

Natural Resources Conservation Service

# Soil and Plant Science Division

Soil Survey Region 5



## Pueblo, Colorado, MLRA Soil Survey Office

### Mighty Mini Microbe and the Colorado State Fair

By Laura Craven, Soil Scientist, Pueblo, Colorado.

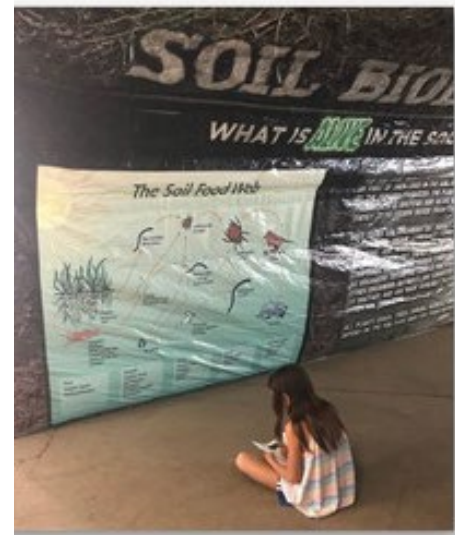


There was lots of love for **Mighty Mini Microbe** at the Colorado State Fair this year. The story-coloring book was written and illustrated by NRCS employees. Ron Nichols, the book's author, said the following about it:

"Many people don't realize the elegant symbiosis of life underground enables all life above ground. This book encourages the next generation of farmers, conservationists, and scientists to learn more about what we can do to rebuild and regenerate our soil to sustainably feed our growing population."

NRCS scientists staff the exhibit each year at the fair as part of our outreach and education efforts. It's a wonderful and effective method to reach lots of people in one place, to engage the public at a personal level, and to provide fun activities that prompt them into thinking about soil health.

This year, we had the Mighty Mini Microbe cutout available for pictures. Hundreds of fair visitors of all sizes and ages had their photo taken with the 5-foot Mighty Mini Microbe cutout. We also distributed over 900 Mighty Mini Microbe story coloring books and many "Unlock Your Farm's Potential" and "Love the Soil" pamphlets to promote the understanding of soil health concepts. There were lots of hands-on activities, including the Soil Tunnel Scavenger Hunt, with prizes for the participants. Many visitors also had fun making bean-seed necklaces and soil profile cards.



Enjoy some more pictures from our State fair exhibit!





*Hands-on exhibits and activities.*