



January 28, 2014

INFORMATION ON THE

Fifty-Fifth Annual Florida State Land Judging Contest Friday, March 28, 2014

OUR HOST:

HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Two Items of Great Importance! Read and follow links as appropriate:

1. ***More than one team* in each High School Division (4-H and FFA) *may* be certified forward to compete in the National Land Judging Contest! Read carefully the [Policy Statement](#) on this Web Site for details!**
2. **We have a new scorecard this year. The scantron machine is dead, so FFA has created a score card for this contest (4-H will use the same scard). <http://landjudging.org/newcard/> for more info.**

Web Site:

Web Site for Pre-Registration, Policy Statement, and Other Information:

<http://landjudging.org>.

Where to meet:

The Kenilworth Lodge
1610 Lakeview Drive
Sebring, FL 33870

The Kenilworth Lodge will be offering a reduced “land judging rate.” All teams, whether you choose to stay there or not, should meet in the lobby of the Kenilworth Lodge the morning of the contest for registration and instructions. Directions to the actual site of the contest will be provided at that time.

What will be provided:

Lunch provided by the Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District.

Please note: Each team will be responsible for transportation to the land judging field site.

When:

Friday, March 28, 2014. Sign-in: 8:00-9:00 A.M.

Pre-Registration:

Pre-registration is *required* for all 4-H and FFA High School teams and for all 4-H and FFA Middle School teams. **Pre-registration is due by 5:00 PM Eastern time on Friday, March 21st.** Pre-registration is to be done by sending your team’s registration information as an email to gmeans@ufl.edu .

Noon Meal Arrangements:

Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District will provide lunch to **participants (four per team; one High School 4-H team and one High School FFA team per county, plus one Middle School 4-H team and one Middle School FFA team per county – see Policy Statement and Pre-Registration Information on this Web Site), coaches, contest officials, contest helpers, and sponsors.** Any others will be served only after these have been served.

Lodging:

[Kenilworth Lodge](#) in Sebring will be offering a reduced land judging rate. Ask for the land judging rate when making your reservations

Land Judging Policies:

The current [Policy Statement, Revised June 2006](#), will be followed. Note that the policy statement allows for only one High School 4-H team and one High School FFA team plus one Middle School 4-H team and one Middle School FFA team per county. All teams and all participants must meet the eligibility criteria indicated in the Policy Statement. See the [Policy Statement, Revised June 2006](#) for details.

Please note: (1) No 4-H or FFA member who has been on a state winning (first place) team, who has been to the National Contest, or who has substituted on a team that went to the National Contest, will be eligible for competition in future land judging contests in Florida *in either Division (4-H or FFA)*; and (2) Additional team members – beyond the four members allowed per team – will *not* be allowed in the pits and will not be given “practice” scorecards. This event is only for those teams and team members who have earned the right to participate in the State Contest as per the Policy Statement.

Note also: State winning 4-H and FFA high school teams will be eligible to compete in the National Land & Range Judging Contest held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, each year during the month of April or May. One *or more* of the high scoring 4-H county and FFA chapter teams in the state contest will be certified as eligible to represent the state in the National Contest, in accordance with the guidelines given in the [Policy Statement, Revised June 2006](#). Certification forms must be filled in by the coaches of teams eligible to go to National and sent to the Florida 4-H State Office or the Florida FFA Association State Office, as appropriate, within seven days following the State Contest.

Contest Format and Scorecard Return Policy:

Contestants will judge four sites (three land judging pits and one homesite evaluation pit). Scorecards will *not* be returned to coaches or contestants after the contest.

Scorecards:

Scorecards will be machine-graded at this contest. The machine-gradable cards are reformatted from the traditional scorecards (that may have been used in some local contests) in order to allow machine grading, but the information asked for is unchanged. The questions asked, the judging criteria, and the scoring - including penalties - are just as they always have been. Please check the scorecard tab on the landjudging website for examples.

Scorecard Grading Policy:

We are in the final stages of coordinating grading mechanics with FFA. As such, policies such as when coaches can distribute cards, where marks can occur, etc. will be established shortly. Any cards that violate these rules will not be graded. This policy is in keeping with previous years. The only change will be specifics related to the new card.

Local Contact for Additional Information:

Susie Bishop

Highlands Soil & Water Conservation District

863-402-7020

sbishop@highlandsswcd.org

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