



## MEDIA ADVISORY

**Caron Gala Bijl, Soil Science Society of America**  
202.408.5383; [cgala@soils.org](mailto:cgala@soils.org)

**Sarah Ohlhorst, American Society for Nutrition**  
301.634.7281; [sohlhorst@nutrition.org](mailto:sohlhorst@nutrition.org)

**Tamara Wagester, Council on Food, Agricultural & Resource Economics**  
202.408.8522; [tamarawagester@cfare.org](mailto:tamarawagester@cfare.org)

## Bringing Urban Agriculture to Life

*Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup>*

**122 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C.**  
*1:00-2:00pm*

**328A Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.**  
*3:00-4:00 pm*

**WASHINGTON, DC, May 5, 2011** - Learn more about the role of urban agriculture and food systems on nutrition and food security at a Congressional Briefing on Monday, May 9. The briefings, sponsored by the American Society for Nutrition (ASN), Soil Science Society of America (SSSA), and The Council on Food, Agricultural & Resource Economics (C-FARE) will feature a panel of experts making significant contributions in the areas of urban soils, food systems, and human nutrition and health.

The panel of experts includes:

- **Dr. Katherine Alaimo:** Associate Professor, Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI
- **Dr. Jim Hanson:** Extension Economist/Farm Management Specialist, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Maryland, College Park, MD
- **Kristen McIvor:** Community Garden Coordinator, Tacoma/Pierce County, Cascade Land Conservancy, Seattle, WA

The Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that 250 million hungry individuals live in cities. These residents often rely on food sources that originate far beyond the city limits. However, ***urban agriculture programs***, which cultivate, process, and distribute food in or around metropolitan areas, are now cropping up around the United States. Urban agriculture increases the access that residents have to fresh fruits and vegetables, providing better nutritional options for city-dwellers and influencing food security.

While there are numerous social benefits associated with urban agriculture, for there to be economic or nutritional benefits, program management must result in sufficient crop yield and empower small-scale urban farmers. By integrating available materials and resources into urban agricultural programs, assisting

with land tenure issues, and increasing access to micro-lending, municipalities can positively influence the health and well-being of their residents.

Members of the media and public information officers are invited to attend. **Please RSVP by MAY 6 to Caron Gala Bijl at [cgala@soils.org](mailto:cgala@soils.org).**

\*\*\*

*The American Society for Nutrition (ASN) is the preeminent professional organization for nutrition research scientists and clinicians around the world dedicated to advancing the knowledge and application of nutrition to promote human health. For more information, visit [www.nutrition.org](http://www.nutrition.org).*

*The Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) is a progressive, international scientific society that fosters the transfer of knowledge and practices to sustain global soils. Based in Madison, WI, and founded in 1936, SSSA is the professional home for 6,000+ members dedicated to advancing the field of soil science, providing information about soils in relation to crop production, environmental quality, ecosystem sustainability, bioremediation, waste management, recycling, and wise land use. For more information, visit [www.soils.org](http://www.soils.org).*

*The Council on Food, Agricultural, and Resource Economics (C-FARE) is a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening the national presence of the agricultural economics profession. For more information, please visit [www.cfare.org](http://www.cfare.org).*