

IOWA FFA SOIL CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT

PERSONNEL

Dr. Gerald Miller, Ames, ISU, Extension Agronomist	CDE Coordinator
Jerry Strand, Emmetsburg	CDE Chairperson

EVENT OBJECTIVES

1. To motivate students to gain knowledge on surface features, the soil profile, land capability and productivity, evaluation of land use and management practices, and suitability of soils for nonagricultural uses.
2. To develop the ability to observe selected soil properties and to interpret and evaluate these properties for recommendations for land use.

GENERAL RULES

1. All district soil judging events shall be conducted at least 10 days in advance of the Iowa FFA Soil Judging Career Development Event.
2. The state event is open to the top five FFA teams in each district; these teams shall be from Iowa public schools with approved high school Agricultural Education programs.
3. If one of the top five teams in a district is unable to participate in the state event, the sixth place team is permitted to advance. If the sixth place team is unable to participate, then the seventh, eighth, and so forth will be given this opportunity.
4. Each school may enter a team composed of three or four participants with the top three scores determining the team score.
5. A team is permitted a maximum of two substitutes between district and state events. If team members have a conflict and a team cannot secure the necessary one or two substitutes, the remaining team members may participate for individual event awards and receive a "Participation" team rating or the sixth place team may participate (refer to Rule #2 above) depending upon the decision of the team which originally earned the opportunity to advance to the state event.
6. Participation in the district soil judging event by non-official FFA participants shall be left up to the discretion of each district.
7. Each participant will participate in all phases of the event.
8. All district events and the state event should not be held during regular school hours.
9. If participants or FFA advisors visit pits anytime prior to the event, the teams and individuals will be disqualified.
10. If any members of the first, second, third, fourth, or fifth place teams qualify to judge in the National Land Judging event at Oklahoma, these same persons shall not participate in any future district, state, interstate or national FFA soil judging events.
11. Any participant who does not provide his/her name and/or correct participant number on a judging card or answer sheet will receive no credit for the specific event site or the test when appropriate identification is omitted.
12. There will be a registration fee of \$5.00 per FFA chapter advanced to the state event. If necessary, additional fees may be determined as necessary for other expenses (digging the pits,

janitorial services, refreshments, facilities and equipment rental, and so forth) that may be incurred.

13. The state event will be held within a 40 mile radius of Ames.
14. Participants shall report to the state event chair between 8:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. on event day.
15. Every FFA advisor must have a vehicle available to provide travel for participants to the state event site and pits.
16. The official Iowa Soil Judging Score Card, PM 1107, shall be ordered through the local county extension office. These are to be ordered at least 15 days prior to the time needed locally.
17. Teams will be notified in advance as to the common meeting place; however, the exact location of pits shall not be announced until event day.
18. There will be a FFA advisors' meeting at 8:30 a.m.
19. Participants will bring the following items to the Soils events:
 - a. tape measures, yard stick, or meter stick
 - b. knives for picking face of pit walls
 - c. clean clip boards
 - d. pencil (No. 2 only)
20. Items provided at each pit will include:
 - a. score cards
 - b. area of pit to be judged will be identified with appropriate markers
 - c. water bottle
 - d. 10% HCL Acid
21. Twenty-five (25) minutes will be the maximum time allowed at each of the four soil pits. A maximum of 30 minutes will be allowed for the written test.
22. The first event activity will be a 40 multiple choice question test over "Soil Judging in Iowa," PM 1106. Conservation Catalog for the 1990's, October 1991, USDA Soil Conservation Services, Des Moines, Iowa; and Iowa Jobs Sheets – "Conservation Tillage," "Grassed Waterways," "Crop Rotations," "Terraces," "Field Borders," and "Contour Strip Cropping," August 1991, USDA Soil Conservation Service, Des Moines, Iowa.
23. Four soil pits dug to a minimum of four feet will be judged and official placings will be done by a qualified soil scientist and a qualified soil conservationist. Judges will critique each pit following the event.
24. Land area for judging parts III, IV, and V on the score card will be marked by the official judges.
25. Slope determination:
 - a. Stakes will be located on the slope to be judged.
 - b. Distance between stakes will be in multiples of 25 feet.
 - c. Difference in elevation between the stakes will be indicted to nearest tenth of a foot at each site.
 - d. Participants will calculate percent slope. Calculators will be permitted.

REFERENCES

1. Soil Judging in Iowa, PM 1106.
2. County Soil Survey Report for those counties where a soil survey report has been published since 1960.
3. Conservation Catalog for the 1990's, October 1991, USDA Conservation, Des Moines, Iowa.
4. Iowa Job Sheets: "Conservation Tillage," "Grassed Waterway," "Crop Rotations," "Terraces," "Field Borders," "Contour Strip Cropping," August 1991, USDA Soil Conservation Service, Des Moines, Iowa.

SCORING AND RANKING OF TEAMS AND PARTICIPANTS

<u>Phases</u>	<u>Scoring</u>
Judging four pits – (40 points each)	160 points
Multiple choice test.....	40 points
<u>Total Individual Score</u>	<u>200 points</u>
<u>Total Team Score Possible (3 participants)</u>	<u>600 points</u>

1. Team and individual ties shall be broken by giving preference to the participant or team with the higher score at site number 1. If there is also a tie at site number 1, then site 2 may be used and so forth. If any ties are still unbroken, the sites shall be given priority in order—site 1 through 4 with the preference given successively to item 1, 2, 3, and so forth to item 40. If there is still a tie, the test score will be used to break it.
2. Teams will be ranked into groups designated “Gold Emblem,” “Silver Emblem,” and “Bronze Emblem.” Teams which do not have at least three members will be listed as “Participants.” Teams which violate any rule will also receive a “Participation” rating.
3. The team winner on the four pits and multiple choice question test combined will be designated the “Iowa Champion FFA Soil Team.”
4. The top five teams will be Iowa’s official representatives in the National Land & Range Judging Event at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
5. All teams eligible to participate in the National Land & Range Judging Event must notify the State FFA Advisor on or before March 1 prior as to their intentions to participate. Those which cannot participate in the advanced event will not be substituted by lower placed teams.

AWARDS

Awards listed below are at the discretion of the sponsor and pending availability of sponsorship. It is vitally important that participants write thank you letters to sponsors in order to retain their support. A thank you list naming current sponsors will be provided to each participating chapter at the event site.

Awards sponsored through the Iowa FFA Foundation:

Champion Team.....	Plaque
Reserve Champion Team.....	Plaque
Top 5 Teams	Cash awards for travel to the int’l land judging contest
Top 10 Teams	Rosettes
Members of Top 10 Teams.....	Rosettes
Top 10 Individuals.....	Rosettes
1 st and 2 nd Place Individuals.....	Trophies
Top Team and Top Individual	Trophies
a. Judging Pits	
b. Written Examination	

The Iowa FFA Association will award certificates to all Soil teams and participants.