

## Missouri Soil Survey for the Rest of the Century: How the “Modernization” Phase will Serve Natural Resource Professionals

Fred J. Young  
US Dept. of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Columbia, MO

As of this Conference, the initial mapping of Missouri soils is complete. However, it is essential that the soil survey program continue to function in Missouri. This next phase of the soil survey can be thought of as a “modernization” phase, an “application and interpretation” phase, or a “continuous update” phase. To implement the next phase of Missouri’s soil survey program, five permanent soil survey offices will be opened and staffed. Some of the issues relevant to natural resource professionals that the modernization phase will address include:

- 1) Regional soil survey consistency across county boundaries,
- 2) Integration of soil mapping with Digital Elevation Models for improved georeferencing within Geographic Information Systems,
- 3) Sampling to improve estimates of central tendency and variance for important soil properties,
- 4) Integration with other geospatial natural resource data, such as surficial geology and Ecological Land Types,
- 5) Interpretation for specific applications, such as phosphate loading from poultry manure.

As soil surveys are refined and tailored to the needs of natural resource professionals, it will be essential that foresters, ecologists, biologists, geologists, hydrologists, conservationists and others become actively involved with the soil survey process.