

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 5, 2024

CONTACT: Marisa Hughes OFFICE: (931) 372-6050

## TENNESSEE FFA BREAKS PARTICIPATION RECORDS THANKS TO TVA COMMUNITY OUTREACH SUPPORT PROGRAM

COOKEVILLE, TN – The Tennessee FFA Foundation received a grant from the TVA Community Outreach Support program to benefit FFA members through the Environmental and Natural Resources Career Development Event (CDE). The Community Outreach Support program provides assistance to organizations for environmental education events and activities. The Tennessee FFA Environmental and Natural Resources Career Development Event was held March 26, 2024 in Gatlinburg, Tennessee in conjunction with the Tennessee FFA State Convention. 273 students from 71 schools participated in this year's contest. Participation increased 355 percent from the previous year.

"The support of the TVA Community Outreach Support program has allowed us to make this contest even more impactful for everyone involved. Agriculture and environmental stewardship go hand-in-hand, and we're proud to give students the opportunity to see how they are intertwined and to see future careers in the field, as well," said Ryan Inman, Tennessee FFA State Director. "We're thankful for TVA's support of this contest."

Thanks to TVA Community Outreach Support funding, Tennessee FFA was able to upgrade equipment used for the contest and provide recognition for students' diligent work in preparing for the event and increasing their knowledge of environmental stewardship.

In the Environmental and Natural Resources CDE, students completed a written exam, identified fifty articles of equipment, native species, and invasive/non-native species, analyzed a soil profile, and evaluated a waste management scenario, all in an effort to increase their knowledge of the environment and natural resources and prepare themselves for future careers in the field. The Munford FFA Chapter of Munford, Tennessee took first place in this year's contest.

The Tennessee FFA Foundation is based in Cookeville on the campus of Tennessee Tech University. The 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization was created in 1983 to promote the best interests of students and those involved in agricultural education and FFA. To learn more about FFA, visit www.tnffa.org.

###

## Box 5034, TTU, Cookeville, TN 38505



(Photo caption: As part of the Tennessee FFA Environmental and Natural Resources Career Development Event, members identify fifty articles of environmental equipment, native species, and invasive/non-native species.)



(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. TVA was also recognized as a supporter of the event.)