

# Agronomic Science Foundation

## Soils Exhibit News: Interactive Greenhouse Gas Calculator Added

The *Dig It! The Secrets of Soil* exhibition opened to great acclaim at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC on 19 July 2008. The museum has now contracted with a multimedia production company to design and produce a computer interactive program, tentatively titled the "Greenhouse Gas Calculator," which will allow museum visitors to learn more about wise soil management choices.

The exhibition team will work closely with Chuck Rice (KSU) and Phil Robertson (MSU) to adapt a computer program developed for farmers into a museum-appropriate interactive program that explains the connections among soils, atmospher-

ic gas concentrations, and earth's climate. The interactive program will enhance visitors' understanding of how wise use and management of soils can benefit the global environment.

Since opening in July, more than 300,000 visitors have been to the *Dig It!* exhibition hall. The exhibit computer interactive program will be installed in April 2008 and will be housed in the exhibition for the next eight months. It is anticipated that 800,000 visitors will come to the *Dig It!* exhibition during the time this interactive program is in the exhibit. The *Dig It!* exhibition will then travel to 10 venues throughout the country, where we anticipate it will be seen

by another half a million visitors. The computer interactive program will also be made available on the *Dig It!* exhibition website, **forces.si.edu/soils**, which receives 25,000 hits a month.

### Soils Exhibit Videos Posted

The Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History has posted two of the soils videos on its exhibition website. Both the "Chef's Challenge" and the "Secret Ingredient" are two of the videos that are part of the *Dig It!* exhibition. View them online under "Featured Topics" at: **forces.si.edu/soils**.