

Agronomy Abstract
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GIS for Rural Information Needs in Miami Co., Indiana.

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A Geographic Information System (GIS) is being developed by LARS/Purdue University, to investigate the feasibility of using this technology, in conjunction with remotely sensed data, to identify and quantify specific land cover categories for enhancing agricultural tax assessment, soil management and soil erosion; at County level. This methodology will be compared with a traditional manual approach that is currently used. The GIS includes several thematic maps such as land ownership, soil topography, stream network, and roads. These maps have very different scales and projections. The attributes for each map are being incorporated into a relational data base to allow overlays and queries upon specific requests. Land cover/land use maps will be derived from Landsat TM and SPOT data and incorporated into the data base. The GIS capabilities can be used to efficiently determine and update farmland tax categories, to model soil properties and conditions, to study soil erosion and deposition within watersheds.