

Range Judging Contest Kit

While the State Range Judging Committee does have traveling contest boxes, they are rather bulky and difficult to transport. We will do the best we can to see that every Area Contest site that wants to use a box will have one. But, you can also consider using other materials to mark the contest site. An inexpensive and easily transported contest kit would include:

- 1) 20 plastic step-in electric fence posts (4 for each site and 8 for station markers). Lath may also be used for this purpose, but the step-in posts have more utility in almost all soil areas.
- 2) Old files, stapled to allow for sliding over the top of the posts to mark station 1 thru 8.
- 3) Files (as above) slid over a piece of lath marked for your group leaders (A, B C & D or A, B, C, D, E, F, G & H – depending on the contest size).
- 4) Flagging Tape to mark the 3 Range Site perimeters and emphasize the station markers.
- 5) A tile spade and shovel to dig the soil pits at each range site station and provide a soil profile on the day of the contest.
- 6) 3 water bottles and 3 small Acid (dilute HCl) bottles to determine soil texture and lime at the soil surface of or in sub-soil layers. [Water may be substituted for the acid in areas where you know that the soil will not be reactive.]
- 7) 4 or 8 shoulder bags, depending on the number of groups for the question sets.
- 8) 100 to 150 flags will be needed for numbering as marked plants

There will also need to be copies made of the packets given to each of the contestants for the Range Sites consisting of; 1) a technical guide and 2) 3 species composition determination worksheets. A Question Set consisting of 10 questions will also need to be created and a copy provided to each contestant. The questions need to be on information that is found in the “Range Judging Handbook” for Nebraska. A Ranch Plan Map will also have to be developed for each contest and a copy provided for each participant. Examples of the Ranch Plan are found on pages 30 – 32 in the Handbook. If you want either the Question Set or the Ranch Plan to be reviewed before the Area Contest, please e-mail them to a State Range Judging Committee member.