

South Dakota FFA Land, Homesite, and Range Judging Events

I. General Information

- A. South Dakota will consist of 5 Regions (Northeast, Southeast, North Central, South Central & West).
 1. Teams that will attend the national contest:
 - Northeast (1 team land/ 1 team Homesite / 1 team Range)
 - Southeast (1 team land / 1 team Homesite / 1 team Range)
 - North Central (1 team land / 1 team Homesite / 1 team Range)
 - South Central (1 team land / 1 team Homesite / 1 team Range)
 - West (1 team land/ 1 team Homesite / 1 team Range)
 2. Schools (Chapters) may move from Region to Region under the following procedure.
 - Petition the Chairman's of the 2 regions involved.
 - Must stay in a region for 3 yrs before petitioning out of a region.
 - All chapters move to their new regions for 2024. Starting in 2025 they can follow the petition rules to move regions.
 - Schools that are divided by the region lines can petition in the 2025 year for region change. All other schools must follow the 3-year petition rule.
- B. Each FFA Chapter may register up to 15 members (regions may adjust this number as needed to uphold the integrity of the CDE) for the regional contest.
- C. Team Score: The highest 4 individual scores will comprise of the school's team score.
- D. The Land & Homesite, Range Contests will be held every fall with the site location determined by the region chairman and assistant region chairman.
 1. The site location to be determined by the region to uphold the integrity of the CDE.
- E. Contest starting time be determined by each region.

II. Conducting the Land & Homesite Judging Contest

- A. The Land & Homesite contest will consist of 4 sites (pits) that the FFA members will judge Land & Homesite at each site.
- B. There will be 25 minutes allowed for FFA members to complete/judge a Land & Homesite pit.
- C. Judging scorecards should consist of 4 different colors— one for each site.

III. Conducting the Range Judging Contest

- A. The Range contest will consist of 3 stations: 2 ecological site evaluation stations and 1 rangeland plant identification station.
- B. There will be 30 minutes allowed for FFA members to complete/judge at each station.
- C. Judging scorecards should consist of 3 different colors one for each site.

IV. General Contest Rules

- A. Team members shall be bona fide enrollees in a secondary AFNR program and FFA members in good standing.
 - 1. Team members must also compete with the chapter in which they are enrolled.
- B. All members may judge at the regional contest except for the following:
 - 1. If they have competed at the National Contest in either FFA Land or Homesite then they are ineligible to compete at the regional contest. Students who have competed in 4-H at the National or State contest are eligible to compete in the State Regional FFA contest unless they have judged both Land & Homesite at the National Contest.
 - 2. If they have competed at the National Contest in FFA Range, then they are ineligible to compete at the regional contest. Students who have competed in the 4-H division at the National or State contest are eligible to compete in the State Regional FFA contests.
 - 3. Any student who was a top four individual on the winning team at the regional contest in a previous year and does not attend the National Contest, for extenuating circumstances, will not be eligible to compete at the Regional FFA Contest.
- C. Any communication, verbal or non-verbal between participants during event will be sufficient cause to eliminate the team member(s) involved from the contest.

V. Land & Homesite Judging Contestant Rules

- A. Contestants can NOT have any writing on the scorecards such as: Land Capability Class or notes.
- B. Contestants can have math calculations for erosion or fertility written on their scorecards.
- C. Contestants can NOT have the following items listed below or if any are found, the participant will be disqualified.
 - 1. No electronic devices (cell phones, smart phones, programmable calculators, etc.)
 - 2. Calculators
 - 3. Slope measuring devices (clinometers)
- D. Contestants may have the following pieces of equipment:
 - 1. Pencils with good erasers

2. Clear Clipboards with NO measuring devices or writing on them.
 3. Knife (Land & Homesite Judging)
 4. Towel or rags
 5. Contest cards / Scantrons
- E. The Land Judging in South Dakota Handbook and Homesite Judging in South Dakota Guidebook shall be used to resolve contest differences and should be used in setting up and conducting all contests.

VI. Range Judging Contestant Rules

- A. Contestants can NOT have any writing on their scorecards (such as plant characteristics, etc.)
- B. Contestants can have math calculations or givens for the site written on their scorecards.
- C. Contestants can NOT have the following items listed below. If any are found, the participant will be disqualified:
 1. No electronic devices (cell phones, smart phones, etc.)
 2. Calculators
 3. Slope measuring devices (clinometers)
- D. Contestants may have the following pieces of equipment:
 1. Pencils
 2. Clear Clipboard
 3. Contest cards
- E. The “Judging South Dakota Rangeland for Livestock and Wildlife Values” will be used to resolve contest differences and should be used in setting up and conducting all contests.
- F. Decisions of the judges will be FINAL!

VII. Scoring the Land & Homesite Contest

- A. Scoring is FINAL when done correcting the day of the contest!

	Possible Points
4 Land sites @ 75pts each	300
4 Homesite sites @ 51pts each	204
Total Individual Score	504
Total Team Score (4 participants count)	2016

B. Tiebreakers

1. In case of a team tie, the order to break the tie will be:
 - a. Use scores from Land Site 1, then Land Site 2, Land Site 3, and Land Site 4 and the team with first largest score can be declared the winner. If this does not break the tie the scores from Homesite Site 1, Site 2, Site 3, and Site 4 can be used.
2. In case of an individual tie, the order to break the tie will be:
 - a. Use scores from Land Site 1, then Land Site 2, Land Site 3, and Land Site 4 and the individual with first largest score can be declared the winner. If this does not break the tie the scores from Homesite Site 1, Site 2, Site 3, and Site 4 can be used.

VIII. Scoring the Range Contest

- A. Scoring is final when done correcting the day of the contest!

	Possible Points
2 Ecological Evaluation Sites @ 118 pts each	236
1 Plant Identification Site @ 400 pts	400
Total Individual Score	636
Total Team Score (4 participants count)	2544

B. Tiebreakers

1. In the case of a team tie, the order to break the tie will be:
 - a. The top three team member plant identification scores.
2. In the case of an individual tie, the order to break the tie will be:
 - a. Based on the plant identification score.

IX. Reporting Winners of Contest

- A. The region chair must report the first and second place teams and their National Contest election to the state FFA office within one week of the Regional FFA Contest.
- B. The FFA advisor of each team must report the team members attending the National Contest to the State FFA Office two weeks before the National Contest.

X. References and Resources

Land Judging in South Dakota, ABS 8-01, revised August 2012 with a revised Land Judging Scorecard 6/2010.

Homesite Judging in South Dakota, June 2008, with a revised Homesite Judging Scorecard 6/2010, Guidebook revised 2015.

Judging South Dakota Rangeland for Livestock and Wildlife Values, revised March 2023.

Grassland Plants of South Dakota and the Northern Great Plains, by James R Johnson and Gary E. Larson. (available at SDSU Ag Heritage Museum – <https://www.agmuseumstore.com/grassland-plants-of-south-dakota.html>)