

Title: Regional SSURGO and SCD
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Each SSURGO soil series is comprised of several samples, and with that, the records for each soil type in the series. SCD datasets are available for most of the soil types we are interested, and many of those soil types have more than one to pick from. This document describes the criteria used to select / narrow down which data sets we decided to use.

SSURGO –

As we are interested in focusing on dominant soil types to get the best representation of a series, we wanted to go with records that had a high percent of composition for the series. This was typically done by selecting the first, complete set of records, with the highest percent composition for a series.

Given the importance of horizon names, for both the info they contain and for the linking aspect with SCD data, if the records for a series with the highest percent composition were labeled with H1, H2, etc, as they sometimes were, they could be skipped if there were other records that had actual horizon designations with high composition percents.

SCD –

SCD data were a bit tougher to decide on. The Soils Characterization Database is an online repository for these data and can be searched in several ways. These search options include looking for soil types that are “correlated”, “sampled as”, etc. For our purposes, we were going for things that were correctly described, so “correlated” was our method of choice. For series which were not correlated we resorted to “sampled as”. Geographically we tried to identify samples first from Kansas, then from neighboring states.