LAND JUDGING AND HOMESITE EVALUATION IN FLORIDA

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)

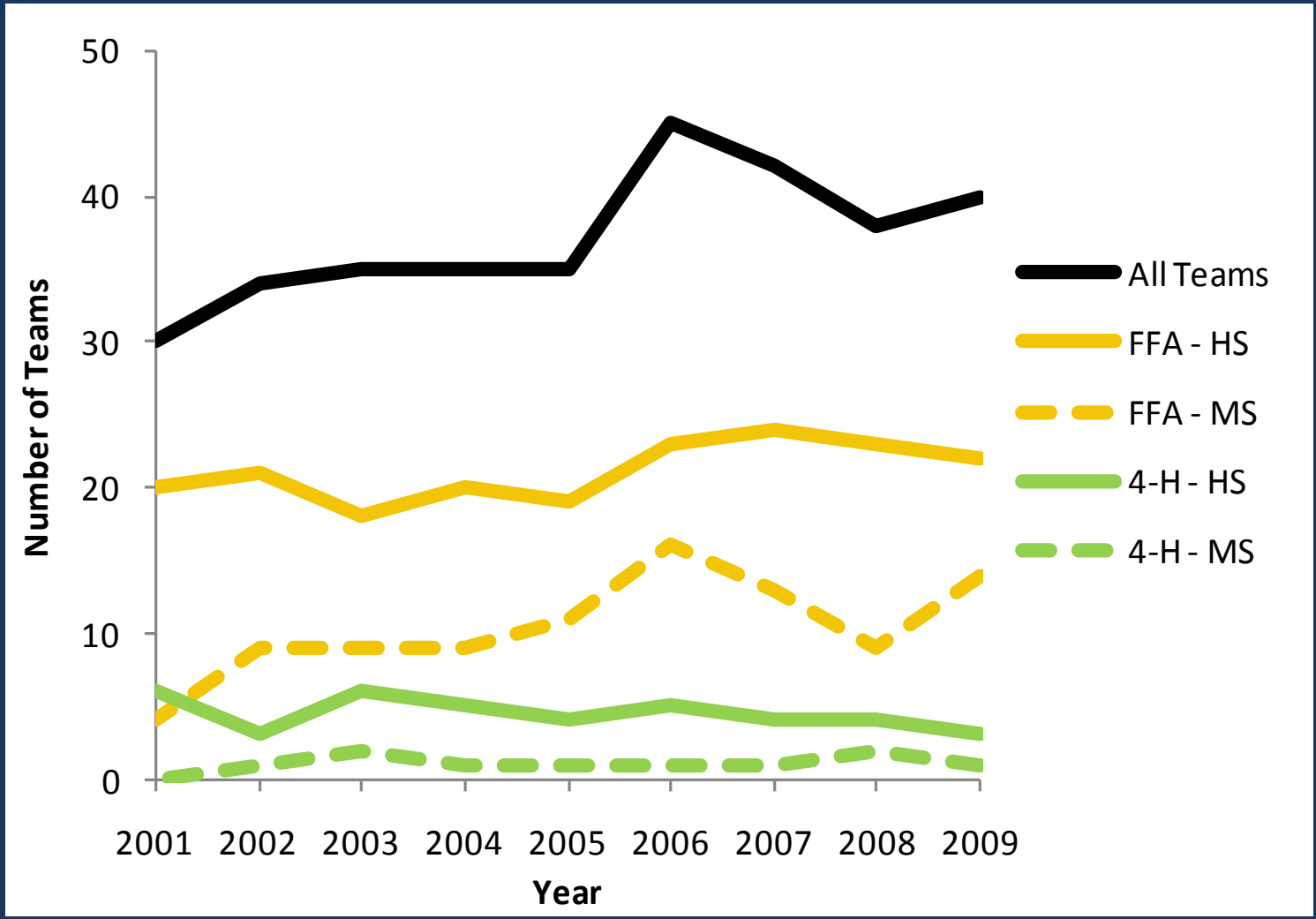
Who to contact?
(see landjudging.org)

- State Land Judging Committee (oversees contest)
- Dr. Rex Ellis (Technical Lead)
- Greg Means (registration, logistics, etc.)
- Your local Soil and Water Conservation District and/or NRCS District Conservationist

Local Contest

- Must win your local contest to proceed to state.
- SWCD/NRCS hosts local contests
- If you have no local contest you would be the de facto winner of your contest but you must still participate in a local contest.
- Contact your SWCD and/or NRCS for guidance, others may be planning this too!
- Must be in good standing and official w/ FFA or 4-H.
- Ellis can help if you are confused.

Historical Participation



Manual

- Download the latest version of the landjudging manual.
- Ellis has aimed to revise this for a while. His plan is to do so for the 2015 contest and it would be completed before Fall 2014
- There are several topics that are covered in general detail, but we need more specifics. Trainings on these specifics are being created and uploaded to landjudging.org
- Example: determining depth to seasonal high water table.

UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA
IFAS Extension

CIR 242

Land Judging and Homesite Evaluation in Florida [1]

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

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.

rida Cooperative Extension
G; Revised August 2007.

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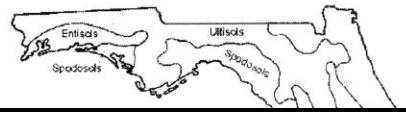
Key to Soil Orders in Florida [1]

M.E. Collins[2]

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, Alfi Spodosols, Histosols, Mollisols, Ar and Oxisols. Only seven of these s present in Florida. The soil orders Florida are the Aridisols, Vertisols, Gelosols, and Oxisols. The distribu soil orders in Florida is shown in F Inceptisols, and Mollisols are not s Alfisols are widely interspersed thr and the aerial extent of Inceptisols



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IFAS EXTENSION

The Land Judging Score Card[1]

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 *Land Judging and Homesit* (http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/SS1

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

How to Use the Lan Ca

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The Homesite Evaluation Score Card[1]

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

Scorecards

- The following slides are dated because we have a new scorecard.
- Their content, however, is preserved in the new scorecard.
- Will update this presentation shortly.

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 . . . . . .

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HOMESITE EVALUATION SCORE CARD

Name _____ Site No. _____

Indicate your answer by an X in the ☐

PART ONE CHARACTERISTIC	PART TWO Degree of Limitation	PLANNED USE AND INTERPRETATION Foundations	Lawns, Shrubs, Gardens	Septic Systems
SURFACE TEXTURE:				
Sandy ☐	Slight	☐	☐	☐
Loamy ☐	Moderate	☐	☐	☐
Clayey ☐	Severe	☐	☐	☐
(Organic) ☐	V. Severe	☐	☐	☐
PERMEABILITY:				
Rapid ☐	Slight	☐	☐	☐
Moderate ☐	Moderate	☐	☐	☐
Slow ☐	Severe	☐	☐	☐
	V. Severe	☐	☐	☐
DEPTH:				
Shallow ☐	Slight	☐	☐	☐
Moderately deep ☐	Moderate	☐	☐	☐
Deep ☐	Severe	☐	☐	☐
	V. Severe	☐	☐	☐
SLOPE:				
Nearly level ☐				
Gently sloping ☐	Slight	☐	☐	☐
Moderately sloping ☐	Moderate	☐	☐	☐
Strongly sloping ☐	Severe	☐	☐	☐
Steep ☐	V. Severe	☐	☐	☐
Very steep ☐				
EROSION:				
None to slight ☐	Slight	☐	☐	☐
Moderate ☐	Moderate	☐	☐	☐
Severe ☐	Severe	☐	☐	☐
Very severe ☐	V. Severe	☐	☐	☐
SHRINK - SWELL:				
Low ☐	Slight	☐	☐	☐
Moderate ☐	Moderate	☐	☐	☐
High ☐	Severe	☐	☐	☐
	V. Severe	☐	☐	☐
DRAINAGE:				
Poor ☐	Slight	☐	☐	☐
Somewhat poor ☐	Moderate	☐	☐	☐
Moderately well	Severe	☐	☐	☐
or well ☐	V. Severe	☐	☐	☐
Excessive ☐				
FLOODING:				
None ☐	Slight	☐	☐	☐
Occasional ☐	Moderate	☐	☐	☐
Frequent ☐	Severe	☐	☐	☐
	V. Severe	☐	☐	☐
FINAL EVALUATION:	Slight	☐	☐	☐
	Moderate	☐	☐	☐
	Severe	☐	☐	☐
	V. Severe	☐	☐	☐

Florida Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
University of Florida, Gainesville

SCORE PART ONE . . . . . .
SCORE PART TWO . . . . . .
TOTAL SCORE . . . . . .


FIELD
2
TOP SOIL


TOP SOIL


SUB SOI

LAND JUDGING SCORE CARD

Name . . . . . Field No. . . . . .

Indicate your answer by an X in the ☐

LAND CHARACTERISTICS - PART ONE

SURFACE TEXTURE
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- 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 . . . . . ☐

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- ☐ 9. Use field windbreaks.
- ☐ 10. Control noxious plants.
- ☐ 11. Establish recommended grasses and/or legumes.
- ☐ 12. Manage pasture or range properly.
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- ☐ 25. Subsoil.
- ☐ 26. . . . . .

FERTILIZER & SOIL AMENDMENTS
- ☐ 27. Lime.
- ☐ 28. Nitrogen.
- ☐ 29. Phosphorus.
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- ☐ 31. One micronutrient.
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- ☐ 33 . . . . . .

SCORE PART I . . . . . .

SCORE PART II . . . . . .

TOTAL SCORE . . . . . .

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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 . . . . . .

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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.