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TVA AND TENNESSEE FFA EMPOWER RECORD NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE

COOKEVILLE, TN – The Tennessee FFA Foundation proudly announced record-breaking participation in the 2025 Environmental and Natural Resources (ENR) Career Development Event (CDE), made possible through a generous grant from the Tennessee Valley Authority’s Community Outreach Support Program. This program supports environmental education initiatives across the region, helping young leaders explore sustainability-focused career paths.

The 2025 ENR CDE took place on March 25 in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, during the Tennessee FFA State Convention, and welcomed 322 students from 81 teams—a dramatic 355% increase in participation compared to 2023.

“The support of TVA’s Community Outreach Support Program continues to elevate the experience for our members,” said Ryan Inman, Tennessee FFA State Director. “Agriculture and environmental stewardship are inseparable, and this contest gives students the chance to explore that relationship while developing skills for real-world careers. We are deeply grateful for TVA’s commitment to youth education and environmental awareness.”

Thanks to TVA’s continued partnership, Tennessee FFA was able to invest in upgraded contest materials and equipment, helping ensure students had a hands-on, high-quality learning experience. The event also provided opportunities to recognize students’ hard work and growing knowledge of natural resource management.

During the competition, participants completed a written exam, identified 50 items related to environmental equipment and native/invasive species, analyzed a soil profile, and evaluated a waste management scenario. These activities mirror real-world challenges in environmental science and resource conservation, helping prepare students for future roles in environmental and agricultural sectors.

This year’s top honors went to the Watertown FFA Chapter in the Senior Division, while Middle TN Ag Academy FFA earned first place in the Junior Division.

The Tennessee FFA Foundation, headquartered in Cookeville on the campus of Tennessee Tech University, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1983. The Foundation supports students and educators involved in agricultural education and FFA across the state. Learn more at www.tnffa.org.

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(Photo caption: FFA members were recognized before thousands of attendees at the Tennessee FFA State Convention for their hard work in the Environmental & Natural Resources Career Development Event. Suzanne Fisher of TVA presented the award to the winning team.)