

SOILS

I. Suggestions for County and Area Soil Judging Contest

A. After contest date and location have been decided:

1. Notify 4-H Department of date and location.
2. Notify all Extension educators, Vo-Ag teachers and coaches in your area.
3. Contact local SCS office for the district conservationist and area soil scientist to assist with location of pit sites and arrangements for digging holes.
4. Check with Farm Credit Services of Mid America, ACA and any other sponsor you may have in mind for possible awards if your area so desires.
5. If applicable for your area contest, make arrangements for a noon meal. Some areas may have a local sponsor who will provide donuts or apples or other nutritious snacks for contestants and coaches.
6. Review the Understanding and Judging Indiana Soils (ID-72) and the 4-H/FFA Ag Judging Handbook (4-H 98). If you have questions, be sure to get these answered before the day of your contest.
7. Notify local news media and make arrangements for volunteer helpers, freeing himself or herself to do overall and last minute problem solving on the day of the contest.

B. Materials needed for the contest:

1. Eight slope stakes (generally 2" x 2", 5 to 6 feet long).
2. Eight to twelve yard sticks.
3. Four one-gallon (or similar) water bottles (one for each hole).
4. Six to seven pieces of poster board (about 10" x 12") for use as hole cards, if you do not use cards available from Media Distribution Center (4H 736A), and 5 to 6 pieces of lath mounting stakes.
5. Three adding machines or calculators for score tabulation.
6. Registration forms, manuals, site cards, and score cards (both agricultural and home site). If you do not have these in your local or area office, check with the State 4-H Department or Media Distribution Center.
7. Ribbon awards for area and state contests are provided by the state soil and water conservation districts and will be brought to the contest by a Purdue specialist.

8. Score cards

- 4-H 394 - Soil Judging Score Card
- 4-H 255 - Home site Score Card

C. Personnel generally required to run contest:

1. Eight to ten tabulators and graders.
2. Four group leaders to guide groups of contestants between holes during the contest.
3. Four hole supervisors to stand by holes, keep them in order and take up completed score cards.
4. Time keeper.
5. Runners to bring score cards to graders.
6. Help for these tasks can come from fellow educators, Vo-Ag teachers, SCS personnel or SWCD supervisors.
7. Contact to arrange for judging or other assistance:

Gary Steinhardt, Agronomy Department
Lilly Hall, Purdue University
West Lafayette, Indiana 47907
Phone: (765) 494-8063

D. Official Judging of Sites

1. Official judging of contest sites is usually done the day before the contest.
2. Arrangements for this are generally made several weeks in advance of the contest through a letter or phone call with Gary Steinhardt.

II. Requirements

- A. Soil pits are judged at four sites, according to scorecard(s) provided by Purdue Cooperative Extension Service. **Two** of the pits will be judged for home site evaluation.
- B. Printed scorecards will be given each contestant on which they will give their evaluation of each site and optically scannable forms may be used at state contest.
- C. Each contestant will have approximately 15 minutes to complete their score card for a given site or area.
- D. All teams must be pre-registered and checked in at the prescribed time (both area and state).
- E. Practice holes at the State Contest will be discussed the day before the State Contest.
- F. Only printed 4-H Slope finders for use with a clipboard may be used as a reference/mechanical device during the State Soils contest.

III. Awards

- A. Ribbons for area and state contests are provided from the State 4-H/Youth Department.
- B. Gold medals for first place and silver medals for second place 4-H and FFA Senior teams and coaches in each area are provided by the Farm Credit Services. Also, gold medals for first place and silver medals for second place for overall Junior Teams in each area are provided by the Farm Credit Services.

C. At the state level, team members and coaches in Senior 4-H and FFA classifications receive awards as follows:

1. Senior Team Awards

Sponsored by Farm Credit Services:

1 st Place FFA, 4-H and Master's Team	Trophy for each team, and FCS special award (portfolio, pen, jacket, etc.)
2 nd Place FFA, 4-H and Master's Team	Trophy for each team
3 rd Place FFA, 4-H and Master's Team	Plaque for each team
4 th Place FFA, 4-H and Master's Team	Plaque for each team
5 th Place FFA, 4-H and Master's Team	Plaque for each team

Sponsored by Purdue Agronomy Club:

1 st Place FFA Team - Traveling Plaque
1 st Place 4-H Team - Traveling Plaque
1 st Place Master's Team – Traveling Plaque

Sponsored by State FFA Association:

1 st Place FFA team - Banner

2. Senior Individual Awards

Top ten individuals will receive ribbons with placing designated.

Top five individuals will also receive, sponsored by Farm Credit Services:

1 st Place FFA, 4-H and Master's Indiv.	Trophy & special award (such as portfolio, pen, jacket, etc.)
2 nd Place FFA, 4-H and Master's Indiv.	Trophy & special award
3 rd Place FFA, 4-H and Master's Indiv.	Plaque & special award
4 th Place FFA, 4-H and Master's Indiv.	Plaque & special award
5 th Place FFA, 4-H and Master's Indiv.	Plaque & special award

3. Junior Team Awards sponsored by Farm Credit Services:

1 st Place Team Overall	Trophy
2 nd Place Team Overall	Trophy
3 rd Place Team Overall	Plaque
4 th Place Team Overall	Plaque
5 th Place Team Overall	Plaque

4. Junior Individual Awards:

Top ten individuals will receive ribbons with placing designated.

5. Coach of the Overall high placing team in the contest will receive a chrome plated spade, sponsored by IAPSC.

IV. Additional Information

A. Material on home site evaluation is also a part of the soil judging contest and is fully explained in Understanding and Judging Indiana Soils (ID-72).

B. Supplementary teaching materials, scorecards and instructions will be issued each year as the materials are improved. This may alter scoring and timing of the contest to some degree. Any changes to other rules will be distributed to all concerned.

- C. If there are any ties, they will be broken by one of the following methods, in order.
1. The highest total team score, including the alternate on the teams.
 2. If a tie remains, total scores for the teams, not including the alternate, for site 1 will be used.
 3. If a tie remains, total scores for the teams, not including the alternate, for site 2 will be used. Site 3, etc. will be used if needed.
 4. In case of a tie for the individual awards, the score on site 1 will be used. Sites 2, 3, etc. will be used if a tie remains.

V. National Contest Rules

A. 4-H and FFA Division Land Judging

1. A maximum of five 4-H and five FFA teams may enter from each state. **Each state may also enter two additional Homesite Evaluation teams provided they meet the criteria of national rule #6. Decision on 6/10/2009 is that these two additional teams will come from the Indiana's Master Division, giving the teams the option in placement order.**

Rule # 6: Any 4-H or FFA contestant who has participated in ANY previous National Land Judging or Homesite Evaluation will not be eligible to participate in this year's Land Judging contest. Contestants may compete in the Homesite Evaluation contest provided they were not a previous member of a champion or reserve champion team in Land Judging or Homesite Evaluation, or was not a champion or reserve champion individual in Land Judging or Homesite Evaluation.

2. Four contestants comprise a team. Scores of the high three team members make the team score. A team of only three members is permissible.
3. Team members will compete for both team and individual prizes.
4. Each state will be responsible for the methods used in selecting the five teams to represent the state. National rules will not allow any contestants participating in the National contest to return to the National contest as a contestant.
5. The above contest rules applying to land judging shall also be applicable to the judging of Home sites.

B. General Rules - National Contest

1. Clipboards, bubble vials, levels, notes, bulletins, etc., must not be used in the contest.
2. The same team or individuals may compete in land judging, home site judging, and pasture and range judging.
3. Contest results submitted to National officials by the tabulation committee shall be final.
4. To qualify for a champion trophy, medal or cash award, the team or individual winning such award must be present at the awards dinner to accept it. If such champion is not present at the awards dinner, the championship trophy and/or medal(s) shall be awarded to the next high-ranking team or individual that is present, the championship cash award shall be forfeited to the donor.
5. No person under the age of 21 nor members of a 4-H club or FFA is eligible to compete in the adult division.

6. See the National Land Judging website for further information <http://www.landjudging.com/>. Usually information is not updated on the website until current year calendar occurs.

VI. Supplemental/Optional Reference Items

- A 48 page manual entitled "Soils Manual for Land Judging" is available through Vocational Education Productions. Call 1-800-235-4146 for details.