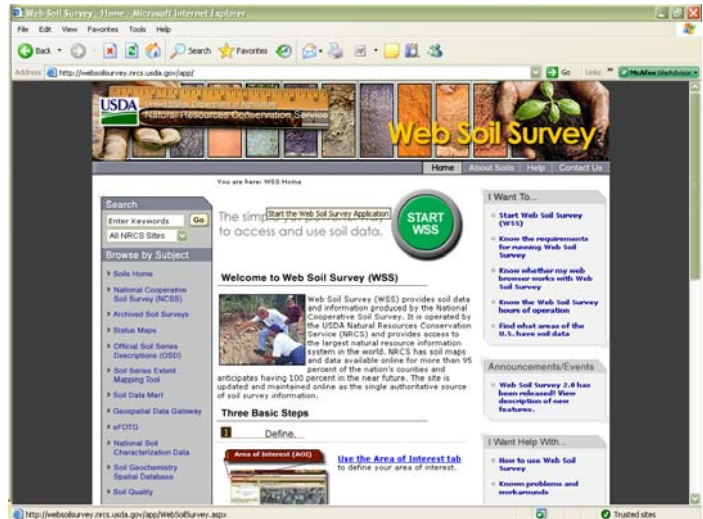


Using the Web Soil Survey

Web Soil Survey (WSS) provides soil data and information produced by the National Cooperative Soil Survey. It is operated by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and provides access to the largest natural resource information system in the world. It is a good tool for aerial photos and measuring acres.

Start here:

<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>



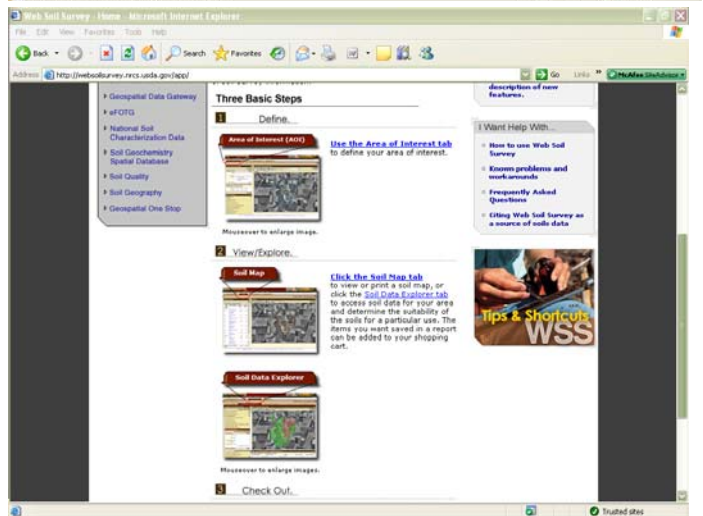
Scroll down to read the **Three Basic Steps**

Or

Read the instructions provided in this handout (which are more specific)



Start Web Soil Survey by clicking on the Green Button



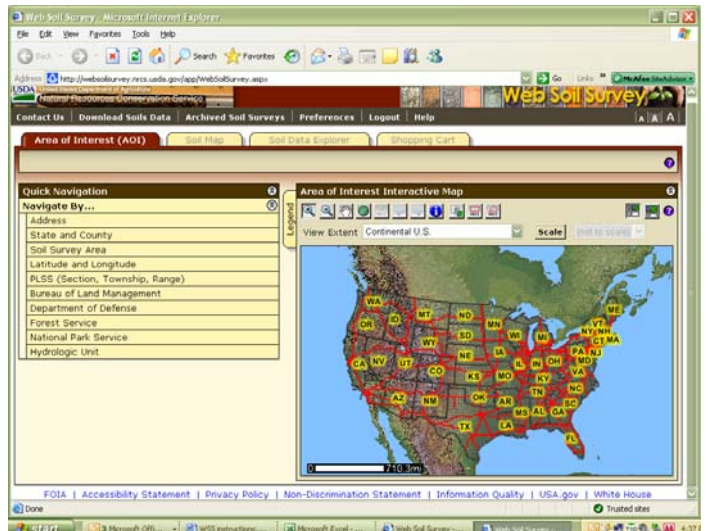
Note: Shading of text indicates the color you will find it on the web page.

You will begin in the **Area of Interest (AOI)** tab – **Quick Navigation**

Select your method of choice for locating the area you want to view. Most common would be

Address (enter address of location) or **PLSS (Section, Township, Range)** (use plat book to determine state, section, township, and range of area)

Click **View** to see map May take a while. If it fails to load, click **View** again.



The general area is shown on the map. You may need to scroll to top of page. Note functions of navigation tool buttons above map.

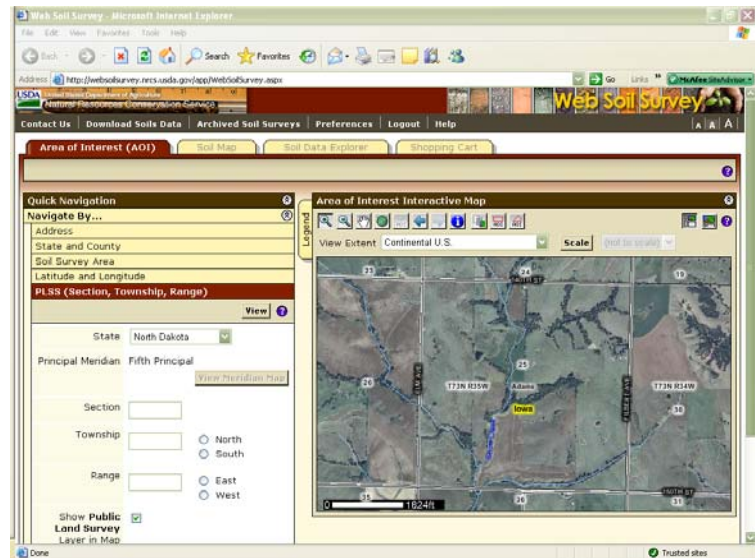


AOI stands for Area of Interest

The **Pan** tool allows you to scoot the map around in the window if you want to re-center.

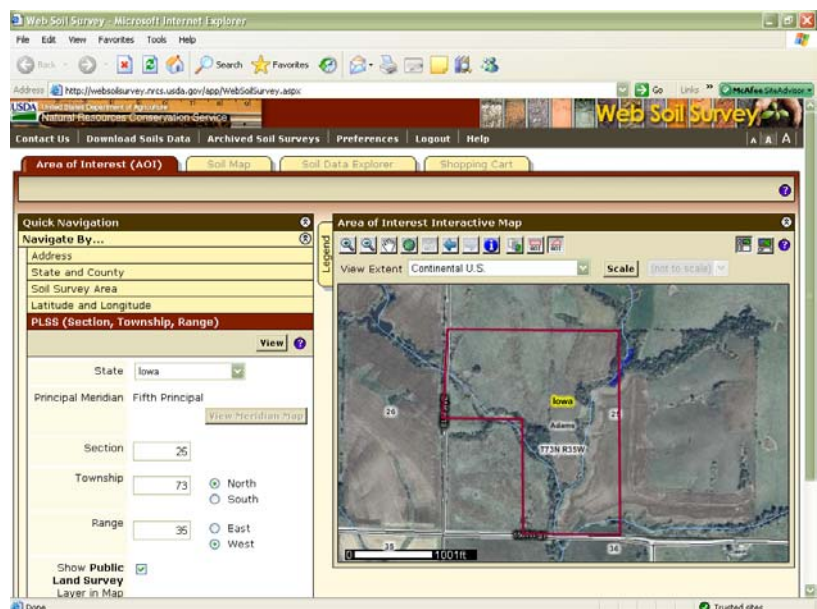
Click on **Zoom In** tool and drag mouse over general area of interest. Map will zoom in.

Use **Define AOI by Rectangle** tool if your area of interest is a square or rectangle shape. Drag mouse to select boundary of your area of interest.



Use **Define AOI by Polygon** tool if your area of interest is not a rectangle. Click the mouse at corners of the area. Double click on the last corner to close the polygon.

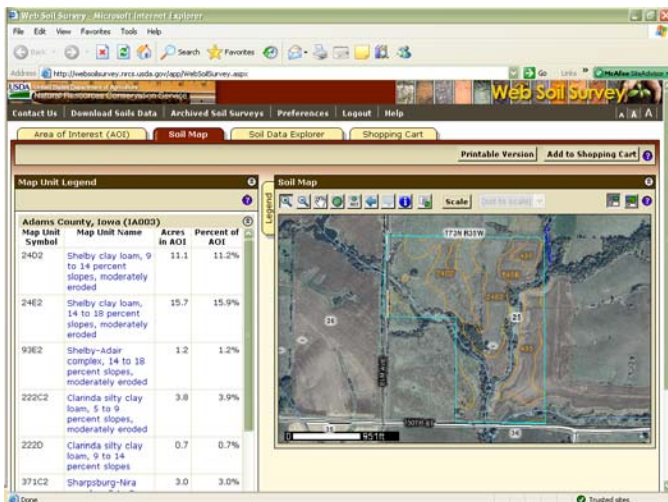
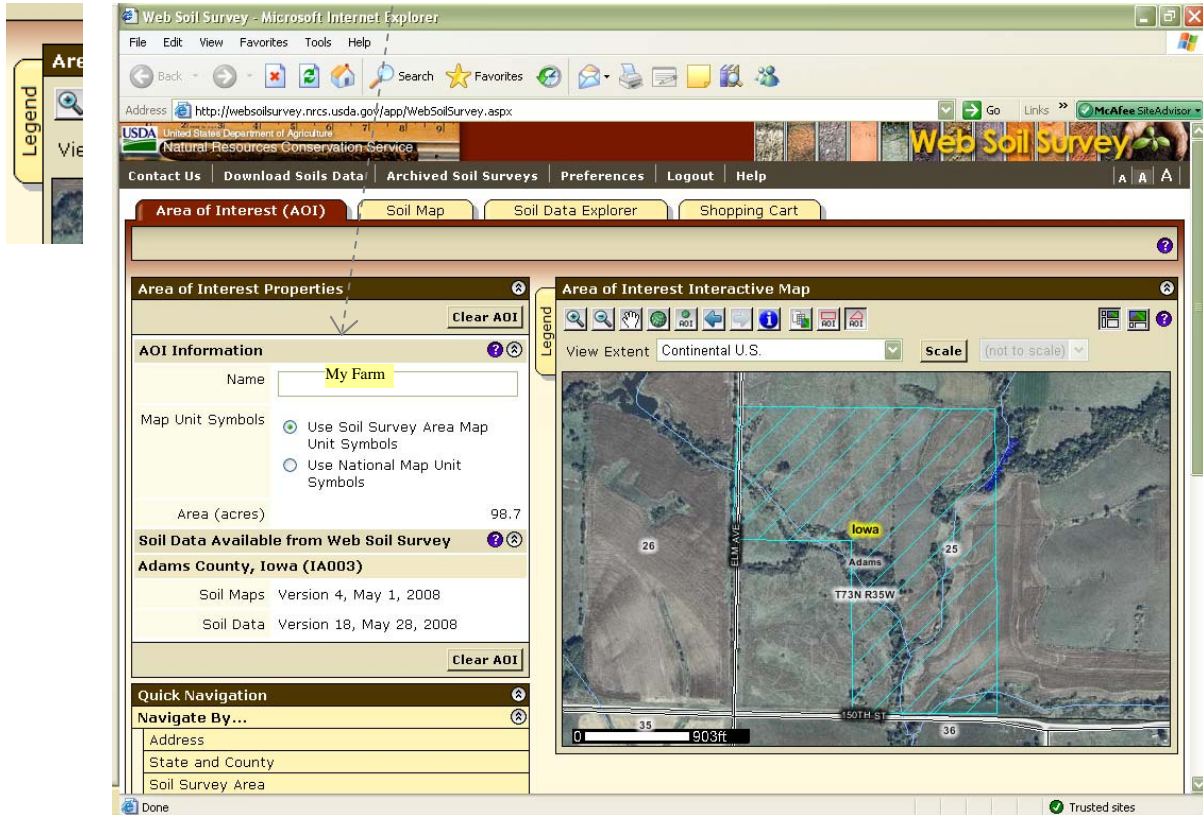
Use **Zoom History Back** arrow to work back through the maps if you don't like the AOI selection you made.



Once Area of Interest is selected, map will regenerate to show area with light blue boundary filled in by diagonal lines.

Give the AOI Information a **name** in the box on the left side of the screen.

The **Legend** tab on the upper left side of the map allows you to change what will show up on the printed legend. In most cases, the default settings are adequate and you won't use this. Take a look to see what's there.



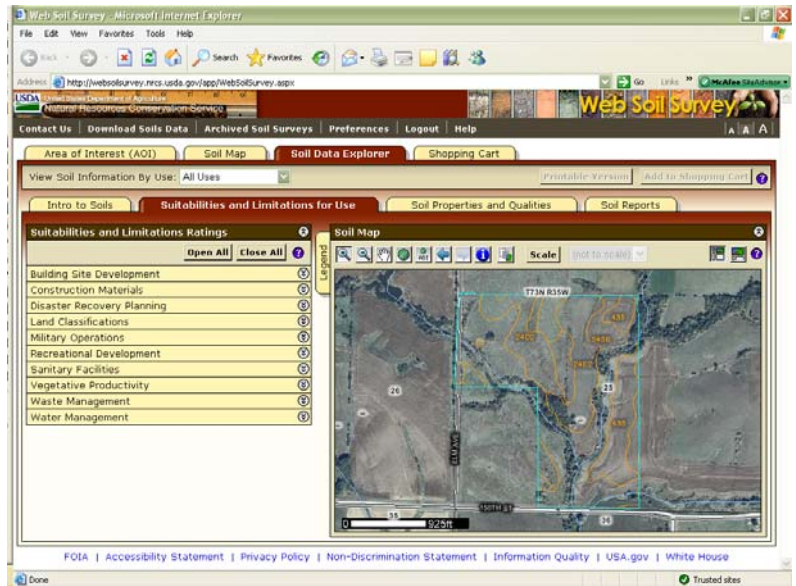
Now, move to the **Soil Map** tab to see the soil map units delineated. (May have to scroll to see the top tabs) On the left is a **Map Unit Legend** that shows the Map Unit Names, Acres of a particular Map Unit in AOI, and Percent of Map Unit in AOI.

This is handy if you want approximate acres for a particular area or field. Select the area of Interest to include the field and look at the total acres for Soil Map Units on the left of this screen.

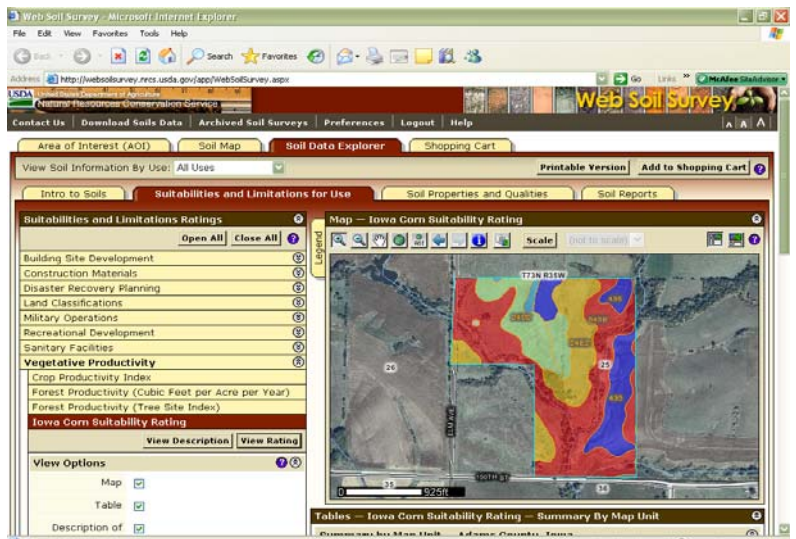
Notice the two gray buttons above the map; Use the **Printable Version** button to print the current view now.

Use the **Add to Shopping Cart** button to add the current view to the Shopping Cart to be printed later with other useful information. (Unlike most internet shopping carts, there is no fee charged with this one.)

If you want to explore go to the **Soil Data Explorer** tab. Here you can learn everything you might want to know about soils. It opens up with the **Suitabilities and Limitations for Use** tab open.



Try the **Vegetative Productivity** bar. Choose **Iowa Corn Suitability Rating** under that. Click **View Rating**. You will see soils with similar corn suitability ratings colored on map followed by a table showing CSRs for each soil map unit.



Again, you can choose either **Printable Version** to print now or **Add to Shopping Cart** to print with everything else when done with all.

Try the **Land Classifications** bar. Choose **Farmland Classification**. Click **View Rating**.

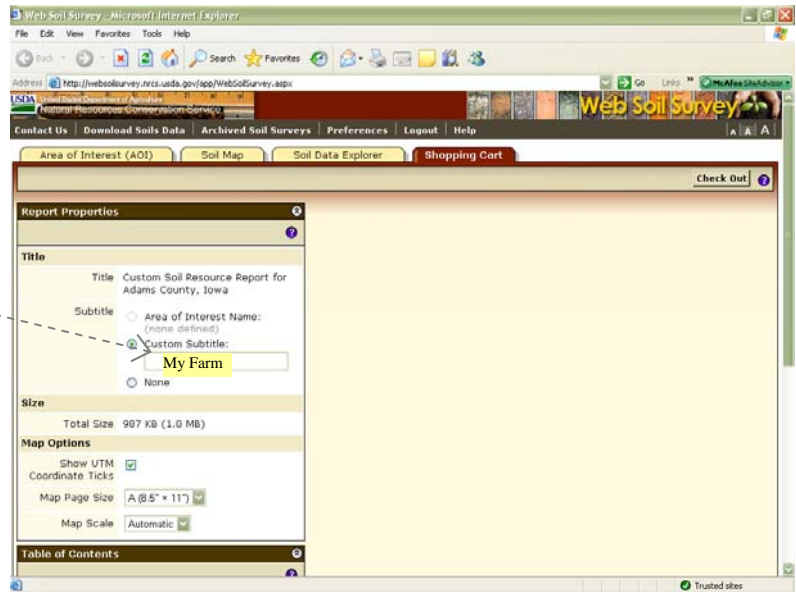
symbol	Soil Description	CSR	AOI	%
24D2	Shelby clay loam, 9 to 14 percent slopes, moderately eroded	40	11.1	11.2%
24E2	Shelby clay loam, 14 to 18 percent slopes, moderately eroded	29	15.7	15.9%
93E2	Shelby-Adair complex, 14 to 18 percent slopes, moderately eroded	21	1.2	1.2%
222C2	Clarinda silt clay loam, 5 to 9 percent slopes, moderately eroded	32	3.8	3.9%
222D	Clarinda silt clay loam, 9 to 14 percent slopes	21	0.7	0.7%
371C2	Sharpsburg-Nira complex, 5 to 9 percent slopes, moderately eroded	68	3.0	3.0%
371D2	Sharpsburg-Nira complex, 9 to 14 percent slopes, moderately eroded	57	1.4	1.4%
435	Zook-Mt. Sterling complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	75	13.5	13.6%
470D2	Lamoni-Shelby complex, 9 to 14 percent slopes, moderately eroded	28	0.6	0.6%
545B	Zook-Bry-Duilled land complex, 2 to 5 percent slopes	5	47.6	48.2%
822D2	Lamoni silt clay loam, 0 to 14 percent slopes, moderately eroded	26	0.1	0.1%
W	Water		0.2	0.2%
Totals for Area of Interest (AOI)			98.7	100.0%

Farmland classification identifies map units as prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, farmland of local importance, or unique farmland. It identifies the location and extent of the soils that are best suited to food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. NRCS policy and procedures on prime and unique farmlands are published in the "Federal Register," Vol. 43, No. 21, January 31, 1978.

Explore the other tabs under **Soil Data Explorer** if you wish.
Intro to Soils **Soil Properties and Qualities** **Soil Reports**

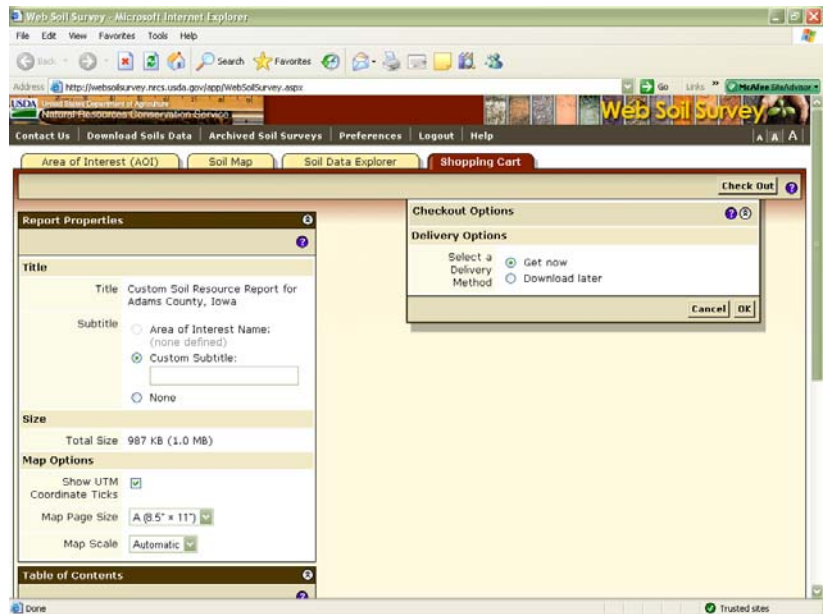
When you are done acquiring the information you want to print out, go to the **Shopping Cart** tab. You might want to select Custom Subtitle and enter a **name**.

Scroll down to **Table of Contents**. Here you may select which information you want to print with your report.



Click the **Check Out** button at the upper right of the screen. In the dropdown Delivery Options window, select **Get now** or **Download later**. **Get now** will print the report (works best printed in color). It will take a little while to process. **Download later** will email the URL from which the report can be downloaded within 24 hours.

Write down your Order ID and contact hotline@ia.usda.gov if you don't receive the link within 24 hours.



When you are done, always click the **Logout** link on the dark gray toolbar. Clicking the **Logout** link allows the application to release the resources used by your session immediately, instead of having to wait 40 minutes for your session to time out

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