

# Soil survey update put at \$126, 896

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State and local soil science experts Tuesday demonstrated computer software to the Black Hawk County supervisors that would be used to update a 25-year-old survey of the county's soils.

The survey, which would cost the county \$126,895, would identify where certain soil types are located in the county, said Greg Schellentrager, a state soil scientist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The soil maps would be compatible with the county's Geographic Information System, a high-tech-computerized map of the county.

While the primary users of the soil survey 25 years ago were farmers, many county employees, from conservationists to firefighters to road-builders, would find the information useful, Dale Ceolla, a state expert in the GIS, said.

Ceolla told the supervisors the soil survey would help road builders choose materials to resist soils that expand or shrink under certain conditions.

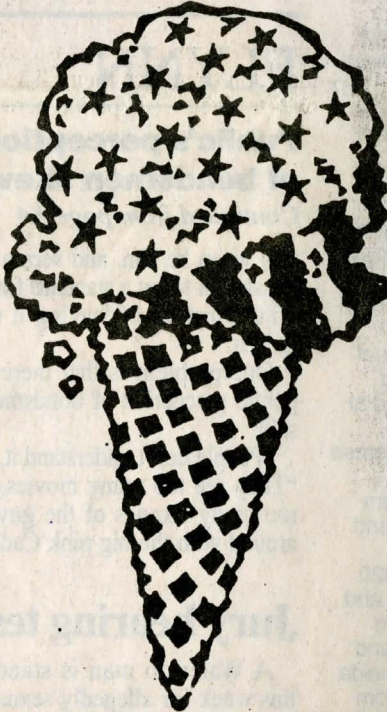
The \$126,895 for the project, which is more than one-third of the project's actual cost, could be paid over three or four fiscal years to ease the financial burden, Schellentrager said.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and the federal Soil Conserva-

tion Service will pay the other two-thirds of the \$304,685 project.

The supervisors said they would consider the proposal.

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