Relevant Pedological Activities for the National Cooperative Soil Survey’s University Participants

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How should the National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS) adjust its direction and activities as times change and as once-over soil survey nears completion in many areas? In 1985, the Director of the Soil Survey Division, USDA-SCS, established and charged the NCSS Working Committee on Relevant Pedological Activities² with examining this question from the perspective of the university participants in NCSS. The subjects to be explored were:

1. What are relevant tasks for university participants in NCSS? User groups vary in their interests, goals, and needs for information. What are the roles and the skills that permit universities to function well in these areas?

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²The working Committee on Relevant Pedological Activities consisted of F.P. Miller (chairperson), then at Univ. of Arkansas; N.E. Smeck, Ohio State Univ.; M.J. Singer, Univ. of California at Davis; R.B. Brown, Univ. of Florida; G.A. Nielsen, Montana State Univ., E.J. Ciolkosz, Penn State Univ.; B.J. Miller, Louisiana State Univ., and T.E. Fenton, Iowa State Univ. F.P. Miller prepared the questionnaire, revised it based on Committee comments, and handled mailing of the questionnaire. R.B. Brown compiled responses and wrote the Committee’s report. G.A. Nielsen presented results at the 1985 NCSS National Soil Survey Work Planning Conference in Ft. Collins and compiled responses of conference participants. The role of other Committee members in developing the questionnaire and ensuring a good response from colleagues is gratefully acknowledged, as is the participation of the respondents themselves. The full Committee report may be found in the Proceedings of the 1985 National Soil Survey Work Planning Conference.