**West Tennessee FFA**

Land Evaluation Handbook

Purpose

The West Tennessee FFA Land Evaluation Career Development Event promotes understanding the purpose of soil for agriculture and home use.

Event Rules

* *“The University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service Land Judging Guide”* will serve as the official judging guide for this contest
* Teams will consist of four members. Team ranking is determined by combining the scores of the three highest team members. The lowest team member’s score will be counted as a drop score.
* Alternates will be allowed to participate, but their scores will not count
* Teams of three may still compete; however, the team drop score will be a score of **ZERO.**
* There will be a total of 4 pits dug at the contest site
* Students will be assigned a number (1-4) to determine at which pit they will start
* No student should be in a group with another one of the team’s contestant
* Each student will have 20 minutes per pit to judge
* A signal will be given to the group leaders when it is time to change to the next pit
* FFA members should keep their card through the entire contest
* FFA cards will be turned in at the individual’s last pit
* Official pit judging will be done between the plastic ribbons and no contestant should make any makes within the ribbons during the contest
* Any samples taken will need to be taken outside of the taped area
* Slope stakes will be placed **100 Feet** apart unless otherwise noted by the officials. **(Slope stakes can be placed 50 feet apart)**
* Water bottles will be placed at the pits but are only to be used for determining soil texture.
* At the pits, students can have only automated scoring card, clear plastic clip board to hold automated score card, pencil, and digging tool.
* No notes, calculators, folders, paper, personal water bottles, phones, smart watches, ear buds, etc shall be allowed during the contest.
* If a student needs to do a calculation, they may use the blank spaces of there scantron to perform the calculations
* There will be no talking by the contestants at any point once the contest has started. Any questions or concerns should be addressed to the student’s group leader
* At the end, a critique will be given by the judges. Students should stay for the discussion.
* No student or advisor/coach shall be at the contest site prior to the contest for risk of disqualification
* In the event or rain, the contest will continue as normal, except during storm conditions, so teams should prepare accordingly

Equipment

* Each participant must have two clean, sharpened No. 2 pencils, a land evaluation scantron (provided by contest officials), and a clear clipboard with no notes attached. Digging tool is optional but not required
* If raining, rain gear is highly encouraged, and card covers will be provided to keep scantrons as dry as possible
* No other materials will be permitted. Participants attempting to use unauthorized materials will be disqualified.

Individual Activity

* Each student will judge a total of four soil pits
* There will be four groups of students
* Groups will start at their corresponding pit number and rotate numerically.
* 20 minutes will be allowed for each pit
* Students will judge the soil and the slope at each pit site

Scoring

Each pit will have a total score of 100 with each pit having four parts that must be filled in on the scantron

Individual scores will be calculated by adding each pit total

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Soil Pits** | **Individual**  **Score** | **Team**  **Score** |
| **Pit 1** | 100 | 400 |
| **Pit 2** | 100 | 400 |
| **Pit 3** | 100 | 400 |
| **Pit 4** | 100 | 400 |
| **Total** | 400 | 1200 |

\*1200 is the highest score because this contest has a drop score.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Scantron Sections** | **Score** |
| **Part 1** | 46 |
| **Part 2** | 23 |
| **Part 3** | 15 |
| **Part 4** | 16 |
| **Total** | 100 |

**Disqualification**

These factors will cause a team to be disqualified from the contest

* Talking to anyone other than the group leader
* Cheating off another student’s scantron
* Being in the possession of a cellphone, smart watch, ear buds, calculator, etc.
* Having notes of any kind with you once the contest has started
* Having a personal water bottle at the pit sites
* Visiting the contest site prior to the contest

Disqualified teams will receive a placing of last place plus one

**Tiebreakers**

* In the event of a tie between two or more teams, the team with the highest drop score will win the tiebreaker.
* If there is still a tie, then the following procedure will be followed
* The team scoring the highest on Part 1
* The team scoring the highest on Part 2
* The team Scoring the highest on Part 3
* The team scoring the highest on part 4
* In case of further tie the team making the highest on “A, B, C, and D” on Part 2 and “A and B” on Part 3
* Ties between individuals should be handled the same as outlined above substituting “team” with “individual”.

**References**

This list of references is not intended to be all-inclusive.

*“The University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service Land Judging Guide”*  <https://d3vhqawhyaq08k.cloudfront.net/F/westtnffa/Land%20Judging%20Guide.pdf>

Other sources may be utilized, and teachers are encouraged to make use of the very best instructional materials available.