

## **Meeting the Needs of Professional Soil Scientists; A Roundtable Planned for Annual Meetings**

Co-sponsored by SSSA and the U .S. Consortium of Soil Science Associations (USCSSA), a roundtable is scheduled for Nov. 4,2003,7:30-9:30 pm in Adams Mark Hotel during the ASA- CSSA-SSSA's annual meetings held in Denver, CO. The USCSSA is a new framework established to promote national communication and coordination between the 48 individual state and professional soil science societies and associations (see <http://soilsassociation.org/uscssa/> for more information on the USCSSA). Some key goals of USCSSA include promoting soil science as a valuable career in our nation 's resource management, informing the public and decision-makers on the value and use of modern soil survey information, providing information on the availability of soil consulting services, and encouraging certification and professional recognition of soil scientists.

The purpose of the roundtable is to share the interests and needs of professional soil scientists, develop a coordinated effort between USCSSA Consortium of and SSSA to provide improved services to professional soil scientists, and strengthen the working relationship between USCSSA and SSSA in order to meet future needs of members from both organizations.

The roundtable will start with short remarks from representatives of both organizations, followed by a panel discussion on specific ideas and options to meet the needs of practicing soil scientists. Specific panel topics include:

.Needs and opportunities for the professional soil scientist SSSA's role: certification, education, and technology transfer .Enhancing recognition of soil science as a professional discipline .Role of professional soil scientists in the Smithsonian soils exhibit and the 18th World Congress of Soil Science.

There will be roundtables set up to address each topic; there will also be additional roundtables provided for others who wish to share information and obtain input at this meeting. A reception with a no-host cash bar will be held immediately after the roundtable.

For more information, please contact Tom Sims, SSSA President-Elect, [jtsims@udel.edu](mailto:jtsims@udel.edu) or Jim Culver of USCSSA, [J4CULVER@aol.com](mailto:J4CULVER@aol.com).