



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

210 Walnut Street
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Des Moines, IA 50309-2180

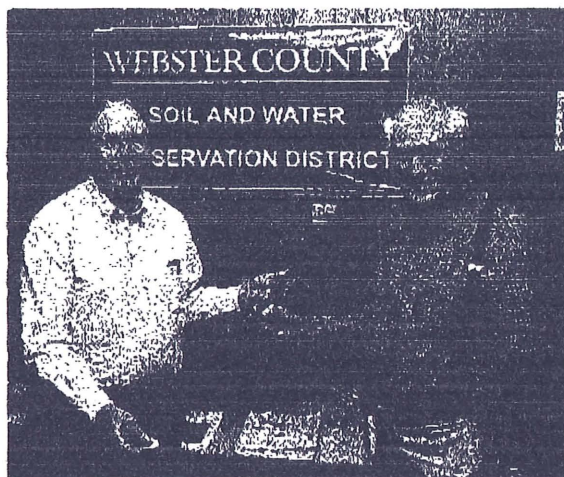
Photo Caption

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Fort Dodge—Soil Scientists Robin Wisner (L) and Maynard Koppen hold the first soil sample from what will be a five year, \$750,000 program, to update the soil survey in Webster County. Wisner, with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, will build on work Koppen did during the last soil survey conducted from 1961 to 1967. Both soil scientists were part of the 60 participants in a "First Acre" ceremony held recently at the Webster County

Fairgrounds.

With over 18,000 types of soils found in the United States, soils differ in suitability for various uses. According to Mike Sucik, State Soil Scientist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, "We're using better technology to update and improve the soils data used in Webster County. The update will more than pay for itself by giving accurate information needed for citizens to make informed land use decisions."

Soil surveys are conducted to systematically identify what types of soils are found in various locations within an area. Farmers, developers, homebuyers, planners, engineers and others use the results to match land use to specific soil properties. Conservationists, wildlife management, and pollution control experts use the survey to help them understand, protect, and enhance the environment.

The Webster County soil survey update is sponsored by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Webster County Conference Board, Division of Soil Conservation Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Webster County Board of Supervisors, Iowa State University, ISU Extension, and the Iowa Geological Survey.

In Iowa, soil surveys are available at county NRCS field offices, extension offices, public libraries, and conservation district offices.

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