

## Training Curriculum – First Three Years: MLRA Soil Scientist Group

### Preface

The following list is a recommended progression of official trainings grouped within broad career advancement stages. Courses are listed within recommended career timeframes, to which there is no requirement implied, simply a guide to supervisory expectations of job duty skill acquisition with experience.

Elective courses are highly recommended, but not required within the curriculum. Nor are electives limited to those courses listed on this curriculum -- individuals are encouraged to tailor their trainings to fit their needs.

Offerings are not restricted to the level in which they occur and should not be used as a means of determining promotion eligibility.

These curricula do not in any way reflect the training necessary to fulfill the requirements for specific OPM job series, nor do they serve in any way to change the existing OPM-defined requirements for the specific job series.

### MLRA SOIL SCIENTIST TRACK

#### Beginner

##### CORE COURSES

##### Year 1

- Basic Soil Survey – Field and Lab (NRCS-NEDC-000012)
- Conservation Planning, Part 1 (NRCS-NEDC-000019)\*
- An introduction course to ArcGIS or ArcGIS Pro (ESRI Academy)
- Introduction to Field Office Technical Guide (NRCS-NEDC-000149)\*
- NASIS Basic (Guides)
- NRCS Mentor and Protégé Training (NRCS-NEDC-LOCAL-000003)
- Spatial Analysis Workshop (NRCS-NEDC-000271)
- A Map Projections or Coordinate Systems course (ESRI Academy)

##### Year 2

- Cultural Resources Training Series, Part 1 (NRCS-NEDC-000141)
- Digital Soil Survey Data Editing (NRCS-NEDC-000250)
- Introduction to Digital Remote Sensing (NRCS-NEDC-000028)
- Introduction to Image Interpretation (NRCS-NEDC-000275)
- NASIS – Understanding Soil Interpretations (NRCS-NEDC-000279)
- Nitrogen Management and Concerns – No. 2 (NRCS-NHQ-000039)\*
- Overview of water Quality Resource Assessment – No.1 (NRCS-NHQ-000038)\*
- Plant ID (Local and Regional Field Botany Courses)
- Sediment Management for Water Quality – No. 4 (NRCS-NHQ-000041)\*
- Statistics for Soil Survey Part 1 (NRCS-NEDC-000400)
- Water Bodies – No. 5 (NRCS-NHQ-000042)\*

### Year 3

- Cultural Resources Training Series, Part 2 (Offered by state)
- Introduction to Digital Soil Mapping (NRCS-NEDC-000333)
- Learning ARCGIS Spatial Analysis (ESRI Academy)
- Soil Geomorphology Institute (NRCS-NEDC-000110)

\*Note: Courses indicated by asterisk can be replaced by enrollment and successful completion of Conservation Planning Bootcamp (NRCS-NEDC-000164)

### **SELF-STUDY AND ON THE JOB TRAINING (OJT; All recommended to be completed within the first two years of employment with NRCS)**

- National Soil Survey Handbook
  - Part 600 Introduction
  - Part 601 National Cooperative Soil Survey Organization
  - Part 607 Initial Soil Survey Preparation
  - Part 608.1 Responsibilities and Organization
  - Part 614 Applying Soil Taxonomy
  - Part 618 Soil Properties and Qualities
  - Part 622 Ecological and Interpretive Groups
  - Part 627 Legend Development and Data Collection
  - Part 630 Benchmark Soils
  - Part 631 Soil Survey Investigations
  - Part 638 Soil Data Systems
  - Part 639 NASIS
  - Part 647 Soil Map Development
  - Part 649 Land Resource Regions (LRR) and Major Land Resource Areas (MLRA)
  - Part 651 Advanced Soil Survey Information
- Soil Data Access Help
- OJT Modules
  - 001-0025 Map Unit Design and Mapping Soils
  - 101-135 Soil Description
  - 201-214 Soil Classification
  - 301-310 Documentation
  - 401-419 Sampling and Characterization
  - 501-507 Soil Survey Information
  - 601-606 Equipment and Operation

### **RECOMMENDED ELECTIVE COURSES**

#### *Agency Knowledge*

- Basic Field Conservation Orientation (Detail in field service center for 2-3 weeks)
- Orientation for New Employees (NRCS-NEDC-000013)

#### *Basic Skills*

- MS Excel Series (AgLearn Web-based learning)

- Technical Writing in the SPSP (Online)  
*Work Life*
- Emotional Intelligence 2.0 (Audio book USDA-BOOK-49926)
- What is Emotional Intelligence? (AgLearn Web-based learning)