

FFA Leadership Development Program

2012 Soil Stewardship Week Theme:



To prepare for the public speaking contest, students are to consult with their Ag Science teacher and use the Guidelines Packet accessible on the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board's website. The student is also to work with their soil and water conservation district (SWCD) as a local resource. A statement signed by an SWCD representative must be attached to the submitted speech.

If the student needs help finding information on how to locate and contact 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 program 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



Three scholarships will be presented by the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts at the annual Texas FFA convention. One \$3,000.00 scholarship will be awarded to the first place contestant, one \$2,000.00 scholarship will be awarded to the second place contestant and one \$1,000.00 scholarship will be awarded to the third place contestant at the convention.

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

Expense Paid Trips: The state first place scholarship winner and his or her advisor will receive an expense paid trip under State of Texas travel guidelines to the annual meeting of Texas Soil and Water Conservation District Directors. The first place Soil Stewardship Public Speaking Contest Winner is required to present his or her state winning speech at the annual meeting of SWCD Directors.

To Access the Guidelines Packet

1. Click on the Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board's website:
www.tsswcb.state.tx.us
2. On the left side of the home page, under Program Quick Links click on "SWCD Information & Education."
3. Click on "[Soil & Water Stewardship Public Speaking Contest](#)" and scroll down for the 2012 Program Guidelines Packet

To Get the Student Started

Using the prompt statements or questions noted in the speech outline on page six, the student is to center his/her speech on the theme "*Soil to Spoon*". The focus of the speech is to demonstrate knowledge gained as a result of research and personal consultation with the local soil and water conservation district. It is further recommended that the student consult the listed resources that follow to gain a well rounded view of the theme topic. **Other resources may also be consulted in addition to the listed references.**

Resources to consider in developing the speech

http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/BCAEAC/Documents/environmental_library/40_land/40.41_land_conservation/40.41.90.03_linking_land_quality_agriculture_production_and_food_security.pdf

The article discusses how rising populations and incomes increase pressure on land and other resources around the world, agricultural productivity plays an increasingly important role in improving food supplies and food security.

http://apjcn.nhri.org.tw/server/APJCN/Volume18/vol18.4/Finished/8_1624_516-519.pdf

Soil is a basic natural resource for food production, the vast majority of food we consume is either directly or indirectly derived from soil. Soil quality determines the quantity (calories) and quality (nutritional value and safety) of the foods grown. Protecting the soil's physical, chemical and biological integrity is therefore of vital importance in safeguarding global food security.

<http://sebs.rutgers.edu/spotlight/soil.asp>

Societal development rests on an essential, but often unrecognized, fulcrum: soil quality.

<http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/452/452-400/452-400.html>

What makes a healthy soil? The term "soil quality" has been coined to describe the combination of chemical, physical, and biological characteristics that enables soils to perform a wide range of functions.

http://www.water-energy-food.org/documents/hottopicssessions/6_hot_topic_issue_paper_soils_for_sustainable_development.pdf

The alleviation of food insecurity depends on fertile soils. Soils also assume a pivotal role in the water and carbon cycle, and in the provision of essential ecosystem services.

<http://www.farmingfirst.org/nutrition/>

Food security is not only about the quantity of food which we consume; it is also about the quality and diversity of that food as well.

<http://foodnews.lovingspoonful.org/?p=81>

A recent report from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN has concluded that soil erosion is a critical threat to food security. Increasing world population means that more food will need to be produced.

<https://www.soils.org/story>

A series of videos that presents issues on how soil is taken for granted, where food comes from etc.

<http://oklahoma4h.okstate.edu/aitc/lessons/intermed/think.pdf>

When you think of agriculture you probably think of people growing crops or raising cows, pigs, sheep and chickens on a farm. But agriculture means much more than that.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_industry

Food production is a complex, global collective of diverse [businesses](#) that together supply much of the [food energy](#) consumed by the [world population](#).

<http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/CollegeRelations/AGRICU.htm>

GENERAL FACTS ABOUT AGRICULTURE: Twenty two million American workers produce, process, sell and trade the nation's food and fiber. But only 4.6 million of those people live on the farms-- slightly less than 2 percent of the total U.S. Population.

http://chge.med.harvard.edu/programs/food/documents/curriculum/lesson_4.pdf

A food supply chain or food system refers to the processes that describe how food from a farm ends up on our tables. The processes include production, processing, distribution, consumption and disposal.

Specific Instructions: The speech must be between *six and eight minutes in length*.
For specific rules and requirements relating to the contest, consult the Degree Check Guidelines.

Objective of Speech

The objectives of the speech are as follows:

1. To connect people with the importance of soil in relationship to the growth, production, marketing and consumption of food and other goods that humans make use of.
2. Emphasis on how farmers and ranchers use various conservation practices to protect soil and water resources.
3. Provide an example of the chain of jobs required to support agriculture and move agricultural products from farm to the consumer.
4. What the public should know about why soil and water conservation practices on farms and ranches are beneficial to them.



Speech Outline

Introduction

- Introduce the theme “From Soil to Spoon”.
- Set the tone of the speech with some thought provoking quote about the importance of soil.

Body of Speech

- State some facts about how and why healthy soil is important to the growth and production of food and other products that sustains quality of life.
- From interviews and discussion with local soil and water conservation district personnel (USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service personnel, a soil and water conservation district employee or a conservation district director) discuss in what ways local farmers and ranchers participate in the conservation district program and how that program leads to healthy soils and water quality.
- Discuss through an example the chain of jobs and industries required to move a raw product from the farm to the consumer.
- Discuss why it is important for the public to know why soil and water conservation practices utilized on farms and ranches are important to them.

Conclusion

- What does the theme, “From Soil to Spoon” mean to you?

** It is not required that the above questions be addressed in the speech as chronologically listed. The student has the flexibility to rearrange the prompt questions in a manner that permits smooth delivery flow.*

Soil and Water Conservation District Consultation Affidavit

I certify that _____ consulted with
the _____ Soil and Water Conservation District
in preparation for the 2012 Soil and Water Stewardship Public Speaking Contest.

(Student Signature)

(Date)

(SWCD Representative Signature)

(Date)

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