

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Soils Guru Archuleta to Talk Urban Soil Health

DES MOINES, IOWA, Nov. 20, 2012—Popular USDA soils guru Ray Archuleta will bring his high energy presentation style to Ankeny on Dec. 12 to demonstrate how to develop healthy soils in an urban environment. The event will be located at Ankeny's Public Service Building from 12:45 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Using hands-on demonstrations and videos, Archuleta effectively shows differences between healthy and unhealthy soils. He will discuss ways to lessen the impacts of compacted urban soils, and offer ways to improve soil health which allows them to function properly.

Archuleta is recognized by the agricultural community as a soils health expert, but he is also adept at creating healthy soils in an urban environment. He will show how restoring soil health helps decrease compaction, increase porosity and organic matter, break down nutrients to make them available to plants, improve plant vigor, and retain more water in the landscape.

“Healthy soil prevents nutrients and other pollutants from running off into Iowa’s surface waters,” says Jennifer Welch, urban conservationist for Polk Soil and Water Conservation District. “Ray will show our audience that soil health will help landowners absorb more rain and shed less runoff, which is the most fundamental practice that can be done on a large scale, in the least amount of time, and at the lowest cost on both urban and agricultural landscapes.”

Archuleta is a conservation agronomist for USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Greensboro, NC. He specializes in soil quality and the principles of agro-ecology throughout the United States. In 23 years with USDA, Archuleta has worked in five states and served in several capacities, including a water quality project manager, an irrigation specialist, and a soil conservationist.

Ankeny’s Public Service Building is located at 220 West 1st Street. For more information, contact Jennifer Welch at 515-964-1883 x3. This event is free and open to the public.

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