This subject is approached with a certain degree of reservation since my contact with the development of soil survey in the past eight years has been somewhat cursory. I know that much advancement has taken place during that time and I wish at the outset to be understood as desiring only suggestions or criticisms of a purely constructive nature. Many steps have been taken by the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils and cooperating agencies during recent years which are a very material advancement and many parts of which have resulted in the soil survey more nearly meeting the needs of mortgage loan investors.

In order that this discussion might present not only the views of a few of us in the Farm Credit Administration, a letter was written to thirty of our supervising field staff requesting their opinion as to means by which the soil survey could better serve our purpose. Replies were received from not only those written, but some additional persons whom they interviewed in this connection and a very interesting file was developed. Those who contributed this information consisted of our Reviewing Appraisers of which there are 12 in the United States, each having charge of the appraisal work in a Land Bank District; their assistants, numbering one to three in a district; the Chief Appraisers of the respective Federal Land Banks; several Bank officials and Loan Committee members; and several whom we designate as Soils Appraisers, who are men of special soils training now engaged in appraisal work. It can be seen then that the views assembled have come from individuals of several to many years' experience in the mortgage loan field and who have made extensive use of soil survey reports in connection with their work.

Without exception, the most conspicuous statement made by these men was that soil survey reports are of great value to them in their work and I would like to emphasize the value we attach to them. I believe the reports and maps are used by most organizations who lend on farms. Outside of the educational field, I doubt if there is any one group of individuals who make greater use of the soil survey than do organizations which make farm loans. Next to that expression, there was most often indicated the need for completing the soil survey and having available at the earliest possible date, reports for those counties which have not been surveyed. It is very evident then that appraisers and other farm loan workers prize the soil survey highly and desire that this work be extended as rapidly as possible.

Both the soil survey and farm loan workers have problems in connection with meeting the situation. One consideration is that the soil reports on farms are used by many organizations who lend on farms. Outside of the educational field, I doubt if there is any one group of individuals who make greater use of the soil survey than do organizations which make farm loans. Next to that expression, there was most often indicated the need for completing the soil survey and having available at the earliest possible date, reports for those counties which have not been surveyed. It is very evident then that appraisers and other farm loan workers prize the soil survey highly and desire that this work be extended as rapidly as possible.

In order that our appraisers may make better use of the soil survey, but better informed as to soil classification and the agricultural value of land, as well as have begun an extensive educational program during the current year. This consists of a series of short courses for land bank appraisers, which were largely for a term of weeks although a few were for periods of one to ten days. These courses are conducted on a state basis, and nineteen have been held in each instance they were collaborated with the agricultural colleges which provided the major portion of the technical subject matter and were a principal factor in the success attained. Probably the most significant practical topic of instruction was along soil classification. Many of you men present contributed to this work and we greatly appreciate your fine cooperation. We have been gratified at the result of this work.

From my own experience in soil survey work I realize that many of the suggestions that may be made in this paper and others in addition have previously received your consideration and were disposed of in the manner which appears most expedient at the time but which may have fully satisfied you. However, it is hoped that when they are definitely associated with needs they may take on something of a different angle and justify further consideration part.

It is appreciated that perhaps the objective in the soil survey is of a scientific nature. We wish to recognize that fact. In addition it is felt that even though the survey may justify its existence solely basis, it has a responsibility of perhaps importance to provide farmers, farm lenders, and other types of laymen with a report which will be of the greatest possible help to them. It is my intention not to lose sight of the scientific and educational value and the importance of the soil survey, but it also seems that the work could be so rearranged as to serve a greater purpose for other scientific and laymen uses without sacrificing the technical value or quality of it. The solution of some of the problems of the laymen in interpreting the soil survey may appear to be a technical nature and the other popular style, but we are doubtful if this would be desirable. It would seem that soil type discussions were properly out; the text would be easier辉读 as well as complete with suitable headings they could include the technical and practical types of information from which the reader could select.