

SOIL AND PLANT SCIENCE DIVISION

Technical Soil Services

South Central Region



Nacogdoches, Texas, and Ruston, Louisiana, Major Land Resource Area Soil Survey Offices

Bowie County, Texas, Future Farmers of America Land Judging Contest

Purpose

On March 29, 2023, members of the Nacogdoches, Texas, and Ruston, Louisiana, Soil Major Land Resource Area Survey Offices traveled to northeast Texas to assist with the setup of the Bowie County, Texas, annual Future Farmers of America (FFA) Land Judging Contest (see figure 1 and 2). Each year, the Bowie County Soil and Water Conservation District partners with local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offices for the contest, which also includes a Woodland Clinic and a Plant and Forage Identification competition.

Background

This year, the contest was held at scenic Wright Patman Lake, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reservoir that spans over 20,000 acres. The site is a popular destination for fishing, hiking, and seasonal RV camping. The acres surrounding the lake are heavily treed and scattered with parking spots and picnic tables, creating an ideal setting for such contests by providing diverse tree and plant life from which to choose, as well as a variety of soils.

Key Outcomes

Students gained experience in evaluating soil properties and determining interpretations for land use. Development of these skills fosters sound management of natural resources in future generations.



Figure 1. Sara Russell digging the soil pit for contest site #1.



Figure 2. Meg Rinaudo, Sara Russell, Tyson Hart, and Wayne Styles texturing subsoil at contest site #2.