

## Web Soil Survey: Soils Information Needed for the Connecticut Department of Agriculture's Farmland Restoration Program Application

Information provided by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Farmland Restoration Program Application must include:

- Soils Map
- Acres of Prime Farmland soils, Statewide Important Farmland soils, and Locally Important Farmland soils.

Applicants will be able to get this information from the digital **Soil Survey of the State of Connecticut**, (dated July 15, 2005, or later). This *official* soil survey for the state is accessed via the internet; it is not published in a book. The eight published county soil survey reports (or any information from the reports or derived from them) are not to be used.

### To get a soil map

**NOTE: You must have pop-ups enabled on your web browser to use some of the functions of the web soil survey.**

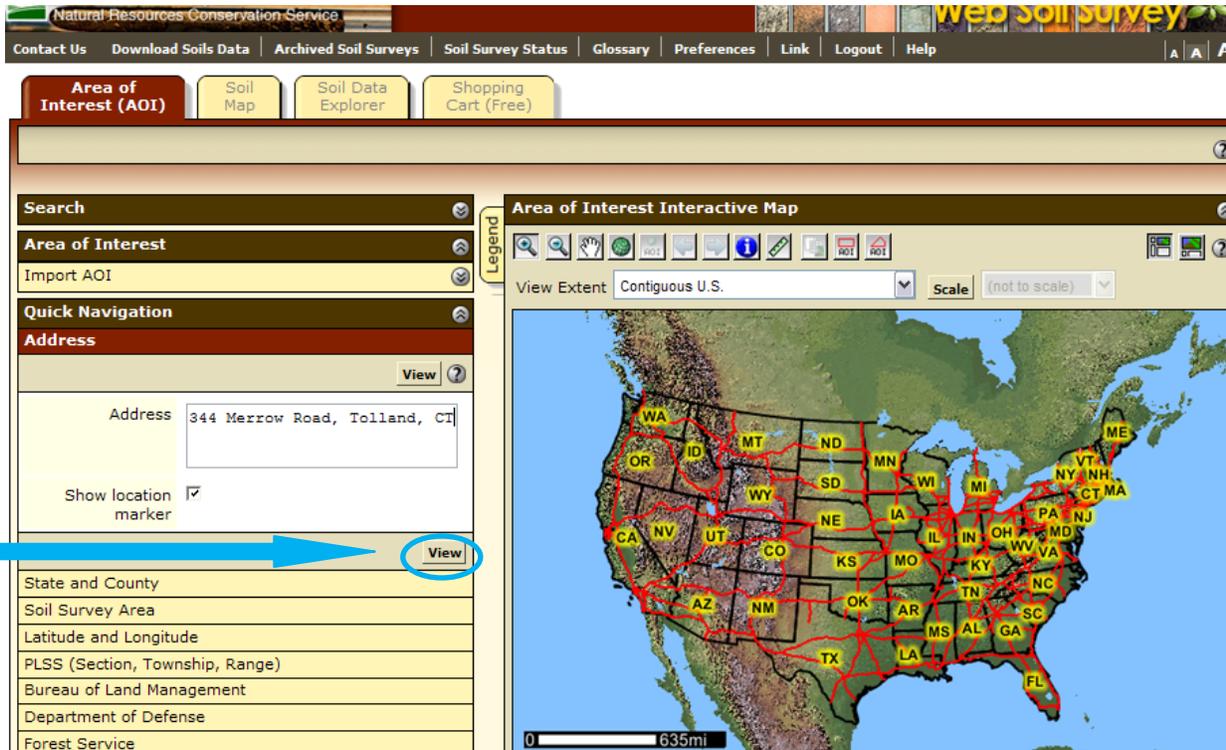
1. Go to the web soil survey homepage and *click on the green Start WSS button*.

<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/>

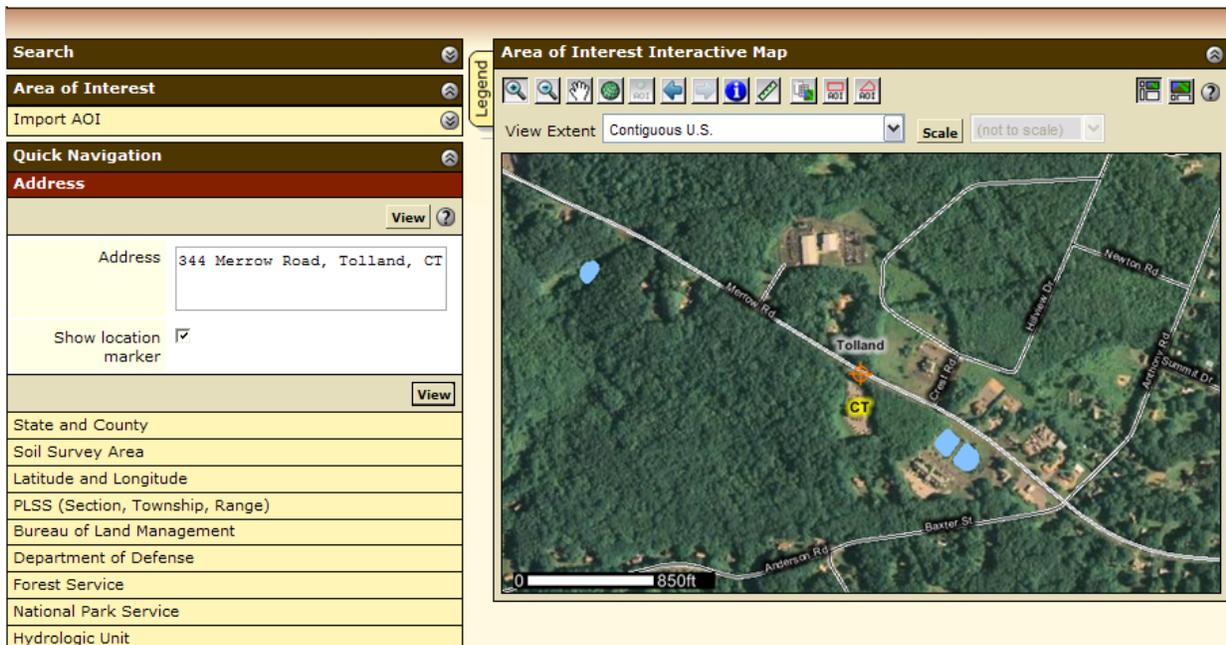


The screenshot shows the Web Soil Survey homepage. At the top, there is a banner with the USDA logo and the text "Web Soil Survey". Below the banner is a navigation menu with links for "Home", "About Soils", "Help", and "Contact Us". The main content area features a search bar, a "START WSS" button, and a "Welcome to Web Soil Survey (WSS)" section. The "Welcome" section includes a photo of people working in a field and text describing the service. To the right, there are two boxes: "I Want To..." with links to "Start Web Soil Survey (WSS)", "Know the requirements for running Web Soil Survey", "Know the Web Soil Survey hours of operation", and "Find what areas of the U.S. have soil data"; and "Announcements/Events" with links to "Web Soil Survey 2.3 has been released!" and "Web Soil Survey Release History". At the bottom, there is a "Four Basic Steps" section with a "1 Define" step and a "Area of Interest (AOI)" button.

- Next, you need to navigate to your **Area of Interest**. The easiest way is to *type in the street address*, but you can also *click on the county and zoom in* on the map until you locate your site. *Click view*.

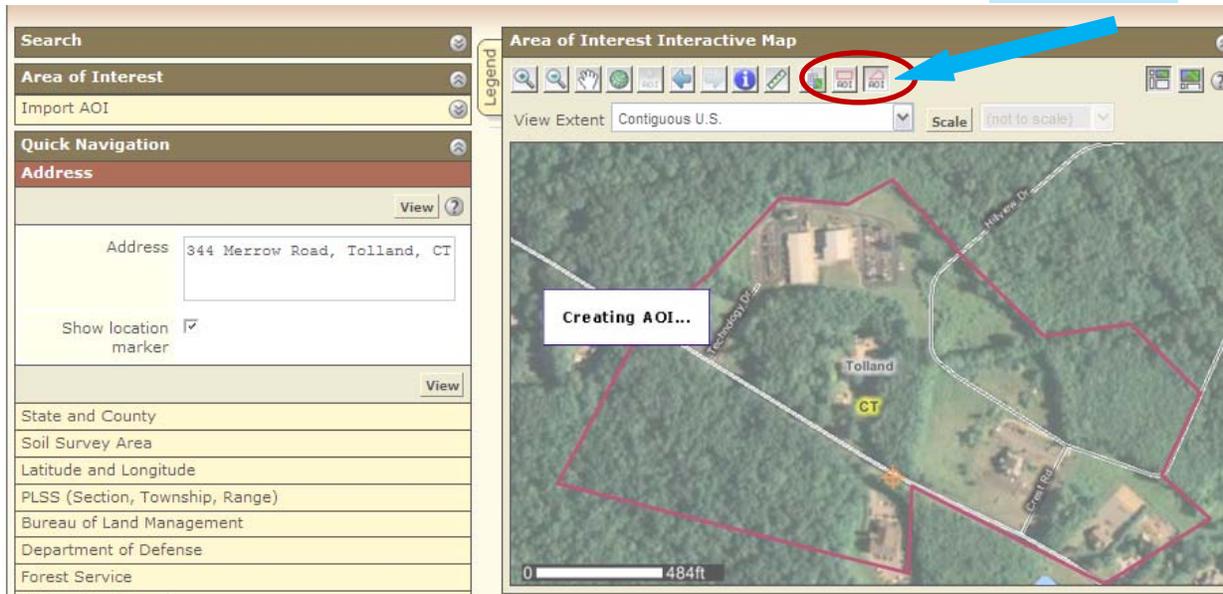


- A map is displayed.

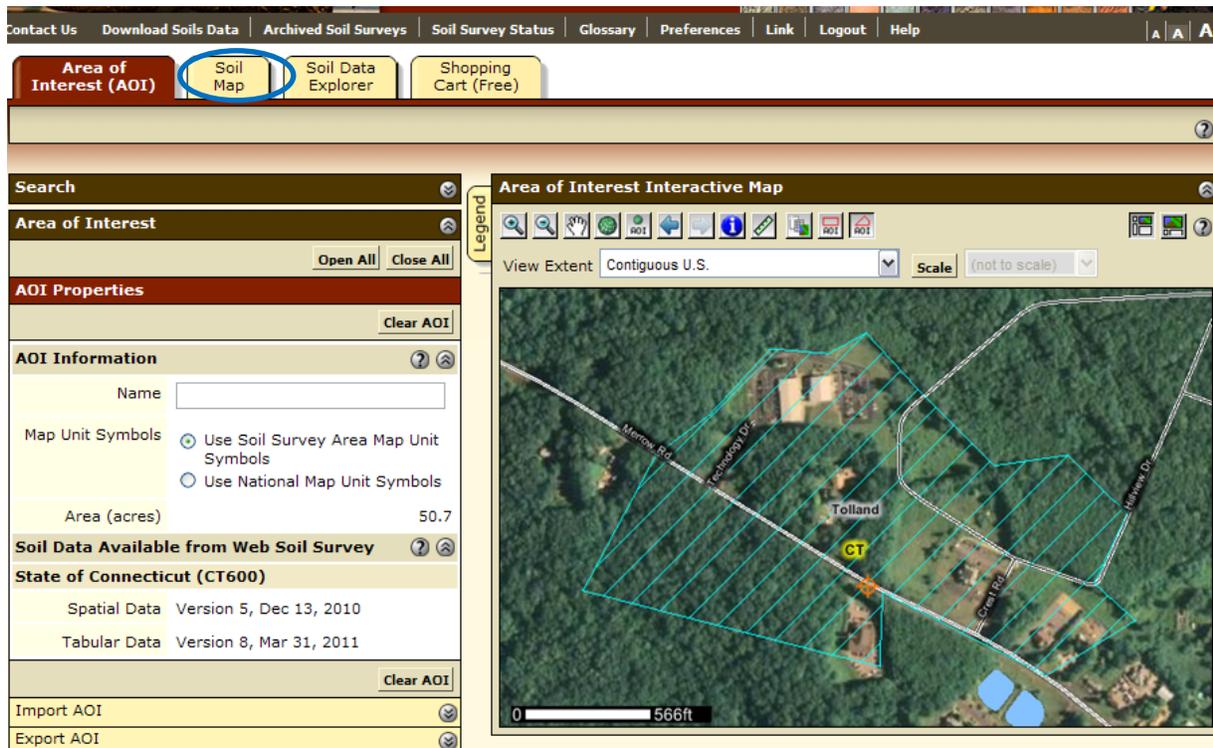


- Click one of the **AOI buttons** and *drag* to outline the boundaries of your area of interest. The **left AOI button** will create a rectangle. The **right AOI button** will allow you to click around an irregularly shaped property (*double click* when you get back to your starting point).

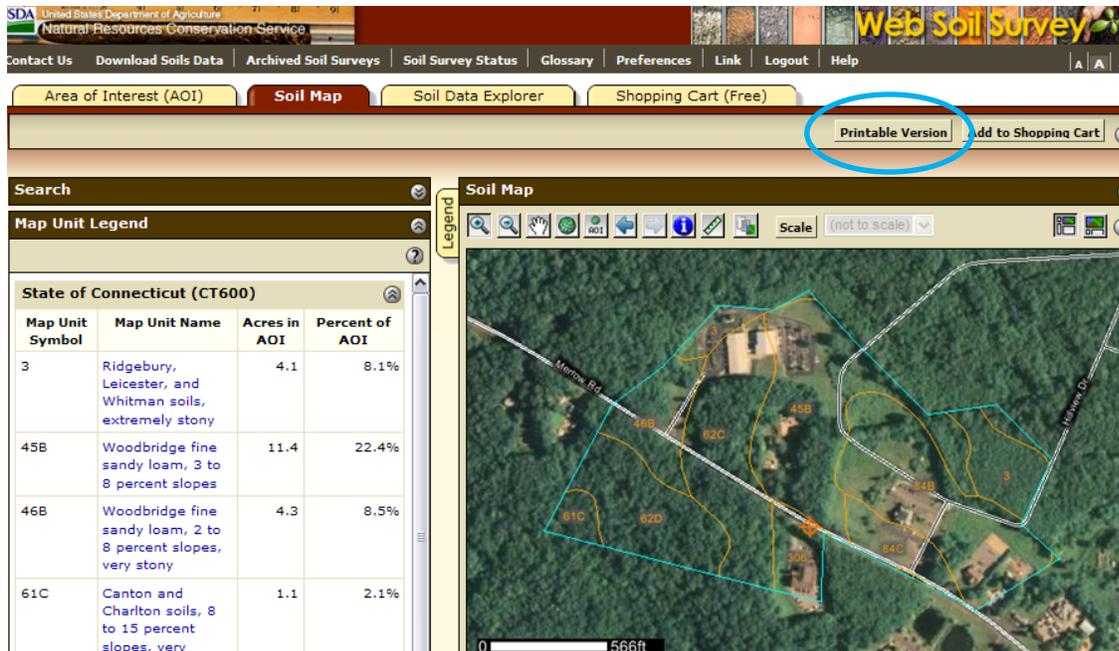
AOI buttons



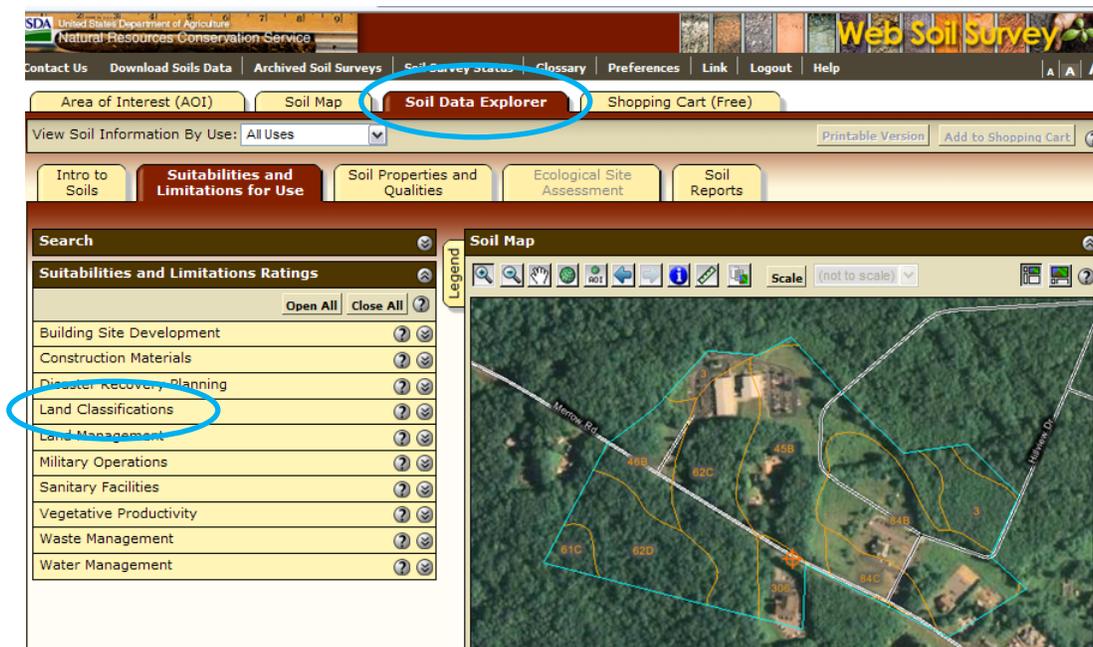
- Your **AOI (Area of Interest)** has been created. (This AOI is 50.7 acres.)



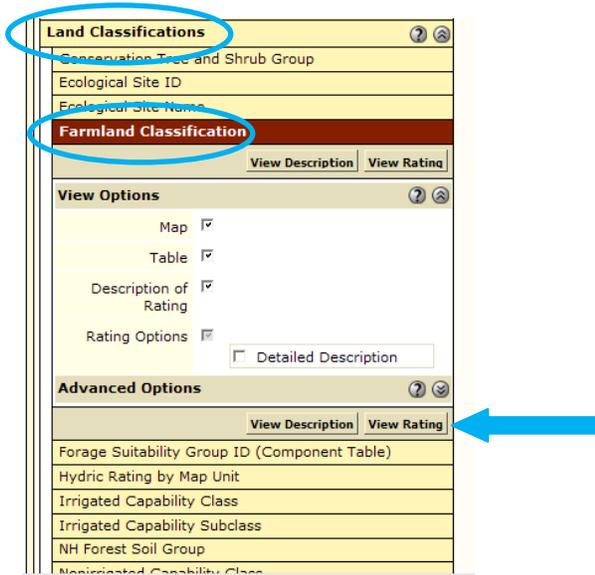
- Click on the **Soil Map Tab** (see picture above) and the **soil map, legend, and acres** of each map unit will be displayed.



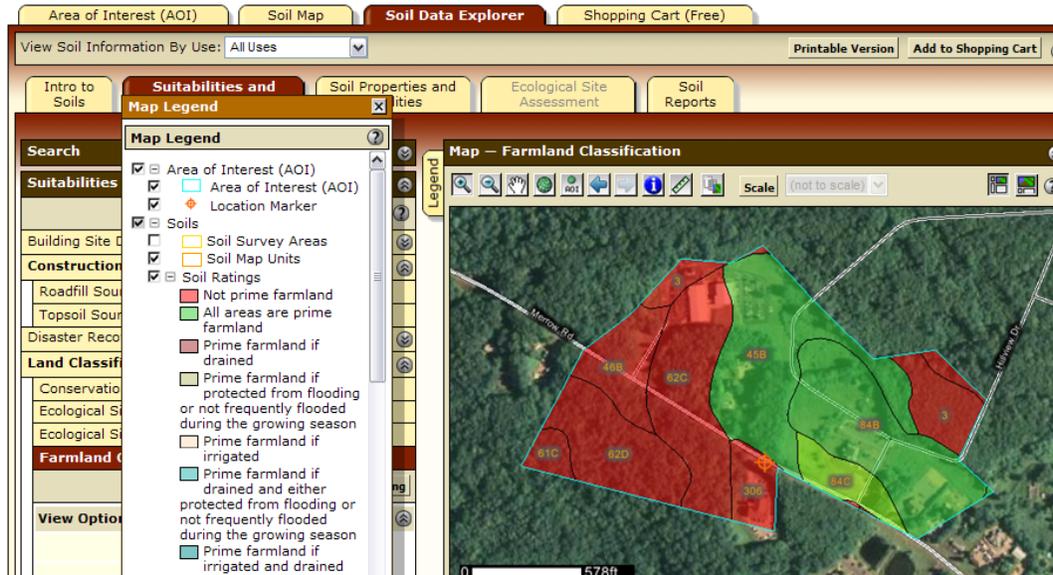
7. Create the printable version of the map by clicking on "Printable Version" (see above picture). You will get a pop-up document containing the soil map and map legend. You can save or print this file. You will need to refer to the soil map, map unit legend, and acres in AOI when you determine the extent of locally important farmland soils.
8. To make a map showing prime farmland soils and soils of statewide importance: Click on the **Soil Data Explorer** Tab. (The following picture is what will show up after you click.)



9. Click on **Land Classifications** (see picture above).
10. Then, click on **Farmland Classification** and then **view rating**.



11. Map and table are displayed: (You can save or print this map, or just tally the acres that are prime or important farmland soils)



Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
3	Ridgebury, Leicester, and Whitman soils, extremely stony	Not prime farmland	4.1	8.1%
45B	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	All areas are prime farmland	11.4	22.4%
46B	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes, very stony	Not prime farmland	4.3	8.5%
61C	Canton and Charlton	Not prime farmland	1.1	2.1%

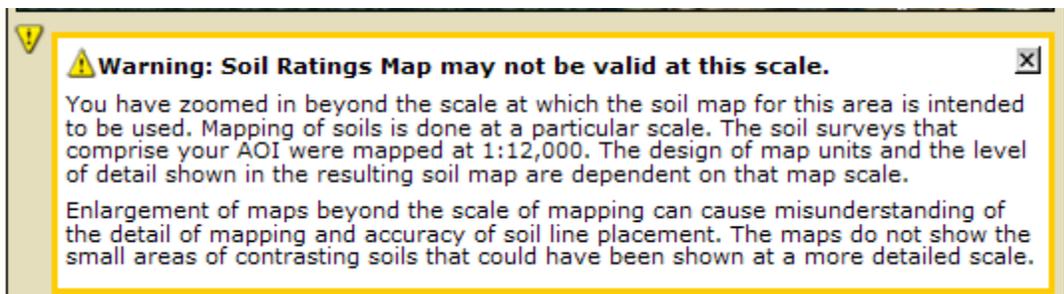
← Part of the table that is displayed below the map.

**To find out the acres of Locally Important Farmland Soils:** Go to the following website to see if your town is listed as having officially designated locally important farmland soils.

[www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov/local\\_important\\_farmland.html](http://www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov/local_important_farmland.html)

If your town is listed, compare the soil map unit symbols on the official list with the map unit symbols on the soils map you made in Step 7 (the soils for your restoration area). Add up the number of acres of in your restoration area that are locally important soils.

**A general comment about using web soil survey:** This message may show up on the map pages of the web soil survey when you are zoomed into a site. The web soil survey soil map and information is to be submitted with your application to the Farmland Restoration Program (whether or not you see this message displayed).



Should you experience problems with the Web Soil Survey, *click* **Contact Us** in the upper left corner of the website.