

## Using the NASIS Training Videos—An Outline

These YouTube videos were made by Paul Finnell (retired NRCS soil scientist) in 2013. They reference NASIS 6.3.0 and are typically about 10 minutes long. There have been changes to NASIS since these videos were made. For example, some of the queries run differently and some tables have new or different columns. Any differences should be documented in the [NASIS User Guide \(version 7.x\)](#). However, the videos remain good references for getting started or as a refresher. Data entry guides and instructions are in the [National Soil Survey Handbook](#). The outline below roughly follows the [NASIS User Guide](#) and the recommended viewing order.

*\* Tips: You can speed up or slow down the videos using the video settings. You can also set the video quality to the highest setting for the clearest image. When using a video for a refresher, I prefer to view at 1.25-2x speed. – M. Albers*

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### Orientation to NASIS

*Introduction to features of the NASIS interface. Beneficial for all users. 2 videos, 30 minutes.*

1. [NASIS Ch 2 Navigation](#) – 17:17 minutes
  - a. Pairs with chapter 2 of the user guide: [Chapter 2 – Working with NASIS Windows, Menus and Toolbars](#)
2. [NASIS Ch 3 Objects Part 1](#) – 10:05 minutes
  - a. Pairs with chapter 3 of the user guide: [Chapter 3 – Understanding NASIS Objects, Tables, and Elements](#)
  - b. Reviews links and connections between the objects and Area tables in NASIS
  - c. Diagrams and reports referenced are available at: [NASIS 7.x Metadata | NRCS Soils](#)

## Reviewing Soil Survey Data in NASIS

*Orientation to loading and viewing data in NASIS using soil survey data as an example. Beneficial for all users. 4 videos, 45 minutes.*

3. [NASIS Ch 3 Objects Part 2](#) – 10:23 minutes
  - a. Pairs with chapter 3 of the user guide: [Chapter 3 – Understanding NASIS Objects, Tables, and Elements](#)
  - b. Loads a published soil survey dataset and goes through tables and columns
4. [NASIS Ch 3 Objects Part 3](#) – 8:45 minutes
  - a. Pairs with chapter 3 of the user guide: [Chapter 3 – Understanding NASIS Objects, Tables, and Elements](#)
  - b. Reviews map unit types, National Mapunit Symbol, Object and Record ownership by NASIS Site/NASIS Group, and “Updated By” fields
  - c. Reviews Correlation table and historical/archival fields
5. [NASIS Ch 3 Objects Part 4](#) – 11:03 minutes
  - a. Pairs with chapter 4 of the user guide: [Chapter 4 – Building the Selected Set](#)
  - b. Reviews Data Mapunit, Components, Horizon data, and "Group" tables
6. [NASIS Ch 4 Build Selected Set](#) – 11:57 minutes
  - a. Pairs with chapter 4 of the user guide: [Chapter 4 – Building the Selected Set](#)
  - b. Reviews how the NASIS database is set up—the national server in Kansas City and the local database on users’ computers
  - c. Reviews working in the local database, loading data, clearing data, and writing queries to select certain data and not others

## Customizing the NASIS Interface

*Demonstration of custom table layouts. Beneficial for all users. 3 videos, 30 minutes.*

7. [NASIS Ch 5 Table Layouts Part 1](#) – 10:41 minutes
  - a. Pairs with chapter 5 of the user guide: [Chapter 5 – Understanding Table Layouts and Data Analysis Tools](#)
  - b. Covers navigating parent and child tables, table bands, and column headers; sorting and hiding columns to aid in viewing and editing data; and using right-click menu
8. [NASIS Ch 5 Table Layouts Part 2](#) – 10:59 minutes
  - a. Pairs with chapter 5 of the user guide: [Chapter 5 – Understanding Table Layouts and Data Analysis Tools](#)
  - b. Covers navigating parent and child tables, table bands, and column headers; sorting, resizing, and "best fit"; freezing columns to aid in viewing and editing data; and using "click and drag"
9. [NASIS Ch 5 Table Layouts Part 3](#) – 9:37 minutes
  - a. Pairs with chapter 5 of the user guide: [Chapter 5 – Understanding Table Layouts and Data Analysis Tools](#)
  - b. Covers how to save your table layout, modify it, and select different ones to use

## Editing Soil Survey Data

*Demonstration of editing concepts in NASIS using soil survey data. Beneficial for all users, essential for MLRA staff. 7 videos, 75 minutes.*

*\* Remember: Data entry guides and instructions are in the [National Soil Survey Handbook](#).*

10. [NASIS Ch 6 Editing Concepts Part 1](#) – 10:10 minutes
  - a. Pairs with chapter 6 of the user guide: [Chapter 6 – Overview of Editing Concepts](#)
  - b. Covers NASIS Sites and Groups for ownership, editing, and protecting data
  - c. Covers Checking out data, uploading changes, and checking in; multiple users on single machine
  - d. Covers “P,” “M,” and “C” (for Prior Converted, Manually Entered, and Calculated data); EMPTY fields
11. [NASIS Ch 6 Editing Concepts Part 2](#) – 10:08 minutes
  - a. Pairs with chapter 6 of the user guide: [Chapter 6 – Overview of Editing Concepts](#)
  - b. Covers Table Editor Menu/Icon functionalities; cut, copy, paste, and insert; trees vs. rows
  - c. Covers modifying toolbars, uneditable data, and which data to copy and paste and which to not
12. [NASIS Ch 6 Editing Concepts Part 3](#) – 10:27 minutes
  - a. Pairs with chapter 6 of the user guide: [Chapter 6 – Overview of Editing Concepts](#)
  - b. Covers editing using find/replace, discarding changes, and discard changes in selected trees
  - c. Covers global paste and marking selected rows for deletion
13. [NASIS Ch 7 Area Legend Mapunit DMU Part 1](#) – 10:37 minutes
  - a. Pairs with chapter 7 of the user guide: [Chapter 7 – Examining Area, Legend, Mapunit, and Data Mapunit Objects](#)
  - b. Covers selecting queries to load data, Soil Survey Areas, Legends, and critical legend data for export to Web Soil Survey
14. [NASIS Ch 7 Area Legend Mapunit DMU Part 2](#) – 10:47
  - a. Pairs with chapter 7 of the user guide: [Chapter 7 – Examining Area, Legend, Mapunit, and Data Mapunit Objects](#)
  - b. Reviews loading related records, legend mapunit history, mapunit types, linear and point features, correlation table, mapunit text, Find related (related records between Data Mapunit table and Correlation table), data mapunit table, State interpretations, copy and pasting (do not do it for data mapunits)
15. [NASIS Ch 7 Area Legend Mapunit DMU Part 3](#) – 10:36 minutes
  - a. Pairs with chapter 7 of the user guide: [Chapter 7 – Examining Area, Legend, Mapunit, and Data Mapunit Objects](#)
  - b. Reviews NOT copying DMUs, Find related, Remove Selected Rows from Selected Set, Seq column in any given table, Component table, freeze column, child tables, parent material group, horizon table, aggregated data, interpreted focus, and local phase
16. [NASIS Ch 7 Area Legend Mapunit DMU Part 4](#) – 10:56 minutes
  - a. Pairs with chapter 7 of the user guide: [Chapter 7 – Examining Area, Legend, Mapunit, and Data Mapunit Objects](#)

- b. Reviews Horizon data, Series selection – populating series data in a component, Calculated vs. Manually populated data, and expanding child tables to see more information without magnifying table

## Project Management in NASIS

*Overview of Project Management tools in NASIS. Essential for SPSD staff, beneficial for Technical Team members. 2 videos, 13 minutes.*

*\* Remember: Data entry guides and instructions are in the [National Soil Survey Handbook](#).*

- 17. [NASIS Ch 8 Project Object Part 1](#) – 10:36 minutes
  - a. Pairs with chapter 8 of the user guide: [Chapter 8 – Examining the Project Object](#)
  - b. Reviews management tools in the database, populating the Project object, traditional surveys vs. update survey projects, query parameters for national vs. local queries, child tables populated for a traditional soil survey
- 18. [NASIS Ch 8 Project Object Part 2](#) – 13:00 minutes
  - a. Pairs with chapter 8 of the user guide: [Chapter 8 – Examining the Project Object](#)
  - b. Reviews managing non-traditional soil survey projects, Soil Data Join Recorrelation (SDJR), ecological sites (ES), MLRA mapunits vs non-MLRA mapunits, and child tables

## Reviewing and Editing Point Data in NASIS

*Review of point data in NASIS, such as Pedon descriptions. Beneficial for all users. 5 videos, 75 minutes.*

*\* Remember: Data entry guides and instructions are in the [National Soil Survey Handbook](#).*

- 19. [NASIS Ch 9 Point Object Part 1](#) – 10:43 minutes
  - a. Pairs with chapter 9 of the user guide: [Chapter 9 – Examining the Point Data Objects](#)
  - b. Reviews Site, Pedon, Transect, and Site Association tables; loading data; and importance of consistency in data population
- 20. [NASIS Ch 9 Point Object Part 2](#) – 10:35 minutes
  - a. Pairs with chapter 9 of the user guide: [Chapter 9 – Examining the Point Data Objects](#)
  - b. Reviews the Site Table, Std lat/long, use of metric for elevation (like all data in NASIS), child tables, and site observations
- 21. [NASIS Ch 9 Point Object Part 3](#) – 16:18 minutes
  - a. Pairs with chapter 9 of the user guide: [Chapter 9 – Examining the Point Data Objects](#)
  - b. Reviews the Pedon table, populating Transect first, Pedon Horizon, changes in description conventions over time, child tables, consistency, taxonomy fields, and pedon horizon lab results
- 22. [NASIS Ch 9 Point Object Part 4](#) – 15:36 minutes
  - a. Pairs with chapter 9 of the user guide: [Chapter 9 – Examining the Point Data Objects](#)
  - b. Reviews Transect data and querying and loading it; CTRL for minimizing all child tables; Site Association table (links sites); read descriptions for queries to load all the data; loading Sites connected by a Site Association and related Pedons (need to understand the linkages)
- 23. [NASIS Ch 23 Site Association](#) – 23:40 minutes
  - a. Pairs with chapter 23 of the user guide: [Chapter 23 – Pedon Data Entry Guide](#)

- b. Covers using the Site Association table for managing pedon data, querying for Sites and Site Associations, querying for Pedons, entering data for lab results or other measured properties, entering pedons for the same site but different dates, and linking Pedons and Sites to Site Associations (Video provides a good summary of process steps at the end.)

## Other Objects and Tables in NASIS

*Review of other objects in NASIS. Beneficial for all users. 1 video, 12 minutes.*

- 24. [NASIS Ch 11 Examining other NASIS tables](#) – 11:57 minutes
  - a. Pairs with chapter 11 of the user guide: [Chapter 11 – Examining Other NASIS Tables](#)
  - b. Reviews other tables that make NASIS run: System tables, Type tables – control domains or choice lists in NASIS

## Editing and Review Tools – Calculations and Validations

*Additional tools in NASIS. Beneficial for all users. 1 video, 15 minutes.*

*\* Remember: Data entry guides and instructions are in the [National Soil Survey Handbook](#).*

- 25. [NASIS Ch 12 Calculations and Validations](#) – 15:04 minutes
  - a. Pairs with chapter 12 of the user guide: [Chapter 12 – Examining Calculations and Validations](#)
  - b. Covers calculating data (meant as a guide, not a requirement), running calculations in order, P vs. M vs. C, SQL code of a calculation, and need to always review the data after calculating
  - c. Covers validations – double checking data and error messages

## Technical Soil Services in NASIS

*Beneficial for all users. 1 video, 10 minutes.*

*\* Remember: Data entry guides and instructions are in the [National Soil Survey Handbook](#).*

- 26. [NASIS Ch 22 Technical Soil Services](#) – 10:04 minutes
  - a. Pairs with chapter 22 of the user guide: [Chapter 22 – Technical Soil Services Reporting](#)
  - b. Covers Technical Soil Service table as a management tool and its required fields

## State Soil Scientist – Exporting Data to Web Soil Survey

*Annual soil survey refresh processes. Essential for state soil scientists and assistant state soil scientists helping with the refresh. 2 videos, 21 minutes.*

- 27. [NASIS Ch 17 Export Data Part 1](#) – 13:50 minutes
  - a. Pairs with chapter 17 of the user guide: [Chapter 17 – Exports Explorer](#)
  - b. Covers querying the data, validating the data, and exporting the data to the staging server
- 28. [NASIS Ch 17 Export Data Part 2](#) – 7:10 minutes
  - a. Pairs with chapter 17 of the user guide: [Chapter 17 – Exports Explorer](#)
  - b. Covers working in the staging server

## Additional Videos on NASIS and Database History (in no particular order)

*Additional context and training in NASIS. Beneficial for all users. 4 videos, 2 hours total.*

*\* Remember: Data entry guides and instructions are in the [National Soil Survey Handbook](#).*

29. [Foundation of NASIS data](#) – 30:06 minutes (2013)
30. [Populating NASIS with Precision](#) – 21:07 minutes (2013)
31. [Populating the NASIS database](#) – 24:49 minutes (2015)
32. [Module 02 Role of Databases in Correlation 2015](#) – 43:34 minutes (2015)