FOUR LEARNING AREAS

TEXTURE

1. Utilize visual and ribbon methods to determine grit, structure and texture.
2. Use grit and structure to identify eleven major textures.

SLOPE

Learn the swing arm method, walking or other, without the use of instruments to determine percent of landfall.

LAND CAPABILITY CLASS

1. Learn nine basic factors of soil.
2. Use these basics to determine Land Class 1-8.

ALL OTHER

1. Learn what practices are needed for the different land classes.
2. Learn how to read and understand fertilizer and soil amendments; pH, P₂O₅, K₂O and N.
3. Learn how to determine available water-holding capacity.

RESULTS

1. Students who participate in 20-30 class hours and home study should produce team scores in the 60-80% correct range.
2. Students will learn productive study habits that enhance overall learning.
3. Students will experience the impact of positive self-esteem as they learn to correctly judge soils.
4. Land practices on farms will experience changes as parents embrace new concepts.

WHAT IS UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION?

We are the outreach college that extends knowledge from the University of Nevada, and other land-grant universities, to local communities to address issues. We are a federal-state-county partnership with 18 offices throughout the state. Our more than 200 personnel, with the help of volunteers, deliver non-degree educational programs based on local needs.

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INSTRUCTOR

1. Research class materials, determine schedule, obtain a classroom.
2. Assess student learning platform.
3. Teach students in a manner of different ways: written, oral, hands-on, etc…
4. Allow youth to help develop individual aids and learning activities.
5. Locate different accessible sites, roadside cuts, ravines, and/or pits for students to view the soil profiles.
6. Get permission to go onto private lands.
7. Express enthusiasm for soils education; enthusiasm is contagious.
8. Enjoy the students.

STUDENT

1. Commit to participate and utilize good study habits.
2. Review materials and learn what is expected to be successful.
3. Create “flash cards” (using 3x5 index cards), and other learning activities.
4. Seek out and bring to class eleven major soil textures, sand through clay.
5. Practice determining texture using ribbon and jar methods.
6. Study soil texture, depth, slope, erosion, permeability, surface runoff, wetness, flooding, climate and other factors and how they relate to land capability class.
7. Identify land classes utilizing nine soil factors and learn land management practices.
8. Enjoy the soils education experience.

AIDS

INSIDE:
- Bagged soil samples – minimum of eleven different textures.
- Have soil boards that show horizons and texture; have students make these using wood, glue and soil.
- Study materials – manuals, handouts, etc

OUTSIDE:
- Visit roadside cuts/washes, etc.
- Have someone dig soil pits.
- View different soil textures.
- Judge different sites.
- Review why different sites are the way they are.
- Find easily accessible areas for a variation of slopes.
- Slope stick (PVC pipe.)
- Slope device to “shoot the slope.”

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