



Farm Production  
and Conservation

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## INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All Approved Insurance Providers Writing in the States of Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming

**FROM:** Eric Bashore, Director Billings Regional Office /s/ Eric Bashore

**SUBJECT:** **2023 Written Agreement Handbook Paragraph 22A(7) – New Written Agreement Requests and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Survey Maps**

### DISCUSSION:

In accordance with the 2023 Written Agreement Handbook (WAH) Paragraph 22A(7) all new written agreement (WA) requests must include NRCS soil surveys, if required by the RO.

The purpose of this Informational Memorandum is to provide Approved Insurance Providers (AIPs), that write in the states of Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming, the Billings RO requirements on submitting NRCS soil survey maps in color for new written agreement requests.

### ACTION:

For the 2023 and succeeding crop years, the Billings RO requires AIPs to submit NRCS soil surveys in color with actuarial change requests for New Breaking, High-Risk Rated Areas, Unrated Land and Strip-Mined Land type written agreements. AIPs do not need to submit an NRCS soil survey map with any other actuarial change request type excluding New Breaking, High-Risk Rated Areas, Unrated Land, and Strip-Mined Land. The Billings RO will consider any land type written agreement requests submitted without the NRCS soil survey maps in color incomplete per the WAH, Paragraph 23 and may be subject to non-acceptance per the WAH, Paragraph 33. New Breaking, High-Risk Rated Areas, Unrated Land, and Strip-Mined Land type requests that are incomplete due to missing NRCS soil survey maps in color will result in an AIP scorecard error in accordance with the WAH, Paragraph 66. While the Billings RO only requires AIPs to submit NRCS soil survey maps in color for New Breaking, High-Risk Rate Areas, Unrated Land, and Strip-Mined Land type requests, the Billings Regional Office will continue to review the soil types, topography, and/or other relevant agronomic conditions for all written agreement request types when required in the WAH, Part 3. Please note that the Billings RO reserves the right to request NRCS soil survey maps in color on a case-by-case basis when required in the

WAH, Part 3. Any such request will not result in a scorecard error. Please contact the Billings RO at [RSOMT@usda.gov](mailto:RSOMT@usda.gov) if you have any additional questions.

**DISPOSAL DATE:**

This Informational Memorandum will remain in effect until rescinded or superseded.