classes IV through VII which have severe continuing limitations for use. In some cases these may be productive pasture or haylands needed to support a livestock enterprise.

These groupings of agricultural lands for the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program fall within the same general categories as the “Important Farmlands” under the USDA Land Inventory and Monitoring program. This was recommended so that both of these programs would complement each other, save duplication of effort, and avoid conflicts in classification of lands to be preserved for agriculture.

Mapping Unit Complexity on the Dublin Plateau, Pulaski County, Virginia

P. M. Cauley

Pulaski County lies between the Appalachian Mountains and the Blue Ridge Mountains in southwestern Virginia. Within the central part of the county is a broad valley area about 40,000 acres in size and running the length of the county. This area is known as the Dublin plain and is considered to be a part of a vast peneplain that extends through the Appalachian Valley of Virginia.

The peneplain theory is based on the assumption that the earth’s surface is being eroded by the constant action of running water. Given enough time and stability of the earth’s crust this surface would be eroded nearly to sea level. The resultant surface is called a peneplain.

Geographers and geologists believe the Dublin plain has undergone total peneplanation at least once and has been partially peneplained several times. If this is true, the area has been uplifted and eroded several times. Based on this assumption, it can also be assumed that the present rolling hills of the Dublin plain are the remnants of mountains that stood at elevations perhaps 2,000 feet above the present elevation of the valley floor.

In addition to undergoing massive erosion, the area has been subjected to tremendous folding and faulting. This is evidenced by the once level bedrock strata now tilted at angles of 45 to 60° with many small anticlines and syclines.

The Dublin plain is underlain dominantly by three geologic formations. Each formation is composed of different strata and each strata varies in thickness from nonexistent to several hundred feet. The strata may be continuous or discontinuous as one traverses the length of its strike. Often it is impossible to determine in which direction the strike is

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