

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a mound of dark, rich soil. The hand is positioned as if presenting the soil. In the background, several clear, faceted diamonds are scattered, some resting on the soil and others in the air, creating a contrast between natural earth and refined minerals.

75 Years

*Historical Highlights from 75 Years
of the Soil Science Society of America*
1936–2011

Soil Survey Horizons — ideas, research, problems, field experiences, history, and philosophies related to the study of soils in the field. Articles, announcements, letters, photos, and people and event news are welcome.

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Historical Highlights from 75 Years of the Soil Science Society of America

Eric C. Brevik

November 18, 2011 marks the 75-year anniversary of the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA). This timeline was developed as part of the celebration of that milestone and was assembled in two parts. The items from 1931 through 1985 were originally assembled for the SSSA 50th anniversary in 1986. SSSA records don't indicate who developed the 50th anniversary timeline, but it was likely the SSSA historian at the time, Sterling Olsen. The items from 1987 through 2011 were assembled by Eric Brevik for the 75th anniversary, as were the introductory remarks and graphs. The 1986 entry, given the knowledge that the original timeline was assembled before 1986 was completed, contains items contributed by both authors.

Membership

The membership is the lifeblood of any society. Without members, there is no society, and SSSA is no exception. SSSA membership grew steadily from the founding of the Society in 1937 through the mid-1980s, with an all-time high membership of 6402 in 1985 (Fig. 1). SSSA fell on some relatively hard times through the 1990s, hitting a 25-year low in membership of 5319 in 2002, a loss of more than 1000 members as compared to the 1985 high. From 2002 to 2010 membership numbers saw a recovery. With the exception of a sharp drop in 2009, the first year that Emeritus members were charged dues, membership has recovered to mid-1980s levels. The second and third highest membership numbers in Society history were realized in 2008 and 2010, with 6389 and 6367 members, respectively (Fig. 1).

Society Publications

SSSA provides significant service to the members and the broader soil science community through the publication of high quality journals, books, and other media that meet the needs of a wide range of soil scientists, including researchers, teachers, field scientists, and consultants. Five journals form the core of these publication efforts.

Soil Science Society of America Journal (SSSAJ)

Originally the *SSSA Proceedings*, the flagship journal of the Society has been published for the last 74 years. *SSSA Journal* is widely recog-

SSSA Historian and Associate Professor of Geology and Soils,
Departments of Natural Sciences and Agriculture and Technical Studies,
Dickinson State University, Dickinson, ND 58601
(Eric.Brevik@dickinsonstate.edu)

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The Soil Science Society of America (SSSA), the international scientific Society that is the professional home to more than 6,000 soil scientists, celebrates its 75th Anniversary in 2011. SSSA supports peer-reviewed publications, an Annual Meeting, science policy activities, and the Certified Professional Soil Scientist Program. Today, SSSA continues to help its members advance the field of soil science through outreach to teachers, undergraduate and graduate students, and members around the world.



"During our 75-year history, the Soil Science Society of America has had many accomplishments. From our peer-reviewed journals, Annual Meeting, and educational outreach, we have much to celebrate," says SSSA President Charles W. Rice, Kansas State University. "We look forward to the next 75 years in SSSA history, as the importance of the soil ecosystem moves to the forefront of discussions about climate change, food security, water quantity and quality, contamination, and human health."

The organization is planning several anniversary activities throughout 2011. A national outreach plan is being launched to increase awareness of the importance of soils and the soil science profession and will continue throughout 2011.

Eric Brevik, SSSA Historian, has prepared this timeline to document SSSA's first 75 years.



Fig. 1. SSSA membership numbers, 1937–2009.

nized as one of the most respected soil science journals in the world. *SSSAJ* is one of three journals, along with *Soil Survey Horizons* and *Vadose Zone Journal*, published exclusively by SSSA. Some basic statistics for publications in *SSSAJ* are given in Fig. 2–4; historical covers are shown in Fig. 5.

Soil Survey Horizons (SSH)

Published since 1960, SSH is SSSA's second oldest continuously published journal. SSH was started by Francis Hole to promote communication among field-oriented soil scientists. Today it continues to serve that role and is also the primary publication outlet for consulting soil scientists within the Society. Some basic statistics for publications in *SSH* are given in Fig. 2–4; historical covers are shown in Fig. 6.

Journal of Environmental Quality (JEQ)

Published jointly with ASA and CSSA since 1972, JEQ gives SSSA a strong entry in the field of environmental publications. JEQ has undergone considerable growth since its founding, and since the late 1990s has published articles at a rate similar to that of *SSSAJ*. Some

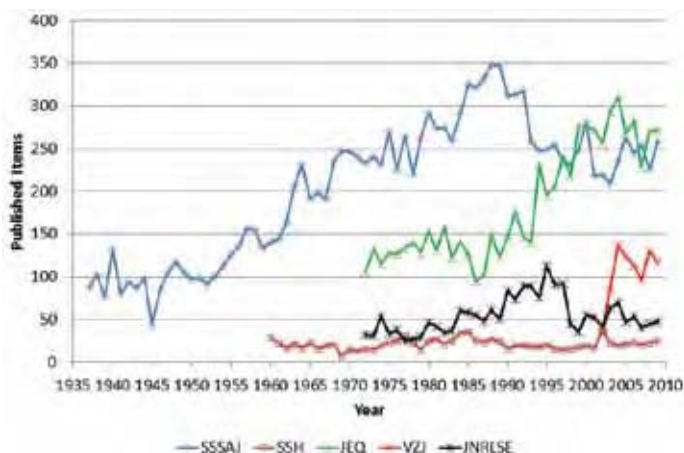


Fig. 2. Number of articles published in SSSA journals, 1936–2010.

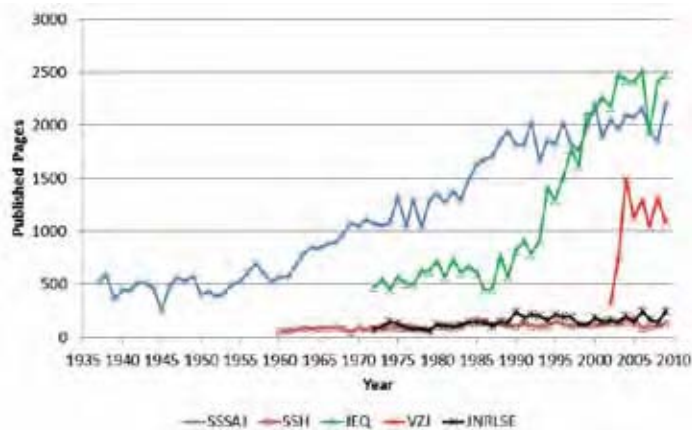


Fig. 3. Number of pages published in SSSA journals, 1936–2010.

basic statistics for publications in JEQ are given in Fig. 2–4; historical covers are shown in Fig. 7.

Journal of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Education (JNRLSE)

Also started in 1972, JNRLSE is published in cooperation with nine other professional societies. Written by educators for educators, JNRLSE is SSSA's outlet for the latest teaching ideas in natural resources, agriculture, and the life sciences. Some basic statistics for publications in JNRLSE are given in Fig. 2–4; historical covers are shown in Fig. 8.

Vadose Zone Journal (VZJ)

The newest of SSSA's journals, VZJ has been published as an online journal since 2002. The Geological Society of America is a journal cooperator. Some basic statistics for publications in VZJ are given in Fig. 2–4; historical covers are shown in Fig. 9.

Net Worth

Providing member services in the modern world requires significant resources. Through income sources such as member dues, revenues from the annual meeting, sales of publications, donations, investments, and the fundraising and investing of the Agronomic Science Foundation, SSSA is able to run programs for the members and promote soil science to the broader community.

Things started off fairly well for SSSA, with positive balances in the bank at the end of the 1938 and 1939 fiscal years. However, from 1940 through 1944 SSSA finished the fiscal year with a negative account balance every year except 1941. From 1945 on, SSSA has finished each fiscal year with a positive net worth, although there have certainly been some individual years when SSSA has lost value. The most notable of those periods was from 1999 to 2002, when SSSA lost more than \$1 million of net worth. Things have improved significantly for the Society since 2002; SSSA finished 2010 with an all-time high net worth of more than \$3.1 million. SSSA's financial history is summarized in Fig. 10.

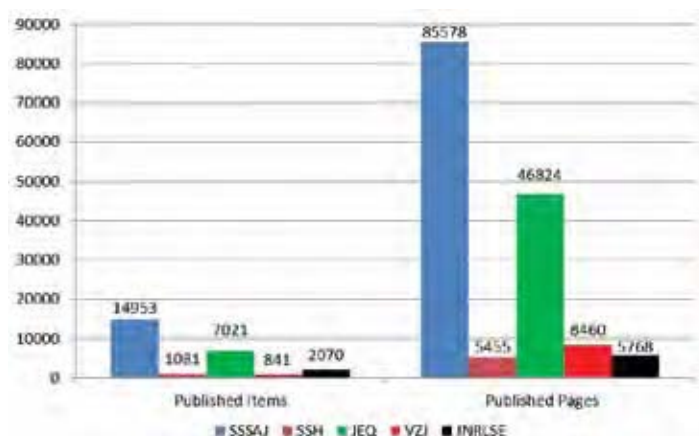


Fig. 4. Total publication in the SSSA journals.



Fig. 5. Changes in the cover of SSSAJ over time. From top left: October 1954, March–April 2006, and March–April 2010.



Fig. 6. Some of the various covers *Soil Survey Horizons* has featured over the years. From top left: Spring 2002, Winter 2005, and Summer 2010.



Fig. 7. Some past covers from *Journal of Environmental Quality*. From top: January–February 2006 and July–August 2010.

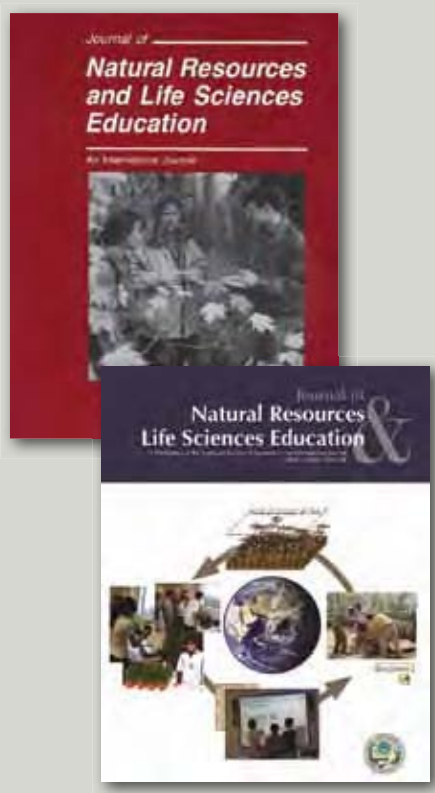


Fig. 8. Some past covers from the *Journal of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Education*. From top: 1997 and 2010.



Fig. 9. Examples of *Vadose Zone Journal* covers. From top: August 2008 and August 2010.

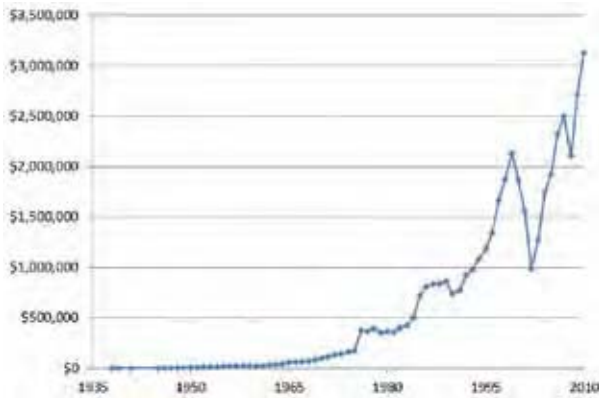


Fig. 10. The net worth of SSSA by year. Data from 1938 to 2003 is from annual reports published in SSSAJ, data from 2004 to 2010 is from Headquarters Staff. The “missing” data points between 1938 and 1945 are years that SSSA finished the fiscal year with a negative balance.

Timeline

While certainly not all inclusive, this timeline gives some of the highlights from the history of SSSA over the years. It begins 5 years before SSSA's formation, listing some of the major events and groups that led to the formation of SSSA in 1936, and continues to 2011. It will be interesting to see what SSSA accomplishes over the next 25 years.

The Precursors to SSSA

- 1931 The Soils Section of ASA is officially established 29 November. (ASA was organized in 1907.)
- 1932 The Soils Section Committee of ASA consisted of Richard Bradfield, chair, and C.E. Millar, secretary.
- 1933 The American Association of Soil Survey Workers, organized in 1920, is renamed the American Soil Survey Association.
- 1934 ASA outlines the official function of the Soils Section to be that of the American Section of the International Society of Soil Science.
- 1935 The American Soil Survey Association and the Soils Section of ASA unite to form a single organization, SSSA.

SSSA Is Born

- 1936 The Soil Science Society of America becomes official on 18 November at the Mayflower Hotel, Washington, DC. The Society's first set of bylaws are approved at the meeting.
Six sections of the Society are established: physics, chemistry, microbiology, fertility, morphology, and technology.
Charter membership is at about 190.
Richard Bradfield is elected first president of SSSA.
G.G. Pohlman is elected secretary-treasurer.
- 1937 Volume I of the *Soil Science Society of America Proceedings* is published. The journal supersedes the *Bulletin of the American Soil Survey Association*.
Due to the abundance of paper presentations, officers limit the number of papers at the annual meeting to 80–100.
Total membership is 518.
J.D. Luckett is elected editor of *Soil Science Society of America Proceedings*.
- 1938 A one-half day symposium is offered at the annual meeting.
A registration fee is adopted for paper presentations.
- 1939 *Soil Science Society of America Proceedings*, Vol. 4, is printed by letterpress, resulting in long delays.
Volume I of *Soil Science Society of America Proceedings* is reprinted.

- 1940 The committee on color standards is discontinued, as was the committee on participation.
A committee on undergraduate and graduate training of soil scientists is established.
- 1941 Volume 5 of the *Soil Science Society of America Proceedings* is typeset vs. printed from typewritten material.
- 1942 During the duration of World War II, SSSA discontinues the collection of International Society of Soil Science dues.
A memorial volume is published to honor C.F. Marbut.
An export license is procured for Volume 6 of *Soil Science Society of America Proceedings* so that it may be shipped to individuals and libraries abroad. The license was necessary due to restrictions on exchange of information regarding new scientific and technical processes.
- 1943 A symposium is held to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Rothamsted Experiment Station.
Seven membership options are made available.
SSSA joins ASA in creating a committee on cooperation of foreign scientists.
- 1944 Wartime shortages of labor and materials result in delays and shrinkage of Volume 8 of *Soil Science Society of America Proceedings*
- 1945 Committee on Terminology approves definition of terms from the six subsections.
- 1946 109 papers are presented at the annual meeting.
A 10-year cumulative author–subject index is included in Volume 10 of *Soil Science Society of America Proceedings*
Due to overcrowding at the annual meetings, the committee on policy takes concurring action with ASA to extend the 3-day meeting to 4 days.
New membership options attributed to an increase in foreign membership; foreign membership totals approximately 7% of the SSSA membership.
- 1947 Subsections are renamed Divisions.
Subdivision S-5a, Forest Soils, is established.
Volume 12 of *Soil Science Society of America Proceedings*, printed on glossy paper, has a record number of papers at 109.
- 1948 Six papers from the symposium “The use of Radioactive Isotopes in Soil and Fertilizer Investigations” are printed in a pre-publication before Volume 13 of *Soil Science Society of America Proceedings*
ASA creates a central business and editorial office in Madison, WI.
L.G. Monthey is named first full-time executive secretary of SSSA. In addition, he is named as editor-in-chief of the *Soil Science Society of America Proceedings*, and M.R. Haag is employed in headquarters to serve as editor.
- 1949 Annual meeting, held in Milwaukee, includes two evening round-table discussions and a 4-d forest soils field trip.
SSSA membership doubles since 1937 to over 900.
Budget and finance committee is established.
Chairs of subsections now constitute the executive committee.
Section 6, Soil Technology, desires name change to Soil Conservation, Irrigation, Drainage, and Tillage.
- 1950 Annual membership now includes subscriptions to *Soil Science Society of America Proceedings*; fee is set at \$12.00.
Soil Science Society of America Proceedings becomes a quarterly journal with Volume 15.
- 1951 Excess of income for the Society tops \$4,000.
SSSA membership hits 1000!
Marbut memorial lectures are published, *Soils: Their Genesis and Classification*.
- 1952 SSSA is incorporated in the State of Wisconsin, 22 January.
Editorial board is established with H.E. Meyers as editor-in-chief.
Regional membership chairs are appointed to begin organizing ASA/SSSA meetings on a regional basis.

- W. Charles Robocker becomes editor of *Agronomy Journal* and *Soil Science Society of America Proceedings*
 Volumes 1–15 of *Soil Science Society of America Proceedings* are made available on microfilm.
- 1953 Donald E. Gregg is appointed managing editor of *Soil Science Society of America Proceedings*
 The largest annual meeting to date is held in Dallas; 336 papers are presented.
 Eric Winters is editor-in-chief of *SSSA Proceedings*.
- 1954 Results of membership questionnaire note the desire for more emphasis placed on regional meetings, need for separate abstracts, fall annual meetings with 4-years rotation as a summer schedule, and a mid-west site.
- 1955 SSSA membership vote to change fertilizer labeling from oxides to elemental basis, to be consistent worldwide.
 ASA issues first career pamphlet to promote careers in agronomy, crop science, and soil science.
 Crops section of ASA becomes the Crop Science Society of America.
- 1956 SSSA membership at 1389; 56% of ASA membership are also members of SSSA.
 Quarterly issues of *Soil Science Society of America Proceedings* include “Soils Affairs” — items of interest on members, publications, positions, regional meetings, and necrology.
 Committee on terminology publishes “Report on Definitions.”
 Richard C. Dinauer joins the Society as managing editor of *Soil Science Society of America Proceedings*.
 First *Authors Guide and Style Manual* is published.
 First volume of *Agronomy News* is published.
 First SSSA Luncheon is held on Thursday at the annual meeting.
- 1957 *Soil Science Society of America Proceedings* begins bi-monthly publication with Volume 22.
Soil Science Society of America Proceedings uses smaller type for Introduction, Results, Discussion, and Conclusions sections to conserve space.
 ASA celebrates their 59th anniversary in Atlanta, GA: nearly 400 papers are presented.
 Second author–subject index is printed in Volume 22 of *Society of America Proceedings*.
 C.A. Black receives the first Soil Science Award, under sponsorship of ASA.
- 1958 N.C. Brady named editor-in-chief of *Soil Science Society of America Proceedings*.
Soil Science Society of America Proceedings adopts the use of abstracts.
 Committee is appointed to consider publishing the first volume of *Methods of Soil Analysis*.
 Division 6 is changed from Soil Conservation, Irrigation, Drainage, and Tillage to Soil and Water Management and Conservation.
- 1959 A.P. Mazurak named as the American editor for the English translation of *Russian Journal of Soil Science*; support is given through the American Institute of Biological Sciences and the National Science Foundation.
 Life membership is made available for the International Society of Soil Science.
 SSSA membership exceeds 1800; journal subscriptions top 3000!
 SSSA noon luncheon is changed to Tuesday during the annual meeting.
- 1960 International Society of Soil Science meeting is held in Madison, WI, with more than 1300 attending.
 “Soils Briefs” is initiated in *Soil Science Society of America Proceedings*.
 Membership exceeds 2000!
- 1961 Groundbreaking takes place for a Headquarters Office at 677 South Segoe Road, Madison, WI.
 Matthias Stelly begins serving as the Society’s executive secretary (title later changed to executive vice president).
 SSSA celebrates their 25th anniversary at St. Louis meeting.
- The Soil Scientist certification program is instituted under the direction of Robert A. Olson, chair.
 Thirty-five members are awarded emeritus status.
- 1962 SSSA Executive Committee adopts divisions with S- prefix; Roman numerals are no longer used.
 The SSSA logo is designed by George J. Buntley for use on certificates for certified soil scientists.
Soil Science Society of America Proceedings (May–June issue) includes 13-page Glossary of Terms.
 The South Segoe Road headquarters office is dedicated in October.
- 1963 Sub-division S-4a, Organic Soils, is dissolved.
 Graduate student membership option made available.
Soil Science Society of America Proceedings subscriptions near 4000.
 Sub-division S-4b obtains full divisional status as S-8, Fertilizer Use and Technology.
 SSSA initiates the SSSA Special Publication series.
- 1964 An English translation of “The Nature of Soil Acidity” by Chernov is published.
 The largest attendance to date for a SSSA luncheon; nearly 350 attend.
 SSSA receives an NSF grant for \$58,000 for the translation and publication of *Soviet Soil Science*.
- 1965 SSSA is offered the opportunity of submitting nominations for the National Medal of Science Award and Hoblitzelle Award.
Methods of Soil Analysis. Vol. 1 is published.
- 1966 A code system for officers and committees of the associated societies is adopted.
 SSSA approves preparation of the SSSA committee manual.
 The Agronomic Science Foundation is founded; SSSA approves participation.
 SSSA membership increases 8% in 1 year.
 SSSA and ASA co-publish *Soil Survey and Land Use Planning*.
- 1967 A new division, S-9, Soil Mineralogy, is established provisionally for a 2-year period.
 Division S-3, Soil Microbiology, is renamed Soil Microbiology and Biochemistry.
 SSSA membership exceeds 3500!
 The ASA, CSSA, SSSA annual meeting in Washington, DC is the best attended in history, with 2844 attending.
- 1968 SSSA reaffirms their earlier policy of requiring that all nutrients be expressed on the elemental basis in Society publications.
 SSSA takes action, in conjunction with ASA and CSSA, to employ an assistant to the executive secretary. The first person to be employed in this position is C.T. Dougherty, who was followed by D.M. Kral. The title of this position is later changed to assistant executive vice president and then to vice president–management and operations.
- 1969 Membership and journal fees raised to \$22.
 SSSA discontinues publishing the English translation of *Soviet Soil Science*.
- 1970 Undergraduate student membership is approved.
 A ballot is sent out to decide if the title of *Soil Science Society of America Proceedings* should be changed to *Soil Science Society of America Journal*.
 A committee is appointed to draft criteria for the Emil Truog Award.
 Division S-9, Soil Mineralogy, receives permanent status.
 The post-meeting program includes soils geomorphology tours.
 The SSSA executive secretary title changed to executive vice president.
 SSSA endorses the establishment of a soil sample bank.
- 1971 Norman E. Borlaug receives the Nobel Prize for high yield wheat research.
 SSSA approves co-sponsorship of the *Journal of Environmental Quality*.

- 1971 Parts 1 and 2 of *Soil Testing and Plant Analysis* are published in hard-cover book form. The publications were formerly part of the SSSA Special Publication series.
Approval is granted for the Norman E. Borlaug book fund.
Interpretative summaries accompany abstracts.
The first Emil Troup Award recipient is Wendell A. Norvell, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.
SSSA, along with ASA and CSSA, become founding members of the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology.
- 1972 The Borlaug Book Fund is established to donate books and journals to needy countries.
Bylaws are redrafted to consider state chapters and to officially change the title of executive secretary to executive vice president.
H.L. Hamilton, upon his retirement, is presented a certificate of recognition for his services to SSSA Special Publications and books.
Dr. Hamilton served on the Societies' staff from 1957 to 1972.
Publication of the *Journal of Environmental Quality* and the *Journal of Natural Resources and Life Science Education* begins.
- 1973 The annual meeting changes from a Tuesday through Friday schedule to a Monday through Thursday schedule.
SSSA officially changes the journal name to *Soil Science Society of America Journal* (SSSAJ).
SSSA receives a contribution from George Bouyoucos to establish a future award.
A certificate is developed to recognize outstanding paper presentations in each division.
- 1974 The International Society of Soil Science celebrates their 50th anniversary.
George Bouyoucos is honored at the SSSA luncheon, highlighting his career and life.
SSSA takes action to cooperate in the printing and distribution of *Soil Survey Horizons*.
SSSA membership hits 4000!
- 1975 The Soil Science Award is sponsored for the first time by SSSA; previously the award had been sponsored by ASA. Dale Swartzendruber is the first recipient under SSSA sponsorship.
The Board of Directors approves initiation of a SSSA Fellows program.
SSSA recognizes through honorary members: C.A. Black, Hans Jenny, and Frank G. Viets, Jr.
SSSA joins ASA and CSSA in initiating the American Registry of Certified Professionals in Agronomy, Crops, and Soils.
SSSA begins publishing *Soil Survey Horizons*; *Soil Survey Horizons* began as a publication in 1960.
- 1976 SSSA elects the first Fellows; 12 members receive the Society's highest honor.
SSSA celebrates their 40th anniversary in conjunction with the U.S. Bicentennial.
Volume 41 of *Soil Science Society of America Journal* has more than 1200 pages.
- 1977 A history of SSSA is published in Volume 42 of *Soil Science Society of America Journal*. J. Fulton Lutz compiled the history.
SSSA "grandfathers in" Fellows retroactive to 1936.
"Soils Briefs" section of *Soil Science Society of America Journal* is discontinued.
- 1978 Membership is more than 5300! Membership realizes a 7% annual increase.
ASA recruits its 10,000th member, Donald Dorsett.
Charles Lewandowski is recognized for 25 years of service to the three associated societies.
Soil Science Society of America Journal circulation is more than 7200.
- 1979 The Headquarters office obtains its first computer.
Circulation of *Journal of Environmental Quality* hits 2500!
Glossary of Soil Science Terms is revised and reprinted.
- Soil Science Society of America Journal* discontinues publishing section on "Soil Affairs."
- 1980 CSSA celebrates their 25th anniversary.
The Bouyoucos Soil Science Distinguished Career Award is established with a \$5,000 stipend.
SSSA becomes a charter member of the Federation of Scientific Agricultural Societies.
Preregistration for the annual meetings is initiated.
- 1980 C.A. Black is the first recipient of the Bouyoucos Award.
Matthias Stelly, executive vice president, retires December 31. D.M. Kral serves as acting executive vice president.
SSSA membership tops 6000!
Richard Dinauer, *Soil Science Society of America Journal* managing editor, is recognized for 25 years of service to the Society.
Soil Science Society of America Journal circulation is more than 8000.
- 1982 *Mineral Classification of Soils* is published and dedicated to Guy D. Smith.
Rodney Briggs is named executive vice president of the Societies.
SI units are required in all books effective April 1.
Methods of Soil Analysis. Part 2, second edition is printed.
- 1983 *Soil Science Society of America Journal* adopts the new USDA-SCS horizon nomenclature.
SSSA recognizes retiring editorial board members at the luncheon for the first time.
- 1984 SSSA Fellows Awards become completely separate from ASA. Previously, soil scientists elected ASA Fellows automatically became SSSA Fellows.
Emily Knoche, special typist, is recognized for 25 years of service to the three associated Societies.
Soil Science Society of America Journal is copyrighted.
A revised *Publications Handbook and Style Manual* is printed and distributed.
Remodeling of Headquarters Office is completed.
Agronomy News becomes a monthly newsletter.
SSSA membership is at 6267.
D.M. Kral becomes acting executive vice president.
SSSA bylaws are revised.
Soil Science Society of America Journal publishes 1610 pages in Volume 49.
- 1985 Headquarters receives a new computer, an IBM Series 36.
Travel grants are made available to attend the 13th International Society of Soil Science Congress in Hamburg, West Germany.
SSSA authorizes the initiation and publication of the *Journal of Production Agriculture*, in co-sponsorship with ASA and CSSA.
Betty Klepper is the first woman to be honored as a SSSA Fellow.
- 1986 SSSA celebrates their Golden Anniversary with approximately 6600 members, 31 of which are original charter members!
SSSA becomes an affiliate member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
R.F. Barnes is named executive vice president of the three associated Societies.
Members are no longer required to subscribe to *Agronomy Journal* as part of their membership; *Soil Science Society of America Journal*, *Journal of Environmental Quality*, and *Journal of Production Agriculture* now also qualify.
The Soil Science Applied Research, Soil Science Professional Service, International Soil Science, and Soil Science Education Awards are established with \$500 honorariums.
Mr. Jonathan Haskett is named as the first Congressional Fellow with duties to begin about February 10th.
- 1987 The last issue of *Crops and Soils Magazine* appears in August.
The *Soil Science Society of America Journal* editorial board is restructured to add four technical editors and 13 new associate editors.

- 1988 The first issue of the *Journal of Production Agriculture* (Vol. 1, no. 1, January–March 1988) is published with 14 articles.
SSSA phases out the Soil Sample Bank Project.
Richard C. Dinauer retires as managing editor of *Soil Science Society of America Journal* after 32 years.
The annual number of papers in *Soil Science Society of America Journal* exceeds 300 for the first time.
- 1989 The option to purchase *Soil Science Society of America Journal* on microfiche is discontinued.
Minerals in Soil Environments is the first book published in the SSSA Book Series.
SSSA contributes \$2000 to a University of California project to interview Hans Jenny relative to historical aspects of soil science research and record this history.
An Official Methods of Soil Analyses Committee is formed to work with the Association of Official Analytical Chemists and the American Society for Testing and Materials to develop official methods of soil analyses.
- 1990 S205.1– Council on History of Soil Science is formed. Walter H. Gardner and John Tandarich serve as co-chairs with Philip Baveye, Chris J. Johannsen, and Roy W. Simonson as members. Articles on the history of soil science are approved for acceptance and publication in the *Soil Science Society of America Journal*.
Munsell notation is now required when a soil color is published in the *Soil Science Society of America Journal*.
- 1991 The Marion L. and Chrystie M. Jackson Soil Science Award to recognize mid-career soil scientists who have made an outstanding contribution in the areas of soil chemistry and mineralogy is initiated.
Appropriate word-processing equipment is purchased to edit manuscripts submitted to *Soil Science Society of America Journal* on diskettes. Associate Editors are encouraged to request authors to submit the final form of approved manuscripts on diskette, but diskette submission is not required.
SSSA develops their own membership directory separate from the ASA and CSSA directories. An ad hoc committee is appointed to study the professional identity and future of SSSA.
The honorarium for all SSSA funded awards except the Emil Truog Award is increased to \$1000.
- 1992 *Soil Science Society of America Journal* begins the “double blind” review process on a volunteer, trial basis.
The Bouyoucos Conference series is established.
Division S-10, Wetland Soils, is approved on a 2-year provisional status.
Dues are separated from journal subscriptions.
Soil Science Society of America Journal exceeds 2000 published pages for the year (2030 total) for the first time.
Soil Science Society of America Journal is now electronically edited.
- 1993 The “double blind” review process becomes mandatory for articles submitted to *Soil Science Society of America Journal*.
The name of Division S-3 is changed from Soil Microbiology and Biochemistry to Soil Biology and Biochemistry.
The name of Division S-8 is changed from Fertilizer Management and Technology to Nutrient Management and Soil and Plant Analysis.
The use of color Figures in *Soil Science Society of America Journal* is approved.
SSSA becomes affiliated with the American Geological Institute.
- 1994 SSSA is worth more than \$1 million for the first time (\$1,087,385 as of 30 Sept.).
Division S-11, Soils and Environmental Quality, is established on a 2-year provisional status.
The name of Division S-5 is changed from Soil Genesis, Morphology, and Classification to Pedology.
The American/New Zealand Soil Science Sabbatical Fund is established.
- 1995 Division S-10, Wetland Soils, is granted permanent status.
SSSA decides to develop a Primer on Soil Science for K-12 to be published in the AGI primer series and be distributed by both AGI and SSSA.
Double-blind review is made a permanent practice for *Soil Science Society of America Journal*.
The membership requirement for publishing in *Soil Science Society of America Journal* is eliminated effective 1 Jan. 1996.
SSSA issues an invitation to ISSS (now IUSS) to host the 2006 ISSS Congress in the United States.
SSSA becomes a member of the Coalition for Education About Environment, Food, Agriculture, and Renewable Resources (CEEFAAR).
- 1996 85–90% of the manuscripts submitted to *Soil Science Society of America Journal* are coming in with the manuscripts saved on computer disks versus only about 50% of manuscripts in the previous year.
An internet coordinator is added to the Headquarters Office staff.
People can now order Society publications, register for the Annual Meetings, and read *Agronomy News* online.
The Soil and Plant Analysis Council and the National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists are recognized as a chapter of SSSA.
The Council of Soil Science Examiners is formed.
The *Glossary of Soil Science Terms* is made available electronically on the SSSA home page with full search capability.
- 1997 The table of contents of *Soil Science Society of America Journal* is now posted on the ASA-CSSA-SSSA web page about 2 weeks before each new issue is published.
The name of the monthly newsletter is changed from *Agronomy News* to *Crops, Soils, and Agronomy News*.
The Don and Betty Kirkham Soil Physics Award and a quadrennial Kirkham Conference are established.
- 1998 SSSA’s fiscal year is changed to coincide with the calendar year.
Voting rights are granted to graduate student members.
PDF and fully searchable electronic versions of *Soil Science Society of America Journal* are now offered; subscribers to electronic journals are given the option of refusing receipt of hard copies.
The *Soil Science Society of America Journal* cover is redesigned, including the use of full-color photographs.
A committee is appointed to look at the feasibility of having SSSA hold a joint meeting with another group in lieu of the joint meetings held with ASA and CSSA.
- 1999 The requirement that active members must subscribe to a journal is discontinued.
The honorarium for the Marion L. and Chrystie M. Jackson Soil Science award is increased from \$1000 to \$2000.
- 1999 The *Journal of Production Agriculture* is discontinued, with production-oriented research papers to be published in *Agronomy Journal*.
SSSA is worth more than \$2 million (\$2,132,750 on 31 December).
SSSA adopts a statement of professional ethics for members.
SSSA becomes a member of the International Union of Soil Science.
The *Journal of Environmental Quality* cover is redesigned, including the use of color photographs.
- 2000 SSSA enters a period of tough financial years that includes a continuing loss of members and a decrease in the net worth of the Society. SSSA’s worth drops back below \$2 million and will bottom out at less than \$1 million in 2002.
“Soils Sustain Life” is adopted as SSSA’s slogan.
- 2001 A Memorandum of Understanding is signed between the National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists and SSSA.
All abstracts submitted for the Annual Meeting must be submitted electronically, and SSSA Annual Meeting Abstracts are now published online instead of on paper.
The SSSA Executive Committee approves holding a future joint meeting with the Geological Society of America.

- 2001 A feasibility committee is appointed to explore the concept of establishing a soils exhibit at the Smithsonian Institute.
The scanning of back volumes of *Soil Science Society of America Journal*, *Journal of Environmental Quality*, and *Journal of Production Agriculture* for sale as CD-ROMs is approved.
HighWire Press begins publishing SSSA's electronic journals.
- 2002 *Vadose Zone Journal* is launched in August as a totally electronic journal.
Use of the web-based Manuscript Tracker system for electronic submission and tracking of manuscripts submitted to *Soil Science Society of America Journal* is initiated.
Annual Society elections for President-Elect and Division Officers are now held electronically.
A President's Citation for Outstanding Service to SSSA is created.
A Memorandum of Understanding is signed between the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of Natural History and the SSSA to develop a Soil Display.
Winners in individual student competitions, regionally and nationally, are now provided with a 1-year student membership in the Society of the recipient's choice.
Electronic submission is now required for all nominations for SSSA's awards.
The Joe B. and Martha Dixon Soil Mineralogy Endowment Fund is established.
- 2003 The Western Society of Soil Science is officially recognized as the western branch of SSSA.
The *Soil Science Society of America Journal* archives become available on CD-ROM in June.
Soil Science Society of America Journal begins using electronic galley proofs.
The SSSA Annual Meeting program is assembled electronically.
A new Soil Science Industry Award is approved.
Dr. Ellen G.M. Bergfeld is named Executive Vice President of SSSA in July (the title is later changed to Chief Executive Officer).
- 2004 All submissions to *SSSA Journal* must be electronic starting 1 July.
SSSA meets jointly with the Canadian Society of Soil Science in Seattle, WA.
The *Journal of Environmental Quality* archives become available on CD-ROM
The name of Division S-7 is changed from Forest and Range Soils to Forest, Range, and Wildland Soils.
A pilot program is approved instituting a special international membership package for scientists in the two lowest economic tiers of developing countries as based on the World Bank classification.
- 2005 The Irrometer Professional Certification Service Award is created for Certified Professional Soil Scientists.
Approval is given by SSSA to create a new 501(c)(3) supporting organization to provide management services for SSSA, ASA, and CSSA.
The William H. Patrick, Jr., Memorial Lectureship and Nyle C. Brady Frontiers in Soil Science Lectureship are established.
Mary E. Collins becomes the first woman to serve as SSSA President.
Soil Survey Horizons becomes a copyrighted SSSA publication. Up to this point, SSSA had published *Soil Survey Horizons* under a loose agreement as a service to the soil survey community.
- 2006 The 18th World Congress of Soil Science is held in Philadelphia, PA, with SSSA as the host.
The *Soil Survey Horizons* format is enhanced, including a color cover, full-sized pages, and the ability to publish color figures. An associate editor representing the National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists is added to the editorial board.
The L.R. Ahuja Ag Systems Modeling Award is created.



Fig. 11. People visiting the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit.

- 2007 The 501(c)(3) supporting organization that provides management services for SSSA, ASA, and CSSA is named the Alliance of Crop, Soil and Environmental Science Societies (ACSESS). The ACSESS Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation are approved by SSSA.
The President of Iceland presents the Brady Lecture during the annual meetings in New Orleans; the President of Bangladesh gives a speech at the award ceremony.
The Don and Betty Kirkham Medal is created to commemorate extraordinary individual career achievements in soil physics.
It is decided that SSSA journals will allow articles to be open access if the author pays an \$800 open access fee.
- 2008 A 5000-square-foot soil science exhibit, "Dig It! The Secrets of Soil" opens at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC on 18 July (Fig. 11).
SSSA meets jointly with the Geological Society of America in Houston, TX.
SSSA now changes officers on a calendar year basis rather than at the end of the annual meeting.
SSSA active member dues are \$85. For an additional \$10 members can join ASA or CSSA (\$95 for two societies, \$105 for all three). Undergraduate dues are \$10, and graduate student dues are \$30; students may join all three of the Societies for the given rates. For scientists in the two lowest economic tiers of developing countries, based on the World Bank classification, membership is 60% off of the current membership (\$36) and additional Societies may be added at \$10 per Society.
The National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists (NSCSS) establishes NSCSS Scholarships in cooperation with SSSA and the Agronomic Science Foundation to attract high quality students to careers in soil science.
The SSSA Board of Directors approves endowment of the Division S-5 Advancing Pedology Lectureship Fund with the proviso that the primary fund raising responsibility resides with Division S-5.
- 2009 *Soil Survey Horizons* starts sponsoring a student essay contest. Winners get their paper published in *Soil Survey Horizons*, a 1-year subscription to *Soil Survey Horizons*, and 1 year of membership in SSSA.
The annual meetings are now built around thematic sessions developed by the Divisions.
SSSA dues are \$90, for any two of the Societies are \$110, and for all three Societies are \$120. Student dues remain the same as in 2008. Effective with the 2009 membership year, Emeritus members (both current and incoming) pay 50% of the active member dues. This is a response to increasing numbers of Emeritus members and declining numbers of active members, making the lack of any dues for Emeritus members unsustainable.

The limitation on the number of Divisions of interest a member can choose is removed.

The Societies purchase a new headquarters building (Fig. 12).

Journal of Environmental Quality adds an Environmental Issues/Environmental Perspectives Editor as part of attempts to increase the journal's impact factor.

2010 A SSSA 75th Anniversary Ad Hoc Committee is appointed.

The SSSA Board of Directors announces the intention of meeting jointly with the Entomological Society of America in 2015 and 2016; Minneapolis and Phoenix are the likely venues.

2011 SSSA celebrates their 75th anniversary at the meetings in San Antonio, TX. The meeting is held jointly with the Canadian Society of Soil Science and the Mexican Society of Soil Science.

The Future

SSSA has many challenges and opportunities as we look toward the future. In recent years there has been significant concern about issues such as the teaching and practice of soil science by other fields (Brevik, 2009; Hartemink, 2008; Brevik, 2005), reduced enrollment in soil science programs (Collins, 2008; Morra and McDaniel, 2005), and reduced membership in SSSA (Fig. 1, particularly 1992 to 2002). However, as we have moved into the 21st century things appear to be improving for soil science and for SSSA. Several new global priorities emphasize soils (Hartemink, 2008; Hartemink and McBratney, 2008), new job opportunities are being explored for soils graduates (Horton et al., 2005; Vepraskas et al., 2005; West et al., 2005), and the membership and finances of soils groups such as SSSA has taken a positive turn since 2002 (Fig. 1, 5). While challenges still remain, the future of SSSA shows promise.

References

Various SSSA committee and Headquarters reports, as published in *Soil Science Society of America Journal* from 1987–2010, were used for the information presented in the timeline from 1986 to 2003 and some of the information from 2004–2011. Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and Headquarters reports as archived on the SSSA website were used for some of the information presented in the timeline from 2004–2011. Information supplied by headquarters staff was also utilized.



Fig. 12. The new SSSA headquarters building in Madison, WI.

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R. Bradfield
1936-37



A.M. O' Neal
1937-38



W.A. Albrecht
1938-39



W. H. Pierre
1939-40



C.E. Kellogg
1940-41



H.J. Harper
1941-42



F.E. Bear
1942-43



L.D. Bayer
1943-45



C.E. Marshall
1946



F.L. Duley
1946-47



N.J. Volk
1947-48



Hans Jenny
1948-49



H.E. Meyers
1949-50



S.C. Vandecaveye
1950-51



L.A. Richards
1951-52



Eric Winters
1952-53



Enil Troug
1953-54



J.B. Russell
1954-55



D.W. Thorne
1955-56



L.B. Nelson
1956-57



G.B. Bodman
1957-58



G.D. Smith
1958-59



J.W. Fitts
1959-60



W.L. Nelson
1960-61



C.A. Black
1961-62



H.B. Cheney
1962-63



N.C. Brady
1963-64



R.W. Pearson
1964-65



W.P. Martin
1965-66



F.F. Viets, Jr.
1966-67



M.L. Jackson
1967-68



N.T. Coleman
1968-69



C.I. Rich
1969-70



R.J. McCracken
1970-71



S.R. Olsen
1971-72



P.F. Lowe
1972-73



A.R. Bertrand
1973-74



C.F. Eno
1974-75



C.B. Davey
1975-76



V.J. Kilmer
1976-77



P.F. Pratt
1977-78



L.M. Walsh
1978-79



W.E. Larson
1979-80



B.A. Stewart
1980-81



R.G. Gast
1981-82



W.H. Gardner
1982-83



D.R. Nielsen
1983-84



E.C.A. Runge
1984-85



J. Pesek
1985-86



L.L. Boersma
1986-87



D.R. Keeney
1987-88



J.J. Mortvedt
1988-89



W.R. Gardner
1989-90



F.P. Miller
1990-91



W.W. McFee
1991-92



D.W. Nelson
1992-93



L.P. Wilding
1993-94



D.E. Kissel
1994-95



H.H. Cheng
1995-96



D.K. Cassel
1996-97



L.E. Sommers
1997-98



G.W. Petersen
1998-99



D.L. Sparks
1999-2000



R.J. Luxmore
2000-2001



J.W. Doran
2001-2002



M.J. Singer
2002-2003



J.T. Sims
2003-2004



J.L. Havlin
2004-2005



M.E. Collins
2005-2006



Rattan Lal
2006-2007



G.A. Peterson
2007-2008



P.M. Bertsch
2009



N.B. Comerford
2010



C.W. Rice
2011



2011 Soil Survey Horizons Student Article Contest

Soil Survey Horizons is pleased to announce the third annual essay contest for students at the graduate and undergraduate levels. The winner of each category will receive a one-year student membership to Soil Science Society of America, a one-year subscription to *Soil Survey Horizons*, and the paper will be published in *Soil Survey Horizons*.

Topic:

Any topic related to soils, agriculture, field ecology, soil survey, or history of soils. Topics should be related to the scope of *Soil Survey Horizons* and may be research results or non-research topics. Topics may include:

- Soil survey problems
- Innovative methods and equipment
- Evaluation of the performance of field equipment
- Landscape and soil research studies
- Case studies from consulting work
- Classification issues in soil taxonomy systems
- Profiles in history
- Travelogues from soil expeditions
- Personal essays
- Summer soil survey experiences

Style

A suggested limit is 800 to 2000 words for the main body of the manuscript (excluding title, captions, references, etc.). Use of original photos, illustrations, and/or tables is encouraged. Research papers must follow the typical *Soil Survey Horizons* format for content (Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, and Conclusions) and have citations and references. Writing must follow the protocols of the SSSA Style Manual found at <https://www.soils.org/publications/style>.

Scope

The topic must be either research results or original information; the article should be the original efforts of the submitter. While faculty members can provide some review and be a junior author, the submission must represent the work of the student. The students are requested to have a faculty sponsor to help coordinate the submission if there are multiple entries per institution. Only one entry is allowed per person.

Who

There are two categories, undergraduate and graduate.

The article should be written while the student is an undergraduate or graduate student at an accredited institution within the current academic year.

In cases where there are multiple entries from a single institution, sponsoring faculty advisors are requested to help judge local entries. But more than one entry per institution is permitted.

Selection of Winners

Submitted articles will be evaluated by the editorial board, and winners of each category (as well as runner ups) will be published. Criteria for selection of the winners will be originality, creativity, interest, and quality of writing (grammar, punctuation, style, logic, organization).

Submissions

Submit manuscripts electronically to Eric Brevik at Eric.Brevik@dickinsonstate.edu. Manuscripts can be submitted at any time before the deadline, January 30, 2012.

Questions

Questions should be directed to Eric Brevik, student contest coordinator or Lisa Al-Amoodi, Managing Editor (lalamoodi@sciencesocieties.org).



SOIL SURVEY HORIZONS

Contributions

Contributors and audience of *Soil Survey Horizons* include soil survey personnel, private consultants, soils educators and researchers, and students. The editorial board welcomes your contributions concerning ideas, research, problems, field experiences, history, and philosophies related to the study of soils in the field. Articles, announcements, letters, interesting photos, and people and event news items are all welcome.

SUBMISSIONS

Contributions should be sent to the editorial board member in your region. Please include the full name, title, organization/affiliation, and address of all authors. Identify the corresponding author and include his/her complete mailing address, phone number, and email address. It is preferred that manuscripts are sent electronically (email, CD) to Associate Editors, preferable as an MS Word file. Hard copies of manuscripts are not required if submitted electronically. Manuscripts are typically electronically reviewed and changes and comments embedded with "Track Changes".

MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION

To facilitate review, it's helpful if manuscripts are double-spaced and the line-numbering function has been used. The Publications Handbook and Style Manual (<https://www.soils.org/publications/style/>) provides additional information for the preparation of papers.

FORMAT

Authors should follow the general format of articles that appear in SSH (e.g., call out references and include a reference section; number figures and tables), but need not attempt to imitate the style of a final article. Font and other style details will be handled during production. Figure captions and tables may be placed at the end of the file

TABLES

Number tables consecutively. Use the following symbols for footnotes in this order: †, ‡, §, ¶, #, ††, etc. To indicate statistical significance, * and ** denote the 5 and 1% levels of significance.

FIGURES

Figures should be submitted as separate files, preferably as TIFF files of 300 dpi or more (JPG files may be acceptable if resolution is sufficient)... Keep in mind that figures (such as graphs) will be reduced. You can reduce your figures on a copier to check the quality. Is the type still large enough to read? Are the symbols distinguishable?

UNITS OF MEASURE

The metric system is preferred, but the English (inch-pound) system of measurement may be used.

REFERENCES

List all citations to published literature alphabetically by senior authors at the end of the manuscript. Citations should include names of all authors, the year, complete title, publication, and volume and page numbers where appropriate. For conference proceedings, include editor, date, place of meeting, and publisher and its location. The list may include unpublished but available reports, abstracts, and theses and dissertations. Unpublished data and personal communications may be included in the text in parentheses. Materials available on the internet can be included by referencing the URL and date last accessed.

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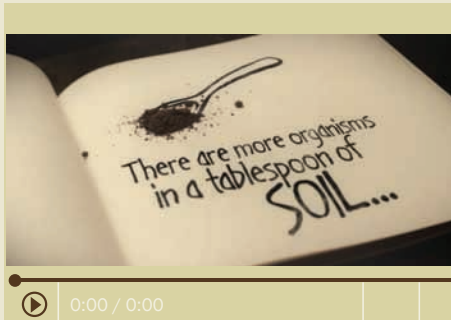
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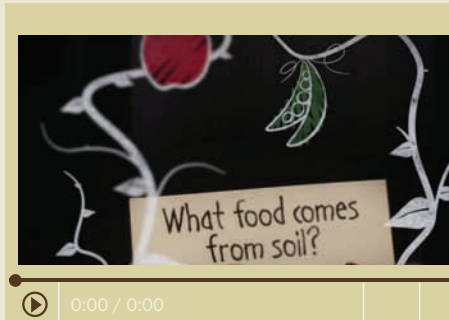
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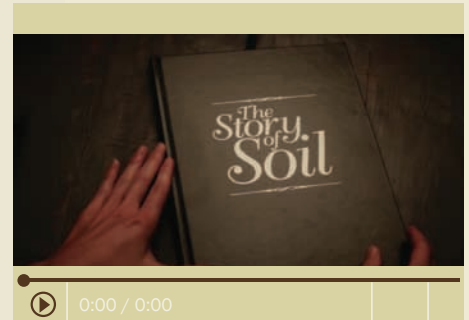
HUMAN HEALTH

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It's easy to understand that a food like beans comes from soil. But most of what we eat can actually be traced back to soil. It's true, and that's why it's important to take care of a resource that means so much.



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