

**2008 NACTA
Soil Judging Contest**

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Thursday, April 17, 2008

Location – Depart from the Teaching Pavilion at Tarleton Ag Center at 8:00 AM

RULES

1. There will be a 4-year and 2-year division, with each evaluating the same sites.
2. A team will consist of four members. The official team's score will be determined by the highest three member scores.
3. Each school may enter two teams, one official and one unofficial. Only the official teams are considered for the sweepstakes award. The official participating team must be designated prior to the start of the contest. Unofficial teams/members are eligible for awards, but their placings will NOT enter into the determination of the sweepstakes award.
4. Contestants may use a clipboard, hand level, containers for soil samples, pencil (no ink pens), knife, water and acid bottles, Munsell color book (H1OR to H5Y), and ruler or tape (metric preferred since all depths will be in cm.). A textural triangle may also be used to assist contestants in completing the percent sand, silt and clay tiebreaker. Triangles will be supplied at the contest. Rating charts, but not their written explanations, for use in the interpretations section of the scorecard will be supplied at each site. You do not have to memorize the charts, but should know how to use them.
5. Stakes with red flagging at each site will be used for determining the slope.
6. There will be one control section in each pit outlined with red flagging. This area will be the officially scored profile and MUST NOT be disturbed. A blue flagged nail will be placed in the 3rd horizon to assist the contestants in keeping in line.
7. The profile depth to be considered, number of layers to be described and any other relevant data will be provided at each site.
8. Pit monitors will be present to enforce rules and keep time. Each contestant must give his or her scorecard to the pit monitor before moving to the next site. Each contestant must insure that their scorecard has his or her name, contestant number,

university and site number on it prior to submitting it to the site monitor. Cards without proper I.D. will not be scored.

9. The contestants will have fifty minutes at judging each site.
10. Announcements made of the day of the contest will take precedent over the written rules.
11. The official judges for the contest will be the Natural Resource Conservation Service personnel, University and other professional soil scientists.
12. No cell phones, pagers or conferring during the contest will be allowed. Contestants observed in violation **WILL** be eliminated from the competition.
13. Tie Breaker:
 - a. The tiebreaker for individual scores will be their estimate of the percent clay for the surface horizon of Site 1. The individual closest to the official clay percentage on the scoring key will be the winner of the tie. If that should fail to break the tie the next lower horizon will be used and so forth until a winner of the tie is determined. Tabulating the cumulative scores of all four team members will break team ties. If this should result in a tie the percent clay estimates for the surface horizon of Site 1 of all four team members will be added together and averaged. The team with an average estimate closest to the official key will be the winner of the tie. If this fails to break the tie, the next lower horizon will be used and so forth until the tie is broken.
15. Results are **FINAL** after they are announced!

CONTEST

We have generally followed the 2007 rules for both the two and four year divisions. I will try to explain changes, most very minor, with the following comments.

1. Changes in landforms and parent materials were necessary. Recent alluvium will be the parent material for flood plains, old alluvium for terraces, and residuum for uplands. Delete references to glaciations in describing stream terraces in the 2007 two year division rules.
2. Some changes were necessary in the soil classification columns.
3. Stakes flagged in red will indicate where slope is to be taken.
4. There will be one control section in each pit. It will be outlined with red flagging.
5. There will be a nail flagged in blue in the 3rd horizon of each control section.
6. There will be no more than 5 horizons at each site.

Please call me if you have any questions. Call 254-968-2513 (my home). If I am not there leave a message and I will return your call