OJT Training Module Cover Sheet

Title: 015 How to use a soils key for your soil survey area.

Type: **X** Skill ☐ Knowledge

Performance Objective: Trainee will be able to:

- Use the MLRA SSO soils key for the soil survey area.
- Provide maintenance to the existing key on an as-needed basis.

Target Proficiency:

☐ Awareness ☐ Understanding ☐ Perform w/ Supervision
X Apply Independently ☐ Proficiency, can teach others

Trainer Preparation:

- Have access to MLRA SSO keys to soils or various statewide soils keys. Make sure the soils key is up to date.
- Have several pedon descriptions, with site and soil data, from any source available with soil name blocked or removed.

Special Requirements:

Initiate an external learning request with a SF-182 in Aglearn for this activity. Instructions and a template are located on the training webpages for OJT modules.

Prerequisite Modules:

None

Notes:

Additional skill development is available in the following OJT Module:

- 016 How to develop a soils key for your soil survey area.

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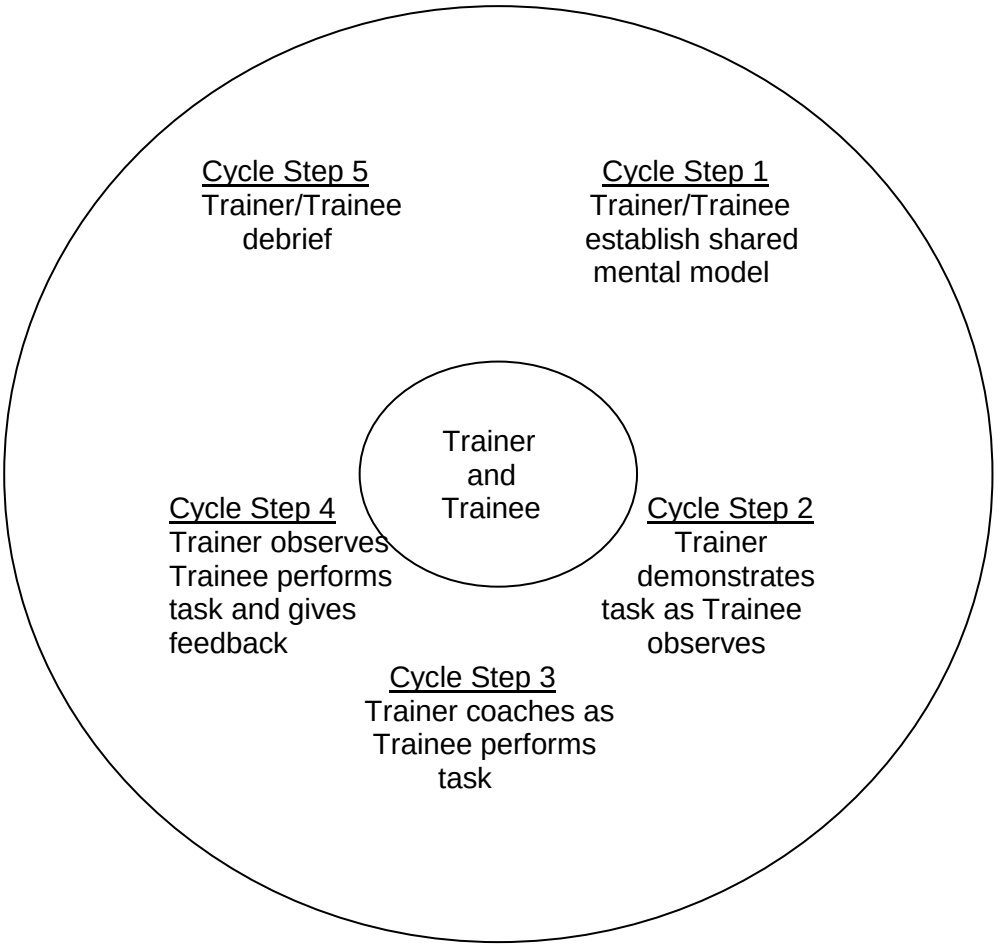
The Five-Step OJT Cycle for Procedural Training (Skill)



OJT Module Lesson

Title: **How to use a soils key for your soil survey area**	
WHAT	**WHY, WHEN, WHERE, HOW, SAFETY, QUALITY**
Cycle step 1	Provide overview of how the trainee will be able to utilize a soils key. Explain how the key was developed. Explain that there are a variety of ways that a key can be developed to address personal preference and/or needs of the soil survey area. Example keys for **Connecticut** and **New Hampshire** are attached. Explain why the one in your soil survey area was developed the way it is. Review the parts of this soil key.
Cycle step 2	Use one of the pedon descriptions prepared for this training. • Find the soil properties or qualities used in your soils key in the pedon description. Examples may include Taxonomic classification, soil depth to a particular feature, subsoil color, or landform. • Key each property through the key appropriately. • Decide which soil best fits what is described. • Discuss the concept of a soil catena and identify geographically associated soils to the one just keyed.
Cycle step 3	Have the trainee repeat the above process for one or more pedon descriptions until he or she is comfortable with the process. Coach as needed.
Cycle step 4	Complete the OJT **Module Lesson Measurement of Learning below.** Coach only if the trainee struggles with something.
Cycle step 5	Ensure that the trainee is comfortable with using the soils key. Discuss how you add soils if the need arrives (i.e., you do not find anything in the key that works).

OJT Module Lesson Measurement of Learning

Title: **How to use a soils key for your soil survey area**	
WHAT	**WHY, WHEN, WHERE, HOW, SAFETY, QUALITY**
Use the soil key in the field in a mapping or transect situation, random stops in the area, or preselected stops.	Go to the field, observe a pedon, use the key to decide upon a soil to assign to the point based on the criteria of the key. Repeat several times on different landscapes and landform positions to make good use of the parts of the key. Confirm correct decisions, and correct erroneous decisions by leading the trainee towards the correct decision.

SF-182

Trainee and/or supervisor access Aglearn to verify completion of the module via its SF-182.