



Natural Resources Conservation Service
760 South Broadway
Salina, Kansas 67401-4604

Phone: 785-823-4500
FAX: 785-823-4540
www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov

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SUBJECT: SOI–Soil Survey Conversion Legend

Purpose. To provide information about the conversion of old map unit symbols to numerical symbols

Expiration Date. September 30, 2013

In fiscal year 2004, Kansas initiated the use of numerical soil map unit symbols. This entailed converting the alphabetical or alphanumeric map unit symbol to a four-digit number. In addition, the map unit name was changed in many counties. A soil survey conversion legend shows the conversion between the two different map unit symbol types and map unit name changes.

When the new map unit symbols were implemented, it was decided not to provide a conversion legend to the field offices (FOs) to give them an opportunity to get adjusted to using the numerical symbols. This was not intended to be permanent. As time passed and the FOs became accustomed to using the numerical symbols, there was less of a need for a conversion legend.

Due to a recent policy change, FO staffs conduct highly erodible land (HEL) compliance reviews on fields located in counties other than the county in which they are headquartered. Since the map unit symbols on the frozen soils list are in the old symbol format, FO staffs completing HEL compliance reviews in adjacent counties are not familiar with them. Therefore, the need of a conversion legend is important.

The FOs now has access to this information. The soil survey conversion legends are located in Section II of the electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG). Use the following steps to access the soil survey conversion legend:

1. Open the eFOTG application
2. In Section II, select the "Soils Information" folder
3. Scroll down to locate and select the county of interest
4. Select folder "C. Site Information Reports"
5. Select the "Kansas State Conversion Legend for County"

Contact: Please forward questions and concerns to Cleveland E. Watts, State Soil Scientist/MO Leader, at (785) 823-4558 or cleveland.watts@ks.usda.gov.

(Signed)

ERIC B. BANKS
State Conservationist

DIST: A, F, S