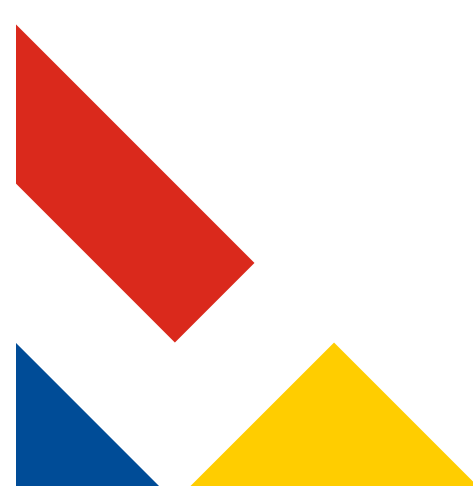


WASHINGTON
FFA ASSOCIATION



Land Evaluation Career Development Event Handbook

Revised 2023



Purpose & Objectives

Purpose

Land judging serves as a tool to teach youth and adults about the field of soil science and the use and management of soils. It is a program designed to guide them toward the understanding and importance of:

1. Basic soil properties as they affect the use and management of soils.
2. Management practices applicable to the care and management of soil and water.

Event Rules

*****If there are any questions or issues, the State FFA Advisor will make the final decision.*****

1. Teams will consist of up to five members.
2. The top four individual scores combined will determine overall team score and placing
3. No talking or comparing of cards.
4. The land judging handbook and the soil scientist's interpretation shall be used to resolve contest differences.
5. Concerning state contests, information applicable only to the area in which the contest is held or other information pertaining to this contest not in the land judging handbook shall be sent to participants of the contest at least two weeks prior to the contest; so they are made aware of possible differences in a particular area. If no information is sent then the guidelines as set forth in this manual shall be strictly adhered to.

Event Format

Complete event details and guidelines can be found in the NRCS Land Judging Manual found on the Washington FFA website.

- Contestants will evaluate four sites per event. Three land judging and one homesite
- Contestants will be given 15-20 minutes at each site to complete their scorecards.
- Slope measuring instruments will be provided at all land judging sites, but will not be allowed for homesite evaluation
- Official dress is not required, students should dress appropriately for weather conditions.

Equipment

Participants must provide:

- Writing utensils
- Nail (optional)
- No clipboards are allowed in this event

Team Activities

There is no team activity portion to this event.

Individual Activities

LAND JUDGING (75 POINTS PER SITE)

Students will complete three land judging cards for three separate site at the event. Each site will consist of two parts-Land Class Factors and Recommended Land Treatments

Land Class Factors (45 points per site)

For each site, contestants will evaluate the field and soil to classify different factors related to soil classification. This will include surface & subsoil texture, permeability, depth of the soil pit, slope, erosion, surface runoff, surface stones, flooding, and other factors (precipitation, water table level, and frost-free days) that impact land classification. Contestants must indicate the potential major factors that keep the land from being classified as Land Class I. Final overall land class must be determined as well.

Recommended Land Treatments (30 points per site)

Based off of the selected land class in Part I, contestants must indicate the soil management and improvement practices that would be recommended for that particular site. This would include vegetative practices, mechanical practices, and fertilizer and soil amendments. More than one practice can be selected for each category.

HOMESITE EVALUATION (100 POINTS)

This part of the contest is designed to emphasize the importance of soils and their limitations for non-agricultural purposes. While the contest focuses on homesite development, soil suitability ratings for parks, playgrounds, roads and streets, and other uses are equally important.

1. The total possible score on one site is 100 points.
2. The total possible score of Part I is 28 points, and 68 points for Part II.
3. Four points are awarded if the contestant correctly identifies whether the soil would or would not be classified as prime agricultural land.
4. Part I of the score card lists the soil and site features to be evaluated. Part II requires the contestant to determine the severity of the limitation the soil and site conditions have on the planned use.
5. The final evaluation is determined by summation of the “degree of limitation” for the site.

Scoring

Activities	Individual Points	Team Points
Land Judging (3 Sites)	225	900
Homesite Evaluation	100	400
Maximum Points	325	1300

TIEBREAKERS

If ties occur, the following sections of the event will be used in order to determine award recipients:

INDIVIDUAL

1. When contestants tie for individual scores, columns of the contest card will be used to break a tie. Starting with the score on Field 1, Part I, the individual having the highest score would be the winner. This would be used as a first “tie breaker”. If this does “break the tie” the rule will be to continue to Part II of Field 1 and continue numerically until the tie is broken.
2. In case this method fails to break the tie, the tabulating committee will use a method of drawing the names from a hat. The names will be placed on the back of blank tabulation cards and all cards placed in the hat (or use some other practical method). As cards are taken from the hat numerically, first, second, third, etc., this will list the winners in order.

TEAM

1. In the case of a tie with the top four scores, using the score of the fifth member will break the tie.
2. Total team score for Field 1 (continue until tie is broken)
3. Team names will be drawn from a hat. The first name will be the higher placing team.
4. Class questions total of the four count scores

References

Latest published version of the “Soil Evaluations in Washington State-A Guide for High School Land Judging Contests”