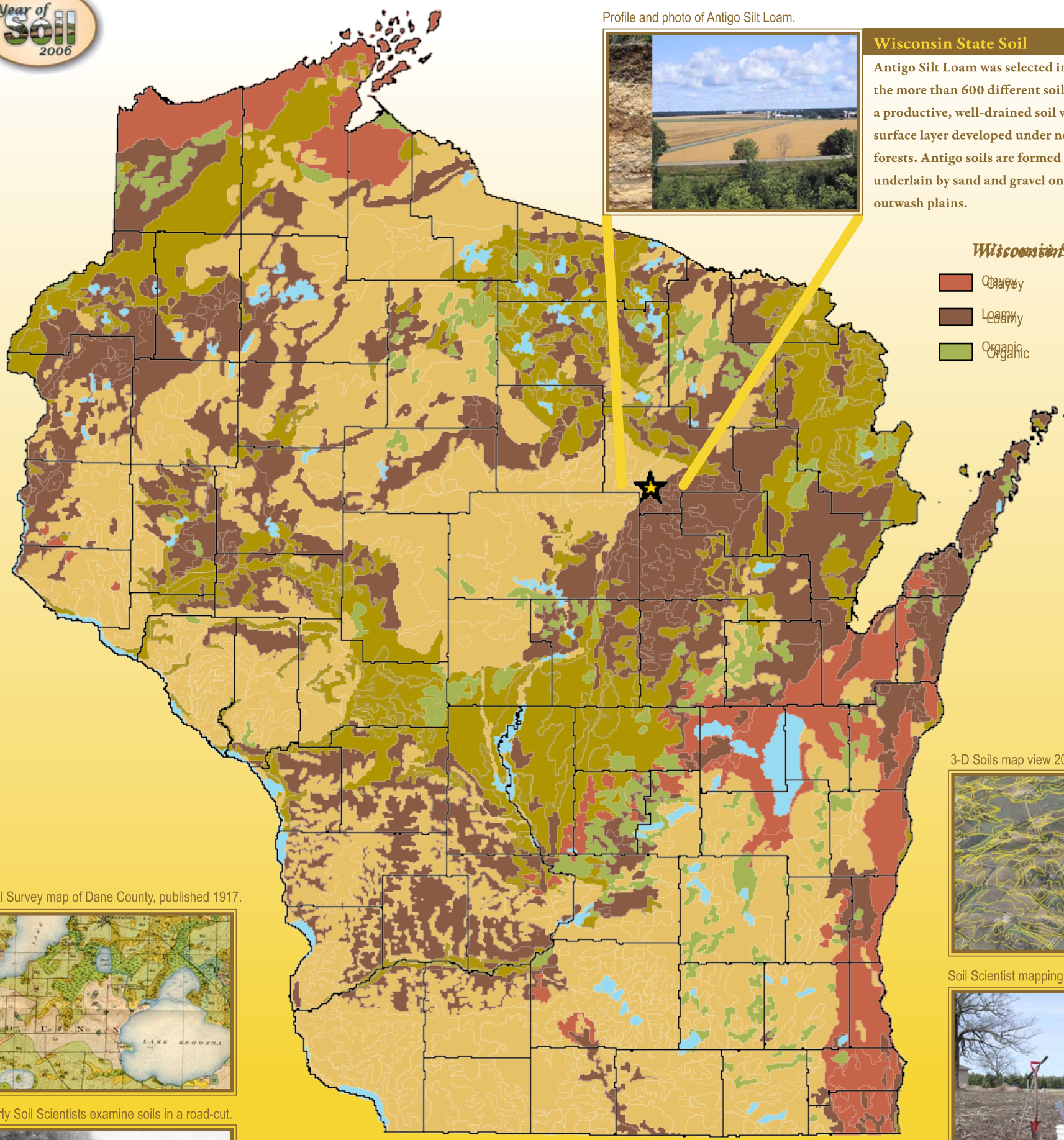
USDA NRCS
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Year of Soil 2006

Wisconsin Year of Soil 2006



Profile and photo of Antigo Silt Loam.

Wisconsin State Soil

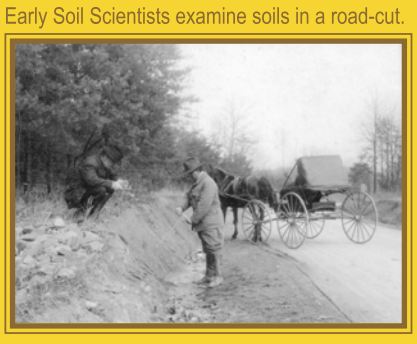
Antigo Silt Loam was selected in 1983 to represent the more than 600 different soils in Wisconsin. It is a productive, well-drained soil with a light-colored surface layer developed under northern hardwood forests. Antigo soils are formed in silty material underlain by sand and gravel on glacial outwash plains.

3-D Soils map view 2006 9x vertical exaggeration

Soil Scientist mapping in the field, 2006.

Soil Survey map of Dane County, published 1917.

Early Soil Scientists examine soils in a road-cut.



Soil Scientist directing digging operations,1960.

Soil Survey map of Dane County, issued 1978.

The Future

The completion of initial field mapping marks the beginning of a new soil survey era in Wisconsin. Soil scientists are working now to:

- Provide training and support for the delivery and use of soils information.
- Update older surveys to modern standards.
- Develop more detailed soil maps and data.
- Collect new soil data to support current and future needs.
- Develop soil ratings to predict the economic and environmental costs, limitations and potentials of soils for a wide variety of new land uses.

- 1899 National Cooperative Soil Survey Begins
- Soil survey field work begins in Wisconsin
- 1907 First soil survey report published
- 1935 Soil Conservation Service established
- 1940 'Modern' soil survey mapping begins
- 1959 First modern soil survey published
- 1965 Soil Taxonomy adopted
- 1983 Antigo Silt Loam named state soil
- 1995 First digital soil survey published
- 2000 State partners with NRCS to accelerate completion of the Wisconsin Soil Survey
- 2006 Initial soil survey completed