

A Learning Syllabus to Build Competencies in Technical Soil Services

This is a syllabus for use by those in the position of Resource Soil Scientist (or similar titled position), preparing for the position, or providing support to the Technical Soil Services effort. It assumes that the syllabus for all soil scientists was utilized first.

Reading:

National Soil Survey Handbook

Soil Survey Interpretations (Part 617)
Soil Potential Ratings (Part 621)
Technical Soil Services (Part 655)

Recommended Training:

Job Aids and OJT Modules

General educational and training information & materials on the soils.usda.gov website

Overview	<p>http://soils.usda.gov/education/ http://soils.usda.gov/education/training/</p> <p>As a Technical Soil Services provider, the Resource Soil Scientist and others should know where NCSS resources are available. This site provides the information needed.</p> <p>RSS and others should subscribe to NCSS Training News [Subscribe on the training website opening page].</p>
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OJT information & materials on the soils.usda.gov website

Overview	<p>http://soils.usda.gov/education/training/OJT.html</p> <p>As a training provider to non-soil scientists in the Agency, you should be aware of resources available to help you support these training needs. This site provides the information needed specific to OJT.</p> <p>http://soils.usda.gov/education/training/OJT_modules.html</p> <p>OOJT modules for your use with non-soil scientists are found on the NCSS training web pages.</p>
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How to conduct OJT

Overview	<p>Enough said? There are steps to follow to insure training is accomplished and learning maintained. This module provides you with the guidance.</p> <p>ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NSSC/training/conducting_OJT.pdf</p>
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Job Aids on the soils.usda.gov website

Overview	<p>http://soils.usda.gov/technical/aids/</p> <p>As a Technical Soil Services provider, the RSS and others must know what resources are available to assist them in the job at hand. This site helps provide the information needed.</p>
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Instructor guidance & materials on the soils.usda.gov website

Overview	<p>http://soils.usda.gov/education/training/instructor.html</p> <p>As an education provider to non-soil scientist internal and external customers, you should be aware of resources available to help you support these efforts. This site provides the information needed specific to providing instruction, including developing lesson plans and tips for a variety of subject areas that will help you be an effective provider.</p>
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Creating a lesson Plan

Overview	Resources may not always be available for the task you have for educating our external customers. This provides guidance in completing the lesson plan you are developing. ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NSSC/training/create_lesson.pdf
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Creating PowerPoint Presentations

Overview	Ever have a problem watching a PowerPoint presentation? Remember what it was that drove you nuts? Here are some tips to help you avoid the same mistakes. ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NSSC/training/create_powerpoint.pdf Go to Aglearn, initiate a catalog search and use the key word 'powerpoint'. This will provide options to help you with powerpoint development.
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Agency

Workload Analysis Tools

Overview	Tools used in the Management of Soil Survey by MLRA and Technical Soil Services courses as examples of ways to complete a workload analysis. They are found on the page with this link. http://soils.usda.gov/technical/aids/operations/
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Presenting Expert Testimony

Overview	At some point in your career in this job, you may be asked to provide expert testimony. When that time comes, we have a video capturing a lesson given by Jane Cornwell, a lawyer with OGC, to one of our classes. Contact the NSSC to request a copy of the DVD.
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Soil Survey & Databases

Technical Soil Services

Overview	For information, use this link http://www.soils.usda.gov/education/training/descriptions.html#soils
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Advanced Hydric Soils for Soil Scientists

Overview	For information, use this link http://www.soils.usda.gov/education/training/descriptions.html#soils
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NASIS Query & Report Writing

Overview	For information, use this link. http://www.soils.usda.gov/education/training/descriptions.html#database
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Science of Interpretations

Overview	For information, use this link. http://www.soils.usda.gov/education/training/descriptions.html#database
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NASIS Designing and Developing Soil Interpretations

Overview

For information, use this link.
<http://www.soils.usda.gov/education/training/descriptions.html#database>

Soils Applications

Soil Data Access

Overview

For information, use this link and look under "I Want Help With..."
<http://sdmdataaccess.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Other

Dealing with Difficult People in the Workplace

Overview

Go to Aglearn. Initiate a catalog search and use the key words "dealing with difficult people" which will provide you with 2 online courses.

Trainer Skills Workshop

Overview

For information, see Aglearn.

Microsoft Power Point

Overview

A SkillSoft product available to all employees. See description within Aglearn. Other options are usually available locally through community colleges and other sources.