



Planned Workshops on Using fGIS to Display Images and Soils

22 September, 2005

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In previous columns I have discussed a free GIS (geographic information systems) program called fGIS. The program works well to overlay soil maps on aerial images and field boundaries. Detailed instructions to use fGIS with digital soils and aerial photograph that can be downloaded from the NDSU Geospatial Technology Education web site at <http://134.129.78.3/geospatial>. To download the step-by-step instructions from the web site, navigate to GIS Educational Material and fGIS Software. These instructions also explain how to get free downloads of the digital county soils for any county in the United States, and National Agricultural Images Program (NAIP) aerial photographs for all of North Dakota. Similar aerial photographs for counties in other states can be purchased online at <http://www.apfo.usda.gov/NAIP.html>, or by mail from Aerial Photography Field Office, 2222 West 2300 South, Salt Lake City UT 84119-2020

Like all GIS computer programs I have used, fGIS requires some time and effort to learn. I will offer three-hour workshops on using fGIS with digital soils and NAIP aerial images during November and December at various North Dakota locations. In order to facilitate locations for the workshops, interested participants should contact the Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Department at NDSU. If you are interested in attending an fGIS workshop send an email to Lori at Lori.Sholts@ndsu.nodak.edu or telephone 701-231-7261. Please include the name of your community. We will announce dates and locations based on the email and telephone responses.

The workshops will provide participants hands-on experience with fGIS working with digital soils and NAIP imagery. We will attempt to conduct the workshops at locations with high speed Internet connections that will allow participants to download both the soils and imagery during the workshops. Portable computers will be available for use by each participant.

More information about geospatial technology is available from the NDSU Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Department Web site at www.ageng.ndsu.nodak.edu. Follow the links to Extension programs and geospatial technology education.