

## I. OVERVIEW

The Land Judging CDE is a team event with four team members. Participants classify land into the land capability classes developed by the Soil Conservation Service. Classification is based upon the land judging factors of slope, topsoil thickness, erosion, topsoil texture, permeability of subsoil, drainage, and effective depth of the soil. The participants also determine the recommended agricultural land use and land treatment practices based upon the land class and field conditions. Land treatment practices to be considered are vegetative, mechanical, lime, and fertilizer.

## II. PURPOSE

The Land Judging CDE is designed to develop skills in determining soil characteristics and determining land capability classes based upon the characteristics. Skills are also developed in determining the agricultural land use and land treatment practices that should be applied to conserve soil and water while utilizing the land for its most intensive use.

## III. ELIGIBILITY

This event is open to students in grades 9-12 who are agricultural education students and are paid members of a chartered FFA chapter. Each member of the team must be a member of the chapter registering them, and each student's name must appear on the chapter's FFA roster at least 10 days prior to competition above the chapter level. The top two teams from each area will be eligible to participate in the State Land Judging CDE. The state winning team will represent Georgia in the National Land Judging CDE. Any member of a state winning team is ineligible to compete in this event again. There is a national level of competition, so no student who is a member of a state winning team may compete in the land judging event and no member of the state winning land judging team may compete in another CDE until after the national land judging competition.

## IV. SPECIAL NEEDS REQUEST

To report any special needs or request special services for a student to compete in a Career Development Event or FFA Award area (Area or State level), it is the responsibility of the FFA advisor to provide a detailed and specific request and explanation in writing. Requests should include written documentation from the school system verifying the IEP and need being requested. Written requests must be submitted to the CDE Superintendent prior to registering for the CDE/event (at least 3 weeks prior to the date of competition).

## V. RULES

1. A team will consist of four individuals from one FFA chapter. The top three individual scores will determine the team score.
2. Contestants will need to furnish a clipboard, pencil, and soil probe.
3. Contestants may also use calculators, extra scorecards, rain coats/umbrellas, and hand towels.
4. No instrument of any type may be used to measure slope. A contestant using any such illegal device will disqualify the entire team. **REVISED**
5. The pit monitor or group leader will allow 25 minutes (unless otherwise stated) for judging each site. Instructions will be given at each pit by the group leader or pit monitor. Each student must turn in his/her completed answer sheet before leaving the pit.
6. This event will follow the general procedures established for all Georgia FFA career development events.
7. The State FFA Executive Committee and their appointees will be in charge of this event.

## VI. EVENT FORMAT

1. The CDE will consist of classifying and determining land treatment practices for four sites (fields). The boundaries of each field to be considered will be clearly marked.
2. The CDE officials will place two stakes 100 feet apart indicating the points for determining the slope of the field. Any variation from this distance will be clearly indicated on the assumption card.
3. The soil characteristics (factors) for determining land classifications will be determined from a pit (or smoothed-off road bank) at each field. The soil profile to be considered will be clearly marked in each pit. Yard sticks for measuring the soil profile and water will be furnished at each pit.
4. An assumption card will be placed at each field. The assumption card will indicate the field number, the original topsoil thickness, whether manure is available, and the pH of the soil. The assumption card will also indicate the levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash. If applicable, the assumption card will indicate the DBH of trees, average tree spacing, an upland water problem, and slope stakes that are at a distance other than 100 feet apart.

## VII. SCORING

Scoring for the Land Judging CDE will be based on the Land Judging Scorecard. Refer to the scorecard. In Part 4 (Recommended Land Use Treatment) of the score card, contestants will be given credit for each correct practice marked within the total number of practices marked on the official placing scorecard. For example, if 12 practices are marked on the official placing scorecard, the contestant will be given credit for the correct practices marked within the first 12 practices that the contestant marks. In this example, if the contestant marks more than 12 practices, those practices marked beyond the 12<sup>th</sup> practice marked by the contestant will not be considered.

## VIII. TIE BREAKERS

Prior to the Land Judging CDE, the Soil Scientist who determines the official placing on each field will designate one of the fields as the tie breaker. The field for the second, third and fourth tie breaker may also be designated. In case of a tie, the team that scores the highest on the tiebreaker field will be declared the winner.

## IX. AWARDS

Awards shall be determined each year by the Board of Trustees of the Georgia FFA Foundation. This event is made possible through the Georgia FFA Foundation as a special project of an industry sponsor or from the Foundation general fund.

## X. REFERENCES

"Land Judging Career Development Event Guide", latest edition. Georgia Agricultural Education Curriculum on the Georgia Ag Ed website, <http://www.gaaged.org/>.