

On Thursday, October 17, 2019, the Grant County Conservation, Sanitation & Zoning Department hosted the Southwest Wisconsin High School Land Judging contest. This annual contest is sponsored by the Land & Water Conservation Departments from Grant, Lafayette and Green counties. The opportunity to offer 125 students from 11 High Schools a reason to get out of class in only their second month of the new school year is a part of my jobs that I enjoy most. Hopefully, these students gain an awareness of what soil is, how it developed, practical uses and the conservation of this most important resource.

When hosting a contest like this, one of the first and most important things to consider when deciding on where to have it is a willing and cooperative landowner. This year's contest was held on Larry Jerrett's farm in North Lancaster Township. Not only were Larry and Lori generous in allowing us the use of their land to dig 4 pits, and park dozens of school busses and vans and numerous other cars and trucks all around their farmstead, but they opened up their shop for us to set up tables and chairs to make it convenient for staff and teachers to spread out and grade and organize score sheets.

As a necessary inconvenience of hosting a contest like this, we need to dig four pits resulting in a fair amount of disturbed land. In an effort to reclaim the areas as much as possible, we get the pits filled in and seeded as soon as we can. I would like to thank Len Timmerman of Dickeyville Feed for donating a bag of their pasture mix that was used for this.

The results of the contest are:

#### Individual Award Winners

1 <sup>st</sup>	Cade Fenrite	Monticello	347
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Natalie Roe	Monticello	344
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Levi Hampton	Cassville	341
4 <sup>th</sup>	Bailey Abney	Blackhawk	339
5 <sup>th</sup>	Carter Wirth	Monticello	336
6 <sup>th</sup>	Bailey Hagen	Blackhawk	325
7 <sup>th</sup>	Sam Meier	Blackhawk	323
8 <sup>th</sup>	Magan Culpitt	Cashton	322
9 <sup>th</sup>	A. J. Bulter	Cassville	317
10 <sup>th</sup>	Harley Disch	Monticello	308

#### Team Award Winners

1 <sup>st</sup>	Monticello	999
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Blackhawk	987
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Cassville	964
4 <sup>th</sup>	Cashton	923
5 <sup>th</sup>	Potosi	877