

Charges for Soil Interpretations Committee 2016 – South Region Cooperative Soil Survey

Co-Chairs: Steve Blanford, Linda Scheffe, Ali Fares

Members: Christine Morgan, Edgar Mersiovsky, Delaney Johnson, Alan Stahnke, Lawrence McGhee, Dee Pederson, Wallace Dillon, Jr, others welcome

Old Business

1. Review and document progress on recommendations from 2015 national committee report.
 - Tools and methodologies for generating soil interpretations on raster-based data from digital soil mapping and other, such as PRISM and LIDAR as data sources – **Conducted 4 regional interagency raster based mapping workshops; discussed with the New Technology Committee**
 - Develop risk indices to identify soils that are at risk of developing alkalinity or acidity problems if mismanaged – **Developing a salinity risk index; working with water quality specialists to provide integrated tool**
 - Develop a suite of interpretations for soil-borne diseases – **Developing soil-borne disease suite of interpretations (CDC, APHIS); developed interp for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)**
 - Develop interpretations for specialty crops, such as hops – **Developing a suite of interpretations for specialty crops; RUSLE2 databases include crop management for specialty crops, including ginseng, hops, cover crops**
 - Develop a model to identify recharge versus discharge wetlands – **Working with hydrologists, engineers to develop interpretations for model.**
 - Continue to work on interpretations for suitability of species, soil health, and planting suitability in context with climate change (multiple scenarios) – **Forage Suitability Groups; RUSLE2 includes cropping system scenarios for all Crop Management Zones; includes cover crops, orchards; Soil Health Rapid Assessment Tool**
 - Create a manual or published index of soil interpretations for reference (technical soil services, consultants) – **Web Soil Survey and Posting index of soil interpretations**
 - Expand training of “triple crown” interpretations to NCCS cooperators – **Include cooperators in interpretations training; developing interpretations generator for cooperators**
 - Improve the process for addressing requests for assistance – **Just call or email to make requests; be as specific as possible about the type of request**

2. Review and document progress on recommendations from 2014 south region committee report:
 - Replacing Crop yields and other stored interpretations in SDJR project map units with State specific crop suitability indexes and other State specific generated interps on WSS; - **interpretations generator**
 - Interpretations for Soil Health Conservation Planning on the Farm - **developed draft soil interpretations for and management recommendations for soil health rapid assessment tool; RUSLE2 provides soil erosion and soil quality assessment for site specific cropping systems**
 - Mobile App for soil interpretations – **included in business requirements and seeking funding for development of interpretations generator**
 - Updating Web Soil Survey - **Web Soil Survey constantly improved; be specific on future needs**
 - Fixing the Report manager and Soil Data Viewer – **Improved functionality**

New Business: Proposed topics for discussion:

1. Identify specific needs for urban interpretations
2. Identify specific needs for Soil health interpretations
3. Caribbean Commodity Crop Productivity Index or other specific agronomic interpretation needs
4. Other needs