1-1-1900

Soil Surveys for Easier Land Assessment

Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service

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FOR ASSISTANCE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT OR THE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE IN YOUR AREA.
A SOIL SURVEY IS ---

an inventory of your county’s soil resources. Indiana soil survey is part of a national soil inventory. Made by soil scientists in the field and checked in laboratories, the soil survey is a great stock of information of practical value to assessors in appraising agricultural land on a scientific basis.

The heart of a soil survey is a map that shows the location and extent of each kind of soil in the county. The survey provides information revealing uses that can be safely made of each kind of soil. It also shows the productivity of soil for each use. With an index assigned to the productivity, the survey provides an accurate and uniform method for evaluating agricultural land for tax purposes.

Soil surveys are made by the Soil Conservation Service in cooperation with the Purdue University Agricultural Experiment Station. Results of the survey are published and issued on a county basis. Copies of published surveys may be obtained from the Soil Conservation Service and the Cooperative Extension Service. Data from incomplete surveys may be obtained from local Soil and Water Conservation District offices.

a soil scientist makes a soil
farm field with light colored Crosby soils and dark colored Brookston soils

A SOIL SURVEY HELPS ---

* assess agricultural land on a scientific and equitable basis
* appraise land by soil characteristics rather than levels of management
* understand soil differences so that values can be explained to land owners
* test the value assigned to each kind of soil in your county
* adjust assessments for special features--drainage ways, roads, wet spots, rock outcrops--
* satisfy questions about land values of interest to all landowners

SOIL SURVEYS CONTAIN ---

* location and description of all the soils of a county
* predicted yields of the soils for various crops
* data on soil management
* roads, wet spots, drainage ways, rock outcrops and other special features
* facts on each soil for many uses as well as agriculture
* a soil association map of the county
* general information about the county, including climate, soil formation, history, geology
MAJOR ADVANTAGES
OF SOIL SURVEYS FOR LAND ASSESSMENT

1 PROVIDES A SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR COMPARING ONE TRACT OF LAND WITH ANOTHER

2 ONCE SOIL DATA IS MEASURED, THE BASIC SOIL RESOURCE INFORMATION IS USEABLE FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME PROVIDING ECONOMICAL REASSESSMENT

3 CAN BE READILY UNDERSTOOD BY ASSESSORS AND LANDOWNERS

4 ENCOURAGES GOOD LAND MANAGEMENT

5 LAND OWNERS ARE MORE SATISFIED WITH VALUATIONS BASED ON SOIL DIFFERENCES

6 CAN BE EASILY COMPUTERIZED

getting farm land soils data