

## Southwest Project Grass Hosts Annual Grassland Evaluation Contest

The 2019 Pennsylvania Grassland Evaluation Contest, presented by Southwest Project Grass, was held on October 10, 2019 at Penn State's Special Events building located at the Ag Progress Days facility. 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, wildlife, livestock grazing and soil health. Winning teams receive scholarships toward their secondary education at any accredited institution. Winning teams may have the opportunity to compete in the National Competition in Missouri.

Fifteen Teams including 56 students, from across the Commonwealth competed in this year's contest. The first-place team, Sugar Valley Rural Charter School FFA, included Naaman Conoway, McKenna Fox, Cheyenne Holdren, and Thea Homan. Each student receives a \$500 College Scholarship. The second place team, Penns Valley FFA, included Alden Homan, Michael Johnson, Dristen Wolfe, and Abby Zajaczuowski. Each student receives a \$250 College Scholarship. Cheyenne Holdren, from Sugar Valley Rural Charter School FFA, was the Highest Scoring Individual and receives an additional \$500 College Scholarship.



The contest organizers and sponsors congratulate all students competing for the time and effort taken to prepare for the event. Major event sponsors include: Penn State University, Southwest Project Grass, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Penn's Corner RC&D, PA Grazing Lands Coalition and local County Conservation Districts. For more information please contact: Dan Griffith, Westmoreland Conservation District, at (724) 837-5271 or by email at [dan@wcdpa.com](mailto:dan@wcdpa.com).

