Selecting Representative Pedons in Saudi Arabia Using a Transect Method

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Soil scientists on assignment in Saudi Arabia needed a method for locating pedons considered representative for sampling. They utilized a randomly selected line transect method to select a representative site for sampling. This involved the project members selecting map unit delineations considered representative. Then a randomly selected transect line was placed across each of the representative delineations by the sampling crew. Along the transect line at predetermined regular intervals, three to five sites were plotted. Utilizing a backhoe, pits were dug at each site, and descriptions adequate for classification were written. One site was then determined to be representative of the delineation. The sampling crew would then return to that site, complete any additional necessary descriptive work, and sample the pedon.

The selection of representative map unit delineations should involve many factors, including the following.

1. Location in correct geologic and geomorphic area.
2. Location in area of survey project where a high percentage of the taxon is or will be mapped.

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