

Land Judging Contest Promotes Conservation

Over 900 contestants from 33 States competed in the 39th annual Land, Pasture, and Range Judging Contest held near Oklahoma City in May.

Contest participants tested their individual and team skills in judging land, pasture, and range, as well as evaluating homesites. There were three divisions in each event: one for Future Farmers of America (FFA) members, another for 4-H members, and a third for adults.

Competitors evaluated characteristics of the land's topsoil, subsoil, and slope. And they recommended treatment to improve the land's adaptability to specific uses.

The Hundred, W.Va., FFA Chapter and the Elkart, Ind., 4-H Club claimed the national champion trophies in the land-judging category. The high-scoring FFA member was Gary Horn of Richmond, Ky., and Chris Griffith of Trego, Kans., was the top 4-H scorer. James W. Duffy of Roswell, N. Mex., was the adult division winner.

In the pasture and range contest, the national winners were the Haakon-Jackson 4-H Club, Philip, S. Dak., and the Cement, Okla., FFA Chapter. Shane Matt of Philip, S. Dak., was the high-scoring 4-H individual, while Monte Scammahorn of Apache, Okla., was the FFA winner. The adult division winner was Jim Hollarn of Apache, Okla.

Team honors for best in the



Contestants in the land-judging contest check texture and depth of topsoil and look for signs of erosion. (Photo by Dwain Phillips.)

homesite contest went to the Marion, Fla., 4-H Club and the Rochester, Ind., FFA Chapter. Individuals who scored highest were Kari Boswick of Marion, Fla.; David Cumberledge of Hundred, W. Va.; and Harold Eckler of Shelbyville, Mo., in the adult division.

The Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts was the primary contest sponsor.

Assisting with the events were the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration, Extension Service, and Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service; the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs; the Oklahoma Conservation Commission; and Oklahoma State University.

Dwain Phillips, public affairs specialist, SCS, Stillwater, Okla.