

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Soil Science Division

Soil Survey Region 11



Indianapolis Soil Survey Office

Soil Judging Students Receive Instruction in Indiana

Purpose

NRCS soil scientists provided instruction on describing and interpreting soils to high school students by serving as soil judging officials at local academic soil judging contests.

Background Information

John Allen and Darnell Dunson, soil scientists from the Indianapolis Soil Survey Office, assisted with soil judging contests in Hamilton and Morgan Counties in Indiana. A total of about 450 students participated. Four soil pits were dug at each of the contest sites. The students judged the soils for agricultural uses and evaluated them for homesites.

The contests concluded with discussions and reviews of each site, providing students an opportunity to ask questions. The judging officials explained the reasoning for their descriptions and interpretations of the soils.



Students judging one of the four pits at a contest in Hamilton County, Indiana.

Key Outcomes

The outreach and education provided to students at soil judging contests nurtures young minds, enabling an increased knowledge of soils, conservation, and proper management of natural resources.

Conclusions

Serving as soil judging officials and educating students about soil science builds a stronger awareness of potential career paths in conservation.

