Soil Characterization Laboratory for the Field Soil Scientist

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The 1978 Soil Characterization Laboratory Training Program for Field Soil Scientists was very encouraging and successful. The program trained 16 soil scientists from New York State in laboratory procedures and operations. Each training session ran from noon on Monday to noon on Friday with 34 actual laboratory and classroom hours. The 1978 participants included: H. Winkley, R. Work, L. Robinson, M. Silverman, L. McDowell, E. Rice, W. Broad, R. Case, J. Warner, J. Brown, D. Holman, P. Puglia, K. VanDoren, S. Seifried, L. Crandall, and R. Mangini. Also visiting the program were Dr. Klaus Flach, Assistant Administrator for Soil Survey, Washington, D.C.; Fred Gilbert, State Soil Scientist; and Will Hanna, State Office Staff.

Areas covered in the technical training sessions were as follows: particle-size analysis; fine clay determination; bulk density; one-third and 15 bar water retention; pH; chemical extractions (iron oxides and aluminum, X-ray analysis, soil micromorphology, exchangeable cation determination); magnesium, calcium, potassium, sodium, and hydrogen; cation exchange capacity; theory and use of atomic absorption analysis; spectroscopic colorimetry; and the interpretation of this data for soil classification and soil interpretation.

Much of the success for this program stems from the excellent cooperation and effort given by Dr. Hari Eswaran, Visiting Professor from the University of Ghent, Belgium, who lectured on the topic of soil micromorphology; Tom Greweling, Director of the Soil Test Program, who lec-