

January 3, 2001

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The purpose of this letter is to request the interest and support of your state professional soil society to work with the approximately 40 other state professional soil societies and others having impact and promoting common society activities. A list of State Professional Soil Societies is located on the National Soil Survey Center (NSSC) home page at <http://www.statlab.iastate.edu/soils/nssc/> under the "Directory and Staff" heading.

Background

The Centennial celebration of the National Cooperative Soil Survey Program was a tremendous success. Collectively, the State Professional Societies of Soil Scientists were among the leaders in the Centennial celebration activities. The Natural Resource Conservation Service and Soil Science Society of America planner (calendar) in 2000 emphasized State Soils, and a State Soils planner is being prepared for 2002. The State Professional Soil Society in most all states has taken the lead in identifying and publicizing the State Soils initiatives.

Nationally there are 40 states that have a separate State Association or Society of Professional Soil Scientists. The names of each state association or society are somewhat varied but quite similar. Also, there are the Association of Women Soil Scientists and the National Association of Consulting Soil Scientists. Several state professional soil societies are members of ARCPACS of the American Society of Agronomy.

Current Activity

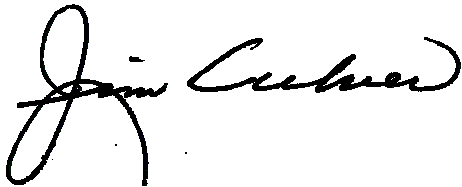
During a recent meeting of the Nebraska Society of Professional Soil Scientists there was discussion and interest in developing a method or process where all of the 40 individual state professional soil scientist societies could collectively respond to soil survey issues and share common interests. At the present time there is no general organized means for the excellent large membership of all of the individual state associations and societies to work together in having positive impact on common goals, objectives, and desires.

At the 2000 meeting of the Soil Science Society of America in Minneapolis, Minnesota, I visited individually with several soil scientists of the Natural Resource Conservation Service, other Federal Agencies, the National

Association of Consulting Soil Scientists, and the Association of Women Soil Scientist's, as well as University National Cooperative Soil Survey Leaders on their interest in having a general system or organization where all of the state professional soil societies could collectively work together and have impact on common issues. Overall, there was a positive response for a generalized process where state professional soil societies would work together in sharing opportunities to promote our profession.

As I am retiring this year, I am willing to assist, as appropriate, in working with state professional soil societies and associations in exploring some of the workable options of how collectively our 40 state societies and associations can work together on common issues. I would appreciate a response from your society if you are interested in some type of a networking system between our professional state societies and associations. My home address is Jim Culver, 611 Jeffery Dr., Lincoln, NE 68505. My e-mail address is j4culver@aol.com. A response from your professional state society or association by April 1, 2001, will be appreciated. I will plan to summarize all received comments and send them to all state professional soil societies and associations. This should give us a good expression of the interest to explore future opportunities.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Culver". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

JIM R. CULVER

National Leader, Technical Soil Services

Past President of the Nebraska Society of Professional Soil Scientists