

Considering Wetlands and Agriculture

2010 – 2011 Syllabus

The Swamp School

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Agricultural Wetland Determination and Delineation

The Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, requires NRCS to delineate, determine, and certify wetlands located on land subject to the wetland conservation (WC) provisions on a farm or ranch in order to establish a producer's eligibility for certain USDA program benefits. This class will present the technical aspects of what is a certified wetland. The determination of whether or not land is a wetland is based on a technical determination using approved onsite or offsite methods and is independent of wetland labels. Labels are used to identify land subject to exemptions or restrictions under the Act. Such land may or may not have positive indicators for wetland criteria and/or meet the definition of wetland.

This class will present the NRCS certified wetland delineation method as well as a discussion of the various types of wetland labels.

Format: Online – <http://Wet-Land.com>

Class Outline

Background

- Certification
- Definitions

Wetland Identification

- Hydric Soils
- Hydrophytic Vegetation
- Wetland Hydrology

Relationship of Labels to Wetland Determinations and Delineations

- **Natural and Artificial Wetlands**
 - Wetlands (W)
 - Manipulated Wetlands (WX)
 - Artificial Wetlands (AW)
- **Non-Wetlands**
 - Non-Wetlands (NW)

- **Wetlands Converted to Agricultural Use Before December 23, 1985**
 - Prior Converted Cropland (PC)
 - Farmed Wetlands (FW)
 - Farmed Wetland Pasture or Hayland (FWP)
 - Abandonment
- **Wetlands Converted After December 23, 1985**
 - Converted Wetlands (CW or CW+Year)
 - Converted Wetland Technical Error (CWTE)
 - Third-Party Conversion Exemption (TP)
- **Prior Manuals**
 - Commenced Conversion (CC)
 - Converted Wetland for Non-Agricultural Purposes (CWNA)
 - Not Inventoried (NI)