

SOIL AND PLANT SCIENCE DIVISION

Technical Soil Services

Southwest Soil Survey Region



Minden Major Land Resource Area Soil Survey Office

Minden Major Land Resource Area Soil Survey Office Assists the 94th Nevada Future Farmers of America State Convention

Purpose

The Nevada chapter of Future Farmers of America (FFA) is a dynamic youth organization that promotes premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agriculture education. Their association consists of more than 3,000 students and 28 chapters around the state. The Minden Major Land Resource Area Soil Survey Office has assisted the Nevada FFA for many years and was asked to lend a hand once again at this year's State Convention in Reno.

Key Outcomes

Minden assisted with the planning and execution of the Environmental Natural Resources Event (ENR), which took place at the University of Nevada Reno farm in the floodplain of the Truckee River. We officiated one soil pit at the ENR contest. A total of 48 students from 12 different FFA chapters assessed the site and soil condition to determine suitability for agriculture. Students were furnished with a scorecard and an interpretation guide and asked to identify properties such as soil horizons, textures, slope, permeability, and irrigation suitability. Using the information they collected, they identified the most appropriate use for the area and the erosion control practice that best fits the designated use for the land. Our role as officiants was to describe the soil in advance and to preside over the competition and provide limited support to the students as allowed by contest rules. Students from across the state were well prepared for springtime in Nevada on an afternoon that started with warm sunshine and ended with cold wind and snow. We are proud to support agriculture education in our home state and look forward to providing assistance for years to come.



Students from Nevada FFA at the soil pit, participating in the Environmental Natural Resources event.