

Grassland Evaluation Contest Held at Penn State's Ag Progress Days Site

HARRISBURG November 12, 2014 (Griffith) – The Pennsylvania Grassland Evaluation Contest took place on October 14 at Penn State Ag Progress Days. The contest is an experiential education opportunity for PA high school students enrolled in FFA and 4-H programs, or members of high school affiliated clubs. Contest programs focus on the value and benefits of pasture management, livestock grazing and soil health. Winning teams receive scholarships toward their education at any accredited institution and the opportunity to compete in a National Competition in Missouri.



Participants conduct wildlife and pasture exercises along with soils and plant identification.



Nine student teams from across the Commonwealth competed in this year's events. The 2014 winning team from Conococheague FFA included students Grant Heckman, Blaine Peiffer, Austin Wingert, Jayce Keafer led by faculty advisor Sean Scanlon. All first place team members received a \$500 scholarship for college. Conococheague FFA Team II took second place with students Mikayla Barnhart, Paige Plessinger, Donald Barnhart and Benjamin

Miller receiving a \$250 scholarship. Austin Wingert was the highest placing individual for the contest and received an additional \$500 scholarship toward a college of his choice.

The contest sponsors congratulate all students competing for the time and effort taken in preparing for the event. Major event sponsors include: South West PA Project Grass, PA Grazing Lands Coalition and USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. For more information or to sign up for next October's event, please contact: Dan Griffith, Westmoreland Conservation District, at (724) 837-5271 or by email at wcd@wcdpa.com



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