

## SOIL SURVEY LEGENDS

### GENERAL

Legends for soil survey areas are found in one or more of the following places:

- (1) The standard series published soil survey report for the survey area
- (2) National Soils Information System
- (3) Manuscript for project and update soil surveys
- (4) National SSURGO database

Soil survey legends include the publication symbol and the mapping unit name. An example is: BuB (publication symbol) and Buchanan loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes (mapping unit name). In NASIS, the survey area name is separated from the legend so that a survey area may have multiple legends. For example, Fayette and Raleigh Counties, West Virginia has an out-of-date legend (corresponds to the legend in the published soil survey report) and an update legend which reflects the current, on-going survey legend. Legends for any published, out-of-date, update, project, or non-project survey can be printed from NASIS (1) (4). The resource soil scientist in each of the 3 areas can provide this information.

### POLICY

Maintenance of soil survey information is a continuous activity of data collection, reviews, evaluations and additions to existing soil survey information. The purpose of maintaining soil surveys is to ensure current and accurate soil information in an up-to-date database and to make sure that a correct, up-to-date, hard copy of the published soil survey report resides in the field office.

The Resource Soil Scientist in each of the three areas should ensure that an **“OFFICIAL COPY”** of soil survey information is maintained in the NRCS field office that serves the county(s) for which the soil survey was developed (2) (3). There should be one, and only one, copy of the published soil survey report that is marked in bold letters on the outside jacket of the report as **“OFFICIAL COPY”**. File the **“OFFICIAL COPY”** in the Field Office Technical Guide soil reference file. The **“OFFICIAL COPY”** of the soil survey report should be changed only if the need for the revision is identified and supported in a documented evaluation of the entire soil survey area. It is expected that as the soil survey report is used, that there will be errors that need to be documented and corrected. Examples of some common errors include a soil delineation (also called a soil polygon) that does not have a symbol, a soil

delineation that has two different symbols, or two different soil delineation's that are adjacent to each other that have the same symbol (often referred to as a common soil boundary). As suspected errors are found, the field office should contact the resource soil scientist for the area so that a determination can be made about the extent of the error and how it should be corrected. ALL ERRORS AND CORRECTIONS to the published report are to be reported to the State Soil Scientist who makes ALL FINAL DETERMINATIONS. Once a determination has been made, corrections should be made in the **"OFFICIAL COPY"** of the report. Corrections should be made to the soil map and it is recommended that a sheet be stapled in the front of the report to keep a record of the date of the change, the kind of change, and the map sheet number where the change occurs.

## **REFERENCES**

- (1) National Soil Information System – version 4.1. NRCS
- (2) National Soil Survey Handbook – section 610-1 to 4.
- (3) General Manual Title 430, Part 402, Subpart A, 402.4(c)
- (4) <http://www.statlab.iastate.edu/cgi-bin/dmuir.cgi>