

## Using the Web Soil Survey online tool to understand Vegetative Productivity

This tool is similar to Google Earth, except that it's not nearly as user friendly. Don't give up thought when you try it out because it does allow generating very useful information for your property.

The general methodology is as follows:

- 1) Locate your property (using your address is probably the easiest way)
- 2) Zoom so that you can see your whole place on the screen
- 3) Create an Area of Interest (AOI) border around your property. Do this on the Area of Interest (AOI) tab.

Usually you can use existing fence lines and other land marks to see where property lines are. You can use the rectangle AOI drawing tool or the polygon AOI drawing tool. Once you've got your lines drawn, save the AOI.

- 4) Move to the Soil Data Explorer tab. This will show you the soil type boundaries overplotted on your AOI.
- 5) Still on the Soil Data Explorer tab, go to the "Soil Reports" tab and choose "Vegetative Productivity".

There are lots of options here. I'd recommend "Non-Irrigated Yields by Map Unit". This will allow you to choose several Crop options, including Pasture. Once you've made your selections, choose "View Soil Report". This will generate a table showing yields (per acre) for each of the soil types in your AOI.

Note: the unit for Grazing is Animal Unit Months (AUM) and is listed per-acre.

- 6) Saving your Report

You can view a Printable Version of the Soil Report (and print it directly from your machine) or use the Shopping Cart option to have a standalone PDF file generated for you. The Shopping Cart option is FREE. The report that you get by using the Shopping Cart is very professional looking, with a cover page and all the information you've selected. You could include a whole bunch of stuff, including anything from the Soil Reports list, such as Soil Chemical Properties, Soil Physical Properties, etc.

A more detailed step-by-step instruction document is available from the WSU Stevens County Extension office.