News and Announcements

South Carolina Professional Soil Classifiers Meet
Dennis J. DeFrancesco

On May 5, 1995, the South Carolina Professional Soil Classifiers held a meeting at the USDA-ARS Vegetable Lab in Charleston.

Floyd Maguire of the ARS gave an interesting field tour of the facilities. The 15 participants were briefed on local research regarding nematodes, as well as procedures involved in improving varieties of various vegetable crops. Several of the most nationally popular varieties of snap beans, cantaloupes, peas, watermelons, peppers, and tomatoes were developed here.

For lunch, we had a “Low Country Boil”, also known as Beaufort Stew, or Frogmore Stew.

Ron Morton of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) gave a Global Positioning System demonstration. The participants were then humbled after taking an organic matter judging contest organized by Bob Eppinette of the NRCS. Dr. Lee Norfleet of the NRCS hammered home the importance of correctly estimating the organic matter content in his presentation on the regional hydrologic indicators used in wetland identification.

Mark Mann of the NRCS then presented data regarding his water table study site that the group visited on the morning tour.

Floyd Maguire arranged for each participant to receive seeds of the famous “Charleston Hot” hot pepper. This variety was developed here, and is about 20 times hotter than a jalapeno, and 2 to 3 times hotter than tabasco, which is used in hot pepper recipes. Whooeee!!