FFA Leadership Development Program

2007 Soil Stewardship Week Theme:

Conservation's Power

To prepare for the public speaking contest, students are to consult with their Ag Science teacher and work with their local soil and water conservation district (SWCD). A statement signed by an SWCD representative must be attached to the submitted speech.

If the student needs help finding information on their soil and water conservation district, the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board will be happy to provide students with the name and address of the SWCD that serves the local school district.

This project is a partnership between the Texas FFA, the Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas, the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, and the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

For more information contact:

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
P.O. Box 658
Temple, TX 76503
254.773.2250 or 800.792.3485
http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us

Soil Water TSSWCB

Scholarships Available: There are ten $500.00 scholarships that will be presented by the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts. *One $500 scholarship* will be awarded to the top place winner in each FFA Area.

One $1,000.00 scholarship will be awarded to the winner in the state contest. Scholarship money must be used to defray costs of a winner's education at a technical institution, college or university of the winner's choice. All scholarships will be awarded directly to a winner's chosen technical school, college or university in their name upon proof of registration as a full-time student at the institution of higher learning.

Expense Paid Trips: The state winner and his or her advisor will receive two expense paid trips under State of Texas travel guidelines to the annual FFA State Convention and the annual meeting of Texas Soil and Water Conservation District Directors.

To Get The Student Started: Have the student identify soil conservation practices in their community. Ask the student to describe the usefulness and importance of protecting soil for future generations in your area. Encourage the student to consider the role they play in the different aspects of agriculture and also how their community is affected by the soil conservation there. You may need to provide maps of your own town or county.

Encourage students to explore Internet resources such as the National Energy Information Center at the U.S. Energy Information Administration at http://www.eia.doe.gov/kids http://www.energy.gov/index.htm, http://www.firstgov.gov/index.shtml Additional internet resources include the National Energy Education Development Project at http://www.need.org/EnergyInfobooks.php, the United States Department of Agriculture at http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/energy/index.html, the National Association of Conservation Districts at http://www.nacdnet.org.

Specific Instructions: The student must address "Conservation's Power" theme as detailed in the reference material from NACD and the speech must be between ***six and eight minutes in length.*** (Students are to consult with their local SWCD for guidance and local relevance to the theme.) For specific rules and requirements relating to the contest, consult the Degree Check Guidelines.

Introduction of Speech

- ☑ Introduce the theme and give a brief history of the soil stewardship observance.
- ☑ Explain how the theme "Conservation's Power" describes how we sometimes take energy for granted. Energy resources may become increasingly scarce as we place more demands on energy resources. Energy is essential to our life. To ensure future energy supplies, we need to learn about energy resources and plan to use them carefully. To help achieve this goal, "Conservation's Power" has been selected as the theme for the 2007 Soil and Water Stewardship Week celebration.

Prelude to Body of Speech

- ☑ Discuss the major natural resource concerns of the local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and community.
- ☑ Discuss the purposes of the local SWCD and how its mission relates to energy conservation.

Body of Speech

- ☑ Describe your area and the significance of soil conservation practices in your area.
- ☑ How is the conservation of energy and related resources important to your community?
- ☑ What is your local SWCD's involvement with energy conservation for the future in your community?
- ☑ What is the effect of urban communities of conserving energy for the future?

- ☑ Describe similarities between agriculture and silviculture (forestry) in relation to their importance upon energy resources and the conservation of energy resources.

- ☑ What can urban people do to ensure energy resources for the future in their community?

- ☑ What agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs), if any, are being used that benefit energy conservation ? What is the importance of BMPs as related to energy conservation?

Conclusion

- ☑ What does the theme, “Conservation’s Power” mean to you?

Soil and Water Conservation District Consultation Affidavit

I certify that _____ consulted with the _____ Soil and Water Conservation District in preparation for the 2007 Soil and Water Stewardship Public Speaking Contest.

_____ _____
(Student Signature) (Date)

_____ _____
(SWCD Representative Signature) (Date)

(*This form should be submitted along with speech*.)