
Agenda

- Registration
10:00 - 10:15
 - Welcome & Introductions
10:15 - 10:30
 - Grassland Evaluation Contest & Review
10:30 - 1:00
 - Lunch & Learn
(pizza & drinks provided)
1:00 - 1:45
 - Awards Presentation & Pictures
1:45 - 2:00
-

Directions:

Penn State's Ag Progress Days site
Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research
Center 2710 W. Pine Grove Rd.

- Westbound traffic, use entrance gate J
- Eastbound traffic, use entrance Gate M



Southwest Project Grass

Southwest Project Grass is a cooperative effort by local Farmers, County Conservation Districts, and Industry Partners, with assistance from USDA Agencies to improve pasture and rotational grazing systems in PA.

Contest History

The Grassland Evaluation Contest began in 2003 in an attempt to inspire high school students to learn practical and profitable ways to graze livestock on their family farms. The first contest was held at the Penn State beef sheep farm and is currently held at the Ag Progress Days site. Over **\$41,000 has been awarded** as scholarships since 2003.

Cooperating Organizations



PennState Extension



PennState Extension

Center for Agricultural Conservation
Assistance Training



**Pennsylvania
Grazing Lands
Coalition**



PA Grassland Evaluation Contest



**September 25, 2025
10am - 2pm
Ag Progress Days Site
Pennsylvania Furnace, Pa**

What is the

Grassland Evaluation Contest?

The PA Grassland Evaluation Contest is a competition aimed at educating youth about the **value and benefit of grazing**, as well as, other conservation practices.

Students who **attend the Grassland Evaluation Contest** compete in a variety of

Contest Categories

- Grassland Condition
- Plant Identification
- Soils Evaluation
- Wildlife Habitat Evaluation



Who Can Participate

PA high school students, enrolled in grades 9 through 12 which includes non-traditional schools (home, cyber, and charter), enrolled in FFA and 4-H programs, or school affiliated club. Photo waivers will be required. Note: Only FFA or 4-H programs can participate at the national competition



Why Students Participate

Contest teams consist of 3 to 4 members who compete on an individual basis, rotating through 4 contest stations. Winning teams and top scoring students receive scholarships **toward higher education.**

“The Grassland Evaluation Contest is what inspired me to pursue agriculture in college and as a career.”

Genny Christ

PSU Extension Educator

How to Get Involved

Study materials are available for free on our website, as well as, registration forms, and additional contest information:

<http://www.swprojectgrass.com/grassland-evaluation-contest>

About the Grassland Contest

The contest consists of four topics based on a selected pasture that is 50ft x 50ft:

Soils Evaluation: Each student is asked to identify the soils in the pasture, calculate slope, and answer questions based on the soil type in the pasture.

Grassland Condition: Each Student evaluates a pasture and is given a grazing scenario to calculate dry matter needs and forage availability and makes recommendations based on their findings.

Wildlife Habitat Evaluation: Each student is asked to answer questions about how the pasture affects wildlife.

Plant Identification: Each student has to identify 20 plants that are typically found in Pennsylvania pastures.

For more information about the contest contact Pierce Willson at 724-438-4497 or by e-mail at piercwillson@gmail.com

