



SOIL AND PLANT SCIENCE DIVISION

Technical Soil Services

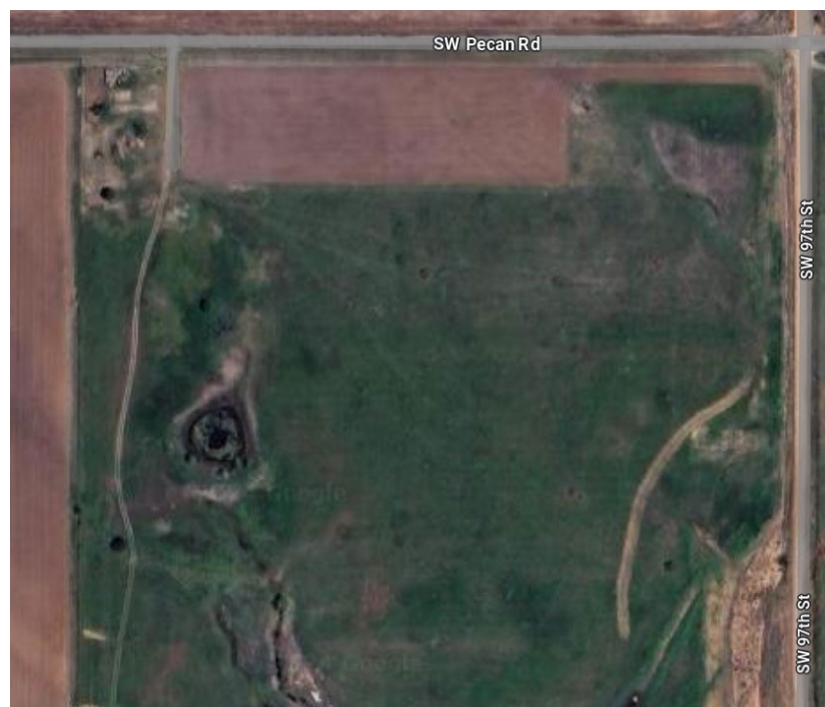
South Central Soil Survey Region

Altus, Oklahoma, MLRA Soil Survey Office

Cameron University 2024 Regional Land Judging and Homesite Evaluation Contest

Purpose

Tyler Kempf, soil scientist, and Tyson Morley, MLRA soil survey leader in Altus, Oklahoma, assisted Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma, with the setup of the annual Future Farmers of America land judging contest in April. The annual contest is held each year on the demonstration farm of Cameron University. The soils consist of Mollisols and Vertisols that create a great test for soil texturing high clay content soils. Eighty-nine total students judged the site in either the land judging or homesite evaluation contest.



Aerial photo of land judging site.



Background

Soil scientists from NRCS selected and prepared four sites within walking distance of one another that exhibited unique soil and landscape characteristics. They filled out the official answer key based on observations from each soil pit. Land judging and homesite evaluation teams judged sites based on characteristics of the soil and observations of landscape conditions. They recommend land treatments by considering factors such as soil characteristics, vegetative conditions, and planned use for the site.

Key Outcomes

Eighty-nine students participated in the one-day contest. The students acquired valuable knowledge about site suitability for building a home or for farming and ranching activities. After the contest, many students realized how important soil is to everyday life for such things as food and construction materials. Many students had questions related to careers in agriculture and natural resources. The contest was a success and provided students with tools they can use for conservation planning or a future career.

