OJT Training Module Cover Sheet

Title: 1209 How to determine soil texture using the Unified Classification System—Overview

Type: ☒ Skill ☐ Knowledge

Performance Objective: Trainee will be able to …

- Determine Unified texture of a soil sample with supervision.
- Understand basic categories of the Unified classification system.

Target Proficiency:
☐ Awareness ☐ Understanding ☒ Perform w/ Supervision
☐ Apply Independently ☐ Proficiency, can teach others

Trainer Preparation:

- Trainer should be familiar with the Unified classification system.
- Assemble a variety of soil textures for demonstration and practice.
- Assemble guide sheets and instructions for identification of Unified textures, including the *Field Book for Describing and Sampling Soils*, NSSH part 618, Unified soil classification.

Special Requirements: None

Prerequisite Modules: None

Notes:
Additional skill development is available in the course "Soil Mechanics Training Series" (NRCS-NEDC-000071) available in AgLearn.

OJT modules related to soil textures and rock fragments that influence texture include modules 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, and 118.

The official methods for determining Unified textures in the field are described in ASTM D2488. Contact your engineering staff for a copy of this document.

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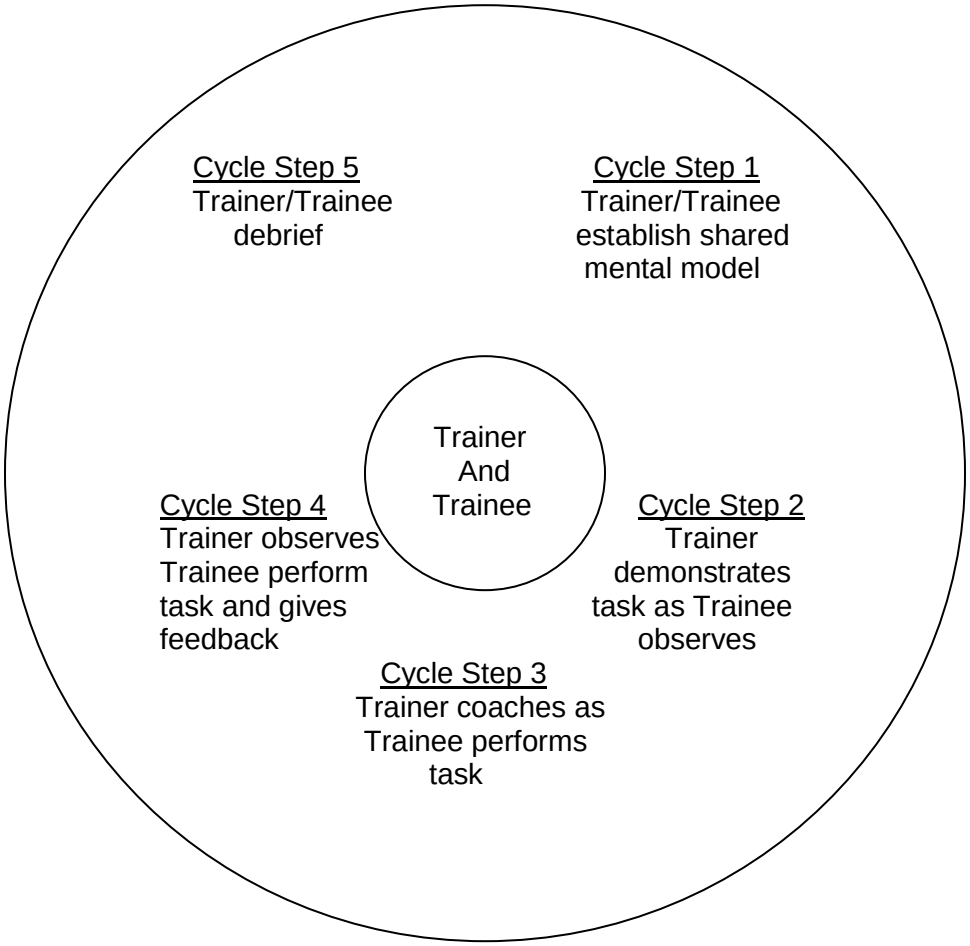
The Five-Step OJT Cycle for Procedural Training (Skill)



OJT Module Lesson

Title: **1209 How to determine soil texture using the Unified Classification System - Overview**	
WHAT	**WHY, WHEN, WHERE, HOW, SAFETY, QUALITY**
OJT Cycle for Skill Step 1	Trainer and trainee should review the objectives of this module. Trainee should review the following materials: • Unified soil classification system, from Wikipedia • Unified_Training_Part_C.pdf (attached) • NSSH part 618 Unified soil classification Unified keying chart (attached) • *Field Book for Describing and Sampling Soils*, focusing on the comparison of particle size classes in different systems in the soil texture section.
OJT Cycle for Skill Step 2	Trainer discusses the purpose of the Unified soil classification system and identifies the customary users of the system. Trainer demonstrates how to determine texture with visual and manual tests in conjunction with the Unified keying chart. Emphasis should be placed first on simply identifying the main divisions of coarse, fine, and organic. Then, classify the texture into group symbols as described in the attached Unified_Training_Part_C.pdf
OJT Cycle for Skill Step 3	Trainer coaches trainee as trainee determines the Unified texture of a sample. Again, emphasis should be placed first on simply identifying the main divisions of coarse, fine, and organic. Then, classify into the group symbols.
OJT Cycle for Skill Step 4	Trainer provides feedback as trainee independently identifies Unified textures. Use samples from correlation trays in the office or visit field locations (road cuts, pits, etc.) to introduce a variety of textures that can be measured.
OJT Cycle for Skill Step 5	Trainer and trainee can debrief the exercise and answer any questions.

OJT Module Lesson Measurement of Learning

Title: **1209 How to determine soil texture using the Unified Classification System - Overview**	
WHAT	**WHY, WHEN, WHERE, HOW, SAFETY, QUALITY**
Trainer observes trainee classify soil textures using the Unified classification system.	Using collected samples and field sites, repeat visual and manual texturing until trainer is satisfied that the trainee can classify textures adequately with supervision.

Performance Report Form

Open attachment: Trainee Performance Report Form template.pdf.