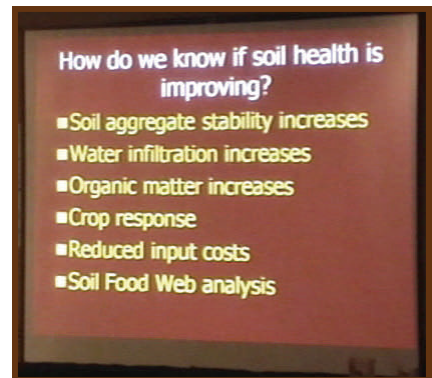


CO Springs Soil Health Workshop

Article and Photos Submitted by Mike Collins

The 53 Soil Health participants were treated with some excellent presentations explaining in detail the benefits of building soil health in all cropland, rangeland, hayland and pasture-land situations. Lots of questions and answers followed all sections of the two and a half day event Dec 19-21, 2012 in Colorado Springs.

A aggregate stability test and infiltration test was conducted to get some visible implants to use for further discussions as planners and agronomist spread the word on what building soil health means. A nice showcase of the rainfall simulator was also a highlight. The workshop was streamed and uploaded to ustreamtv.com, and by typing "soil health dec 2012" it should pop up. We found out shortly after the workshop that the USDA-NRCS computers are no longer able to view videos on ustreamtv.com. We are working on the details of getting some DVD's available. The networking and the outstanding dialogue made the workshop even better and at sometimes advanced. Another highlight was the Tuesday afternoon session when CO NRCS State Conservationist, Phyllis Philipps dropped by and stayed to listen to Ray Archuleta's presentation. Phyllis has provided outstanding leadership and support for this new conservation movement.



Jon Stika, NRCS Agronomist/Soil Scientist had some excellent presentations and illustrations, one of Jon's specialties is his effective instruction, it's the BEST!, check out the video and you'll see. We've been excited to have Ray Archuleta in Colorado for two sessions thus far with one more of his trips when he speaks in Montrose, CO Feb 6-8 at the Holiday Inn Express. Jon is also planning on coming back for the NP SWCS meeting in Sterling, CO March 8-10th to interact with some of the NP SWCS members and some farmers from the area.



Jon Stika, NRCS Agronomist/Soil Scientist from Dickinson, North Dakota.



Ray Archuleta, NRCS Conservation Agronomist from North Carolina.