

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Soil and Plant Science Division

Soil Survey Region 5 Office



Pueblo MLRA Soil Survey Office

Annie's Projects Empower Women in Farming and Ranching

Purpose

"Annie's Project—Education for Farm Women" is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing educational programs (*Annie's Projects*) designed to strengthen women's roles in the modern farm enterprise. Classes are currently taught in 33 States. Annie's Projects foster problem-solving, record-keeping, and decision-making skills in farm women. Further information is available at <https://www.anniesproject.org/>.

The mission of Annie's Project is to empower farm women to be better business partners by developing networks and by managing and organizing critical information. Annie's Project provides education on production risks, price and market risks, financial risks, institutional and legal risks, and human and personal risks.

Annie's Project in La Junta, Colorado, is a 6-week program held at Otero Community College. Web Soil Survey was the topic on January 30. The objectives for the 20 women attending were to identify their farms, understand the soil resources they have, and learn how to use this information. The participants learned about soil surveys, including how they are made, what information is available, and how to locate the soils information for their farm or ranch in Web Soil Survey.



Annie's Project participants learning about and using Web Soil Survey at Otero Community College, La Junta, Colorado.

A soil survey describes the characteristics of the soils in a given area, classifies the soils according to a standard system of taxonomy, plots the boundaries of the soils on a map, stores soil property information



in an organized database, and makes predictions about the suitability and limitations of each soil for multiple uses as well as their likely response to management systems.

Web Soil Survey is the official soils data repository. It provides online access to soils information, soil maps, soil descriptions, and suitability and limitation reports. Web Soil Survey can be used for general farm, local, and wider area planning. Onsite investigation is needed in some cases, such as soil quality assessments and certain conservation and engineering applications. It is very important to know the soil type before any land use decisions are made and thereby to use the soil resource wisely and avoid costly mistakes.

Soil surveys are needed for community planning and resource development, protecting and improving the quality of the environment, meeting recreational needs, conserving land and water resources, and reducing pollution from sediment.

Key Outcomes

The training provided 20 participants with experience using the Web Soil Survey and soil survey information. Web Soil Survey supports conservation planning by providing to the public the tools NRCS has developed for that specific purpose. It supports our customers by pinpointing their properties and providing data and maps on soils and their suitabilities for specific crops, engineering projects, ranching interests, ecological sites, and many other topics. It is one of many ways we at NRCS help people help the land.

