western Illinois received its guide in January and Iroquois County received its guide in December.

The soil management guides provide the needed soil management information and the soil maps for detailed planning. They are distributed to farmers in a personalized form by both the county agents and work unit conservationists; but may also be used for planning other types of county wide programs which involve information on soils and soil management. County agents are being encouraged to use soil maps in fertility planning with farmers and use the soil management guides with their soil test cooperators. The work unit conservationists use the soil management guide for both the soil and water conservation farm plan and their plan for efficient fertilizer use.

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How Soil Survey Information is Published in Illinois

In 1951, Illinois initiated a dual system of publication of the results of soil surveys in individual counties.

The earliest publication which is made available in the county, usually within a year or two after completion of the survey, deals primarily with the proper use and management of the soils. This type of publication has become known as a "Soil Management Guide" and is used by both the county agent and the work unit conservationist in working with individual farmers. The first soil management guide was published for Will County in 1951. Since then, guides have been published for Williamson, Johnson, McHenry, Wabash, Jersey, and Iroquois counties.

An article which describes the contents and discusses the purpose and use of the soil management guides was published in the July, 1956, issue of the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation, Vol. 11, No. 4. The soil management guides are also reviewed in another section or another issue) of this newsletter.

The other publication is the soil report for the county. It is concerned primarily with characteristics of the soils which are important in understanding their genesis and proper classification as well as predicting their behavior under various uses and management systems. Detailed management suggestions for the various purposes are made. Included in the soil report is a small scale, lithographed county soil map which can be used for many purposes, including township and county-wide planning. The soil report also provides a permanent record of the results of the soil survey.

The first soil report of this nature was published in 1959 for Williamson County.

The soil management guides are a cooperative project among the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station, Extension Service, and Soil Conservation Service. The soil reports are published by the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service.

At the present time an interim, folded, pocket-sized soil association map and report is being prepared for Madison County. It is patterned, to some extent, after similar kinds of reports which have been published for some counties in Wisconsin, New York, and other states.

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