

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
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Transmitted via Email

May 15, 2008

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 180-8-7

SUBJECT: AREA REVIEW OF COUNTY HEL SOIL LISTS

Purpose. To have areas review and verify the correct use of county N/HEL soil lists.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2008.

**ACTION DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2008**

By federal statute, all county HEL soil lists and the soil properties listed within them that are used to make field N/HEL determination were frozen as of January 1, 1990. Since 1990, NRCS has published new soil surveys and made updates to several others. National policy allows for the frozen HEL lists to be appended to reflect new and updated soil survey symbols, provided that they are correlated back to and retain all frozen soil properties including the historic USLE factors for R, T, I, C, and K values. National policy also requires that appended county HEL lists be approved by the State Soil Scientist.

By September 1, 2008, each Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations will verify that:

- Current county HEL soils lists are accurate and were developed using the historic USLE soil properties. Any appended county HEL lists have been correctly correlated and approved.
- County HEL lists are to be posted in Section II of the Minnesota eFOTG according to a consistent state-wide format that will be forwarded by Kim Steffen to Area Resource Soil Scientists.
- All Areas are using the same state-approved GIS HEL soils tool to make N/HEL determinations and each Area's GIS tool is using the correct soil properties. Matt Baltes, Acting State GIS Coordinator, will provide assistance on the approved GIS HEL tool.
- Field staff and partners are made aware that they are not to use soils information from county HEL lists for any purpose other than making N/HEL determinations.

This bulletin also cancels all Minnesota Conservation Compliance Notes. Area offices should archive these notes, field offices can dispose of them.

Direct questions on the information in this bulletin through your area resource conservationist to Paul Flynn, State Resource Conservationist, at (651) 602-7870.

/s/

WILLIAM HUNT  
State Conservationist

DIST: ASTC(FO)  
ARC  
FO  
Area Resource Soil Scientists  
Kin Steffen, TSS Soil Specialist  
Matt Baltes, Acting State GIS Coordinator

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