

DATES AND DEADLINES

April 19, 2012: Early abstract submission deadline. Abstract submission fees increase \$20 per abstract after this date, effective April 20, 2012. <http://scisoc.confex.com/scisoc/2012am/index.html>

April 30, 2012: Application for S06 **Soil and Water Conservation Scholarship** are due. (details below).

May 1, 2012: Final abstract submission deadline. Please have your abstracts complete by this date.

NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Soil and Water Conservation Scholarship. The S06 Soil and Water Conservation scholarship is meant encourage current students to consider a career in soil and water conservation. The student can be a junior or senior in a B.S. program or a M.S. candidate. In all cases, the student must exhibit class room activities, special studies, or work experience in the field of soil and water conservation and be pursuing a degree and career in soil and water conservation. The recipient receives a \$3000 award designed to assist the student with education expenses associated with pursuing a career in soil and water conservation. In addition, \$500 will be awarded to the student awardee’s major professor to encourage the continued mentoring of the student in the field of soil and water conservation.

To apply, please submit a one-page, 450 words maximum, vision of the vital efforts required in soil and water conservation to maintain the sustainable production of our agricultural goods and services and to protect the quality of our natural resources. Applications are due to the award committee chair by **April 30, 2012**. The requested materials should be sent to: Dr. Jerry Lemunyon via email at: jerry.lemunyon@ftw.usda.gov

FOCUS ON THE ANNUAL MEETING

Symposium – Soil management role in addressing climate change: An Inventory of where we are and where we are heading. (Organizer: Mahdi Al-Kaisi)

This symposium will focus on questions related to the role of soil management practices in mitigating climate change impact on agro-ecosystems and soil resiliency. A significant body of work has been published addressing soil management techniques and practices, yet we are still referring to the same approaches in addressing issues related to current environmental challenges. It is imperative to thoughtfully look back and take an inventory of what we have done as scientists in order to present novel ideas to address more pressing issues, such as climate change impact on productivity and the environment. This symposium will help open a dialogue between soil and other scientists in examining the role of soil management in mitigating climate change effects on food production and the environment.

Speakers (Specific topics and titles will be determined later)

Rattan Lal (confirmed)	The Ohio State University
Doug Karlen (Confirmed)	National Laboratory of Agriculture and Environment-ARS-USDA
David Lobb (Confirmed)	University of Manitoba

Gary Peterson (Confirmed)	Colorado State University
Charles Rice (Confirmed)	Kansas State University
Another speaker will be confirmed shortly	

13th Joint SWCS-SSSA Symposium – Food Security: Conservation, Inputs and Technology (Organizer: Jorge Delgado)

The 13th Annual SWCS-SSSA Joint Symposium will be held at the 2012 SWCS and SSSA annual meetings. Past joint symposia have been very successful. The 2012 joint symposium is titled “Food Security: Conservation, Inputs and Technology”. This is a topic of great importance and interest to both societies. It is very clear from recent publications that food security is not likely to be achieved without choosing conservation, and that the topics of the 2012 farm bill, economics, technology, and global soil ecology are important for achieving a sustainable planet. This joint symposium will continue with the tradition of cooperation between the two societies and will help to create opportunities to disseminate this cutting-edge information to members of both societies. It will also help to “jumpstart” a conversation about why choosing conservation is important for economics, global sustainability, and food security, at both societies. Next year’s farm bill is an important activity that is related to these topics, and the presentation about the 2012 Farm Bill and its relationship to the topic of food security will be timely and in sync with the goals of the program. The SWCS and SSSA have always been at the forefront of conservation and soil science, and this year’s topic connects with current global issues related to soil and water conservation and global sustainability.

Speakers

Dr. C. Wayne Honeycutt	Deputy Chief USDA-NRCS and
Dr. Sharon K. Papiernik Supervisory Soil Scientist	USDA-ARS
Dr. Junping Chen Molecular Biologist	USDA-ARS
Dr. John Westra Associate Professor	LSU
Diana Wall Senior Research Scientist	CSU

Sponsored/Co-sponsored Activities

Symposium – **Cover Crops**: Management and Impacts on Agroecosystems and the Environment (Oral and Poster sessions) Oral and poster presentations will address management of cover crops in agricultural systems and their impacts on nutrient cycling, soil carbon, soil structure, soil productivity, erosion, nitrous oxide emissions, water quality, and crop growth and yield. Please consider submitting your volunteer poster or oral presentation on cover crops to division S06.

Co-sponsor: ASA Land Management and Conservation

Symposium – **Tomography and Imaging for Soil-Water-Root Processes** (Oral and Poster sessions)

During the past 20 years, significant advances have occurred in the use and application of X-ray computed tomography and other imaging methods. The Symposium “Tomography and Imaging for Soil-Water-Root Processes” will highlight new developments for applications in soil and root systems. Specific methods to be discussed include X-ray computed tomography, synchrotron microtomography, neutron imaging, geophysical imaging tools, and other tomography techniques. These presentations will

provide a unique collection of topics exploring applications of imaging and tomography systems for soil science. We especially invite participation by scientists and engineers, and encourage sharing of results in the volunteer oral and poster components of the symposium.

Co-sponsor: SSSA Division S01 (Soil Physics)

Symposium – Impacts of Bioenergy Crops on Water Quantity and Quality (Oral and Poster)

Bioenergy crops may have potential to improve energy sustainability and security while helping to mitigate climate change, but land conversion to bioenergy crops would also have hydrologic impacts, both positive and negative. The potential impacts of bioenergy crops on water quantity and quality is thus a significant and active research area across many scientific disciplines. This symposium will highlight current research in soil science and related disciplines addressing the water-bioenergy nexus.

Co-sponsors: ASA Climatology & Modeling, S01 Soil Physics, S11 Soils & Environmental Quality

Special Session – Not for Export: Contaminant issues in agricultural drainage

The continued expansion of agricultural drainage has strong implications for agricultural management to protect water quality. In this topical session, we will review recent developments to assess and reduce contaminant transport via drainage. The session will include discussion of changes in local hydrology effected by artificial drainage and the export of a variety of potential contaminants (nutrients, pathogens, pharmaceuticals, pesticides, salts, etc.) from agricultural land. Trade-offs and risks/benefits of agricultural drainage will be discussed. This session will be useful to those interested in reducing contaminant transport to improve water quality and preserve agricultural productivity.

Sponsor: S11 Soils & Environmental Quality

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