



# Personally Identifiable Information (PII)

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## What is considered PII?

Information that has been provided to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) by an agricultural producer to participate in a NRCS program. It includes information directly provided to a NRCS employee, or information developed by the agency based on information obtained from the property of the producer. Some examples are:

- Conservation plans
- Wetland determinations including inventory maps, official maps, and certified maps and the following related to wetland determinations:
  - Site visit reports and documentation of site conditions
  - Wetland delineation data sheets
  - Technical determinations (e.g., functional assessments, scope and effect determinations)
- Highly erodible land determinations
- Land acreage amounts and crop code
- Producer assistance notes
- National Resource Inventory point data
- Flood damage surveys
- Program contract information
- Geospatial Information
  - Maps
  - Surveys
  - Charts
  - Aerial photography only if it contains attributes of the land such as common land unit (CLU) boundaries
- Producer/landowner and business entity name, full address, phone number, e-mail address, employee identification number or taxpayer identification number, and social security numbers
- Farm, tract, and field numbers

## Why Protect PII?

Section 1619 of the 2008 Farm Bill prohibits the Secretary of Agriculture and its employees from disclosing certain information that has been provided by agricultural landowners and producers to participate in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) programs, except as necessary for delivering technical assistance.

Section 1619 of the Farm Bill prohibits the release of information that falls into certain categories.

Information that has been provided to USDA by an agricultural producer or owner of agricultural land concerning the operation, practices, or the land itself in order to participate in USDA programs is not to be disclosed by any USDA employee. Geospatial information is also prohibited from disclosure when it has been maintained by the Secretary and concerns the land which an agricultural producer or owner has provided information to participate in a USDA program.



Photo from NRCS photo gallery

## How to obtain information with PII?

Consent of the producer or owner of the agricultural operation may be given as an exception to the prohibition on the disclosure of PII. The consent of the producer or owner of the agricultural operation must be provided to NRCS in writing and include the name of the participant, which information is to be released, to whom the data is to be released, and the length of time the data is to be available for release.

The Information Release Request form, SD-ADS-6, can be used by the producer or owner to provide consent for the release of PII information. This form can be obtained at your local NRCS office. Please go to <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app> to locate your local service center.