

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
375 Jackson Street, Suite 600
St. Paul, MN 55101-1854

Phone: (651) 602-7900
FAX: (651) 602-7914

Transmitted via Email

February 16, 2005

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 120-5-6

SUBJECT: ADS – FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) / PRIVACY ACT (PA)

Purpose. To inform NRCS employees and conservation partners that aerial slides/photographs can be released with out a Freedom of Information Act request.

Expiration date. September 30, 2007

The Minnesota NRCS FOIA officers, in cooperation with the NRCS National FOIA officers, have determined that **aerial slides and/or photographs** that are the property of NRCS and maintained in NRCS field offices **can now be released without a FOIA request.**

This determination is specific to NRCS aerial slides and photography. Similar information that is the property of FSA including photographic imagery from the Common Land Unit is not releasable without a written FIOA request.

NRCS staff may only release information from individual cooperator files to the landowner (cooperator). Information on wetlands, highly erodible land (HEL) and HEL conservation plans may also be released to the current operator. All other requests for information received by NRCS employees and/or cooperating partners for information from shared NRCS cooperator files should be forwarded immediately to the FOIA Officers, as we have 20 working days in which to respond to each request. Requests are to be in writing and can be sent by mail, fax or email.

The information in this bulletin should be reviewed and understood by all employee's and cooperating partners. Further questions can be referred to the state office FOIA Officers, Tessa Garcia, (651) 602-7872 or Pat McLoughlin, 651-602-7907.

/s/

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

DIST: MN-AE
SWCD Employee's
LeAnn Buck, MASWCD, St. Paul, MN