SSSA recognizes the following individuals as 2012 award recipients at special Awards Ceremonies held during the Annual Meetings in Cincinnati, OH, October 21–24.

- Martin J. Shipitalo
- April L. Ulery
- Dong Wang
- Baoshan Xing
- Minghua Zhang
- Rai S. Kookana
- Francis J. Larney
- Mark A. Liebig
- J. Patrick Megonigal
- Binayak Prasad Mohanty
- Thomas J. Sauer

Members of the Society nominate worthy colleagues based on their professional achievements and meritorious service. Up to 0.3% of the Society's active and emeritus members may be elected Fellow.

Soil Science Society of America
The Golden Opportunity Scholars Institute matches undergraduates with scientist-mentors. The program encourages students to pursue careers in the agronomic, crop, and soil sciences. It is supported by the Golden Opportunity Fund through the Agronomic Science Foundation.