During the past year the agronomists in each state of the union have been called upon by the economists to assist them in a project for the estimation of the most desirable balance of agricultural production. Sponsored by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the Department of Agriculture, this study was designed to provide basic information for a more equitable operation of the A.A.A.

Obviously the first step in this work was to examine available soil surveys in the state concerned. In some of the Eastern states county soil maps were available for the entire area. In others a good state reconnaissance soil survey had been prepared, in addition to numerous county reports. In some cases the little soil survey work that has been done is considered to be obsolete by present standards. The major soil types of the entire country are shown on Dr. Marbut's Atlas maps, and these were already available when the project was started.

The writer has been actively associated with these studies, and has had an opportunity to be in touch with the soils phase of the program in the twelve northeastern states. A brief resume of objectives, plans and achievements in this area should present some lessons as to the application of the soil survey in production planning.

A preliminary regional conference held in Albany in April was attended almost solely by the economists. Only two agronomists were present, and one of them had no first-hand experience with the soil survey. The economists were fully conscious of the necessity of evaluating their soil resources, but had diverse opinions as to the mechanism for doing so. One proposal was to prepare a productivity map on the basis of arbitrary ratings, into four grades:

I Non-agricultural land  
II Marginal land  
III Fairly productive land  
IV Most productive land

This meeting was held in Boston two weeks later. An estimate of the situation in regard to available information in regard to the areal extent of similar characteristics revealed the following to be true:

Maine: Detailed maps of the agricultural parts of Aroostook County, an area around Orono, Cumberland County, comprising only a small part of the state. No reconnaissance survey.

New Hampshire: Detailed maps of a small area in the Merrimac valley only. No reconnaissance survey.

Vermont: Detailed maps of Windsor County and an area in the Champlain basin. A good recent reconnaissance survey of the entire state.

Massachusetts: Detailed maps of the entire state, mostly of recent date.

Rhode Island: County maps of the entire state, made at an early date and of poor quality. Recent surveys of the two southern counties not yet published, but available for study.

Connecticut: "Bureau" maps of the eastern counties, and of the Connecticut Valley, all over twenty years old, and of doubtful correlation on the basis of present classification. Very detailed recent maps of isolated areas, covering approximately one-tenth of the state. A map of the entire state, on a small scale (four miles to the inch).

Examination of Dr. Marbut's map showed that this was not of sufficient detail to give much help. Many areas of very stony or mountainous