Soil Survey Horizons is pleased to announce the second annual essay contest for students at the graduate and undergraduate levels. The winner of each category will receive a 1-year student membership in the Soil Science Society of America, and their paper will be published in Soil Survey Horizons.

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

A suggested limit is 800 to 2000 words for the main body of manuscript (excluding title, captions, references, etc.). Use of 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 citations and references.

**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 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 will be two categories, both 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.

Submitted articles will be evaluated by the editorial board, and winners of each category (as well as runner ups) will be published in Soil Survey Horizons at no cost to the author(s). Criteria for the competition will be originality, creativity, interest, and quality of writing (grammar, punctuation, style, logic, organization).

Submit manuscripts electronically to Eric Brevik. Manuscripts can be submitted at any time before the deadline, November 1, 2010.

**Topics can 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

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

Deadline: November 1, 2010.