Wetland