



United States  
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Soil  
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Service

Reply ?

National Soil Survey Center  
Federal Building, Room 152  
100 Centennial Mall North  
Lincoln, NE 68508-3866

**Subject:** SOI - Linking of STATSGO and  
Pedon Data

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**To:** C. Steven Holzhey  
Assistant Director  
Soil Survey Division  
NSSC, SCS, Lincoln, Nebraska

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While working with Paul Dyke, Ellis Benham, and Bennie Brasher last week, an issue was discussed that I think has some possibilities.

We could make very good use of the State Soil Geographic Database (STATSGO) and the Pedon data in the National Soil Characterization Database (NSCDB) if these two databases were linked. This will allow the output from models, i.e., EPIC, that requires pedon data to be displayed spatially. Paul thinks this could have some application for the next NRI. Following is a proposal for testing this.

States would select a representative pedon from the NSCDB for each major component of STATSGO. Where representative records do not exist in NSCDB, this will point out soils which should be high priority for obtaining lab analyses.

The States could prioritize the STATSGO data by those map units which are the most extensive and/or are used extensively for cropland.

It would be wonderful to link detailed survey data this way. Bob Grossman is working on a procedure for doing this. However, we can start with STATSGO.

We propose that Temple write a program to view STATSGO component data, and NSCDB records (using the CD-ROM) on the computer screen. The user would then identify the match through this software. The only information that needs to be recorded is the STATSGO Component ID and the Pedon Number.

Perhaps some monies could be made available from this year's global change funds to begin to test this procedure for the Texas STATSGO data. We could start with \$10,000-\$15,000 to develop the software. Funds can be carried over to next



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fiscal year through this mechanism if we find there are uncommitted global change funds at the end of the year. Next fiscal year someone from Texas, perhaps a local retired soil scientist, could begin the linking process.



DAVID L. ANDERSON  
National Leader  
Soil Data Systems

cc:

M. J. Mausbach, National Leader, SSIG, NSSC, SCS, Lincoln, NE  
E. G. Knox, National Leader, SSIV, NSSC, SCS, Lincoln, NE  
J. R. Culver, National Leader, SSQA, NSSC, SCS, Lincoln, NE  
D. J. Lytle, National Coordinator for Soil Geography, SSIG,  
NSSC, SCS, Lincoln, NE  
J. M. Kimble, Research Soil Scientist, SSIV, NSSC, SCS,  
Lincoln, NE  
P. Dyke, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Texas A&M  
University, Blackland Research Center, Temple, TX