



SOIL AND PLANT SCIENCE DIVISION

Technical Soil Services

South Central Soil Survey Region

Altus, Oklahoma, MLRA Soil Survey Office

Chickasha, Oklahoma, FFA 2024 Land Judging and Homesite Evaluation Contest

Purpose

Tyler Kempf, soil scientist, and Tyson Morley, MLRA soil survey leader in Altus, Oklahoma, assisted Chickasha FFA in Chickasha, Oklahoma, with the setup of the annual FFA land judging contest on April 22. The annual contest is held as a warmup contest before the Oklahoma State land judging contest. The soils consist of Mollisols and Argiustolls that are very similar to the State contest located near Stillwater, Oklahoma. It allows teams to practice on comparable soils. Sixty-one 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 recommended land treatments by considering factors such as soil characteristics, vegetative conditions, and planned use for the site.

Key Outcomes

Sixty-one students participated in the one-day contest. The students acquired valuable knowledge about suitability for building a home or for farming and ranching activities. After the contest, many students realized the importance of soil in 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 in agriculture.

