2020 4-H/FFA Soil Evaluation CDE Modifications

The following modifications will be implemented at area and state level. Anyone hosting an invitational contest is encouraged to incorporate these same modifications which are:

- 4-H coaches must submit a Purdue Extension COVID safety plan to their county 4-H educator. In particular, this plan must comply with current travel policies when transporting youth while practicing, participating in a contest, or any other time while acting in a 4-H volunteer capacity. [https://protect.purdue.edu/updates/travel-guidelines-for-fall-2020/](https://protect.purdue.edu/updates/travel-guidelines-for-fall-2020/)
- FFA coaches must provide at contest check-in a completed copy of the INFFA COVID-19 Waiver and Release form for each contestant, themselves and others accompanying them at the contest.
- Dr. Gary Steinhardt will be working with area contest coordinators so a judging site is shared by two adjacent areas on back-to-back days, if possible.
- No more than 80 contestants judging at the contest site at any one time. If total contestants are greater than 80 the contest coordinator will divide and schedule in waves.
- A mask/face covering is to be worn over the mouth and nose at all times by contestants, coaches, staff, volunteers and others even though this educational event is outside. Everyone is to provide their own mask/face covering. Everyone is expected to practice social distancing according to CDC guidelines.
- Pre-registration is required.
- Check-in will be at the contest site or in close proximity. Upon arrival all contestants will remain on the bus or in their vehicle while the coach completes the check-in process. Everyone will remain on the bus or in their vehicle until the contest orientation begins.
- Contestant will be assigned a rotation group and will remain in that group the entire time. Within each group contestants will be assigned a specific pit evaluation sequence subgroup. See attached COVID pit diagram and judging sequence documents.
- Contestants will have 3 minutes to complete evaluation tasks at each sequence. The remaining time is to be spent completing the scorecard. Each rotation group will have 20 minutes at each pit.
- Each pit will require 4 monitors. The group leader will oversee pit evaluation and call time when each three minute sequence subgroup is to rotate. A second person will provide each contestant hand sanitizer solution after completing topsoil texturing. A third person will provide each contestant hand sanitizer solution after completing subsoil texturing. The fourth person will use a disinfecting wipe to clean the slope stake after each use.
- Topsoil and subsoil texturing will be sampled from a bucket. Contestants are to discard samples when finished.
- Slope is to be measured in one direction only. Contest officials may provide slope on the pit note card at their discretion.
- Contestants will transfer answers from their scorecard to a Scantron answer sheet after evaluating all four pits. On a dry day this can be done by social distancing at their last pit. If weather is inclement contestants will return to their bus or vehicle and will complete the Scantron under their coach’s supervision.
- Contestants and coaches should depart when finished. There will be no live critique.
- The area contest coordinator may choose to limit the number of contestants per educational unit (school or county 4-H).
- State Contest Qualification:
  - Each area can advance their top four senior teams.
If 4-H or FFA is not represented among those top four senior teams, the highest placing team in that division can be advanced to state as a fifth team.

Each area can advance any team that qualified in 2019 to represent Indiana at the national soils contest in spring 2020, provided that national team composition does not exceed two substitutions.

The top five individual seniors may advance to state and compete as an individual if they are not part of a team already advancing.

Master teams will only advance to state if after all area coordinators have submitted state registrations it is determined the addition of master teams will not exceed the maximum 240 contestants at the state contest.

There will not be a junior division at state.

- Since 2020 graduating seniors are not eligible to compete at the state contest, a team that qualified in 2019 to represent Indiana at the national contest is allowed no more than two substitutions on that team. This is only effective for the 2020 state contest.
- State contest will be in northern Hamilton County Saturday, October 17, 2020. There will be no practice pits Friday.
- All divisions will use the same four judging pits.
- Lunch will not be provided at the state contest.
- State contest registration fee will be $10.00 per contestant.
- Area contest results will be announced the following day. State contest results will be announced Monday, October 19 and awards will be mailed to coaches for distribution to contestants.
- National contest information:
  - Teams qualifying at the 2019 contest to represent Indiana at the national soils contest will have first choice of competing in the national land or home site division.
  - Teams qualifying at the 2020 contest to represent Indiana at the national soils contest will fill the remaining national contest eligible registration with the highest placing team choosing first from the remaining division spots, and so on.
  - If a 2019 national qualifying team finishes in the top five teams in that same division in the 2020 state contest, the sixth place team will be eligible to represent Indiana at the national contest, and so on.
  - This is only effective for the 2020 Indiana and spring 2021 national contests.