History of Nebraska Soil Survey
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A 215-page document entitled “History of Nebraska Soil Survey”, written by members of the Nebraska Society of Professional Soil Scientists, was recently published in support of the celebration of the National Cooperative Soil Survey Centennial, 1899–1999. This document is about the development of the soil survey starting in 1909 with the initial funding by the state legislature. There are many photographs and some personal stories. This document is a must read for those who worked the soil survey program in Nebraska as well as others interested in the history of the soil survey.

A special committee of the Nebraska Society of Professional Soil Scientists worked over a period of 4 years in collecting information and writing the text. The content and format are designed to highlight the accomplishments of the soil scientists working the state and not necessarily a chronological report of the state soil survey program. The report will serve to document some aspects of the cooperative soil survey program. Highlighted are the (i) old legends for soil surveys, (ii) contribution of the accelerated program and associated events, and (iii) the progress of soil map finishing for publication of soil survey.

The document includes:
- honor roll of soil scientists
- publication dates of Nebraska soil survey areas
- the first 50 years
- the second 50 years
- special interest career stories and “tidbits”
- the state soil
- soil correlation
- how we made a soil survey
- digitizing the soil survey
- new concepts and the future
- centennial accomplishments of the Nebraska Cooperative Soil Survey Publication Program

Leadership for the National Cooperative Soil Survey program in Nebraska came from federal, state, and local governments. Five USDA state soil scientists and two University principal soil scientists provided the direct leadership for the program.

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Fig. 1. Don Yost and Bob Pollock, Hamilton County Soil Survey, Aurora, NE, about 1979.