

USDA Satellite Features Feed

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Contact: USDA-TV (202) 720-6445 or (202) 720-3319

## FEATURE – FFA STUDENTS LEARN TO JUDGE LAND AND SOIL

INTRO: F-F-A students participated in the 50th annual Florida State Land Judging Contest recently where students evaluate different land uses and learn how to properly evaluate soil. The USDA's Bob Ellison has more. (1:35)

SOME SOILS ARE BETTER THAN OTHERS AND HAVE DIFFERENT USES. THE GOAL FOR THESE F-F-A STUDENTS WAS TO DETERMINE THE BEST SOILS AT A LAND JUDGING CONTEST HELD IN ALACHUA COUNTY IN NORTH FLORIDA.

Alfred Jones, USDA NRCS: All soils aren't the same and they behave differently. And therefore if they behave differently you have to have different management practices on different soils.

THREE SOIL AREAS WERE GRADED FOR CROP GROWING AND CONSERVATION. THE FOURTH WAS GRADED FOR USE AS A BUILDING SITE.

Paul Webb, FFA Advisor, Polk Co., FL: I think if some people were more knowledgeable about how the land can be used there might be less houses put in place that cause problems for insurance companies and other folks later on.

Hannah Terrebonne, Polk Co., FL FFA: You see how if a home would be good to build there or not and to build your own home. Or to buy a home you know what you're looking for.

THE CONTEST INVOLVED THE STUDENTS IN SEVERAL ASPECTS OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT.

Nicole Lewis, Lake Co., FL FFA: You get so much knowledge out of it. You learn so many new things like different soil types and how to determine erosion and you just learn a lot.

AND IT ALLOWED STUDENTS TO ENGAGE IN A CHALLENGING AND REWARDING ACTIVITY WITH THEIR PEERS.

Casey Raines, Lake Co., FL FFA: Not only does it bring you friendship and fellowship, you get to be rewarded in other ways such as scholarships and it's just so great and so fun.

CONTEST WINNERS MOVE ON TO A NATIONAL COMPETITION WHERE PRIZES INCLUDE SCHOLARSHIPS. FOR THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, I'M BOB ELLISON.