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The new Iowa interactive Soil Survey

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The new Iowa interactive Soil Survey

Abstract

Understanding the basic properties of soils leads to better crop management, soil nutrient management, and soil and water conservation. The Soil Survey includes soil maps and descriptions of each type of soil in each county including interpretations of a soil's potential for use. Traditional Soil Survey reports have been paper copies of text, tables, and maps that traditionally have been cumbersome to use.

Keywords

Agronomy

Disciplines

Agricultural Science | Agriculture | Agronomy and Crop Sciences | Soil Science

INTEGRATED CROP MANAGEMENT

The image shows a person in a field, possibly a farmer or researcher, working with crops. The text 'INTEGRATED CROP MANAGEMENT' is overlaid on the image in a large, bold, serif font. The word 'INTEGRATED' is in green, while 'CROP' and 'MANAGEMENT' are in white with a black outline. The background is a blurred image of a field with tall grasses and a person in the distance.

The new Iowa interactive Soil Survey

Understanding the basic properties of soils leads to better crop management, soil nutrient management, and soil and water conservation. The Soil Survey includes soil maps and descriptions of each type of soil in each county including interpretations of a soil's potential for use.

Traditional Soil Survey reports have been paper copies of text, tables, and maps that traditionally have been cumbersome to use. The goal of a Soil Survey is to provide quality information for land use planning and management, and in order to make them user-friendly, Iowa's newest digital Soil Surveys have been created using an interactive GIS technology that is quite easy to learn to navigate.

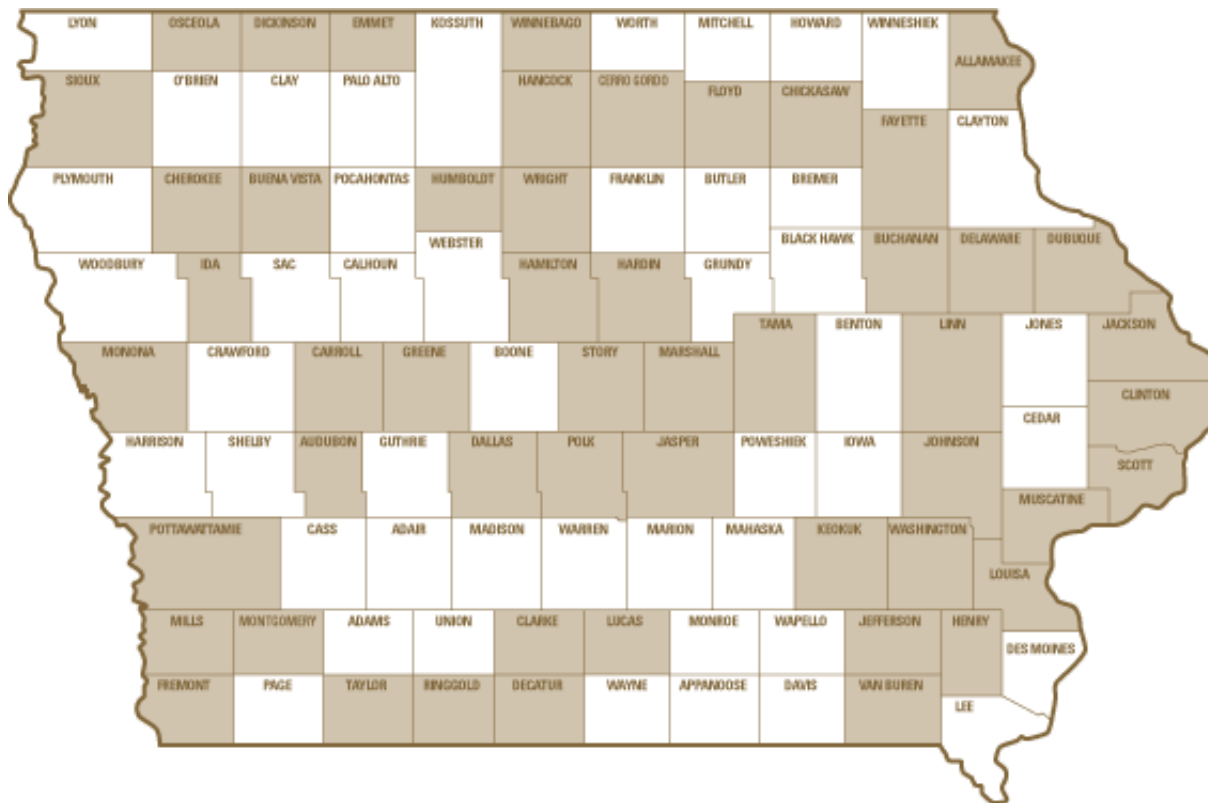
The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is responsible for developing these interactive digital soil surveys for each county in Iowa, having an overall goal of making the data accessible to and meeting the needs of most users. Cooperators include the Iowa Agriculture and Home Economics Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University, and the Division of Soil Conservation, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

The new digital interactive Soil Survey software called SoilView runs in Windows and comes embedded with each county Soil Survey on a CD. The user is provided soils information through Soil Survey tables and through an interactive GIS package. Specific data can be selected from tables to develop interpretative maps; determine acres, crop yields, and corn suitability ratings of specified boundaries; view map unit descriptions; and many other specified tasks. SoilView can be run directly from the Soil Survey CD or installed on a personal computer.

An Iowa map showing which counties have the interactive Soil Survey CD currently available is shown below or can be viewed [online](#) [1].

There is also an [order form for interactive Soil Surveys](#) [2] available for Iowa counties.

More information about the development of the interactive Soil Surveys and examples of what can be done using them is available in the article [Developing a Soil Survey of the Future](#) [3].



[4]

Counties with Soil Survey available on CD as of September 2005. Prepared by Gerald A. Miller and Thomas E. Fenton, professors of agronomy, Department of Agronomy, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011.

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Source URL:

<http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm//ipm/icm/2005/9-19/soilsurvey.html>

Links:

- [1] <http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/soils/pdfs/survcd.pdf>
- [2] http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/soils/pdfs/SurvCD_OrderForm.pdf
- [3] <http://www.il.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/soils/p329.html>
- [4] <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/node/193>

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