John Doe

12345 Street Ave Small Town, IN 12345

# SUBJECT: Highly Erodible Land (HEL) Determination

Sunday, February 9, 2020

# CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

**(When HEL Present)**

**Tract:** 12564

This is to notify you that as of the date of this letter the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has made a preliminary technical determination on the tract(s) listed above.

Fields designated as Highly Erodible (HEL) are identified in Section I on the attached NRCS-CPA-026e form. HEL fields are highly erodible because the highly erodible soil map units constitute 33.3 percent or more of the acreage in those fields or contain highly erodible soils equal to 50 or more acres per field. The attached map and summary report provide the basis for this determination.

This determination is part of the conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, and was made in response to our receipt of the Farm Service Agency form AD-1026, Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification. In order to maintain USDA program eligibility, you will need to operate HEL fields in accordance with an approved conservation system. You may contact the NRCS for assistance with the development and implementation of an approved conservation plan.

The 2014 Farm Bill connected producer eligibility for Federal crop insurance premium subsidy to compliance with the highly erodible land (HEL) provisions. Previous USDA participants who are currently not in compliance with the HEL provisions have two reinsurance years to develop and comply with an NRCS-approved conservation plan to remain eligible for Federal crop insurance premium subsidy. Producers who are subject to HEL compliance for the first time due to the 2014 Farm Bill have five reinsurance years to develop and comply with an NRCS-approved conservation plan when producing an agricultural commodity on HEL. If you are unsure about your status as a previous USDA participant, please inquire at your local Farm Service Agency office.

No wetland determination was made at this time. If you plan to engage in any activity that may disturb a wetland, please contact this office well in advance of any such activity so the impacts may be evaluated along with the potential effect on your USDA program eligibility.

**If you agree with this preliminary technical determination, it will become final 30 calendar days after you receive this notification, and no further action is required.**

If you do not agree with this preliminary technical determination, you may request a field visit or mediation within thirty days of receipt of this letter. Your request should be made in writing to the above office address and should state clearly what you are appealing and why you believe the determination is erroneous. For further information on the appeals process, please see the attached information sheet. If no reconsideration field visit or mediation is requested within thirty days of receipt of this letter, this preliminary technical determination will become a final technical determination.

If you are the owner of this tract of land and have a tenant, I urge you to discuss this letter and the accompanying NRCS-CPA-026e with the tenant. Likewise, if you are the tenant of this tract of land, I urge you to discuss this letter with the owner.

Sincerely,

Designated Conservationist

Enclosures:

NRCS-CPA-026e

HEL Determination Map

HEL Determination Summary Report Cc: Farm Service Agency

- Appeals Information -

This preliminary technical determination will become final 30 days after your receipt of this letter, unless you request either of the following options:

1. You may request a reconsideration field visit for NRCS to review the basis for the preliminary technical determination

with you and gather additional information concerning the preliminary determination. This request must be in writing and addressed to the Designated Conservationist who made this determination.

1. Mediation may be used to assist you and NRCS in trying to reach a mutually agreeable resolution or settlement

regarding this preliminary technical determination. Through mediation, the parties have the opportunity to work together with the assistance of the mediator to improve communications, understand the relevant issues, develop and explore alternatives, and reach a mutually satisfactory resolution. In order to request mediation, the request must be in writing and addressed to the Designated Conservationist who made this determination.

If you choose a reconsideration field visit or mediation, a final technical determination will be issued at the conclusion of either process. If an appeal is not requested, this preliminary determination becomes a final technical determination 30 days after your receipt of this letter.

The final technical determination, whether as a result of the expiration of the 30 day period following receipt of this preliminary technical determination or receipt of a final determination after reconsideration or mediation, may be appealed to the Farm Service Agency County Committee or the National Appeals Division within 30 days of receipt at the address below.

LaPorte FSA County Committee 100 LEGACY PLAZA W,

LaPorte, Indiana 46350-5298 Or

National Appeals Division

Box 68806

Indianapolis, Indiana 46268-0806

Telephone: (219) 362-2820

Fax: (855) 381-1776

Toll Free Phone: (800) 541- 0457

TTY: (800) 791-3222

Fax: (317) 875-9674

A request for any of the above appeal options must be in writing and should state clearly what you are appealing and why you believe the determination is erroneous.