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Soil Surveys in Kentucky

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Department of Agronomy

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SOIL SURVEYS IN KENTUCKY

H. H. Bailey

Fifty-four Kentucky counties have modern soil surveys (published 1959, or later) using the mapping and soil classification procedures of the National Cooperative Soil Survey. The cooperators in the program include the USDA-SCS, USDA-FS, Kentucky Department for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection and the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station.

Counties with published survey reports. Adair, Ballard-McCracken, Barren, Bath, Boone-Campbell-Kenton, Boyd-Greenup, Caldwell, Calloway-Marshall, Carroll-Gallatin-Owen, Christian, Clark, Daviess-Hancock, Elliott, Estill-Lee, Fayette, Fulton, Grant-Pendleton, Grayson, Hardin-Larue, Harrison, Henderson, Hopkins, Jefferson, Logan, Lyon-Trigg, McCreary-Whitley (west half), McClean-Muhlenberg, Madison, Menifee-Rowan-NW Morgan, Metcalfe, Nelson, Oldham, Pulaski, Scott, Shelby, Warren and Union-Webster.

Counties with mapping complete but report not published. Sixteen counties have field mapping completed and publication scheduled. These counties are: Bourbon-Nicholas, Boyle-Mercer, Carter, Green-Taylor, Jessamine-Woodford, Laurel-Rockcastle, Leslie-Perry, Monroe, Russell and Simpson.

Counties unmapped or mapping incomplete. Counties not mentioned above either are not currently being mapped, or mapping is in progress. About 650,000 acres per year is currently being mapped within these counties. It is hoped that all counties will be completed and survey reports published in ten years or so.

Availability of soil survey reports. Soil survey reports are available from the County Extension Office or Soil Conservation Service office in the counties where reports have been published.

Use of soil survey reports. Soil surveys have a variety of uses, such as:

-- Help farmers develop a landuse plan to match their soils to crops, pasture and woods for optimum farm production.

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- -- Help home owners locate good house sites.
- -- Help planners and engineers find suitable locations for highways, airfields, lakes, buildings and other structures.
- -- Help developers locate areas of least limitations for underground pipeline and basements.
- -- Help builders locate areas suitable for septic tank drainage fields.

The end result is of benefit to all in helping to plan economical, attractive and trouble-free developments to provide an attractive place to live, a good place to work, and an enjoyable place to play.

