

LAND VALUATION

**LAND VALUATION
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LAND VALUATION & LOT SIZING

When appraising real estate, the assessor must consider two separate entities: land, which is the nonwasting portion of the real estate; and improvements, which are the wasting portion subject to various forms of depreciation. Land and improvements are frequently valued separately so that the trends and factors affecting each can be studied. However, the final analysis for an improved property must be as a unit.

The first step in land valuation is identifying the property. The assessor must know the size and location of the subject parcel. Once the land has been properly identified and described, an analysis of the subject can be made. The analysis should include the collection of site-specific data, a study of trends and factors influencing the value, and the physical measurement of the site. The term site means more than just "land". A site is a parcel of land that has been made ready to use for some intended purpose.

Once the subject is analyzed, the assessor must classify the land. Land may be classified as residential, commercial, industrial or agricultural depending on its primary use. Zoning can be important in determining land classification because zoning ordinances often prescribe exactly what uses are permitted for the property.

Land, in a general sense, can be unimproved (raw) or improved (ready for development). Land that is undeveloped, or in agricultural use, is considered unimproved. Land that has been developed to the extent that it is ready to be built upon is considered a site. A site analysis requires the collection and analysis of information about trends and factors affecting value. Site analysis also includes collection and analysis of site-specific data (physical characteristics of the site).¹

Units of Comparison:

1. Square Foot
2. Acre
3. Site
4. Front Foot

The appropriate unit of comparison is typically determined by the marketplace as sites are bought and sold. These units of comparison will be discussed later in this section.

ESTABLISHING UNIT LAND VALUES

There are six acceptable methods of establishing unit land values.

1. Sales Comparison Method
2. Allocation Method
3. Abstraction Method (Also known as extraction or land residual technique.)
4. Capitalization of Ground Rent
5. Land Residual Capitalization
6. Land Build-up Method

SALES COMPARISON APPROACH

This is, by far, the most accurate approach to land values and should be used when sufficient sales are available. First, the appraiser must gather all land sales and study each one to determine if they are arms-length sales. All unusual and questionable sales should be removed from the study. Next, we must reduce the remaining "good" sales to a common unit for study purposes. No two parcels of land are exactly alike. Therefore it is necessary to adjust for these differences. Typical adjustments include time of sale, location, shape, size, and topography. Additional adjustments may be required for atypical financing.

¹ Property Assessment Valuation, Second Edition, International Association of Assessing Officers, Pages 69 and 70.

ESTABLISHING UNIT LAND VALUES (Continued)

ALLOCATION METHOD

The allocation method is based on the principal of balance, which affirms that there is a normal or typical ratio of land value to the total property value for specific categories of real estate in specific locations. This method of site valuation is helpful when no sales of vacant land are available for comparison.

Under this concept, a percentage of the total property value is allocated to the site. This allocation should be based on knowledge of the market for properties of the class being appraised. Relationships are established from sales of improved properties. Proper ratios can be determined by analyzing site values in previous years, land to improvement ratios in similar neighborhoods, or by analysis of new construction on similarly classified sites.

For example, your analysis determines that the site represents about 15% of the total property value for a given single family neighborhood. For a \$100,000 property, land represents 15% of the total, and would be calculated as follows:

$$\$100,000 \times 15\% = \$15,000$$

ABSTRACTION METHOD

Abstraction is a method in which land value is extracted from the sale price of an improved property. This method involves subtracting the depreciated replacement cost of improvements from the actual sale price for that property. The remainder would be an indicated value for the land portion of the property.

Example:

Sale Price:		\$230,000
Replacement Cost:	\$280,000	
Physical Depreciation:	30%	
Functional Obsolescence:	0%	
External Obsolescence:	0%	
Estimated Value of Improvements: (\$280,000 x 70%)		<u>196,000</u>
Indicated Land Value (\$230,000 - \$196,000)		\$34,000

This method is not as desirable or accurate as the sales comparison method and should be used only when vacant land sales are not available.

CAPITALIZATION OF GROUND RENT

Ground rent is the amount paid for the right to use a parcel of land according to the terms of a ground lease. These ground rents can be capitalized at an appropriate rate to indicate a market value of the site.

The capitalization of ground rent method is used when the income from the property is completely independent of any improvements. Assume a vacant parcel of land being rented. The rental fee is \$6,000.00 per year on a net lease having 20 years to run. Also assume 8% is considered to be a fair return on this type of property. To arrive at the capitalized value of this parcel divide \$6,000.00 by 8% results in an indicated value of \$75,000.00. This can then be converted to a unit price to help determine land values in the area. Lease terms, escalation clauses, renewal options, reversion, and the selection of an appropriate capitalization rate can all affect the reliability of this approach.

LAND RESIDUAL CAPITALIZATION

Land residual capitalization is used when the income stream is dependent upon land and improvements. This method can be used to estimate land value when 1) The depreciated improvement value can be accurately estimated, 2) The annual net operating income is known or can be estimated, and 3) Both land and improvement capitalization rates can be extracted from the market. The annual net operating income attributable to the improvements is deducted from the total annual income. The residual income remaining to the land is then capitalized into a land value.

ESTABLISHING UNIT LAND VALUES (Continued)

LAND RESIDUAL CAPITALIZATION (Continued)

Example:

Net Operating Income:	\$75,000	
Depreciated Improvement Value:	600,000	
Land Capitalization Rate:	8%	
Improvement Capitalization Rate:	<u>10%</u>	
Net Operating Income:		\$75,000
Less Income to Improvements (\$600,000 x 10%)		<u>- 60,000</u>
Income Attributable to Land:		15,000
Indicated Land Value (\$15,000 ÷ 8%)		\$187,500

LAND BUILD-UP METHOD

The land build-up method may be considered when there is insufficient sales data. This method is seldom used under normal conditions and should be considered only as a last resort in establishing unit land values.

Example:

A developer purchases five acres of raw land at \$15,000.00 per acre; he surveys the lots and ends up with three lots per acre. He puts in sewer, water, streets, curb, and sidewalks.

Land Purchase:	\$75,000
Street:	89,300
Curbs:	19,200
Storm Sewer & Inlets:	38,700
Sanitary Sewer:	21,600
Sidewalk:	8,000
Engineering Fees:	<u>3,500</u>
Total	\$255,300
Developer's Profit (20%)	<u>51,060</u>
Total Value (15 Lots)	\$306,360
Average Lot Price (\$306,360 ÷ 15 Lots)	\$20,424

UNIMPROVED AND IMPROVED SITES

Land that is undeveloped, or in agricultural use, is considered unimproved. Land that has been developed to the extent that it is ready to be built upon is considered a site. The off-site improvements which make undeveloped land a site include streets and utilities. Furthermore, sites can be broken down into unimproved sites and improved sites. When a site is described as "improved" it means it is used in conjunction with an existing structure and has the necessary site improvements. These site improvements include grading and topsoil, landscaping, trees and shrubs, etc. An "unimproved" site will lack some or all of these site improvements.

For assessment purposes the land value conclusions should be for sites that are improved. An unimproved adjustment factor should be determined and applied to all unimproved sites.

DETERMINING AN UNIMPROVED ADJUSTMENT FACTOR

The cost of the improvements which make a site "improved" can be found in the analyzed unit cost section. The following is an example of how to determine a proper unimproved adjustment factor.

UNIMPROVED AND IMPROVED SITES (Continued)

DETERMINING AN UNIMPROVED ADJUSTMENT FACTOR (Continued)

For this example we will assume that a residential subdivision has been platted into 1 acre lots, measuring 198 x 220 lots. The typical site improvements for this type of residential subdivision are:

Grading & topsoil (\$0.24/S.F.)	\$10,454
Trees (2 @ \$100.00/each)	\$200
Shrubs (3 @ \$25.00/each)	\$75
Seeding (\$0.03/S.F.)	\$1,307
Total improved site cost	\$12,036
Rounded	\$12,000

The land values for the improved sites in this subdivision should be the sales prices of the unimproved sites plus the site improvement cost. If the vacant sites are selling for \$36,000 per lot the land values for this subdivision should be \$48,000 (\$36,000 + \$12,000). The unimproved adjustment factor for this subdivision would be \$12,000 if expressed as a lump sum or 25% (\$12,000 / \$48,000) if expressed as a percentage. The improved sites in this subdivision can now be valued using the various units of comparison. Regardless of which unit of comparison is utilized the unimproved adjustment factor will remain \$12,000 or 25%.

When calculating an allowance for grading and topsoil great care should be exercised. The cost for this item can vary significantly. Grading and topsoil cost, for a small level site, will typically run about \$0.24 per square foot. However, it is not uncommon for large, multi-acre sites, with a rolling terrain, to cost \$0.75 - \$1.00 per square foot. Sites requiring grade work into solid rock can greatly exceed the \$1.00 per square foot figure. Some sites contain soil types with poor weight bearing capacities. The cost to make these sites buildable can also greatly exceed the \$1.00 per square foot figure.

The landscaping allowance should also be carefully considered. A neighborhood with 4 grade dwellings situated on small sites will typically have a low landscaping cost. Perhaps seeding, one tree and a couple of shrubs are all that would need to be considered. However, a subdivision with 1 grade dwellings located on large 1 acre plus lots can have landscaping cost that exceeds \$20,000. These sites might have sod rather than seeding, multiple mature trees and shrubs, along with extensive retaining walls.

UNITS OF COMPARISON

It is necessary to value land sites in a consistent manner. This is best accomplished by determining a proper unit of comparison for each neighborhood or class of property. The appropriate unit of comparison is usually the method used in the marketplace when sites are bought or sold. Four basic units of comparison will be discussed.

SQUARE FOOT

The square foot method is best used in areas with irregular shaped sites and where frontage is not a dominant factor in the determination of a site value. This method is best used to value outlying residential properties, commercial and small industrial sites. An example of this method is as follows:

Land sales in a subdivision have been selling for \$1.00 per square foot. You have determined that improved sites have an average of \$0.25 per square foot of site improvement cost. The subject property consisting of 20,000 square feet would be valued at \$25,000 (20,000 square feet x \$1.25 per square foot). Sites that are still unimproved would be given a 20% (\$0.25/\$1.25) unimproved adjustment factor.

In many cases the assessor/appraiser will not be able to find comparables of similar size. In these cases it is necessary to develop an adjustment process to reflect these differences. Differences in topography, shape, location and zoning may also need to be considered.

ACRE

The acre method is used in valuing large parcels. Industrial sites, large retail sites, rural properties and agricultural land are well suited for this method. In many instances the assessor/appraiser may wish to transition from a square foot method on smaller sites into an acre method on larger sites. In these instances it is important to maintain a relationship between square foot and acre prices. Acres may be calculated by dividing the square foot by 43,560.

UNITES OF COMPARISON (Continued)

SITE

The site method is used when the marketplace does not indicate a significant difference in lot value even when there is a difference in the lot size. This method is becoming more prevalent. It is typically utilized in residential subdivisions, although it could be used in commercial or industrial subdivision with a large degree of similarity between all the lots within the subdivision.

FRONT FOOT

The front foot method is useful in the valuation of downtown commercial properties and residential properties with uniform lot sizes. This method is based upon the premise that frontage contributes to value. A front foot is a one-foot-wide strip of land that fronts on a street, golf course, body of water, etc. and continues to the rear of a parcel.

The front foot method of land valuation is not a common approach used by many fee appraisers. However, when appraising en masse, or what has become known as mass appraisal, land values must be established in a somewhat different method, due to the number of properties involved and the need for uniformity.

This approach to land valuation will be discussed in detail. The order of procedure is as follows:

1. Determine proper depth chart.
2. Establish front foot prices.
3. Lot sizing.
4. Pricing.
5. Adjustment factors and corner influence.

DETERMINING PROPER DEPTH CHART

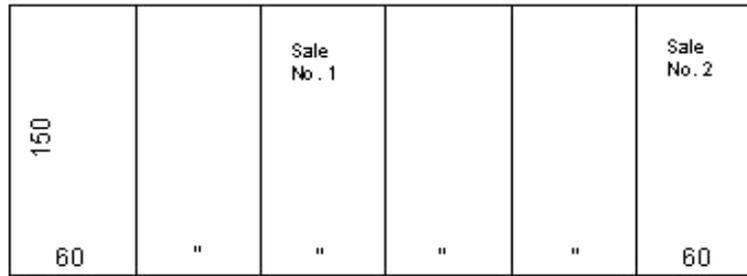
Depth charts are selected on the basis of the most common depth within the city or county being appraised. If the "original town" was laid-off in 150' deep lots, then most likely this would be the depth chart you would select. The importance of this selection is not due to value, but merely to simplify the calculation process. The more lots that can be calculated at 100% the less chance for error. If front foot values are properly established, the depth chart will automatically work to provide the desired result. Various depth charts have been pre-calculated and are presented in table format on pages 2-19 thru 2-24.

ESTABLISH FRONT FOOT PRICES

The following is an example of how to develop front foot prices utilizing a land sales analysis. For this example let us assume we are trying to determine a front foot unit price for a one block area of Jones Street. We will also assume all sales used are legitimate, all sales are within an acceptable time lapse and that we have previously established 150' as a standard depth.

Figure A (on the following page) shows four sales of unimproved lots located in a residential area. The details of these sales are as follows:

Sale No.	Date	Purchase Price
1	01/21/2020	\$30,000
2	03/03/2020	28,800
3	06/02/2020	27,000
4	04/22/2020	44,000



Jones Street

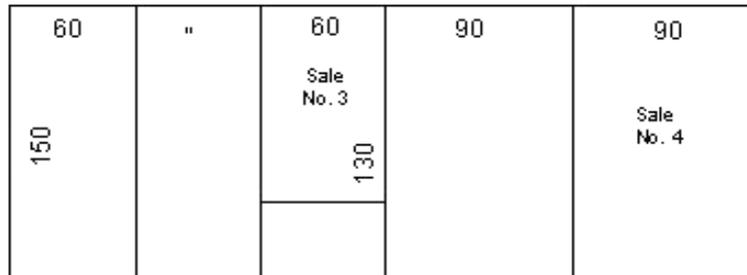


FIGURE A

Before reducing these sales to front foot unit prices, let us discuss the difference between residential unimproved and improved lots. When a lot is described as improved, it means it is used in conjunction with an existing dwelling and has the necessary landscaping, trees, grading, topsoil, etc. If it is unimproved, these improvement features, or portions of them, are yet to be done. All front foot unit values should be established on the basis of improved lots. The cost of these improvements, in a residential neighborhood of average quality, will normally be between 10% and 30% of the value of the land. (See "Establishing unit land values" and "Improved and unimproved sites" for further discussions on acceptable methods of establishing unit land values and how to determine unimproved adjustment factors). This percentage should be established for each community or neighborhood. For the purpose of this example we will establish the normal improvements cost for this neighborhood at 20% of the value of the land. This means when we enter our calculations on the property record card that under "adjustment factor" we will enter 20% on vacant unimproved lots and the calculations will be as follows (the adjustment factor is removed after the lot has been improved):

LAND VALUE COMPUTATIONS

Frontage Computations	Frontage Figured	Average Depth	Depth Factor	Effective Front Foot	Front Foot Price	Total	Unimproved Adjust Factor	Actual Value
	60	150	100	60	\$600.00	\$36,000	20%	\$28,800

It now becomes apparent that we must increase our unimproved lot sales by a factor so that the "actual value" will reflect market value. The formula for this is to divide the unimproved lot sale by 80% before establishing front foot prices.

Example: If the unimproved lot sale was \$28,800.00

$$\$28,800.00 \div 80\% = \$36,000.00$$

FRONT FOOT (Continued)

The calculations of the unimproved sale prices would be as follows:

Sale No.	Date	Purchase Price				Adjusted Purchase Price
1	01/21/2020	\$30,000	÷	80%	=	\$37,500
2	03/03/2020	28,800	÷	80%	=	36,000
3	06/02/2020	27,000	÷	80%	=	33,750
4	04/22/2020	44,000	÷	80%	=	55,000

The next step is to arrive at effective front feet. This is merely multiplying the “frontage figured” by the “depth factor”.

Sale No.	Frontage Figured	Factor	Effective Front Feet
1	60	100%	60.00
2	60	100%	60.00
3	60	96%	57.60
4	90	100%	90.00

To arrive at reflected front foot unit prices, divide the adjusted purchase price by the effective front feet.

Sale No.	Adjusted Purchase Price	Effective Front Feet	Reflected Front Foot Unit Price
1	\$37,500	60.00	\$625.00
2	36,000	60.00	600.00
3	33,750	57.60	585.94
4	55,000	90.00	611.11

The completed land sales analysis would appear as follows:

Sale No.	Date	Purchase Price	Adjust Factor	Adjusted Purchase Price	Effective Front Feet	Reflected Front Foot Unit Price
1	01/21/2020	\$30,000	÷ 80%	= \$37,500	÷ 60.00	= \$625.00
2	03/03/2020	28,800	÷ 80%	= 36,000	÷ 60.00	= 600.00
3	06/02/2020	27,000	÷ 80%	= 33,750	÷ 57.60	= 585.94
4	04/22/2020	44,000	÷ 80%	= 55,000	÷ 90.00	= 611.11

It now becomes relatively easy to establish \$600.00 per front foot as the unit price.

LOT SIZING AND PRICING

Nearly all lots can be made to fall into two configurations: triangles and rectangles. Once we have learned this we can figure nearly any lot which we may want to calculate by the front foot method.

In converting irregular shaped lots to triangles and rectangles there are two basic rules to follow:

1. You may exchange rear land for rear land and front land for front land, but never front for rear. (See Figures 1 & 2)
2. Depth is always figured from a right angle to the street line.

Following are a few examples of exchanging land:

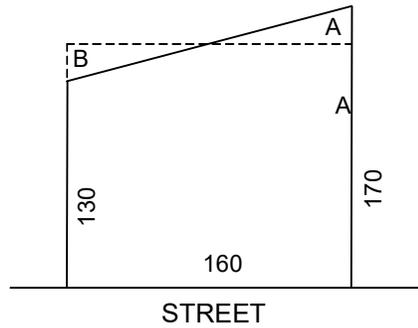


FIGURE 1

The lot shown in Figure No. 1 has parallel sides but not equal depth. Therefore, we exchange rear land for rear land (place A triangle in B) by averaging the sides. The lot is now a 160' x 150' rectangle.

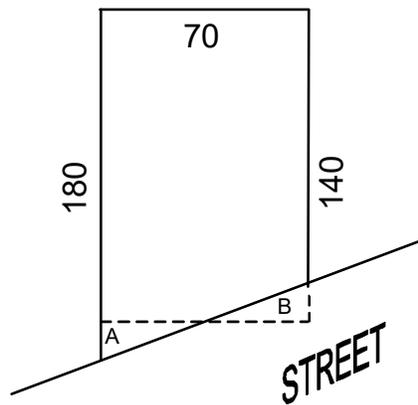


FIGURE 2

Figure No. 2 is the same theory as Figure No. 1 except we are exchanging front for front and the lot becomes a 70' x 160' rectangle. (Frontage should never be calculated on a diagonal line.)

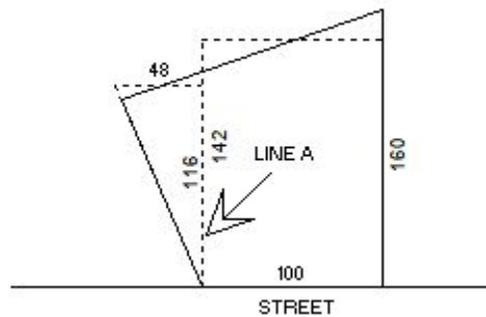


FIGURE 3

The configuration shown in Figure No. 3 must first be divided to form two right angles to the street. This is done by adding line A, we then proceed to exchange land as previously demonstrated and make a triangle and a rectangle. The lot size is now a 100' x 142' rectangle and a triangle having a 0' front and 48' rear x 116' depth.

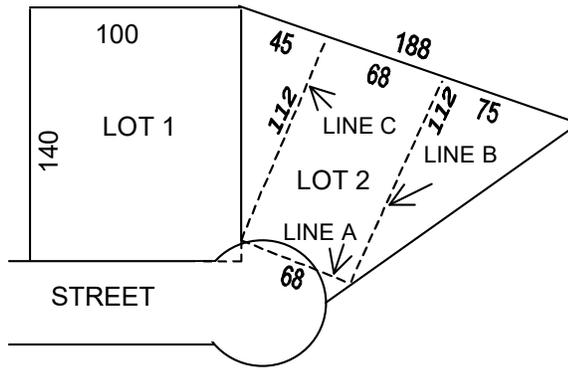


FIGURE 4

Circle streets usually present some of the more complex problems of lot sizing and it is often more practical to square foot these lots rather than attempt to make rectangles and triangles. However, in the example given in Figure No. 4 we can readily establish lot sizes. It is common to square-off rounded corners and small niches taken from a parcel of land, when it is an insignificant amount as shown above on Lot No. 1 of Figure No. 4. Therefore, the lot size of Lot No. 1 is 100' x 140'.

Lot No. 2 of Figure No. 4 is a little more complicated. We first must establish parallel lines for front and rear. In this case, we exchange a little front for front (line A), next we will establish two right angle lines from the extremities of line A, (lines B & C) this forms a 68' x 112' rectangle, a triangle having a 0' front and 45' rear x 112' depth and a triangle having a 0' front and 75' rear x 112' depth. In actual lot sizing this is simplified to the following formula:

$$\text{front} = 68'$$

$$\text{rear} = 188'$$

$$\text{depth} = 112'$$

We will now lot size a hypothetical block of land.

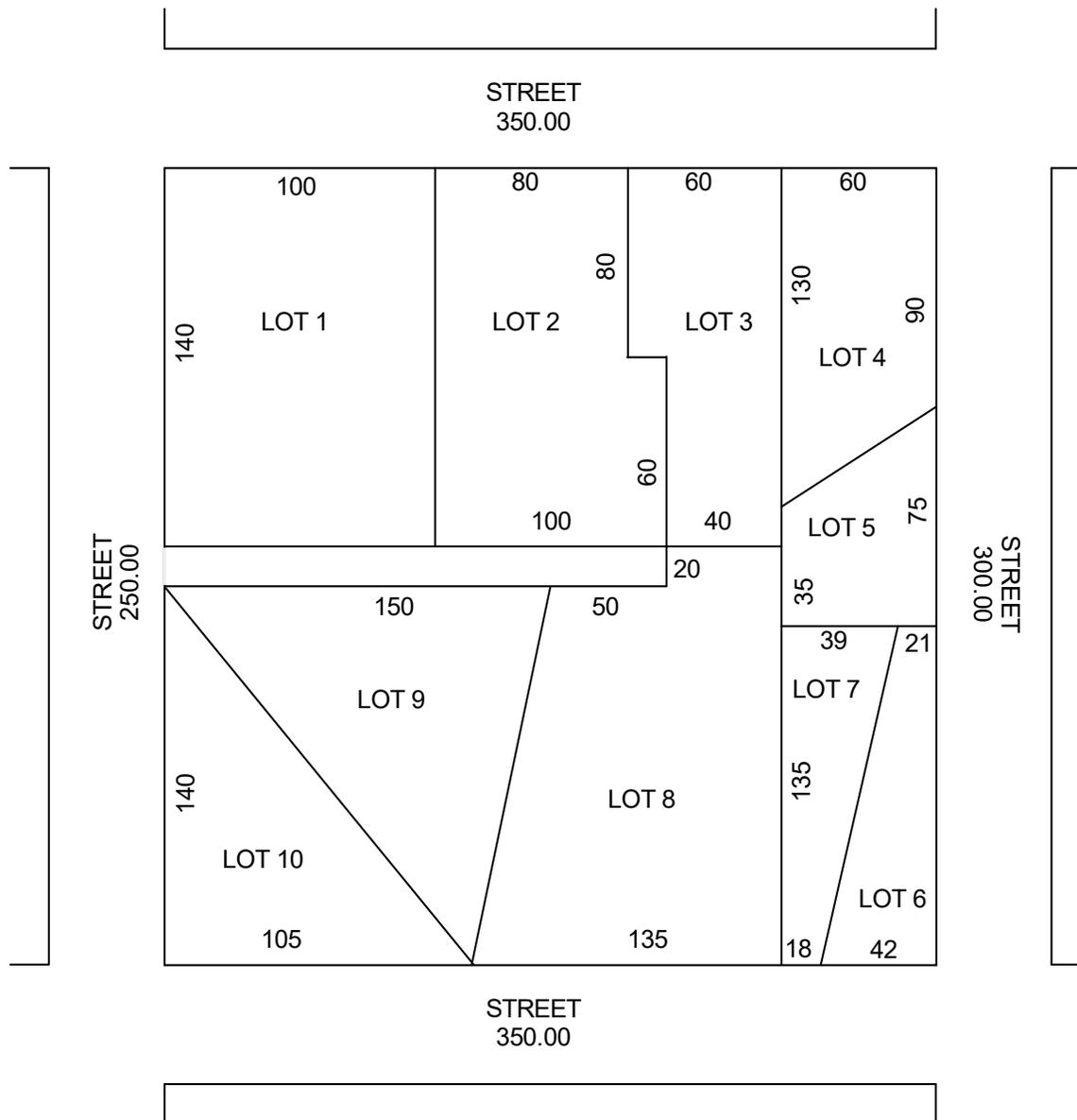


FIGURE 5

Following is an explanation of lot sizing for each lot pictured in Figure No. 5.

Lot No. 1 - This is a simple rectangle which needs no additional lot sizing:

Lot Size: front = 100' depth = 140'

Lot No. 2 - This is referred to as an L shaped lot and is divided into two rectangles, 80' x 140' and 20' x 60'. The rectangle with street frontage (80' x 140') is the same calculation as Lot No. 1. The second rectangle becomes rear land. Rear land is calculated the same as other lots except in arriving at the depth percent. (Assume 140' standard depth.) This is done in three steps as follows:

1. Find depth percent for distance from street to back line of lot (140' = 100%).
2. Find depth percent for distance from street to front line of the rear lot (80' = 76%)
3. Subtract step No. 2 from step No. 1 and the result is the depth factor to be used (100% less 76% = 24%).

Lot Size: front = 80' depth = 140'
front = 20' depth = 60' (rear land)

FRONT FOOT (Continued)**LOT SIZING AND PRICING**

Lot No. 3 - This lot is also divided into two rectangles both having frontage.

Lot Size:	front = 20'	depth = 80'
	front = 40'	depth = 140'

Lot No. 4 - This lot is calculated the same as Figure No. 1. Average the two sides ($90' + 130' = 220' \div 2 = 110'$) which automatically exchanges land.

Lot Size:	front = 60'	depth = 110'
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Prior to continuing on examples 5 through 10, let's discuss the theory of calculating lots having a greater frontage than rear or vice versa. This theory is called the "1/3 - 2/3 rule" and is merely a mathematical formula to arrive at "frontage figured". A triangular tract of land having its base on the street might be 30' front and 0' rear. The "2/3 rule" applies when the front is greater than the rear, therefore, the result is as follows: $30' \times 2/3 = 20'$, effective front feet = 20. If this lot were reversed, having the apex on the street it would be 0' front and 30' rear and the "1/3 rule" would apply and the result would be as follows: $30' \times 1/3 = 10'$, effective front feet = 10. A tract having a rear measurement other than 0', such as a trapezoid, (having front and rear lines parallel), the 1/3 - 2/3 rule would apply to the difference between the front measurements and rear measurement and the result would be added to the smaller measurement. Examples 5 through 10 cover variations of the 1/3 - 2/3 rule.

Lot No. 5 - This shape is called a trapezoid and can be divided into two parts. A 35' x 60' rectangle and a triangle having a 40' front and 0' rear and 60' depth. If the problem is approached in this manner the lot sizing would be as follows: (F is for front - R is for rear).

Rectangle	front = 35'	depth = 60'
Triangle (F = 40' R = 0' 2/3 rule)	front = 26.67'	depth = 60'

This lot can also be approached in a different manner which is more simplified and gives the same answer. In this second approach we say front = 75', rear = 35', difference = 40'. We then take 2/3 of 40' (26.67) and add this to the shorter line (35'). Our answer becomes 61.67' for frontage figured, the same as treating it as two configurations. The lot size by this approach would be as follows:

Lot Size: (F = 75' R = 35' 2/3 rule)	front = 61.67'	depth = 60'
(It is common to round to the closest foot, if desired)		

Lot No. 6 - This lot is calculated the same as Lot No. 5. Using the second method shown above we have front = 42', rear = 21', difference = 21'. We then take 2/3 of 21' (14') and add it to the shorter line (21'). Our answer is (14' + 21') 35' for frontage figured. Lot sizing would appear as follows:

Lot Size: (F = 42' R = 21' 2/3 rule)	front = 35'	depth = 135'
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Lot No. 7 - We now have the reverse of lots 5 and 6, which is the rear is greater than the front. This also can be made into two configurations (a rectangle and a triangle); however, we will use the single calculation approach. Front = 18', rear = 39', difference = 21'. We then take 1/3 of 21' (7) and add this to our shorter line (18). Our frontage figured is (18' + 7') 25'. Lot sizing would appear as follows:

Lot Size: (F = 18' R = 39' 1/3 rule)	front = 25'	depth = 135'
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Lot No. 8 - Because of the variation in depth we must divide this lot into at least two configurations, a rectangle (40' x 160') and a trapezoid. The trapezoid would be calculated as follows: front = 95', rear = 50', difference = 45'. We then take 2/3 of 45' (30') and add it to the shorter line (50'). The answer is (30' + 50') 80' for frontage figured. Lot sizing would be as follows.

Lot Size:	front = 40'	depth = 160'
(F = 95' R = 50' 2/3 rule)	front = 80'	depth = 140'

FRONT FOOT (Continued)

LOT SIZING AND PRICING

Lot No. 9 - We could divide this into two right angle triangles, however, this is not necessary and we will work the problem as one configuration. Front = 0' rear = 150', difference = 150'. We now take 1/3 of 150' (50') and add this to the shorter line (0'), the frontage figured is (50' + 0') 50'. Lot sizing would appear as follows:

Lot Size: (F = 0' R = 150' 1/3 rule) front = 50' depth = 140'

Lot No. 10 - This is a simple right angle triangle having its base on the street and therefore calling for the 2/3 rule. Front = 105', rear = 0', difference = 105'. We now take 2/3 of 105' (70') and add this to the shorter line (0'). The answer is (70' + 0') 70' frontage figured. Lot sizing would appear as follows:

Lot Size: (F = 105' R = 0' 2/3 rule) front = 70' depth = 140'

We will now apply the front foot prices and depth chart to these lots and arrive at a total value. (For the purpose of these examples we will use a 140' standard depth chart.) The chart below is made similar to the land section appearing on property record cards. Follow these steps to arrive at the total value. Place frontage figured and depth on card, find depth percent from depth chart, place unit price on card, multiply unit price times depth percent to arrive at effective front foot prices, multiply effective front foot price times frontage figured, result is total value of lot.

Lot No.	Frontage Computations	Frontage Figured	Average Depth	Depth Factor	Effective Front Foot	Front Foot Price	Total	Adjust Factor	Actual Value
1.		100'	140'	100%	100'	\$350.00	\$35,000	—	\$35,000
2.		80'	140'	100%	80'	350.00	28,000		
	Rear Lot (80')	20'	60'	24%	4.80'	350.00	<u>1,680</u>	—	
							29,680		29,680
3.		20'	80'	76%	15.20'	350.00	5,320		
		40'	140'	100%	40'	350.00	<u>14,000</u>		
							19,320	—	19,320
4.		60'	110'	92%	55.2'	350.00	19,320	—	19,320
5.	F=75 R=35 (2/3)	61.67'	60'	62%	38.23'	300.00	11,469	—	11,469
6.	F=42 R=21 (2/3)	35'	135'	99%	34.65'	350.00	12,127	—	12,127
7.	F=18 R=39 (1/3)	25'	135'	99%	24.75'	350.00	8,662	—	8,662
8.		40'	160'	104%	41.60'	350.00	14,560		
	F=95 R=50 (2/3)	80'	140'	100%	80'	350.00	<u>28,000</u>		
							42,560	—	42,560
9.	F=0 R=150 (1/3)	50'	140'	100%	50'	350.00	17,500	10%	15,750
10.	F=105 R=0 (2/3)	70'	140'	100%	70'	350.00	24,500	—	24,500

FRONT FOOT (Continued)**LOT SIZING AND PRICING**

Many Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal (CAMA) systems have the 1/3 - 2/3 rule built into their land program. This can alter how land lots should be inputted as compared to the preceding examples. The following are the same lots as shown on the previous page and how they would be inputted into a CAMA system that has the 1/3 - 2/3 rule built in and have the capability to adjust for depth as well as rear land. It is important to note that even though how land is inputted into a CAMA system may vary because of these built in calculations that the resulting effective front foot (EFF) and values are the same in both examples.

Lot No. 1

Front Foot	Frontage	Rear	Side 1	Side 2	Rear Lot	Adj FF	D Factor	EFF
Main Lot	100.00	100.00	140.00	140.00	0.00	100.00	1.00	100.00

Lot No. 2

Front Foot	Frontage	Rear	Side 1	Side 2	Rear Lot	Adj FF	D Factor	EFF
Main Lot	80.00	80.00	140.00	140.00	0.00	80.00	1.00	80.00
Sub Lot2	20.00	20.00	60.00	60.00	80.00	20.00	0.24	4.80

Lot No. 3

Front Foot	Frontage	Rear	Side 1	Side 2	Rear Lot	Adj FF	D Factor	EFF
Main Lot	20.00	20.00	80.00	80.00	0.00	20.00	0.76	15.20
Sub Lot2	40.00	40.00	140.00	140.00	0.00	40.00	1.00	40.00

Lot No. 4

Front Foot	Frontage	Rear	Side 1	Side 2	Rear Lot	Adj FF	D Factor	EFF
Main Lot	60.00	60.00	130.00	90.00	0.00	60.00	0.92	55.20

Lot No. 5

Front Foot	Frontage	Rear	Side 1	Side 2	Rear Lot	Adj FF	D Factor	EFF
Main Lot	75.00	35.00	60.00	60.00	0.00	61.67	0.62	38.23

Lot No. 6

Front Foot	Frontage	Rear	Side 1	Side 2	Rear Lot	Adj FF	D Factor	EFF
Main Lot	42.00	21.00	135.00	135.00	0.00	35.00	0.99	34.65

Lot No. 7

Front Foot	Frontage	Rear	Side 1	Side 2	Rear Lot	Adj FF	D Factor	EFF
Main Lot	18.00	39.00	135.00	135.00	0.00	25.00	0.99	24.75

Lot No. 8

Front Foot	Frontage	Rear	Side 1	Side 2	Rear Lot	Adj FF	D Factor	EFF
Main Lot	40.00	40.00	160.00	160.00	0.00	40.00	1.04	41.60
Sub Lot2	95.00	50.00	140.00	140.00	0.00	80.00	1.00	80.00

Lot No. 9

Front Foot	Frontage	Rear	Side 1	Side 2	Rear Lot	Adj FF	D Factor	EFF
Main Lot	0.00	150.00	140.00	140.00	0.00	50.00	1.00	50.00

Lot No. 10

Front Foot	Frontage	Rear	Side 1	Side 2	Rear Lot	Adj FF	D Factor	EFF
Main Lot	105.00	0.00	140.00	140.00	0.00	70.00	1.00	70.00

ADJUSTMENT FACTORS

It is said that land does not depreciate and under normal conditions land does not lose value due to age and elements. However, when setting entire streets you must always place the front foot unit value for the best lot on the street. This unit value is applied to all lots to arrive at a total value; therefore, if a particular lot has a characteristic which would affect its market value an adjustment must be made. There are several factors which can cause a decrease in value such as topography, shape and size. The appraiser must determine the amount of effect (if any) these characteristics have on each individual lot. Referring back to Figure No. 5, you will note Lot No. 9 probably has a severe "shape" characteristic by virtue of a "0" front and although the use of the 1/3 rule has already reduced this lot considerably; it perhaps should receive additional consideration. For the purpose of this example let us assume the appraiser determines the "total value" of this lot is too high and he feels a 10% adjustment is necessary. He will enter 10% under adjustment factor (see Figure No. 6) and multiply the total value times 90% to arrive at actual value ($\$17,500.00 \times 90\% = \$15,750.00$). There are no set rules other than experience and common sense in determining the amount of adjustment. If you have five good lots on the street and the next lot is a cliff, ravine, swamp or too small to build on according to zoning you should be sure you are making an adequate adjustment.

CORNER INFLUENCE

Corner influence is defined as the effect on the value of land by its proximity to the intersection of two street corners. **Its use is typically limited to commercial properties that benefit from the exposure gained by being located at such an intersection.**

Corner influence is the only factor that can increase the value of a lot, assuming the front foot unit value has been properly established. Like the adjustment factors which decrease the value of a certain property, it is impossible to determine the exact amount of influence that is added by virtue of a corner. However, we do have two known factors that assist us in setting guidelines. These are the amount of frontage on side street and front foot unit value of the side street. The following tables and explanations are to be used as guides only.

It is assumed in Table No. 1 on the following page that 20' of depth from the side street (which is frontage on the main street) is all that is effected by corner influence, therefore, the table is only calculated up to 20'. It is also assumed that 100' of frontage on the side street (which is depth from the main street) is the maximum distance affected by corner influence.

The use of these tables will establish the MAXIMUM value to be used for corner influence. Corner influence will vary with the use of the property and adjustments in value must be made accordingly. A retail business which is dependent on display area and additional entrances is the highest example of corner influence. A lesser influenced property could be a warehouse with sufficient ingress and egress without the corner. Perhaps in this instance the appraiser would determine only 50' of the frontage on the side street contributes toward additional value, therefore, he would use only 50% of the formula value. i.e. $\$400.00$ (side street value) times 34% = $136.00 \times 50' = \$6,800.00$.

The lesser the value on the side street usually indicates a lesser amount of influence. Table No. 2 has been prepared to assist the appraiser in establishing a uniform method of arriving at corner influence for lesser valued side streets. This table is to be used as a guide when the side street value is less than \$150.00.

Some of the factors to consider when arriving at corner influence are, use, architectural design of structures, importance of protection, needed window area, additional entrance needs, exposure needs, display needs, public habits, etc.

Do not use corner influence on residential properties.

It should be remembered that corner influence is a judgment factor and the tables reflect ideal conditions and usage of each corner. Adjustments must be made when, in the judgment of the appraiser, conditions or usage is less than ideal.

CORNER INFLUENCE TABLE NO. 1

Use only if side street value is \$150.00 per front foot or higher. See Corner Influence Table No. 2 for streets of lesser value.

Feet (Depth from side street)	Percentage
1	4
2	5
3	8
4	10
5	12
6	14
7	16
8	18
9	19
10	21
11	22
12	24
13	25
14	27
15	28
16	29
17	31
18	32
19	33
20	34

Example:

$$\$400.00 \text{ side street value} \times 34\% = \$136.00 \times 100' = \$13,600.00$$

CORNER INFLUENCE TABLE NO. 2

Use only if side street value is \$150.00 per front foot or lower. See Corner Influence Table No. 1 for higher value street.

Side Street Value	Corner Influence Table
\$10	\$136
15	204
20	272
25	340
	34% x 40% of Value
30	408
35	476
40	544
45	612
<hr/>	
\$50	\$850
55	935
	34% x 50% of Value
60	1,020
65	1,105
<hr/>	
\$70	\$1,428
	34% x 60% of Value
75	1,530
80	1,632
<hr/>	
\$90	\$2,142
	34% x 70% of Value
100	2,380
<hr/>	
\$110	\$2,992
	34% x 80% of Value
120	3,264
125	3,400
<hr/>	
\$130	\$3,978
	34% x 90% of Value
140	4,284
<hr/>	
\$150	\$5,100
	34% x 100% of Value

CORNER INFLUENCE TABLES (Continued)

EXAMPLES FOR CORNER INFLUENCE

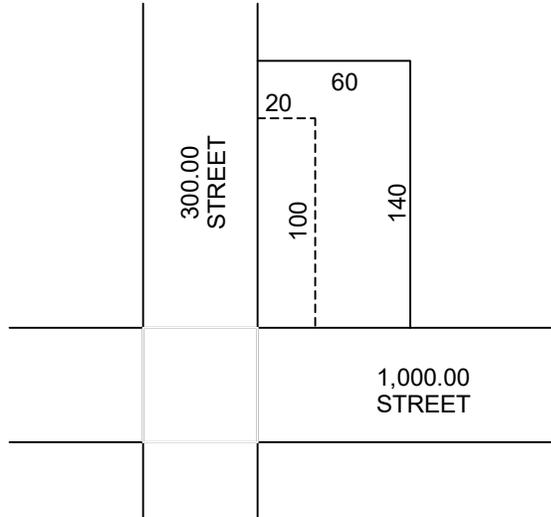


TABLE NO. 1

In the example above we have a lot which is 60' frontage x 140' depth. The area outlined with a dash line (20' x 100') is the maximum area to be considered as being influenced. The formula for calculation is \$300.00 side street unit value times the depth percentage from Table No. 1 for 20' (34%) times 100' of frontage on the side street. The total lot valuation would be as follows:

Lot Value (60' front x \$1,000.00).....	\$60,000.00
Corner Influence (\$300.00 x 34% x 100').....	<u>10,200.00</u>
TOTAL ACTUAL VALUE	\$70,200.00

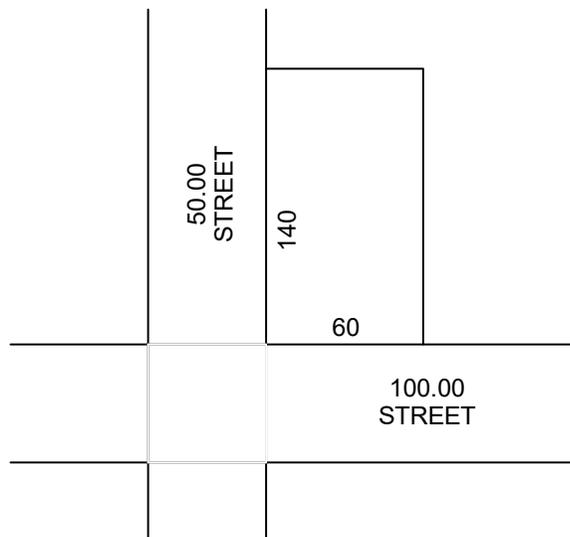


TABLE NO. 2

Table No. 2 is calculated for the appraiser and can be used (when applicable) as shown.

Lot Value (60' x \$100.00).....	\$6,000.00
Corner Influence (\$50.00 value from Table No. 2).....	<u>850.00</u>
TOTAL ACTUAL VALUE	\$6,850.00

LAND DEPTH CHART

100' STANDARD DEPTH

Feet	Percent	Feet	Percent
1	2	54	74
2	4	55	75
3	5	56 - 57	76
4	7	58	77
5	9	59	78
6	10	60	79
7	12	61	80
8	13	62 - 63	81
9	15	64	82
10	17	65	83
11	18	66 - 67	84
12	20	68	85
13	22	69 - 70	86
14	23	71	87
15	25	72	88
16	27	73 - 74	89
17	28	75 - 76	90
18	30	77 - 78	91
19	31	79 - 80	92
20	33	81 - 82	93
21	34	83 - 85	94
22	36	86 - 87	95
23	37	88 - 90	96
24	39	91 - 92	97
25	40	93 - 95	98
26	42	96 - 98	99
27	43	99 - 101	100
28	44	102 - 105	101
29	46	106 - 109	102
30	47	110 - 112	103
31	48	113 - 116	104
32	50	117 - 119	105
33	51	120 - 123	106
34	52	124 - 127	107
35	53	128 - 132	108
36	55	133 - 136	109
37	56	137 - 141	110
38	57	142 - 147	111
39	58	148 - 153	112
40	59	154 - 158	113
41	60	159 - 164	114
42	62	165 - 171	115
43	63	172 - 179	116
44	64	180 - 186	117
45	65	187 - 194	118
46	66	195 - 204	119
47	67	205 - 217	120
48	68	218 - 233	121
49	69	234 - 249	122
50	70	250 - 265	123
51	71	266 - 282	124
52	72	283 - 300	125
53	73		

Use 2% for each additional 33' depth.

LAND DEPTH CHART

110' STANDARD DEPTH

Feet	Percent	Feet	Percent
1	2	56	71
2	4	58	72
3	5	59	73
4	7	60	74
5	8	61	75
6	9	62	76
7	11	64	77
8	12	65	78
9	14	66	79
10	16	68	80
11	17	69	81
12	18	70	82
13	20	72	83
14	22	73	84
15	23	75	85
16	25	76	86
17	26	78	87
18	27	79	88
19	28	81	89
20	30	83	90
21	31	85	91
22	33	88	92
23	34	90	93
24	36	92	94
25	37	95	95
26	38	97	96
27	40	100	97
28	41	103	98
29	42	106	99
30	43	109	100
31	44	112	101
32	46	116	102
33	47	120	103
34	48	124	104
35	49	129	105
36	50	133	106
37	51	137	107
38	52	141	108
39	54	147	109
40	55	152	110
41	56	157	111
42	57	163	112
43	58	170	113
44	59	176	114
45	60	182	115
46	61	190	116
47	62	198	117
48	63	205	118
49	64	214	119
50	65	224	120
51	66	236	121
52	67	251	122
53	68	268	123
54	69	284	124
55	70		

Use 2% for each additional 33' depth.

LAND DEPTH CHART

120' STANDARD DEPTH

Feet	Percent	Feet	Percent
1	2	58	68
2	3	59	69
3	5	60	70
4	6	61	71
5	8	62 - 63	72
6	9	64	73
7	11	65	74
8	12	66 - 67	75
9	13	68	76
10	15	69	77
11	16	70 - 71	78
12	17	72	79
13	19	73 - 74	80
14	20	75	81
15	21	76 - 77	82
16	23	78	83
17	24	79 - 80	84
18	25	81	85
19	26	82 - 83	86
20	28	84 - 85	87
21	29	86 - 87	88
22	30	88 - 89	89
23	32	90 - 91	90
24	33	92 - 94	91
25	34	95 - 96	92
26	35	97 - 99	93
27	37	100 - 102	94
28	38	103 - 105	95
29	39	106 - 108	96
30	40	109 - 111	97
31	41	112 - 115	98
32	42	116 - 118	99
33	43	119 - 122	100
34	44	123 - 126	101
35	45	127 - 130	102
36	46	131 - 134	103
37	47	135 - 139	104
38	48	140 - 144	105
39	50	145 - 148	106
40	51	149 - 153	107
41	52	154 - 159	108
42	53	160 - 165	109
43	54	166 - 171	110
44	55	172 - 177	111
45	56	178 - 184	112
46	57	185 - 191	113
47	58	192 - 198	114
48	59	199 - 206	115
49	60	207 - 214	116
50	61	215 - 222	117
51	62	223 - 231	118
52	63	232 - 241	119
53	64	242 - 253	120
54	65	254 - 267	121
55	66		
56 - 57	67		

Use 2% for each additional 33' depth.

LAND DEPTH CHART

130' – 132' STANDARD DEPTH

Feet	Percent	Feet	Percent
1	2	62	68
2	3	64	69
3	5	65	70
4	6	66	71
5	8	68	72
6	9	69	73
7	10	70	74
8	11	72	75
9	12	73	76
10	14	75	77
11	15	76	78
12	16	78	79
13	17	79	80
14	19	81	81
15	20	82	82
16	21	84	83
17	22	86	84
18	23	87	85
19	25	89	86
20	26	91	87
21	27	93	88
22	28	95	89
23	29	97	90
24	31	99	91
25	32	102	92
26	33	105	93
27	34	108	94
28	35	111	95
29	36	114	96
30	37	118	97
31	38	122	98
32	39	126	99
33	40	130	100
34	42	135	101
35	43	139	102
36	44	144	103
37	45	148	104
38	46	153	105
39	47	157	106
40	48	162	107
41	49	168	108
42	50	174	109
43	51	180	110
44	52	186	111
45	53	193	112
46	54	200	113
47	55	208	114
48	56	217	115
49	57	226	116
50	58	236	117
51	59	246	118
52	60	257	119
53	61	268	120
54 - 55	62	279	121
56	63	290	122
57	64		
58 - 59	65		
60	66		
61	67		

Use 2% for each additional 33' depth.

LAND DEPTH CHART

140' STANDARD DEPTH

Feet	Percent	Feet	Percent
1	1	63	65
2	3	64 - 65	66
3	4	66	67
4	5	67	68
5	6	68 - 69	69
6	8	70 - 71	70
7	9	72	71
8	10	73	72
9	11	74 - 75	73
10	13	76	74
11	14	77 - 78	75
12	15	79 - 80	76
13	16	81	77
14	17	82 - 83	78
15	18	84	79
16	20	85 - 86	80
17	21	87	81
18	22	88 - 89	82
19	23	90 - 91	83
20	24	92 - 93	84
21	25	94 - 95	85
22	26	96 - 97	86
23	28	98 - 99	87
24	29	100 - 101	88
25	30	102 - 103	89
26	31	104 - 106	90
27	32	107 - 109	91
28	33	110 - 112	92
29	34	113 - 115	93
30	35	116 - 118	94
31	36	119 - 121	95
32	37	122 - 125	96
33	38	126 - 129	97
34	39	130 - 133	98
35	40	134 - 137	99
36	41	138 - 142	100
37	42	143 - 147	101
38	43	148 - 152	102
39	44	153 - 157	103
40	45	158 - 162	104
41	46	163 - 167	105
42	47	168 - 172	106
43 - 44	48	173 - 179	107
45	49	180 - 185	108
46	50	186 - 192	109
47	51	193 - 199	110
48	52	200 - 207	111
49	53	208 - 215	112
50	54	216 - 223	113
51	55	224 - 231	114
52 - 53	56	232 - 241	115
54	57	242 - 252	116
55	58	253 - 263	117
56	59	264 - 275	118
57	60	276 - 287	119
58	61	288 - 300	120
59 - 60	62		
61	63		
62	64		

Use 2% for each additional 33' depth.

LAND DEPTH CHART

150' STANDARD DEPTH

Feet	Percent	Feet	Percent
1	1	65	63
2	2	66	64
3	3	67 - 68	65
4	5	69	66
5	6	70 - 71	67
6	7	72	68
7	8	73 - 74	69
8	9	75	70
9	10	76 - 77	71
10	11	78	72
11	13	79 - 80	73
12	14	81	74
13	15	82 - 83	75
14	16	84 - 85	76
15	17	86	77
16	18	87 - 88	78
17	19	89 - 90	79
18	20	91	80
19	21	92 - 93	81
20	22	94 - 95	82
21	24	96 - 97	83
22	25	98 - 99	84
23	26	100 - 101	85
24	27	102 - 104	86
25	28	105 - 106	87
26	29	107 - 108	88
27	30	109 - 111	89
28	31	112 - 114	90
29	32	115 - 117	91
30	33	118 - 120	92
31	34	121 - 123	93
32	35	124 - 126	94
33	36	127 - 129	95
34	37	130 - 133	96
35	38	134 - 138	97
36	39	139 - 142	98
37	40	143 - 147	99
38 - 39	41	148 - 153	100
40	42	154 - 158	101
41	43	159 - 163	102
42	44	164 - 168	103
43	45	169 - 173	104
44	46	174 - 179	105
45	47	180 - 184	106
46	48	185 - 190	107
47 - 48	49	191 - 197	108
49	50	198 - 205	109
50	51	206 - 213	110
51	52	214 - 220	111
52	53	221 - 229	112
53 - 54	54	230 - 238	113
55	55	239 - 248	114
56	56	249 - 258	115
57	57	259 - 268	116
58 - 59	58	269 - 285	117
60	59	286 - 300	118
61	60		
62 - 63	61		
64	62		

Use 2% for each additional 33' depth.

AGRICULTURAL LAND VALUATION

INTRODUCTION

Iowa law provides that in assessing land classified as agricultural realty, (see classification information in Iowa Administrative Rules 701.71.1(3)), the actual value shall be determined on the basis of productivity and net earning capacity of the property determined on the basis of its use for agricultural purposes capitalized at a seven percent rate (7%) as defined in Iowa Code 441.21(1)e. This value shall be applied uniformly among all counties and any formula or method employed to determine productivity and net earning capacity shall be adopted in full by rule. In Iowa Code 441.21(1)f, the law further provides that in counties in which a modern soil survey (1949 and later) has been completed, the assessor shall place emphasis upon the results of the survey in spreading the valuation among individual parcels of agricultural property. The assessor shall use the most current corn suitability rating soil survey as required by code. The assessor shall adjust non-cropland as stated in Iowa Administrative Rule 701-71.3(1)b in the distribution of the productivity valuation to each parcel.

The provisions of Iowa law mentioned above clearly indicate that assessors must be prepared to undertake studies of income and expenses in compliance with the productivity formula in order to properly assess agricultural properties. They must also create a system to identify land use between cropland and non-cropland. After determining the productivity valuation from income, expense and production studies, the assessor applies the results to individual parcels in a uniform process to determine the productivity value of each parcel.

The state equalization process sets the total agricultural value within each assessing jurisdiction. The assessor is charged with equitably distributing the value to each parcel. This section will detail the steps and processes of developing a system for the distribution of the valuation based on the corn suitability ratings for each parcel. The process can be performed on one agricultural parcel or on all agricultural parcels within an assessment jurisdiction.

SOIL MAPS

Agricultural land values differ primarily because of the variation in (a) productivity of the soil, (b) use for buildings, (c) location, and (d) other factors. The goal of the soil scientist in making a soil map is to identify the soils and to record their location on a map. Since each type of soil has a unique use, management, and production capabilities, it follows that the soil map, together with the accompanying interpretations, is a valuable tool in an equitable distribution of the valuation agricultural land as well as provides compliance with 441.21 (1)e and (1)f.

Soil maps are constructed using an aerial photograph as a base map. Soil surveys are made by careful examination of the soil in the field, and delineation of soil mapping units on the aerial base photo. Soil mapping units are presently identified by a three-part symbol. For example 120c2, the 120 portion of the symbol indicates the soil type, Tama silty clay loam, the C indicates the slope group, and the 2 indicates the erosion phase (thickness of "A" horizon or topsoil). Mapping units that have 0 to 2 percent slope and slight or no erosion are group A, erosion phase 1, would be identified only as 120.

Following is a list of symbols used to identify slope and erosion in Iowa

SLOPE

No symbol	0 to 2 and 1 to 3 percent	Level and Nearly Level
B	2 to 5 percent	Gently Sloping
C	5 to 9 percent	Moderately Sloping
D	9 to 14 percent	Strongly Sloping
E	14 to 18 percent	Moderately Steep
F	18 to 25 percent	Steep
G	25 to 40 percent	Very Steep

EROSION

No symbol	None to slight erosion; no evident exposed subsoil when plowed; more than 7 inches of "A" horizon
2	Moderately eroded; usually 3 to 7 inches of total "A" horizon with some mixing of subsoil.
3	Severely eroded; when plowed the "Ap" horizon is predominantly subsoil with less than 3 inches of total "A" horizon remaining.
+	Overwash.

AGRICULTURAL LAND VALUATION (Continued)

SOIL MAPS (Continued)

Slope and erosion phases may have different designations than those given above. Interpretation of a soil map should be made using the soil mapping legend in effect for the time and the area for which the soil map was made. The same statement applies to the soil type number.

The areas mapped in a soil survey are keyed to a classification system. The areas within defined limits have similar physical, chemical, and biological properties as determined by a field and laboratory tests. This procedure makes it possible to predict the behavior of the areas mapped, based on past experience with similar soils under various land uses.

SOIL RATINGS

The CSR (corn suitability rating) is a soil productivity rating for Iowa soils that ranges from a low of 5 to a high of 100. It was introduced in 1971 by Thomas Fenton from Iowa State University. The index has been correlated to crop yields although part of the intent of the index was to establish a system for equitable tax assessment.

The formula for CSR2 is $CSR2=S-M-W-F-D+-EJ$ is more transparent in how Iowa soils are rated as compared to the original CSR ratings. The calculation can be made using publicly available data. The letters in the formula are:

S – is the taxonomic subgroup class of the series of the soil map unit.

M – is the family particle size class.

W – relates to available water holding capacity of the series.

F – is the field condition of a particular MU, for example, slope, flooding, ponding, erosion class, and topsoil thickness.

D – is the soil depth and tolerable rate of soil erosion.

EJ – is an expert judgment correction factor. EJ is normally used with parent materials that have very high bulk density and/or unusually clayey or sandy.

Additional information in regard to CSR2 is available at the Iowa State University Agronomy Department and on their website. The 4-page description of CSR2 is posted on the Soil and Land Use website.

Additional postings include an article about CSR2 in the ICM Newsletter. ISU does not anticipate changes to the description in the near future. However, ISU will review annually and update if required. Therefore assessors may need to ascertain if updated information is available at the time of reading.

The assessor should use the most modern soil survey and the most current corn suitability ratings for their jurisdiction. These figures are available from the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service web site.

LAND USE ADJUSTMENT

Iowa Administrative Rule 701-71.3(1)b requires the assessor to distribute the productivity valuation, as defined in Rule 701-71.3(a), and shall adjust non-cropland as defined in this rule. The adjustment shall be applied to non-cropland with a corn suitability rating that is greater than 50 percent of the average corn suitability rating for cropland for the county. The adjustment shall be determined for each county based on the five year average difference in cash rent between non-irrigated cropland and pasture land as published by NASS. In extreme or unusual cases, other adjustments may be necessary on a per parcel basis.

DEFINING LAND USE

Before the assessor can apply the adjustment to the land designated as non-crop delineation of cropland and non-cropland is required. Below is a list of items to assist the assessor in determining the land use differentiation between cropland and non-cropland.

CROPLAND

1. Land that at some time has been in production and is capable of crop production.
2. Land currently enrolled in an active conservation reserve program receiving payments for land that was once in crop production.
3. Land that consists of manmade grass waterways or crossable waterways and is capable of crop production.
4. Land that consists of manmade terraces, buffer strips, or similar manmade objects.
5. Tillable pasture or vineyards.

If the land is presently being cropped, or has been cropped in the past and is still capable of being cropped, it should be designated as cropland. If the status is questionable, the assessor's best judgment is required until support for non-cropland is provided by the taxpayer and a more precise determination can be made.

AGRICULTURAL LAND VALUATION (Continued)

DEFINING LAND USE (Continued)

NON CROPLAND

1. Building Sites including driveways or access roads.
2. Non Crossable streams or waterways.
3. Forest or Timber ground.
4. Dedicated ponds or dam area (not occasional ponding in field).
5. Permanent Pasture.
6. Land under permanent easement that precludes any type of crop production.
7. Land with access limitations or limited ability to be cropped.

If the land is precluded from producing a crop it should be considered non-cropland. This could be buildings, trees, water, access or size. Properties with issues such as these should be defined as non-cropland.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS – NON CROPLAND

A foundation of the corn suitability rating system is that the ratings are related to the productivity of the land. Under unusual or unique circumstances the land may require an additional adjustment for the system to be used most effectively. This should be done only in unusual or limited circumstances.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS – CROPLAND

Still other situations may exist warranting adjustments to cropland, which are not specifically shown on the soil map. In these cases, assessor judgment is required, based upon limitations or restrictions to normal crop production. Further investigation is recommended for these types of areas. These areas should be treated as non-cropland.

1. Isolated small areas: Soils that are normally tillable but have use limitations imposed by their small area and/or location. For example, a part of a field may be isolated from the remainder of the field by a drainage way that is not crossable with tillage equipment. The area may be well suited for intensive row crop production, but due to the limited accessibility the use of the land is restricted to pasture. Judgment must be applied to properly evaluate this situation.
2. Areas in which soils requiring artificial drainage cannot be drained due to lack of an outlet or other physical limitation.
3. Areas subject to overflow by streams. The assessor will need to investigate if the CSR2 rating for the area under question has an EJ adjustment for flooding already included in the rating for that geographic location and soil.
4. Areas which may be physically capable of producing income, but due to permanent conservation easements, are legally precluded from all typical agricultural uses.

SOIL SURVEY SYSTEM

The first step for the assessor is to obtain the most current soil survey for the county. The corn suitability rating survey provides the geographic area for each soil mapping unit by soil scientists of the Iowa Agricultural and Home Economics Experiment Station and the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. Current Department of Revenue guidelines require the use of the most current corn suitability ratings, as supplied by the United States Department of Agriculture, National Resource Conservation Service. In most counties this would be the CSR2 maps.

The soil inventory process is the steps taken to itemize and measure the amount of each soil type and the associated CSR ratings within each parcel. This same process is then repeated for each agricultural land parcel. Since the early 1990's the process has moved from a paper format to a digital format. While the processing medium has changed due to rapid advances in GIS technology, the basic processes are still the same.

GIS is the acronym for Geographic Information System. It is a computerized mapping system. Computerized mapping has the ability to measure, process, and analyze multiple layers of information providing measured acres of each soil type within each parcel. The inventory also computes the CSR points for each parcel of land based on the composition of the parcel, the soils within the parcels as well as the associated CSR points and acres of each. This information is used in the overall valuation process for the county as well as the distribution of the productivity value to each parcel.

AGRICULTURAL LAND VALUATION (Continued)

DATA

The mapping layers necessary for processing parcel information for valuation purposes include:

- o Parcel Polygons
- o Soil Maps
- o Land Use/Land Exemption

PARCEL POLYGONS

The parcel polygon mapping layer may be in different formats including shape file, personal geodatabase, etc. To be most effective, the map layer needs to be the most up to date reflection of the parcel inventory with divisions (plats or splits) and parcel consolidations completed at the time of processing.

Digital mapping does not represent an official survey of the parcel inventory and as a result there may be differences between the measured acres and the deeded or assessed acres by parcel. This is also the result of imperfections in the digital layers. Gross acres less any right of way acres would result in net Acres. Net acres less any exempted acres would result in taxable acres. Depending on the software application the first steps in processing the parcel inventory include information in regard to the gross and or net acres for each parcel of agriculturally classed property. Property records in regard to assessed acres are the statutory responsibility of the County Auditor and therefore any corrections to these acres needs to be authorized by the auditor. For clarification purposes assessors need to provide information on agricultural parcels based on the following definitions:

- o Gross Acres: Acres that include any right of way, usually represents the acres listed on the deeded documents if any (some deeds do not define the number of acres)
- o ROW: Defined as right of way acres for roads, drainage, railroad, etc.
- o Net Acres: gross acres less right of way acres
- o Exempt Acres: Acres that are not taxable but reported on the abstract such as slough bill, forest/fruit tree exemption
- o Taxable Acres: Acres on which taxes are actually paid.

SOIL MAPS

Original paper soil maps have been converted into an electronic layer which can be utilized by a digital geographic information system. They are available for downloading at the link provided below. A review of the soil layer in conjunction with the parcel layer should be done to illuminate any line discrepancies between the layers along the county borders. The assessor should consult with GIS professionals to resolve these issues.

The CSR2 ratings can be downloaded at the link provided below, and should be incorporated into the process according to the soils processing software requirements.

Information can be found at the Web Soil Survey from the NRCS.

LAND USE LAYER / EXEMPTION LAYER

The assessor may utilize the USDA FSA-published Common Land Unit digital data, or other reliable sources, and current aerial imagery. Or alternatively, other methods to develop the land use layer may be used. Since 2008, the USDA Farm Service Agency crop/non-crop designations are no longer available to the public so this particular data source may not reflect the current status of properties within the county.

As part of or separate from the land use layer any approved and qualifying exemptions need to be mapped digitally as well. Digital imagery can assist in determining the boundaries of forest reserve and other exemptions. Field reviews may be required on some parcels. Calculating the exempted acres using digital processes and comparing to the exempted acres granted on the exemption application is suggested.

The land use/exemption layer needs to be maintained as the use of the land may change over time. These changes may include removal or adding building sites; land that is cleared for crop production; and other changes. The assessor is responsible for proper distribution of the productivity value based on the use of the property so managing these changes as they occur is required.

AGRICULTURAL LAND VALUATION (Continued)

NON-CROP ADJUSTMENT FORMULA

The assessor is to follow the rule as published in Iowa Administrative Code 701-71.3(1)b and shown by example in 701-71-3(d). Under typical circumstances, this is the only adjustment that should be made to agricultural land identified as “non-crop”. The Iowa Department of Revenue will calculate and publish the adjustment factor for each county based on the five year average differences in cash rent between non-irrigated cropland and pasture land as published in the rule. Under unusual or extreme circumstances an additional adjustment may be necessary.

Assessor judgment will need to be applied to determine if there are extreme or unusual circumstances.

THE PROCESSING STEPS

STEP ONE: The assessor is required to review any differences between the gross, net and taxable acreage and the calculated acreage within the mapping system. Large discrepancies between the two pieces of data may mean the parcel is drawn incorrectly or that the acreage listed by the Auditor needs to be reviewed. This review likely will necessitate researching the deeds and plats for the parcels on the tax rolls to ensure the digital parcels reflect the recorded documents. The recorded documents are the source information and any changes to the mapping system will need to reflect these source documents. Clear discrepancies will need additional research for resolution.

STEP TWO: The various digital layers of information including; parcel polygons; soils, and land use and exemptions layers are used to populate the GIS software application. Additional information required for actual calculation of individual CSR counts on the various parcels includes:

- Average county crop area CSR ratings
- Land use codes
- Land use adjustment percentage (calculated by IDR)

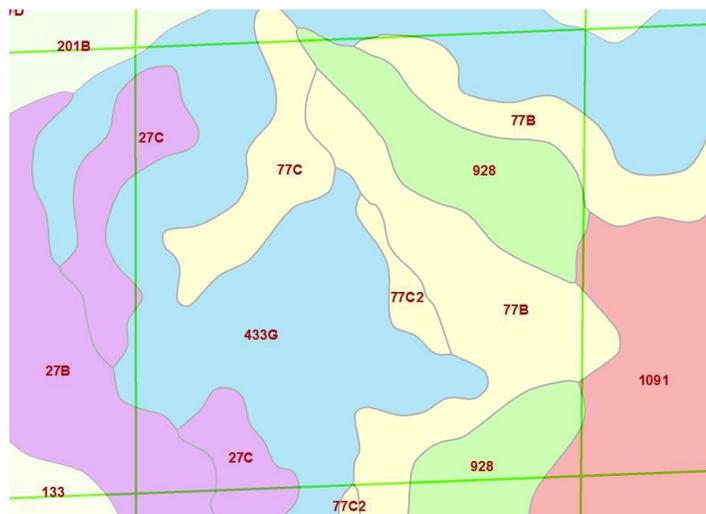
STEP THREE: Processing the aforementioned information with the software application results in:

- Calculated CSR points for each soil per parcel for cropland
- Calculated and adjusted CSR points for each soil per parcel for non-cropland
- Calculation of adjusted CSR points for exempted acres
- Total CSR points per parcel
- Total CSR points for the assessing jurisdiction
- Average cropland CSR rating for the county

A sample parcel map, soil map, land use layer and soil calculation report are shown below.



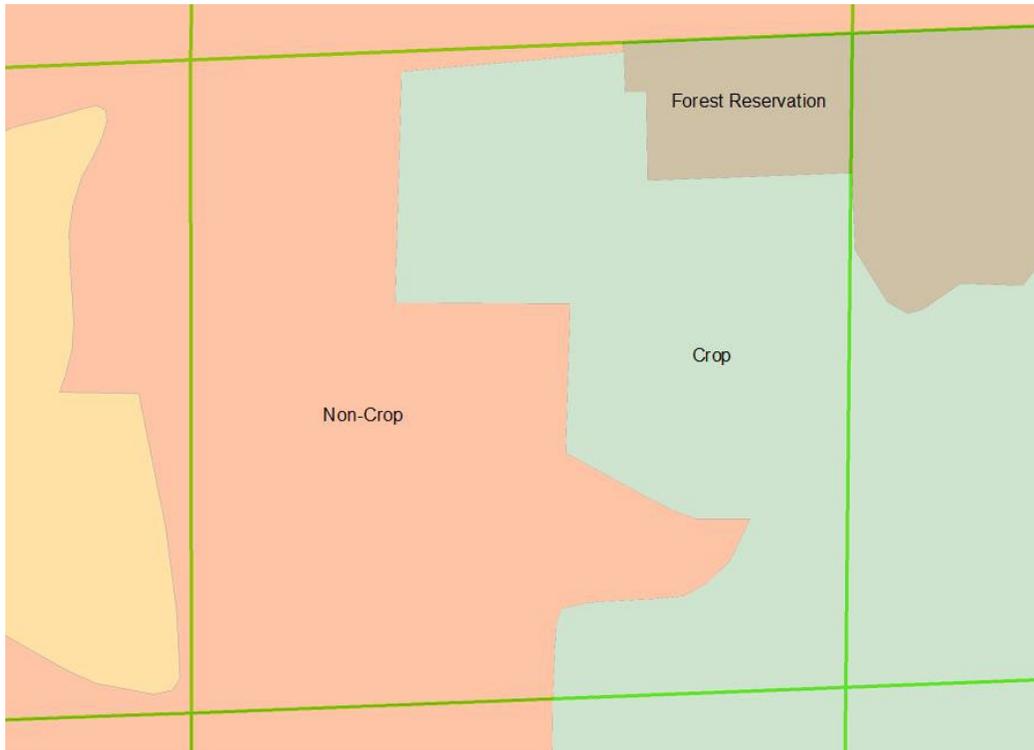
PARCEL MAP



SOIL MAP

AGRICULTURAL LAND VALUATION (Continued)

THE PROCESSING STEPS (Continued)



LAND USE / EXEMPTION LAYER

Description	Soil Symbol	Soil Name	CSR	Net Acres	Unadjusted CSR Points	Adjusted CSR	Adjusted CSR Points
Crop	91	Primghar	77	12.00	924.00	77.00	924.00
Crop	92	Marcus	72	8.00	576.00	72.00	576.00
Non-Crop	92	Marcus	72	5.00	360.00	43.20	216.00
Crop	310B	Galva	67	10.00	670.00	67.00	670.00
Non-Crop	310B	Galva	67	5.00	335.00	23.30	116.50
Total				40.00	2,865.00		2,502.50
					Value / CSR Point	X	\$30.00
					Total Valuation		\$75,075

AGRICULTURAL LAND VALUATION (Continued)

DISTRIBUTION OF ASSESSED VALUE

The aggregated total CSR points for cropland and adjusted CSR points for non-cropland provides the foundation for the distribution of the total productivity value to each parcel. Assessors distribute the valuation throughout the jurisdiction so that each parcel of real estate is assessed at its actual value as defined in Iowa Code 441.21.

Sample calculations:

1. Value per acre as calculated via the productivity formula	2,500
X number of agricultural acres assessed in the jurisdiction	
and reported to the Department on jurisdiction	<u>360,000</u>
= the targeted agricultural land and building value	\$900,000,000
2. Total County Agricultural Value	\$900,000,000
Less County Ag Building Value	
(adjusted by Agricultural Building Factor)	<u>\$100,000,000</u>
= Jurisdiction Ag Land Value	\$800,000,000
3. Jurisdiction Ag Land Value	
Divided by Total Adjusted CSR Points	\$800,000,000
(sum of cropland CSR and adjusted non-cropland CSR points)	<u>36,463,081.13</u>
= Assigned Dollar per CSR Point Value	\$21.94

Multiply each parcel's total CSR points by the dollars per CSR = Total Land Value per Parcel