



SOIL AND PLANT SCIENCE DIVISION

Technical Soil Services

South Central Soil Survey Region

Kerrville, Texas, and Robstown, Texas, Soil Survey Offices

2024 Soil Science Society of America Soil Conference Tour Preparation

Purpose

Staff from the soil survey offices in Kerrville, Texas, and Robstown, Texas, along with the Special Projects Office, assisted the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Texas A&M University in sampling seven soil pedons in preparation for the 2024 Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) Conference soil tour in San Antonio, Texas.

Background

On August 20, a team consisting of Gary Harris and Tony Argullin from the South Central Soil Survey Region (SCSSR), Tyson Hart and Austin Price from the Special Projects Region, Alan Stahnke, Isaiah Jaramillo, and Hillary Bedrosian from the NRCS Texas State Office, and Felipe Aburto from Texas A&M University met near Hynes Bay in Refugio County to sample two terrestrial soil pedons and two subaqueous soil pedons (fig. 1). Staff sent the pedon samples to a laboratory for further analysis to showcase the catena.



Figure 1.—The sampling team posing for a photo.



On August 21 and 22, Travis Waiser from the SCSSR and Ashley Anderson and Amanda Bragg from the NRCS Texas State Office joined the team, meeting 18 miles west of Uvalde, Texas. The team sampled three more soil pedons using a backhoe provided by SCSSR staff (fig. 2). Before the event in November, the soil pits were cleaned up and made bigger. Bragg also used this opportunity to give soil training to six local field office staff.



Figure 2.—Travis Waiser using backhoe to dig a soil pit.

Key Outcomes

During the sampling project, staff found the sites for the SSSA soil tour and collected soil samples for lab data. Conference organizers provided the data to the tour participants to increase their understanding of the soils at each site. This sampling project was an opportunity for the SCSSR, Special Projects Region, Texas NRCS, and Texas A&M University staff to collaborate and show off some Texas soils at the 2024 SSSA Conference.