

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Soil Science Division

Soil Survey Region 2



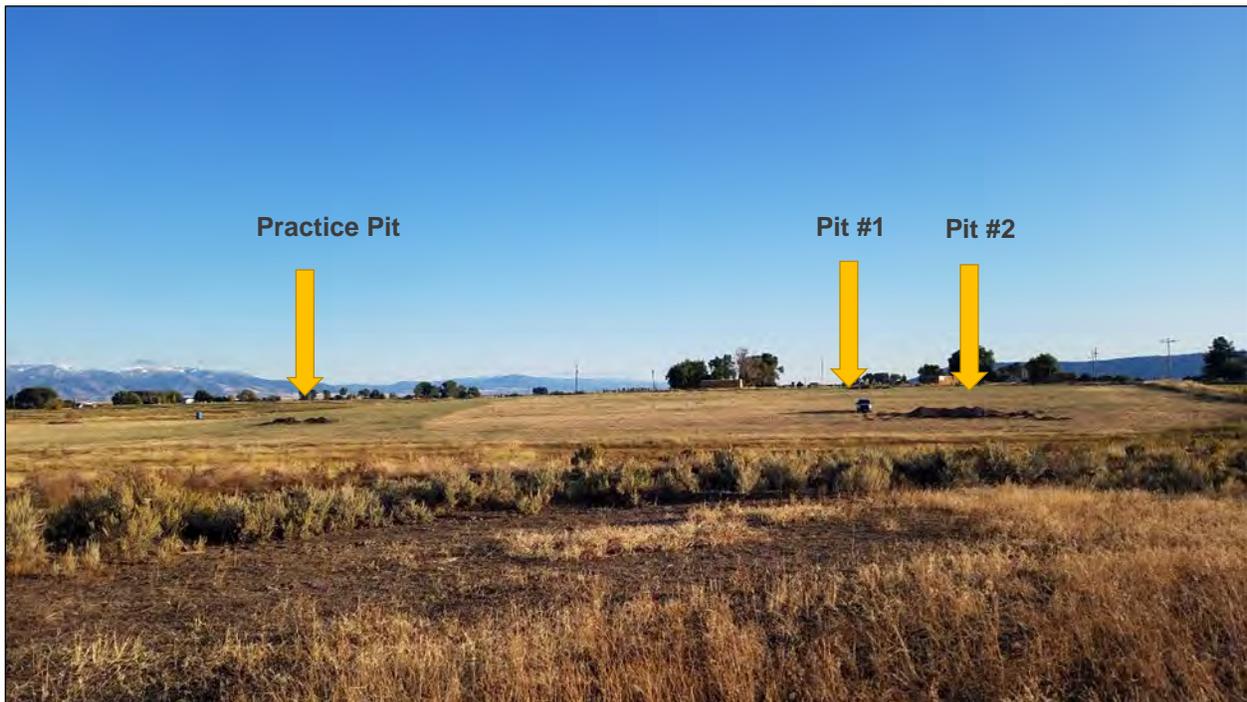
Klamath Falls, Oregon, MLRA Soil Survey Office

FFA District Soil Judging Contest

Summary

On October 2, 2019, local Future Farmers of America (FFA) high school teams competed in the District Soil Judging Contest in Lakeview, Oregon. Katrin Chambers, NRCS, Klamath Falls Soil Survey Office, and Braden Pitcher, NRCS, Klamath Falls Field Office, assisted by scoring the soil pits in advance. They also answered questions about soil properties and how to use soil survey data.

FFA soil judging contests are excellent for teaching high school students about soils and how to manage them and for reaching out to potential future soil scientists and conservationists by sharing information about career opportunities.



Four pits were used in the FFA District Soil Judging Contest, including the practice pit and pits 1 and 2 shown in this photograph. Photo credit: Katrin Chambers.



Key Outcomes

Students were exposed to several different soils and landforms, and they experienced firsthand how changes in soil properties can affect crop productivity and management practices. The contest increased students' awareness of local soils and management practices and furthered their interest in natural resource management. It helped prepare them for future competitions and possible advancement to State and national contests. The agriculture teachers that hosted the contest expressed appreciation for the assistance by NRCS staff, including the exposure of their students to professionals working in the natural resource sciences.

The high school students now have an increased awareness of soil resources and of the mission and objectives of NRCS and the services it provides. The NRCS soil survey office in Klamath Falls will continue to take advantage of opportunities to provide information on soil survey data and how to perform field assessments of soil properties, landforms, and hydrology.

