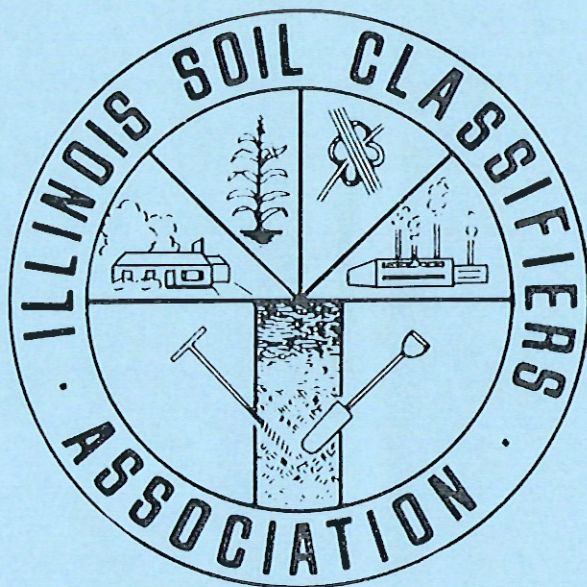


SOILS TOUR

MARION COUNTY, ILLINOIS

SEPTEMBER 27, 1986



Sponsored by

the MARION COUNTY SOIL SURVEY STAFF:

Clifford C. Miles

Tonie J. Endres

Wm. Burke Davies

Andrew V. Gallagher



AGENDA

ISCA SUMMER MEETING

Saturday, September 27, 1986

10:30 a.m. Council meeting

11:30 a.m. Potluck lunch

12:30 p.m. General membership meeting

1:00 - Soils tour to two sites -

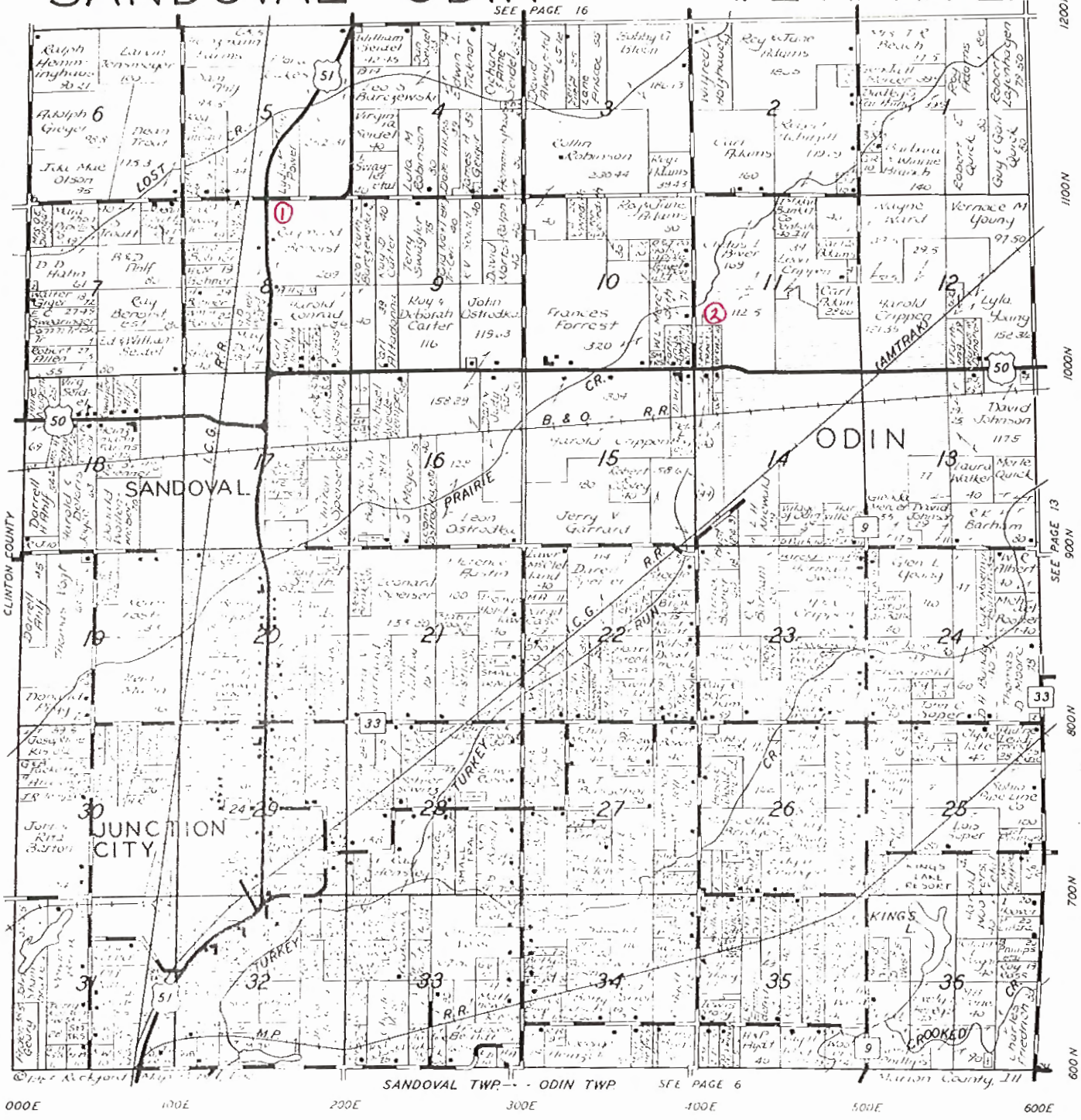
3:00 p.m.

Stop 1 Introduction & Comments - Clifford C. Miles

Examine and discuss soils damaged by oil brine  
spills - led by Wm. Burke Davies and Andrew V.  
Gallagher

Stop 2 Examine and discuss the occurrence and properties  
of sodium soils ("slicks") - led by Tonie J. Endres





# RAKER'S ELEVATOR, INC.

- DRY - LIQUID FERTILIZERS • AG - CHEMICALS • CUSTOM SPREADING & SPRAYING
- BIG "A" FLOATER • GRAIN • PURINA FEEDS • ROCK - LIME
- FIELD SEEDS

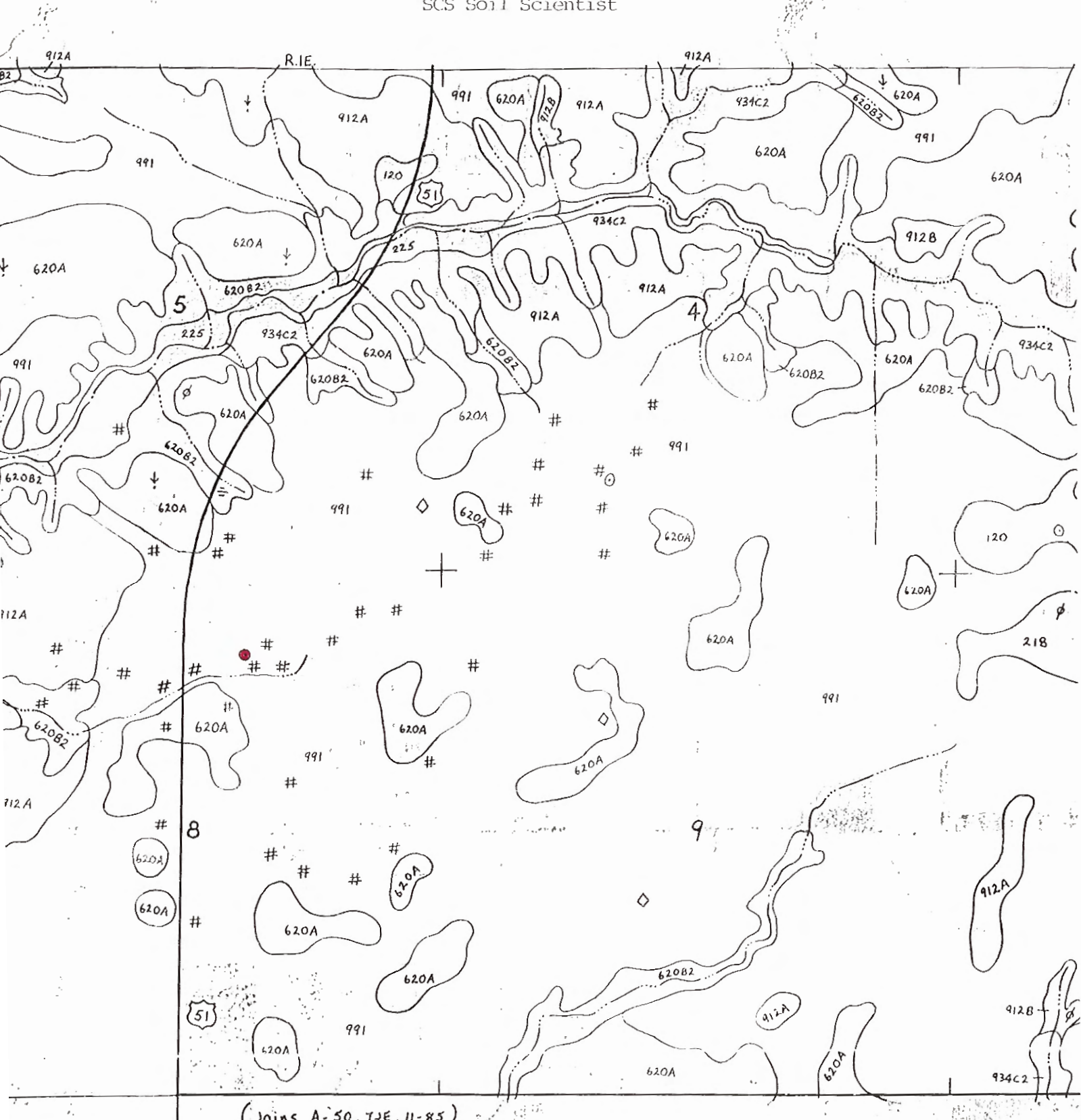
Bartelso: 765-2116

Carlyle: 594-2223

Sandoval: 247-3661

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Mapped by Tonic J. Endres  
SCS Soil Scientist



(JOINS A-50, TJE, 11-85)



## OIL BRINE - SPECIAL PROJECT, LITERATURE REVIEW

There are forty six counties in Illinois that have had oil production beginning in 1888. Previous estimates of total oil brine damage in Illinois range from 3500<sup>4</sup> acres to 380,000 acres<sup>5</sup>. An estimate of 3500 acres damaged is certainly too low since the three counties which ranked eleventh, thirteenth, and fifteenth in oil production in 1981, have a measured area of 2477 acres of barren land due to oil brine damage areas<sup>1</sup>. In 1981 Marion County ranked second in the state in oil production and out-produced the three counties mentioned above by one million barrels of oil. The size of the oil field brine damaged areas ranges from ten acres and larger to an acre or less.

The brine from oil fields contains high concentrations of sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, chloride, bicarbonate, and sulfate ions. Recorded concentrations of 30,500 mg/liter of chloride and 16,000 mg/liter of sodium have been found in brine pits on Southern Illinois soils. Concentrations of 1,600 mg/liter of sodium and 19,000 mg/liter of chloride ions are common in sea water<sup>1</sup>. Brine contains between 3,600 ppm and 5,300 ppm total dissolved salt which is equivalent to 1.5 to 2.3 pounds of salt in a 55 gallon drum of water<sup>5</sup>. The basic problem with salt-saturated spill areas is that the soil becomes relatively compact and impermeable, which prevents rain water from flushing the displaced sodium down and out of the root zone.

When the brine is taken up by plants, the capacity of plant cells to take up and hold water is reversed, and the plant withers and dies. Seeds will not germinate in such conditions. The sodium, after entering the soil, causes soil structure degradation and the soil loses some of its available water holding capacity and natural cohesiveness. This results in a soil that erodes more quickly. In a study conducted in Hamilton County, Illinois, the average rate of erosion of 36 randomly sampled oil brine damaged areas was estimated to be 6.7 times the average rate of erosion on agricultural lands in the county<sup>2</sup>. Deep gullies quickly form in areas with moderate slopes. Many of these affected areas remain barren of vegetation or partly barren and erode at a high rate for thirty years or more<sup>6</sup>. Natural leaching will lower salt concentration gradually which may result in the establishment of salt tolerant grasses. Further leaching could result in a natural progression of salt tolerant species over decades of time.

The oil brine affected areas are conspicuous and are resistant to healing through natural processes<sup>3</sup>. The past reclamation practices for these areas have consisted mainly of achieving an acceptable pH level by adding lime or gypsum. Organic matter is important for improving soil structure and permeability. Straw, manures, sewage sludge have been used to add organic matter to the soil. In some cases, areas have been tilled to aid in removing the sodium from the soil profile. A combination of improving soil pH, adding organic matter, and tiling has had the best results.



Literature Review

1. Greater Egypt Regional Planning and Development Commission, Brine Damaged Survey Procedures. Publication No. GERPDC 83-631, 1982.
2. Greater Egypt Regional Planning and Development Commission, An overview of Oil Field Brine Problems, in Three Illinois Counties. Publication NO. GERPDC 82-626, 1982.
3. Charles Pardee, Executive Vice President, Oil and Gas Association, Private Comm. 1982.
4. Bernard Podosky, "Reclamation of Oil Brine Damaged Soil," December 13, 1984.
5. R. P. Schmerbauch, "Restoring Salt Damaged Soils," Second Midwest Oil and Gas Symposium of the Society of Petroleum Engineers, March, 1974.
6. Wendy Blake Coleman and Douglas A. Crandall, Illinois Oil Field Brine Disposal Assessment, Phase II, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, November, 1981.

William Burke Davies  
Marion County Soil Scientist



1            2  
SITE AND PEDON DESCRIPTION

SOIL TYPE: Oil Brine Damaged Soil

MAP UNIT: 991

CLASSIFICATION: Fine, Montmorillonitic,  
Mesic Typic Albaqualf

FILE NO:            STOP NO:

PEDON NO: 85IL121-52 1 - 6

QUADRANGLE: Fairman

COUNTY: Marion County, Illinois

FIELD SHEET: Atlas 43

MLRA: 113

LOCATION: Approx. 1,716 ft. North and 594 ft. East of the center of  
Sec. 8 NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 8, T2N, R1E.

N. VEG. (OR CROP): Void of vegetation.

PARENT MATERIAL: Loess and silty erosional sediments.

PHYSIOGRAPHY: Broad Illinoian till plain

SLOPE: 1%

ASPECT: --

DRAINAGE: Poor

GROUND WATER: Greater than 60"

PERMEABILITY: Very slow

MOISTURE: Moist

EROSION: Class 3 severe

STONINESS: --

pH METHOD: LaMotte

% CLAY: 39%

SAMPLED BY: WBD, TJE September 4, 1985

% COARSER THAN VFS: --

DESCRIBED BY: CCM, TJE, WBD  
September 24, 1985

% COARSE FRAG. --

Evaluation:

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

1. Site is located East of US 51 near intersection of RD 300 N.



OIL BRINE DAMAGED SOIL  
85IL121-52-1 to 6

- Ap- 0 to 7 inches; grayish brown (10YR 5/2) silt loam, light gray (10YR 7/2) dry; common medium prominent strong brown (7.5YR 5/6) mottles; weak very fine and thin platy structure in the upper part changing to weak fine angular blocky in the lower part; friable; few distinct light gray (10YR 7/2) silt coatings on the faces of peds and common distinct dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) organic coatings on faces of peds; many fine and medium rounded dark nodules (iron and manganese oxide); extremely acid; clear smooth boundary.
- Btg1- 7 to 12 inches; grayish brown (10YR 5/2) silty clay loam, common fine faint light brownish gray (10YR 6/2) and many medium and coarse prominent yellowish red (5YR 4/6) mottles; moderate fine prismatic structure parting to moderate medium angular blocky; firm; many faint dark gray (10YR 4/1) clay films on the faces of peds and many light gray (10YR 7/2) silt coatings on faces of peds; common fine medium rounded dark nodules (iron and manganese oxide); very strongly acid; abrupt smooth boundary.
- Btg2- 12 to 20 inches; light brownish gray (10YR 6/2) silty clay; many medium prominent yellowish red (5YR 4/6) and strong brown (7.5YR 5/6) mottles; strong medium prismatic structure parting to moderate coarse angular blocky; very firm; few very fine roots; many prominent very dark gray (10YR 3/1) and dark gray (10YR 4/1) clay films on faces of peds; few fine and medium rounded dark nodules (iron and manganese oxide); very strongly acid; clear smooth boundary.
- Btg3- 20 to 31 inches; light brownish gray (10YR 6/2) silty clay loam; many medium prominent strong brown (7.5YR 5/6) mottles; moderate medium prismatic structure parting to moderate coarse angular blocky; firm; few very fine roots; many distinct gray (10YR 5/1) and dark gray (10YR 4/1) clay films on faces of peds; common fine and medium rounded dark nodules (iron and manganese oxide); very strongly acid; clear smooth boundary.
- Btg4- 31 to 37 inches; light brownish gray (2.5Y 6/2) silty clay loam; many medium prominent strong brown (7.5YR 5/6) mottles; weak medium prismatic structure; firm; few fine and very fine roots; common faint gray (10YR 5/1) clay films on faces of peds; many fine and medium rounded dark nodules (iron and manganese oxide); strongly acid; gradual smooth boundary.
- 2BCg- 37 to 60 inches; mixed very dark gray (2.5Y 3/1) and dark gray (2.5Y 4/1) silty clay loam; common medium and coarse prominent strong brown (7.5YR 4/6) and common medium and coarse dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/4) mottles; weak medium prismatic structure parting to weak very coarse and thick platy; firm; few fine and very fine roots; common distinct very dark gray (2.5YR 3/1) clay films on vertical faces of peds; common fine and medium rounded dark nodules (iron and manganese oxide); about 1 percent by volume fine and medium gravel; about 20% sand; neutral.



NCT DESIGNATED

MARION COUNTY, ILLINOIS

DATE PRINTED 05/20/86

PAGE

SAMPLED AS: FINE, MONTMORILLONITIC, MESSIC TYPIC ALPAQUALE  
S 851L-121 -052

SAMPLE NO. 96P1429-1437  
PEDON NO. 86P 246  
PROJECT NO. 36P 44

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF  
SOIL CONSERVATION  
NATIONAL SOIL SURVEY  
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

PROJECT: OIL BRINE

GENERAL METHODS 1B1A, 2A1, 2B

-1- -2- -3- -4- -5- -6- -7- -8- -9- -10- -11- -12- -13- -14- -15- -16- -17- -18-

DEPTH (CM)	HORIZON	CLAY LT	SILT *002	SAND *05	FINE LT	CO3 LT	FINE COARSE	VF	F	M	C	VC	WEIGHT
15	0-18 AP	17.3	74.1	8.6	42.8	31.4	1.4	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.7	1	TR
25	18-30 3TG1	29.2	66.2	4.6	37.9	28.3	1.2	1.5	1.1	0.6	0.2	TR	--
35	30-79 BTG3	37.9	56.9	5.2	33.7	23.2	1.2	1.6	1.5	0.7	0.2	TR	--
45	94-152 ZBC	26.4	55.2	20.4	26.5	29.7	4.5	8.9	5.8	1.7	0.4	TR	--

OPGN	TOTAL	EXTR	TOTAL	(-DITH-CIT	(-RATIO/CLAY)	(ATTERBERG	(-BULK DENSITY	(-COLE	(-WATER CONTN						
C	N	P	S	FE AL MN	CFC BAR	LL PI	MCIST BAR DRY	SOIL MOIST	PAR BAR						
NO. 6A1C	6R3A	6C2B	6G7A	4D2A	8D1	8D1	4F1	4F	4A3A	4A1D	4A1H	4D1	4R4	4B1C	4R1D
<-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

1	0.50	0.50	0.55
2	0.39	0.58	0.53
3	0.34	0.70	0.52
4	0.16	0.71	0.50

\*\*\* CONTINUATION ON NEXT PAGE \*\*\*

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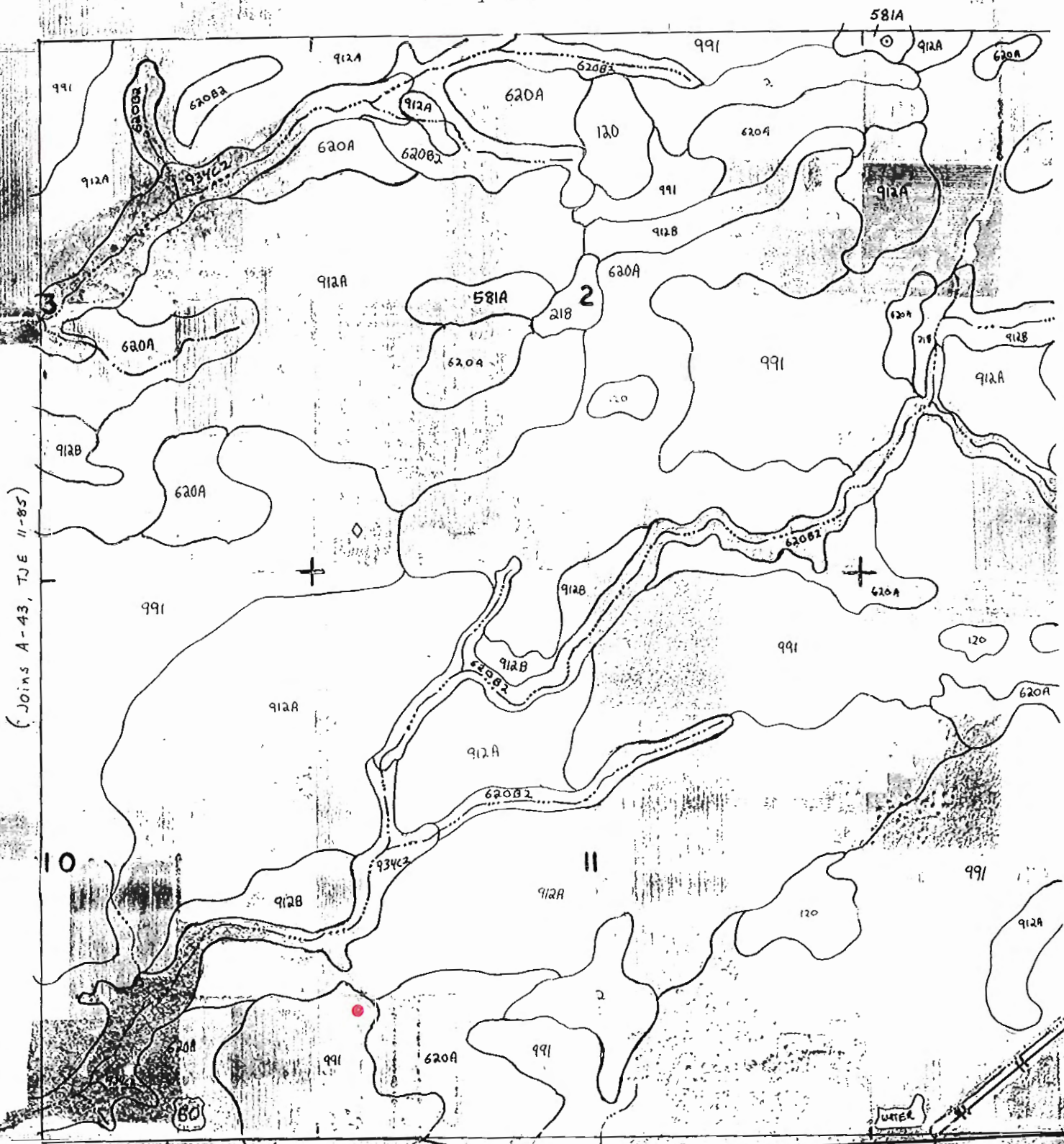




STOP 2

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Mapped by Wm. Burke Davies  
County Soil Scientist





## SODIUM SOILS

Sodium soils, commonly called "slick spots" or "scalds", are extensive in south-central and western Illinois. These soils have a characteristic morphology and have a natric horizon. A natric horizon, as defined in Soil Taxonomy, is a special kind of argillic horizon that has prismatic or columnar structure, and more than 15 percent saturation with exchangeable sodium (Soil Survey Staff, 1975).

The high content of sodium and very slow permeability in the subsoil results in moisture stress during dry periods and excess moisture during wet periods. The sodium restricts the availability and uptake of some plant nutrients. In addition, the high content of sodium causes dispersion of the clay, resulting in an unfavorable medium for root development.

In Marion County, three sodium soils have been identified: Huey, Darmstadt, and Tamalco. The pH of the natric horizon in these soils ranges from neutral to moderately alkaline. In some areas, Huey and Darmstadt soils are closely intermingled on the landscape with soils that have an acid subsoil and are mapped as a complex. Cisne-Huey silt loams (991) is an extensive map unit on broad, nearly level parts of the till plain. Hoyleton-Darmstadt silt loams, 0 to 2 percent slopes (912A) and 2 to 5 percent slopes (912B) are common on convex ridges on the till plain. In other areas, the sodium soils can be identified and delineated as consociations: Huey silt loams (120); Darmstadt silt loams, 0 to 3 percent slopes (620A) and 3 to 6 percent slopes, eroded (620B2); and Tamalco, 1 to 3 percent slopes (581A).

The genesis of sodium soils in Illinois is as complex as it is interesting. Fehrenbacher et al (1966) and Wilding et al (1963) have detailed the processes and factors involved in their formation. The sodium in these soils originated from the weathering of sodium feldspars in the loess. On sloping areas along drainageways, the occurrence of sodium soils is generally related to lateral seepage of groundwater. On nearly level landscapes, the occurrence of sodium soils is related to the permeability of the underlying glacial till. The till underlying the sodium soils is more permeable than the till underlying the associated non-sodic soils. As described by Fehrenbacher et al (1966), during early stages of sodium soil development, percolating water was channeled through the loess and toward the more permeable till. Sodium,



calcium, magnesium, and other products of weathering, were carried in solution by the percolating water. As a result of low CO<sub>2</sub> pressures and low moisture in the lower part of the loess, calcium and magnesium precipitated to form carbonate concretions. As the sodium concentration increased, the B horizon became less permeable as the clay was increasingly dispersed by the sodium. During advanced stages of sodium soil development, percolating water was diverted by the very slow permeability in the natric horizon and channeled instead through the associated non-sodic soils.

#### LITERATURE CITED

Fehrenbacher, J.B., R.T. Odell, P.E. Johnson, and B.A. Jones, Jr. 1966. Natric soils in Illinois. Illinois Research. University of Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station.

Soil Survey Staff. 1975. Soil taxonomy, a basic system of soil classification for making and interpreting soil surveys. USDA Handb. 436. U.S. Government Printing Office. Washington, D.C.

Wilding, L.P., R.T. Odell, J.B. Fehrenbacher, and A.H. Beavers. 1963. Source and distribution of sodium in solonetic soils in Illinois. Soil Sci. Soc. Am. Proc. 27:432-438.

Tonie J. Endres  
Soil Scientist, SCS  
President-Elect, ISCA







RI ZON	DEPTH	FAIRFA COLOR	TEXTURE	MOTTLES	STRUCTURE	SISTENCE	ROOTS	PORES	COATINGS	ENTRA TIONS	ROCK FRAG	REAC TION	BOUN DARY
Ap1	0-3"	dry 10YR 6/3 10YR 4/2	sil	-	1msbk and 1mafgr	fr	3vfa-f		-	C1x2r-irm	-	6.6	CS
Ap2	3-6"	dry 10YR 6/3 10YR 5/2	sil	-	2vfa-fp1	fr	2vfa-f		-	C1x2r-irm	-	7.2	as
Bt	6-10"	10YR 5/3	sicl	C2f 10YR 6/2 C2d 10YR 5/6	2mpr 2mabk	fi	2vfa-f	(dry) 2d 10YR 7/2 sic-pf 3d 10YR 4/2 cf-pf		C1x2r-irm	-	7.4	CW
Bt <sub>g1</sub>	10-27"	10YR 5/2	hsicl	C2f 10YR 6/2 C1x2f 7.5YR 4/6	1mpr	h	2vfa-f	(dry)		C3ir-CS ACN C1x2r-irm	-	8.0	CW
Bt <sub>g2</sub>	27-45"	10YR 6/2	hsicl	C2p 7.5YR 4/6	1mACpr 2Cobk	h	1vf	(dry)		C3ir-CS ACN C2ir-irs	-	7.8	CW
2Bt <sub>g3</sub>	45-60"	10YR 5/2	sicl	C2x3p 7.5YR 4/6 x 5/6	1mACpr	fi	-	2d 10YR 5/1 x 4/1 cf-pf		C3ir-CS ACN C2x3ir-irs	10% fmg	7.6	-

Huey silt loam  
901







RIZON	DEPTH	MATRIX COLOR	TEXTURE	MOTTLES	STRUCTURE	SISTENCE	ROOTS	PORES	COATINGS	CONCENTRATIONS	ROCK FRAG	REACTION	BOUNDARY
Ap 2	0-9"	dry 10YR 5/2 10YR 3/2	sil	-	1mgr ^ 1msbk grading to 2mpl	fr	3f		-	-	-	6.6	as
Eg1	9-14"	10YR 5/2	sil	cid 10YR 5/4	1mpl	fr	2f		-	cl-ins	-	5.8	as
Eg2	14-19"	10YR 6/2	sil	cid 10YR 5/4	1cpl	(dry) h	1f		3d 10YR 7/1 sic-pf	cl-ins	-	4.8	as
B/E	19-21"	B 10YR 5/2 E 10YR 7/1	sic1 si	2p 5YR 4/6 ^ 7.5YR 5/6	2fmsbk	fi ^ fr	2f		4p 10YR 3/2 cf-vpf 4d 10YR 3/2 ^ 4/2 cf-hpf	-	-	5.0	as
Btg1	21-29"	10YR 5/2	1sic	m2+3p 5YR 4/6 ^ 7.5YR 5/6	3macpr 2macabk	vfi	2f v f		3d 10YR 4/2 ^ 3/2 cf-pf	-	-	5.4	cs
Btg2	29-39"	10YR 5/2	hsic1	m2+3p 7.5YR 5/6	2macpr 2macabk	vfi	2v f		3d 10YR 5/2 cf-pf	-	-	5.6	cs
2Btg3	39-50"	10YR 5/2	sic1	m2+3p 7.5YR 5/6 ^ 10YR 5/4	1macsbk	fi	1v f		3f 10YR 5/2 cf-pf	cl-ins	1% fg	5.8	gs
2BCg	50-60"	10YR 5/2	cl	m3p 7.5YR 5/6	1csbk	fi	-		1f 2.5Y 6/2 cf-pf 3f 10YR 7/1 sic-pf	cl-ins	2% fg	6.2	-

Cisne silt loam

991



