

LAND JUDGING AND HOMESITE EVALUATION IN FLORIDA

A workshop for 4-H

Who am I?

Pedology Professor at UF
IFAS rep and guide for Landjudging
rexellis@ufl.edu



What is it? Local and State contest about making wise landuse decisions
Who is it? Middle and High School (both FFA and 4-H)
Who oversees it? State Land Judging Committee
Who guides it? UF IFAS (Herbert → Brown → Ellis)
More info? <http://landjudging.ifas.ufl.edu> (Edit: website changed to
<http://landjudging.org> in February 2013)



My Goal for Today

- I want you to get excited about soils
- I want your students to get excited too.
- I want to see you and your students at the next state land judging contest!

How do you get to state?

- Win your county. That's it!
- In some counties, there is NO land judging contest because one or less teams want one.
- Under these circumstances, we currently permit ANY team from that county to go DIRECTLY to the state contest, provided they participate in a local contest in some other county.

You can go to state this YEAR!

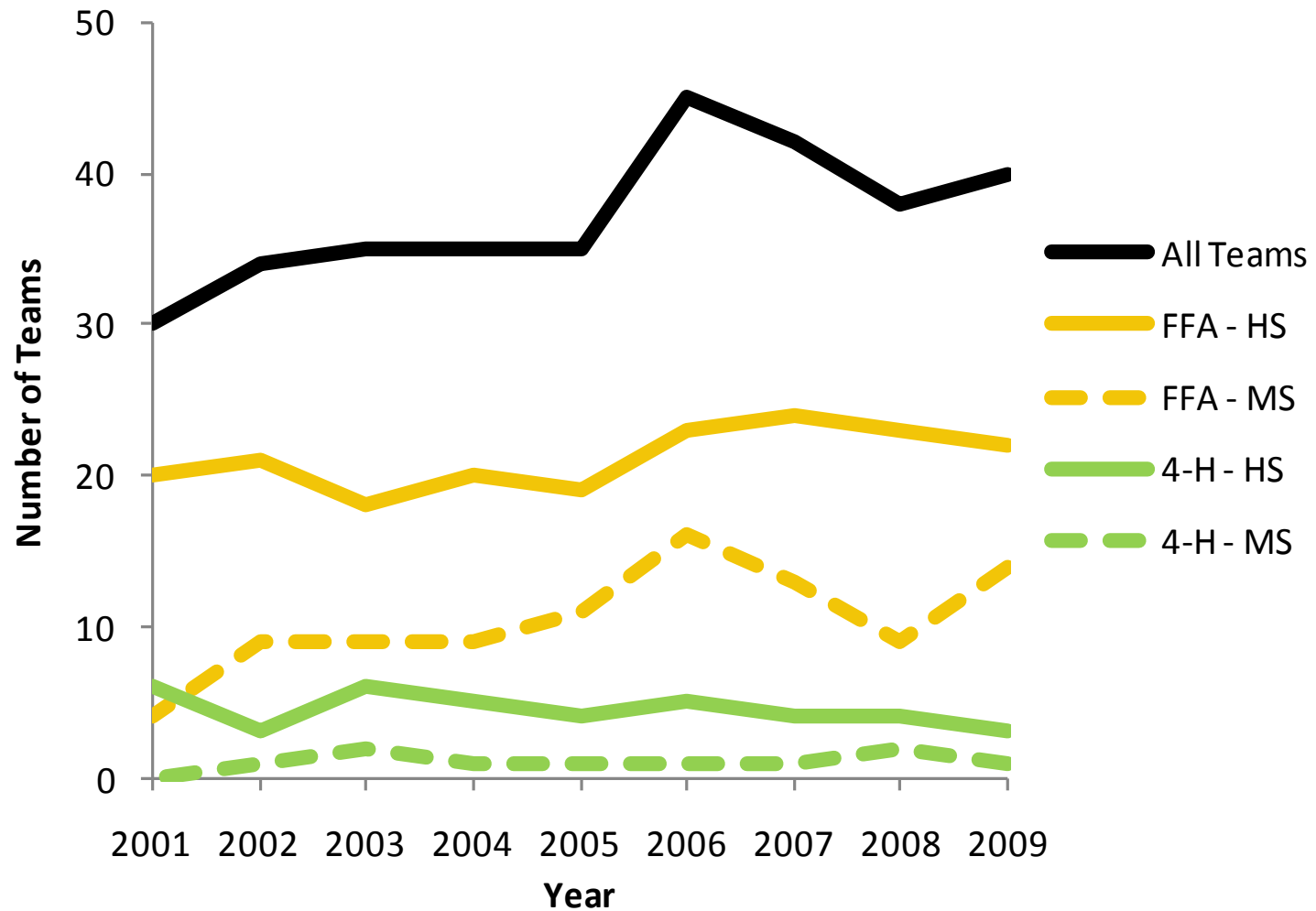
- If your county has NO 4-H team participating in land judging, then you can put together a team and attend neighboring local contest.
- Document your participation at the local level, then register for state!
- See you soon I hope.

You can go to nationals

- The FFA and 4-H winners of the state contest go to Nationals.
- It is a great experience.
- Do you want to go to the national contest?

Put together a 4-H team today!

Participation





Florida Land Judging Contest



Annual State of Florida 4H / FFA Land Judging Contest Information

Revised [Training Material](#)

[Policy Statement \(revised June 2006\)](#)

[Past Contest Results](#)

[Future Contest Sites](#)

Important

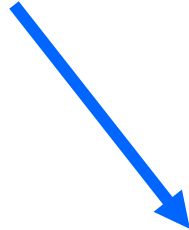
[Scorecard Grading Policy](#)



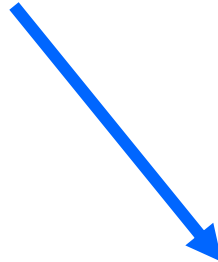
<http://landjudging.ifas.ufl.edu/>



Training Material



Click Picture to Download



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Land Judging and Homesite Evaluation in Florida¹

J.H. Herbert, Jr., R.B. Brown and E.A. Hanlon, Jr.²



Florida Cooperative Extension Service
CIR 242-G; Revised August 2007. Please visit the EDIS Website at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>

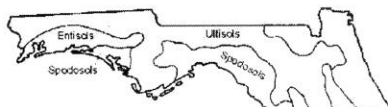
1. This document is CIR242, a circular developed by the Soil and Water Science Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. First published August 1985 as CIR 242-G; Revised August 2007. Please visit the EDIS Website at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.
2. J.H. Herbert, Jr., Associate Professor Emeritus and R.B. Brown, Professor Emeritus, Soil and Water Science Department; and E.A. Hanlon, Jr., Professor, Southwest Florida Research and Education Center; Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.

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Key to Soil Orders in Florida ¹

M.E. Collins²

This fact sheet is intended for anyone who has some understanding of Soil Taxonomy but who needs a simplified key to help distinguish one soil order from another. There are 12 soil orders: Andisols,



Gelosols, Entisols, Inceptisols, Alfisols, Spodosols, Histosols, Mollisols, Aridisols, and Oxisols. Only seven of these soil orders are present in Florida. The soil orders present in Florida are the Aridisols, Vertisols, Gelosols, and Oxisols. The distribution of soil orders in Florida is shown in Figure 1. Inceptisols, and Mollisols are not shown. Alfisols are widely interspersed throughout the state, and the aerial extent of Inceptisols is

The Land Judging Score Card¹

J. H. Herbert, Jr., R. B. Brown, and E. A. Hanlon, Jr.²

Full explanations of Land Characteristics and Conservation Practices can be found in Circular 242

this announcement before the contest begins so that everyone may write in the practice or practices.

Land Judging and Homesite Evaluation
(<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/SS181>)

How to Use the Land Judging Score Card

The Homesite Evaluation Score Card¹

J. H. Herbert, Jr., R. B. Brown and E. A. Hanlon, Jr.²

Full explanations of the terms used in the Homesite Evaluation Score Card can be found in Circular 242 *Land Judging and Homesite Evaluation in Florida* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/SS181>).

How to Use the Homesite Evaluation Score Card

6. The contestants should be given 15 to 20 minutes to fill in the answers on their score cards on each site.

7. In order to insure that the contests are not lengthened too much by the addition of homesite evaluation, and that grading does not become too burdensome, several alternatives are possible: for

LAND JUDGING SCORE CARD

Name Field No.

Indicate your answer by an X in the ☐

LAND CHARACTERISTICS - PART ONE

SURFACE TEXTURE

- Sandy ☐
Loamy ☐
Clayey ☐
(Organic) ☐

ORGANIC MATTER (SURFACE SOIL)

- High ☐
Medium ☐
Low ☐

THICKNESS OF ROOTING ZONE

- Thin ☐
Thick ☐
Very Thick ☐

MOVEMENT OF AIR AND WATER IN THE SOIL (PERMEABILITY)

- Rapid ☐
Moderate ☐
Slow ☐

SLOPE

- A Nearly level ☐
B Gently sloping ☐
C Moderately sloping ☐
D Strongly sloping ☐
E Steep ☐
F Very steep ☐

EROSION - WIND AND WATER

- None to slight ☐
Moderate ☐
Severe ☐
Very severe ☐

DRAINAGE

- Poor ☐
Somewhat poor ☐
Moderately well or well ☐
Excessive ☐

FACTORS DETERMINING LAND CLASS

- Texture ☐
Organic matter ☐
Thickness of rooting zone ☐
Permeability ☐
Slope ☐
Erosion ☐
Drainage ☐

LAND CAPABILITY CLASS

I II III IV V VI VII VIII

Circle one of the above

SOIL ORDER

- Alfisol ☐ Mollisol ☐
Aridisol ☐ Oxisol ☐
Entisol ☐ Spodosol ☐
Histosol ☐ Ultisol ☐
Inceptisol ☐ Vertisol ☐

CONSERVATION PRACTICES - PART TWO

VEGETATIVE

- Use soil conserving and improving crops:
☐ 1. Every year between cash crops.
☐ 2. Every other year.
☐ 3. Two years out of three.
☐ 4. Three years out of four.

☐ 5. Contour strip cropping.
☐ 6. Manage crop residue.
☐ 7. Use sod-based rotation.
☐ 8. Wind strip cropping.
☐ 9. Use field windbreaks.
☐ 10. Control noxious plants.
☐ 11. Establish recommended grasses and/or legumes.
☐ 12. Manage pasture or range properly.
☐ 13. Protect from wildfire.
☐ 14. Plant recommended trees.
☐ 15. Harvest trees selectively.
☐ 16. Use for wildlife or recreational area.
☐ 17.

MECHANICAL

- ☐ 18. Terrace.
☐ 19. Farm on the contour.
☐ 20. Maintain terraces.
☐ 21. Construct diversion terraces.
☐ 22. Develop waterways.
☐ 23. Install water control system.
☐ 24. Control gullies.
☐ 25. Subsoil.
☐ 26.

FERTILIZER & SOIL AMENDMENTS

- ☐ 27. Lime.
☐ 28. Nitrogen.
☐ 29. Phosphorus.
☐ 30. Potassium.
☐ 31. One micronutrient.
☐ 32. Two or more micronutrients.
☐ 33.

SCORE PART I

SCORE PART II

TOTAL SCORE

HOMESITE EVALUATION SCORE CARD

Site No.

Indicate your answer by an X in the ☐

	PART TWO PLANNED USE AND INTERPRETATION			
	Degree of Limitation	Foundations	Lawns, Shrubs, Gardens	Septic Systems
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Extension Service
Natural Sciences
Gainesville

SCORE PART ONE
SCORE PART TWO
TOTAL SCORE





LAND JUDGING SCORE CARD

Name Field No.

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- Thin ☐
- Thick ☐
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MOVEMENT OF AIR AND WATER IN THE SOIL (PERMEABILITY)

- Rapid ☐
- Moderate ☐
- Slow ☐

SLOPE

- A Nearly level ☐
- B Gently sloping ☐
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- F Very steep ☐

EROSION - WIND AND WATER

- None to slight ☐
- Moderate ☐
- Severe ☐
- Very severe ☐

DRAINAGE

- Poor ☐
- Somewhat poor ☐
- Moderately well or well ☐
- Excessive ☐

FACTORS DETERMINING LAND CLASS

- Texture ☐
- Organic matter ☐
- Thickness of rooting zone ☐
- Permeability ☐
- Slope ☐
- Erosion ☐
- Drainage ☐

LAND CAPABILITY CLASS

I II III IV V VI VII VIII

Circle one of the above

SOIL ORDER

- | | |
|---|---|
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- ☐ 33.

SCORE PART I

SCORE PART II

TOTAL SCORE

Soil Texture:

How do you determine texture? Feel the soil. Practice with known samples.

Slope:

How do you determine slope? Walk many slopes and calibrate yourself.

Water Table:

How do you determine depth to seasonal high water table? Redox concentrations in sand, redox depletions in loam/clay

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SCORE PART I

SCORE PART II

TOTAL SCORE

Everything else is
memorization and execution.

Winning Teams...

In order of importance:

1. Know the book, front to back, in and out. They have it memorized 😊
2. Walk LOTS of slopes. They can feel the slope just by walking it.
3. Call water tables correctly.
4. Know their soil textures.

In the field today we will focus on #3. It is the single most poorly understood part of the contest.

What will we do today?

- Visit some soil pits. Soil pits are the way we observe the land properties.
- At a pit, we will work through the score card to get a feel for what students will experience.
- Answer any questions you may have about the contest.
- Have fun and learn.