

FFA Leadership Development Program

2006 Soil Stewardship Week Theme:

Water Wise



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>



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

One \$1,000.00 scholarship will be awarded to the state winner in the 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. 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 Conservation Technology Information Center at <http://www.ctic.purdue.edu>, Soil and Water Conservation Society at <http://www.swcs.org>, the United States Department of Agriculture at <http://www.usda.gov/>, the National Association of Conservation Districts at <http://www.nacdnet.org>.

Specific Instructions: The student must address "Water Wise" 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 “Water Wise” describes how we sometimes take water for granted. Water resources may become increasingly scarce as we place more demands on fresh water supplies. Water is vita to our life. To ensure future water supplies, we need to learn about water resources, and plan to use them carefully. To help achieve this goal, “Water Wise” has been selected as the theme for the 2006 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 “Water Wise.”

Body of Speech

- Describe your area and the significance of soil and water conservation practices in your area.
- How is the conservation of water and related resources important to your community?
- What is your local SWCD’s involvement with water conservation for the future in your community?
- What is the effect of urban communities of conserving water for the future?
- Describe similarities between agriculture and silviculture (forestry) in relation to their importance upon water resources.
- What can urban people do to ensure water resources for the future in their community?
- What agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs), if any, are being used that benefit conservation of water? What is the importance of BMPs as related to conservation?

- How many farmers and ranchers have conservation plans (such as programs, water quality management plans, etc.) with the local SWCD?

Conclusion

- What does “Water Wise” 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
2006 Soil and Water Stewardship Public Speaking Contest.

(Student Signature)

(Date)

(SWCD Representative Signature)

(Date)

(This form should be submitted along with speech.)