

## Soil Surveys Are Underway In 41 Counties

Harrisburg — State Conservationist Ivan McKeevee, U. S. Soil Conservation Service reported today that 41 percent of the State's agricultural land has been thoroughly checked to determine its suitable uses. The acreage covered by the soil surveys totals over 12 million acres.

Soil surveys the State Conservationist reported, are under way in 41 counties. The

Counties of Erie, Potter, Union, Montour, Northumberland, and Lancaster have been completely surveyed and the county survey reports are now available. The reports may be obtained through the local Soil Conservation Service offices in the above counties.

The soil surveys, McKeevee said, provide a great deal of information used by agricultural workers, land developers, and contractors. The soil depth, erosion, drainage, slope, and other pertinent land factors are included in the reports, McKeevee added.

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## How To Test Your Soil

A soil test is the best method of determining whether a field needs limestone. It is good farming practice to test the soil regularly.

1. How and where to get the soil:
    - a. Take at least 12 samples throughout the field.
    - b. Total soil of all samples collected should be about one quart.
    - c. Take a thin slice of soil down to the following depths:
      - Rotated cropland or where any crop is to be planted — six inches.
      - On fields now in permanent pasture — three inches.
  2. Dry the quart of soil by spreading out on newspaper (do not heat it).
  3. When dry, screen out the stones with a flour sifter or fly screen.
  4. Place remainder in a clean freezer bag or box, or paper carton (do not use a tin can).
  5. Print or write on the container the following:
    - a. Your name and address.
    - b. Field identification.
    - c. Crop for which recommendation wanted.
    - d. Rotation used on the field, if any.
  6. If working under the Agricultural Conservation Program, take the sample to the county agricultural extension office. If not working in the Conservation Program, you can take it to the quarry office of Ivan M. Martin, Inc., Blue Ball, Pa., where your soil will be tested free. Special imprinted bags for soil testing are available either place at no charge.
- A soil test is only as accurate as the soil sample submitted for analysis. The final soil sample must be well mixed, air dried, and free of stones.

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