It is common during the course of a soil survey to have a soil series name change or a site name change. Now, with this program, instead of someone having to go through the whole legend and change the names by hand (invariably missing several) these mass changes may be made easily and quickly with the computer. The program prompts you for the old name and the new name, and then runs a search replacing all the names appropriately. This is a great time saver.

Editing the already inputed data is quick and simple. Whole map units or single components may be deleted with one command. A single unit that has been amended may be printed out for insertion into the I.D. Legend. This eliminates I.D. Legends that are covered with red ink changes and the need for retyping. The secretary has indicated that in the past it has taken a week and a half to retype a legend with all the amendments. This is completely eliminated with the I.D. Legend program.

At the end of each map unit you may enter any comments you wish. Useful comments such as the initials of the soil scientist who designed the map unit, the photo number on which it originated, whether or not the unit matches to another survey, etc. can all be useful. Also, you may search for any comments. For instance, if you wanted a list of all the units set up by ARW you simply instruct the program to search for all the ARW comments and in short order you have a neat list.

Not only has this program saved us a great deal of time, but it has also greatly increased our ability to produce a high quality product. It has given people with no previous computer experience an opportunity to learn something new. And out of this program have come ideas for other programs and other ways of doing our job better.

Representative Soil Surveys of the USA

David T. Cooper¹

This list of representative soil surveys of the USA has been compiled to assist those engaged in teaching and research work throughout the country. The surveys are arranged by land resource regions and major land resource areas as established in the December 1981 revision of USDA Agriculture Handbook 296. The listing represents each major land resource area with a minimum number of published surveys.

This set replaces the original listing of representative soil surveys published by R. B. Grossman in 1978, now outdated by the revision of Agriculture Handbook 296 and the large number of recently published surveys. The author acknowledges the contributions of Soil Conservation Service soil scientists in state offices across the nation in compiling this list, and says “thank you” for sending copies of the reports to The Ohio State University for the Agronomy Department’s soil survey map collection.

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