The general subject of soil surveying as taught at North Carolina State College is divided into three courses as follows:

1. **The Soils of North Carolina** - which deals with the origin, classification, distribution, physical and chemical characteristics, native vegetation, crop adaptation, and fertilizer requirements of the more important series and types occurring in the state.

2. **Soil Survey** - which includes lectures on the various methods of making soil surveys and in which the student is required to make a soil map of an assigned area and to write a report describing the soils and agriculture of that area.

3. **Pedology** - a study of the various systems of soil classification, the genesis and morphology of soils, the great soil groups of the world, and the more important soil series of the United States.

The first course is designed to appeal to students in all branches of agriculture while the last two are offered primarily for students specializing in soils, although they are sometimes elected by students from other groups.

It is in the first course that the judging contests are made use of. Each student is provided with a descriptive key to the soil series of North Carolina and after the soils of each province are discussed in class, samples in glass-covered boxes labeled as to number and depth of horizon ($A_1$ 0-1", $A_2$ 1-10", $B$ 10-30", etc.) are put out in the laboratory and each student is required to identify as many as possible with the help of the key.

This identification of samples is followed by a field trip through the province which has been previously studied in the classroom and laboratory. When a stop is made to examine a soil profile the identification is made by one of the students with the aid of his key. Then the characteristics of the soil are discussed. Soon after returning from the field trip a quiz in the form of a contest in the identification of samples is conducted. At this time the student bases his identification on memory, not being permitted to use the key.