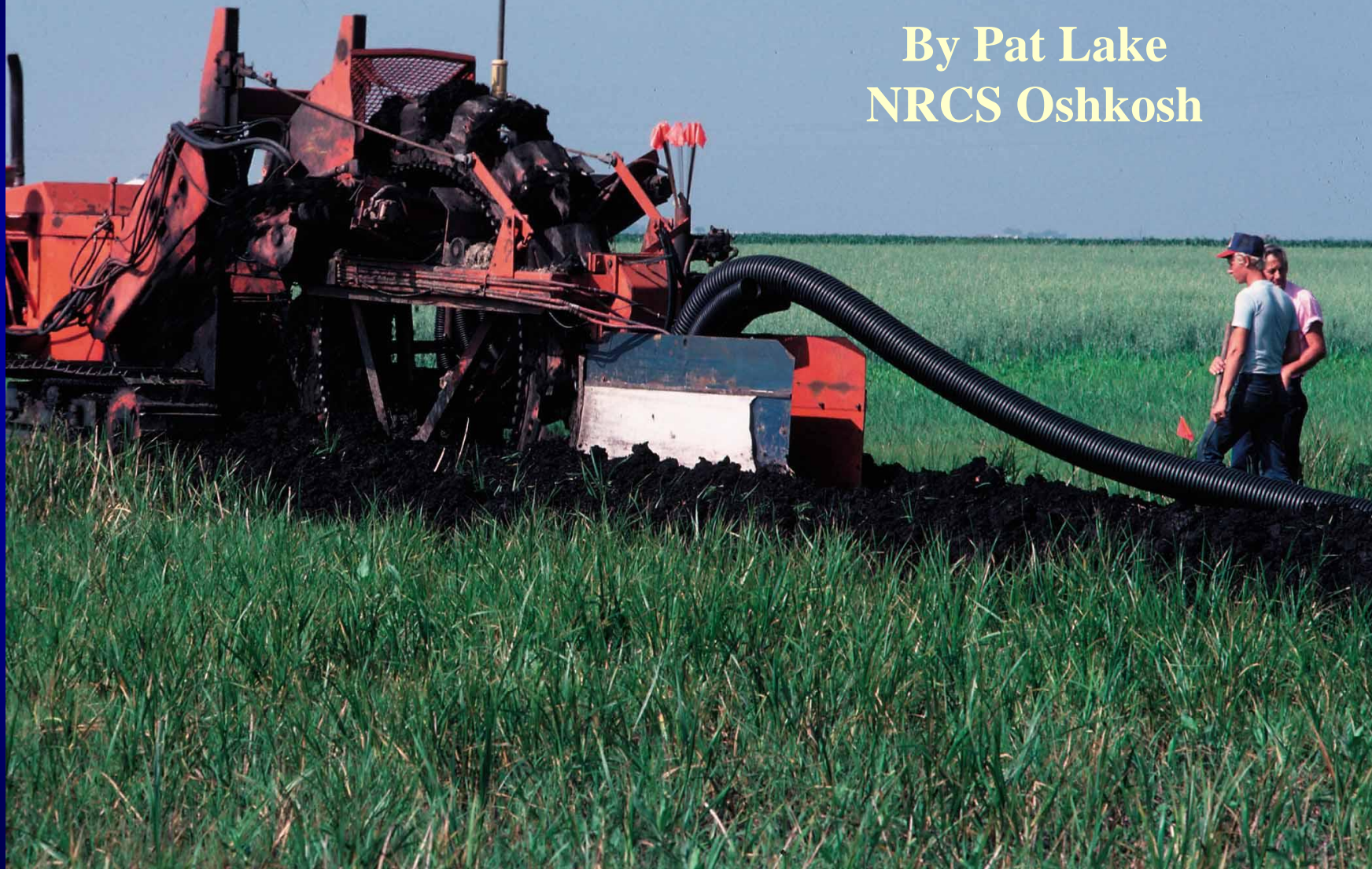


# Wetland Determinations, Labels, Maintenance, and the Farm Bill

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**Can I tile this spot?**





**If there's a 'certified' wetland determination already on file, we can generally answer your question as it applies to the Farm Bill. If not, you need to request a certified wetland determination from FSA.**



## **Certified wetland determinations can ID areas considered:**

- 1) PC/NW – Prior Converted and/or Non-Wetland.** These areas were manipulated through man-made drainage and cropped prior to Dec 23, 1985. There are no restrictions on either maintenance or improvements on these areas for Farm Bill purposes.
- 2) W – Wetlands.** These areas are not manipulated and meet the three wetland criteria (soils, hydrology, and vegetation). W's may not be *altered* without potential loss of USDA benefits.
- 3) FW – Farmed Wetlands.** Areas (mainly potholes) with man-made drainage affecting them, but the manipulation is not sufficient to completely erase the wetland characteristics. *Maintenance* of existing drainage is allowed without additional drainage improvements.

## **How NRCS makes wetland determinations**

- 1) Look at FSA crop slides (1979-present) of years of “normal” precipitation. Review a minimum of 5 years. Most times we look at 10 years. In some cases, we look at ‘88 (drought year) and ‘93 (flood year ) as tie-breakers. Look for crop stress. If >50% of years show stress, we need to look at soils. If crop stress <50% of years, area is PC/NW.**
- 2) If we have >50% years showing crop stress AND the soils are hydric, the area is W (if no drainage present) or FW (if drainage is present and the area is depressional).**

# **FSA Wetland Labels**

## **PC**

- Status of the land as of December 23, 1985**
- Manipulation and Cropping History...**
  - Was the area cropped or capable of producing a crop as of Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> '1985?**

**PC's May Meet Wetland Criteria: Soils, Hydrology, and Vegetation!**

# Prior Converted Cropland (PC)

-PC's are **exempt** from the wetland compliance provisions of the Farm Bill.

***-No restrictions on drainage maintenance or improvements, as long as adjacent wetlands are not adversely impacted.***





“PC”



# FSA Definitions and Labels

## 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.*

“FW”





# Farmed Wetland (FW)

## Farmed Wetland Maintenance:

Drainage system may be maintained as originally constructed. Can **not** be improved beyond the scope & effect of the originally installed system.

Subject to abandonment (5 consecutive years of non-ag use)



**FW's can be beneficial to migratory waterfowl and shorebirds.**



# Drainage Maintenance Review

- PC's— no restrictions as long as adjacent wetlands are not adversely impacted.
- FW's repair/maintain to original condition only.
- FW's are subject to abandonment.
- **NEW** - LO may now self-certify maintenance is only to original scope & effect and causes no adverse wetland impacts.

# Questions?