

Illinois Wetland Mapping Conventions Amendment #1

The Illinois Wetland Mapping Conventions shall be amended with the following guidance:

GENERAL INFORMATION – ALL CONVENTIONS

Mapping Tools

6) FSA Slides – Selection of slides with “normal precipitation” – Additional Guidance

For consistency in applying the conventions, the “closest weather station” for use in determining years with normal precipitation shall be selected as follows:

The Primary Climate Station within the Illinois Climate Station Zone (see attached map) that covers the majority of the tract containing the determination will be used for climate data and precipitation data. If precipitation data is missing for a month which is needed for the evaluation, then use the Secondary Climate Station that has the required data (see attached map) closest to the Primary Climate Station. All climate data is to come from the Agricultural Applied Climate Information System accessible from the eFOTG/Section II/Climate. Recent precipitation data, if needed, can be obtained for the same stations from other sources.

Years with normal precipitation will be determined using the “IL Climate Evaluation of Precipitation” (attached spreadsheet) with climate data from the selected weather station(s). Generally, five normal years with two alternate normal years will be selected for use in making wetland determinations within the climate station zone. The alternate years can be used in place of years with unusable photography or added for more data if necessary. Additional normal years may be used to make determinations if needed.

The monthly total and daily precipitation for July in each of the normal years will be reviewed **if** the photography has an unusually high number of surface water signatures over the entire photograph (appears to be a wet year) when compared to other normal years. In this case, if July has a monthly total precipitation above the normal range in the WETS table, or an unusually high daily amount within the month (>2 inches), then that year should not be used as a year with normal precipitation because it could represent a photograph taken soon after a major precipitation event or wet period not considered normal circumstances. If a high number of surface water signatures is not present over the entire photograph, then the evaluation of July precipitation is not necessary.