

## Agriculture Newsletter

Fall 2018



In this Edition:

### Using the Web Soil Survey

Resource Enhancement And  
Protection (REAP) Program:  
*Applications now available!*

Penn State Extension  
Workshop:

*Profiting from PA Forages*

2018 Annual Bird Seed Sale



## Using the Web Soil Survey

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Web Soil Survey is a free online tool that provides a wealth of information on soils across the nation. Farmers can use it to determine the value of farming a particular field, or what crops would be better suited for a field given the characteristics of the soil.

This article provides a basic, step-by-step guide to help you get started using the program.

### Step 1:

The web soil survey can be found at:

<https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Click on the green circle "Start WSS" to begin.



### Step 2:

This will take you to a map of the U.S. On the left side of the screen, under "Quick Navigation" you can click on "Address" to type in the location of the field you are searching for. Then you'll want to click "view" in order for the map to zoom into your chosen location.

**Step 3:** Once the map is zoomed in to your location, you can move/fine-tune your map using the tools located under “Area of Interest Interactive Map”. Once you have the map centered on the field you want, you will then want to create an “Area of Interest” by clicking on one of the “AOI” icons. You can then draw either an AOI in the shape of a rectangle or a polygon.



Zoom In: click on icon, then click on your field to make it larger



Zoom Out: click on icon, then click on your field to make it smaller



Pan: click on icon, then click and drag your map to move it around

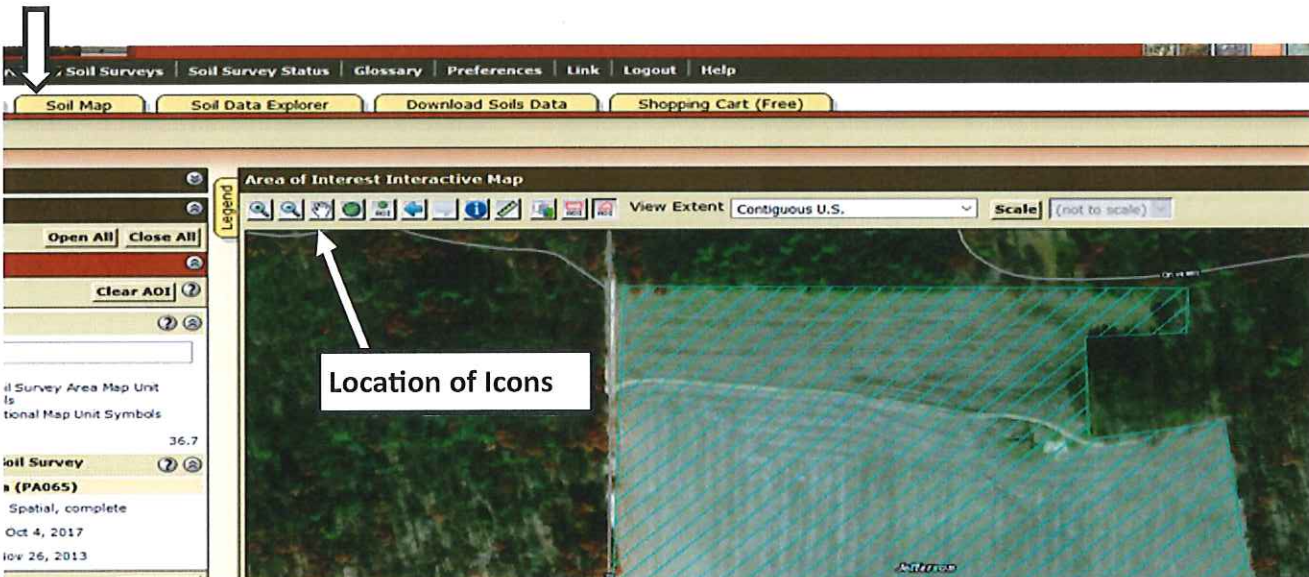


Area of Interest: click on icon, then click and drag to create a rectangle over your field.



Area of Interest: click on icon, then click and draw vertex points to each edge of your field to define the boundary.

**Step 4:** Once you draw an AOI over your field, it will have diagonal lines over it. You will then select the tab labeled “Soil Map” tab near the top left side of the screen to generate a soils map.



**Step 5:** A soil map will be generated; outlining the different soil types of your field in orange. On the left side of the map will be the “Map Unit Legend” telling you the name of the soil, how many acres of your area of interest (field) have that particular soil type, and the percentage of the AOI that has that soil type.

| Map Unit Legend                        |  |              |                |
|--|--|--------------|----------------|
| Jefferson County, Pennsylvania (PA065) |  |              |                |
| Jefferson County, Pennsylvania (PA065) |  |              |                |
| Map Unit Symbol                        | Map Unit Name  | Acres in AOI | Percent of AOI |
| CIB                                    | Clymer channery loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes          | 0.6          | 1.7%           |
| CIC                                    | Clymer channery loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes         | 1.0          | 2.7%           |
| HnB                                    | Hazleton channery sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes  | 33.8         | 90.3%          |
| HnC                                    | Hazleton channery sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes | 2.0          | 5.3%           |
| <b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>     |  | <b>37.4</b>  | <b>100.0%</b>  |





**Step 6:** In the “Map Unit Legend” under “Map Unit Name” you can click on the soil type to obtain detailed information regarding that particular soil. Information includes farmland suitability, elevation, slope, mean annual precipitation, number of frost-free days, and more.

**Report — Map Unit Description**

**Jefferson County, Pennsylvania**  
**HnB—Hazleton channery sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes**

**Map Unit Setting**  
*National map unit symbol: 2ljb9*  
*Elevation: 980 to 2,800 feet*  
*Mean annual precipitation: 35 to 65 inches*  
*Mean annual air temperature: 45 to 55 degrees F*  
*Frost-free period: 110 to 180 days*  
*Farmland classification: All areas are prime farmland*

**Map Unit Composition**  
*Hazleton and similar soils: 80 percent*  
*Minor components: 20 percent*

*Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.*

**Description of Hazleton Setting**  
*Landform: Hillsides or mountainsides*  
*Landform position (two-dimensionally): Backless*

The report generated is just one of many you can produce for your field. There are several other tabs you can click on that provide more specific information. Other tabs include “Suitabilities and Limitations for Use” - this can give you information on soil health and vegetative productivity, and “Soil Properties and Qualities” - this has information on soil erosion factors and water features.



**REAP**

**Contact Megan Whitlatch at the District at 814-849-7463 for assistance completing the REAP application.**

Applications for the Resource Enhancement and Protection Program are now available. REAP guidelines and applications can be found at <http://www.agriculture.pa.gov>, or you can contact the District office.



**Penn State Extension Workshop: Profiting from PA Forages**

**When:** Saturday, September 29, 2018, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**Where:** Wise Cattle Company: 616 Cider Mill Road Punxsutawney, PA 15767

**Registration Deadline:** September 26, 2018

Experts from Penn State Extension Livestock and Agronomy teams will provide unbiased, science-based information on how beef cattle producers can use forages to improve the profitability of their operations. Speakers include Jessica Williamson, Dustin Heeter, and Cheryl Fairbairn

**To register for this FREE event, visit:**

<https://extension.psu.edu/profitting-from-pa-forages>

# 2018 ANNUAL BIRD SEED SALE

## Mail Orders to:

Jefferson Conservation District  
 1514 Route 28  
 Brookville, PA 15825  
 Phone (814) 849-7463  
 Fax (814) 849-0825

**Brookville Pick-up at District Office**  
**Friday – October 19, 2018**  
**8:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

**Punxsutawney Pick-up at VFW Bldg**  
**Friday – October 19, 2018**  
**9:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

*The Jefferson Conservation District is again offering high-quality bird seed to our customers. This sale serves as a major fund-raising activity supporting our environmental education programs. We appreciate your continued support of this fund raiser and remember, the birds appreciate it too.*



**Orders must be Rec'd by: 10/5/18**



|   |             | Price                         | # Bags | Total    |
|---|-------------|-------------------------------|--------|----------|
| <b>Wild Bird Seed Mix</b><br>(Red & White Millet, Milo,<br>Wheat & Sunflower Seeds)                                   | 50 lb. bags | (Tax included)<br>\$22.00/bag | _____  | _____    |
| <b>Wild Bird "Banquet"</b><br>"Our Best Seller"<br>(55% Sunflower, Red & White<br>Millet, Safflower, & Peanut Pieces) | 35 lb. bags | \$21.00/bag                   | _____  | _____    |
| <b>Oil Sunflower Seeds</b><br>Favorite of smaller-beaked birds!   | 25 lb. bags | \$15.00/bag                   | _____  | _____    |
|   |             | <b>TOTAL</b>                  | _____  | \$ _____ |



**Please make check payable to: Jefferson Conservation District**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Pickup: Punxsutawney or Brookville  
 (Please circle one)

