

### **FFA Soils and Land Use Contest**

Every year for the past several years, the BCCD education program has partnered with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), the PA State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), the PA Fish and Boat Commission, and the PA Game Commission to plan, coordinate, and facilitate this annual contest for Bradford County's FFA students. Much like the Envirothon, this competition highlights four main natural resource conservation topics including soils, wildlife, aquatics, and forestry. Unlike the Envirothon however, this contest goes much deeper within these topics, especially within the soil resource topic, to get students to think more about and understand the complex physical characteristics of their lands and waters. Through this more detailed analysis of the properties and capabilities of these local natural resources, students attain a much more complete understanding of how a landowner must use/manage these important resources wisely over time to protect the environment and maximize the land use potential over a variety of agricultural, urban, commercial, residential, and forest/wildlife habitat uses. Roughly 100 students participated in 2015.

