



SOIL AND PLANT SCIENCE DIVISION

Technical Soil Services

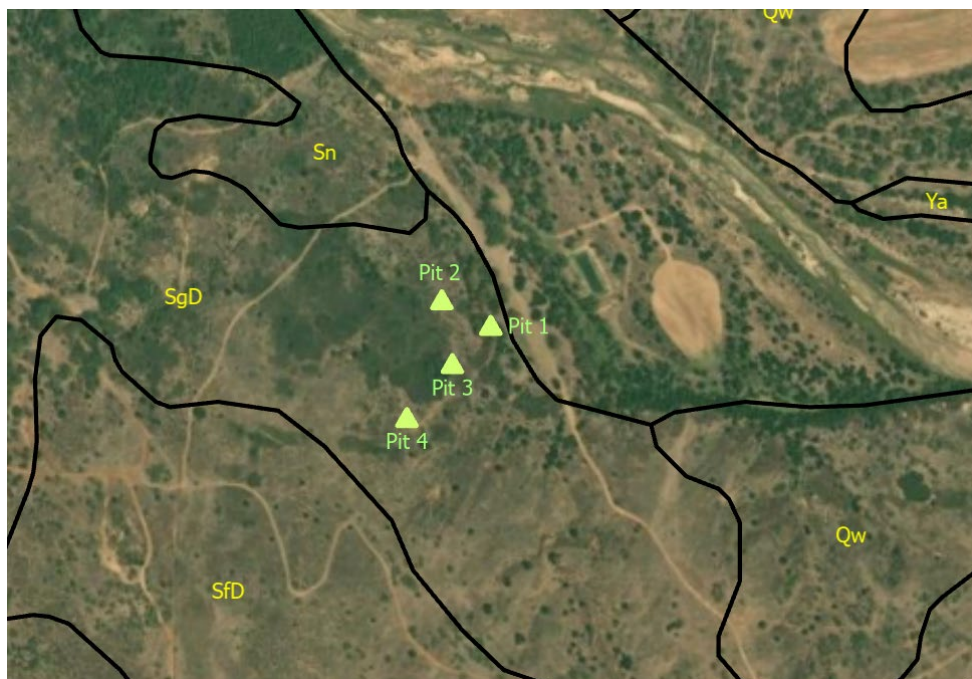
South Central Soil Survey Region

Altus, Oklahoma, MLRA Soil Survey Office

Collingsworth County, Texas, 2024 Land Judging and Homesite Evaluation Contest

Purpose

Tyson Morley, MLRA soil survey leader in Altus, Oklahoma, assisted the Collingsworth County, Texas NRCS office with the annual FFA land judging contest on March 27. The contest site was located on a sandy terrace next to the Salt Fork of the Red River. Nineteen total students judged the site in either the land judging or homesite evaluation contest.



Site location for Collingsworth County land judging contest.



Background

Soil scientists from NRCS selected and prepared four sites within walking distance of one another that exhibited unique soil and landscape characteristics and then 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 considering factors such as soil characteristics, vegetative conditions, and planned use for the site.

Key Outcomes

Nineteen students participated in the one-day contest. The students acquired valuable knowledge about how to determine if a site is suitable for building a home or is suitable 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 the agricultural and natural resources disciplines during the contest. The contest was a success and provided students with resources they can use for conservation planning or a future career in agricultural.

