

# SOIL AND PLANT SCIENCE DIVISION

## Technical Soil Services

### Southwest Soil Survey Region

## Minden, Nevada, Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) Soil Survey Office

### Minden Soil Survey Office Assists Nevada Future Farmers of America (FFA) State Soil Judging Competition

#### Purpose

The Nevada FFA held their annual state soil judging competition for 2023 in Lund, NV. The Minden Soil Survey Office (SSO) has a history of working closely with FFA representatives in the state to assist in soil and land judging competitions, usually meeting with facilitators and students from the group twice per year. The office provides technical expertise to the group as mentors and officiants for the soil judging contests. The FFA requested the assistance of the Minden SSO at their contest site in Lund, a short distance from Ely, NV, near the eastern border of the state.





## Background

FFA high school chapters from across the state met this year in Lund to prove their knowledge of soil and hopefully secure a spot in FFA's national competition. The Minden SSO made the long trip across the state to support the competition. Meghan Krueger and Jessica Castiblanco, soil scientists from the Minden SSO, traveled across the beautiful cold Nevada desert to help FFA staff set the parameters for soil texture, slopes, erosion, permeability, and surface runoff at the excavation sites. On the second day, after a few hours of acting as arbiters for the contest, the soil scientists explained the results of their observations for each pit and went over the standards used to arrive at those results.







## Key Outcomes

At the end of the contest, Meghan and Jessica discussed their careers and explained the great work opportunities that the agency has for kids who love soil and natural resources. The contest was a complete success, and the Minden SSO elevated the knowledge of soils for those in attendance. The Minden SSO is grateful to continue support of the Nevada FFA and looks forward to similar opportunities to work with them in the future.

