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Finding Yield Goals in Web Soil Survey (8-15)

Introduction   Expected crop yields, often referred to as "yield goals" are an integral part of making nutrient recommendations for agronomic crops. The preferred method of determining yield goals is averaging actual field-specific yields (best 3 of the last 5 years, for example). If yield records are not available for a specific crop or field, published soil productivity information can be used until adequate yield records are available. The most up-to-date soil productivity information is available from Web Soil Survey (WSS).
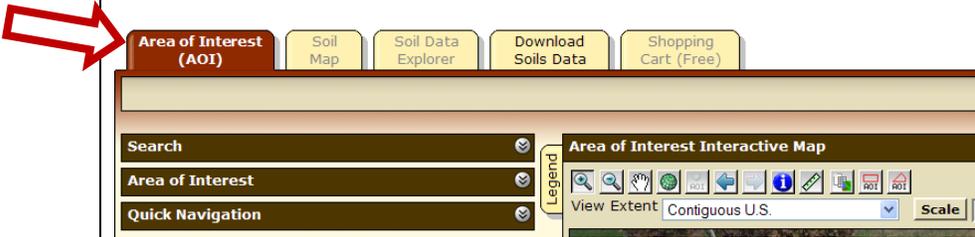
Identifying Yield Goals in WSS   Use the following steps to identify yield goals for fields or crops for which a farmer has no historical record.

Step	Action
1	Log on to the NCSS Web Soil Survey web site at: http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/
2	Click on the "Start WSS" button to begin.
3	Select an Area of Interest (AOI). • Click on the Address tab **OR** click on the State and County tab and enter the required information. • Click on the "View" button.
4	To obtain a closer view of your AOI: • Click on the "Zoom In" button on the tool bar in the map window. • Click, holding mouse down, and drag across the area you wish to enlarge. When mouse is released, area will enlarge for easier viewing.

Step	Action
5	To define the field boundaries: • Click on the "AOI polygon" button on the tool bar in the map window. Area of Interest Interactive Map • Click around the perimeter of the field. • Double-click to complete the polygon. The field selected is identified on the map and the acreage is displayed in the "AOI Information" block on the left side of the screen.

6	Click on the "Soil Data Explorer" tab.
	    • Select the "Suitabilities and Limitations for Use" tab.
	    • Select "Vegetative Productivity" from the list of options on the left.
	    • Select either "Yields of Irrigated Crops (Component)" or "Yields of Non-Irrigated Crops (Component)", depending upon the type of operation.
	    • Scroll down to "Basic Options" and select the crop to be grown.
	    • Scroll down to "Advanced Options" and using the drop down menu:
	        o Set the Aggregation Method to "Dominant Condition".
	        o Set the Tie-break Rule to "Higher."
	    • Click the "View Rating" button.
	
	The table on the right will display the selected crop and units of measure in the title bar. Average crop yield for the selected crop will be listed, by map unit symbol, in the **"Rating"** column. Use the average crop yield for the dominant soil map unit in the field.
	
	Caution – do not use the Crop Productivity Index option as this link has not been populated.

7	Document yield information by printing map and yield table. • Click in "Printable Version" in the upper right portions of the screen. • Select "Custom Subtitle" and in the box below, type in name of field consistent with farm map. • Click "View". • A box will open up with a file containing several pages of information. Print map and yield table. File can be saved at this time also.

Locate a Second Field

At times it will be necessary to determine yields goals on more than one field on a farm. To transition to a second field, follow the steps in the table below.

Step	Action
1	To access the Interactive Map: • Click on the Area of Interest (AOI) tab at the top left side of the screen. (The map displayed will show the field previously selected.)
2	Proceed to Step 2, "Locate the Field" found on page 2. *Note:* Creating a new AOI will remove any previous AOIs, so make sure you have saved the reports you need before proceeding.