Wetlands

What is considered wetland?

Land with all three of the following:

1. Primarily wet soils
2. Supportive of wetland plants
3. Possessing wetland characteristics

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can make a wetlands determination for existing land and any land you plan on purchasing.

Staying Compliant to Wetland Regulation

The following activities could jeopardize participation in USDA benefits, commodity programs and conservation programs:

- Clearing forested wetland
- Filling, excavating or leveling
- Dredging wetland
- Stump removal
- Creating new drainage

WCD works with landowners on a voluntary, no fee basis. WCD is a non-regulatory sub-unit of state government funded by grants.
Maximizing Your Land Use

Wetland Determination

Land that has been used for farming can continue to be used but not drained. Under the “no net loss” policy the following land classifications affect use:

- **Prior Converted**— Land can have drainage management and improvements
- **Farmed Wetland**— Existing drainage improvements can be maintained but no new improvements can be made
- **Wetland**— Drainage improvements cannot be made or maintained

Farm Management Plan

We can help to make a farm management plan to maximize land use while staying in compliance.

- **Best Management Practices**— help ensure compliance with environmental laws and maintain economic strength
- **Drainage and Growing Improvements**— aid in identifying potential areas of improvement and cost share programs

Contact a Conservation District Resource Specialist for assistance. We can meet you on your farm or at our office.


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