

RANGE

3 or 4 Member Team

I. PURPOSE

This event helps students to develop an interest in the industry that helps feed our state and nation. This program is taught in the agriculture curriculum to help enhance the higher thinking skills of its participants. The Range CDE and its supporting instruction helps students understand the ways to better improve and conserve our natural resources of rangeland. This event provides opportunity for mastery of foundational knowledge and understanding contributing to future learning and success in college level coursework related to range management, soil evaluation and plant identification.

II. EVENT FORMAT

A. Team Make-up

1. Three or four individuals per school form a team.
2. All members will be scored and the top three scores will count towards the team total.
3. A member who has participated previously as a member of the winning team in the State or National Range CDE shall **NOT** be eligible for the Range CDE again. Members who participate in the National Range Event and are not on the state or national winning team are eligible to participate.

B. Equipment

1. Team members must provide their own compliant transparent plastic clipboard and/or clean folder with the following items: scan sheet, and/or copy of the scan sheet, optional Texas FFA CDE drop sheet, and/or 2 sheets of lined or unlined blank paper.
2. A clear plastic bag may be used to keep materials clean and dry when inclement weather threatens.
3. Books, paper, rulers, or other material are not permitted.
4. Scan sheets and #2 pencils must be furnished by the contestant.
5. Students wishing to record their answers may do so on a clean, blank copy of the scan sheet or on the official range judging drop sheet.
6. This is an outdoor event. Students should be appropriately dressed in compliance to state CDE standards and in attire suitable for this CDE.

C. Event Format

1. Two Ecological sites will be used worth 150 points each.
 - a. These two sites will be generally square or rectangular in shape. The sides will be clearly marked with ribbon, tape or etc. and contestants are not permitted inside the enclosure, unless a designated walk-way is provided.
 - b. Division I of the Ecological site is evaluated for:
Type of ecological site.....25 points

- Similarity Index.....40 points
 - Habitat rating.....20 points
 - Beef Cattle Limiting Factors.....15 points
 - c. Division II of the Ecological site is for recommended management practices- Five points each for a total of 50 points per site
 - d. 20 minutes will be allowed to evaluate each site.
 - e. An additional five minutes will be allotted at the last rotation to complete paperwork.
2. Plant Identification and Evaluation
- a. This phase of the event will consist of 30 plants listed in the Texas Plant List, broken into three 20 minutes segments.
 - b. Each plant will be marked with a numbered stake.
 - c. Students should write the plant number (back of scorecard) on the line of the scorecard corresponding to the number on the stake. (Example - If the student is stationed at the plant marked with stake three, he/she will write in the plant number on line three of the scorecard).
 - d. Students will move through the plant line at their own pace. Each contestant is allowed 20 minutes to identify 10 plants. The time keeper will give an audible five minute warning letting the contestants know time is almost up.
 - e. Any student found handling the plant will be disqualified.
 - f. Each plant will be worth a total of 10 points. Five points will be given for correct identification of plant. Each characteristic will be worth one point. No points will be awarded for characteristics marked on incorrectly identified plants.

III. SCORING

Plant ID	300 Points
Ecological Sites (x2)	150 Points Each
TOTAL INDIVIDUAL POINTS	600 Points
TOTAL TEAM VARIABLE	1,800 Points

IV. TIEBREAKER

In case ties occur for team awards, they will be broken as follows:

1. The team with the highest score in plant identification will win, or if still tied,
2. The team with the high score alternate will win, or if still tied,
3. The team will be accompanied by their advisor and will meet with contest officials who will conduct a coin toss to determine the higher placing team.

In case ties occur for individual awards, they will be broken as follows:

1. The individual with the highest score in plant identification will win, or if still tied,

2. The individual with the highest score in first ecological site, or if still tied,
3. The individuals will be accompanied by their advisor and will meet with contest officials who will conduct a coin toss to determine the higher placing individual.

V. References

The Texas Range ID list can be found on
www.judgingcard.com/resources/list.aspx

“Oklahoma Land Judging Made Easy”
landjudging.com
Texas FFA Range Evaluation and Management Guide