A LOOK AT SOIL MAPPING ON EASTERN LONG ISLAND

By Marvin Bureau
Soil Scientist, SCS, Wooster, Ohio

Fifteen SCS soil scientists descended on Suffolk County, New York (Eastern Long Island) in mid March 1968 for five weeks to help accelerate the county's progressive soil survey. So far as is known this is the largest contingent ever to work at one time on a soil mapping detail. Acquainting six soil scientists for their first time with the local soils, coordinating the mapping activities and in general taking the responsibility for all members of the detail, as one might imagine, is enough to tax the capabilities of the best of party chiefs. John W. Warner, in charge, proved equal to the task.

Members of this spring detail were Bob Landry, John Wulforst, Will Hanna, John Neely, Erwin Rice, Karl Olsson, and Bob Holmes from New York State; Joe Steiger and the writer from Ohio; and for their first time detail to the county were Bill Waite and Will Sheehan from Vermont, Bill Willey and Norman Kalloch from Maine, plus Woody Beverage from West Virginia and Dick Gilbert from Indiana.

This survey was launched in 1966 with financial assistance from the county government and the Nassau-Suffolk County Regional Planning Board, aided by a U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grant. Target date for completion of mapping the county's 590,080 acres is 1969 and is expected to be met. Speed-up in the survey is the result of the county's exceptionally rapid growth rate as influenced by the crowded Greater New York City area immediately west and the need for soil information necessary in preparing a comprehensive county plan. The county's population is now over one million and increasing rapidly. The entire island has a population of over seven million, greater than 1/3 of the 50 states and covers 1 1/2 times the area of Rhode Island.