

NRCS to Host Soils Workshops

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is hosting a series of half-day workshops around Vermont in April and May for soil survey users and interested parties. The meetings will introduce the latest innovations in soil science and technology and will serve as listening sessions to learn of questions, concerns, or needs regarding the soils information -Vermont NRCS currently provides and to get input on the future direction of the Vermont soil resource program. The NRCS staff is seeking feedback from natural resource professionals who use soil maps and data frequently, and also from the general public with little knowledge of soils.

Each workshop runs from 8:30am to 12:30pm, with registration from 8:30 to 9:00. The meeting locations and schedule are:

- Burlington, Tuesday, April 8 - ECHO Center, Community Room, 1 College Street, Burlington.
- White River Junction, Thursday, April 10 - Comfort Suites, Vermont Room, 102 Ballardvale Drive (on Route 5 across from the VA Hospital), White River Junction.
- Brattleboro, Tuesday, April 15 - Marlboro College Technology Center, Room 2 East, 28 Vernon Street, Brattleboro.
- Rutland, Thursday, April 17 - Franklin Conference Center at the Howe Center (Richardson Room), One Scale Avenue (off Strongs Avenue), Rutland.
- Montpelier, Wednesday, May 21 – Woodbury College, Training Space Room, 660 Elm Street, Montpelier.

Each meeting is free and open to all, but space is limited - please RSVP to Martha Stuart at 802-295-7942, x.28 or Martha.stuart@vt.usda.gov, with your name and preferred meeting location. For more information, go to <http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/Soils/index.html>

Soil scientists with the Vermont NRCS provide indoor and in-the-field training about soils; develop and maintain soil maps, interpretations, and attribute data; support the state information on the Web Soil Survey (WSS) and Soil Data Mart; conduct soil monitoring in relation to forest soil productivity, carbon sequestration, and soil temperature; collect data on phosphorus levels in soils to help quantify the impact to Lake Champlain from sediment pollution, and other environmental concerns. NRCS is currently conducting soil mapping in Essex County, the only county in the state without soil maps, using cutting-edge remote sensing technology.