



## **2018 West Virginia Envirothon winners announced and scholarships awarded**

For Immediate Release

April 20, 2018

*(**Note to Editors:** This news release has been sent to you because at least one local team in your coverage area participated in the West Virginia Envirothon.)*

JANE LEW, W.Va. – The Ravenswood Future Farmers of America team won first place and a \$5,000 scholarship Friday to share at the 2018 West Virginia Envirothon at WVU Jackson’s Mill in Lewis County.

Team members Katlyne Rollyson, Teresa Riffle, Tiffany Miihlbach, Gabriela Martinez and Fiona Lane took the prize in a tight competition with the second place Mineral County team, whose members will share a \$3,750 scholarship.

Jefferson Agriscience (with a \$2,500 scholarship) finished in third place, while the Eco Defenders team (\$1,750) from Morgan County finished fourth, and the Moorefield High School team came in fifth (\$1,250 scholarship).

The West Virginia Envirothon competition gives high school students an opportunity to learn about the state’s diverse ecosystem and how they can conserve and protect it. The event was held April 19-20.

Teams made up of five students each in grades 9 through 12 explored the environmental and earth sciences by focusing on five subject areas: aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife and a current environmental topic, range land management.

Top teams at each station took home \$500 station awards, shared among the team advisor and team members. Ravenswood and Mineral County split four of the five station awards. Ravenswood won the current environment topic and the wildlife station awards. Mineral

County's team won the soils and the aquatics station awards. The Jefferson Agriscience team won the forestry station award.

The West Virginia Envirothon Committee awarded \$15,000 in college scholarships during the event. Since 1997, \$200,000 in college scholarships have been awarded to West Virginia high school students through the Envirothon.

Teams who participate are often created through school clubs, classes at school, 4-H groups, Scout troops or home school groups. Teams receive study materials and prepare for the competition ahead of time. Envirothon training opportunities are available to students in their area's conservation district. During the competition, teams were tested on their skills, problem-solving abilities and knowledge about natural resources.

This is the second consecutive year the West Virginia Envirothon was held at Jackson's Mill.

Teams participated from Braxton, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Gilmer, Hardy, Jackson, Marshall, Mineral, Morgan, Pleasants, Preston, Webster and Wetzel counties.

Envirothon partners include the USDA Forest Service Northeast Area, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the West Virginia Association of Conservation Districts, the West Virginia Conservation Agency, the West Virginia Department of Education, the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, the West Virginia Department of Agriculture, the West Virginia Division of Forestry, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources and the West Virginia Forestry Association.

This year's scholarship sponsors and donors include the Weyerhaeuser Foundation, the Dominion Foundation, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, the West Virginia Department of Education, Toyota, the West Virginia Conservation Agency, Mountain RC&D, Cornerstone Bank, the West Virginia Forestry Association and the West Virginia Association of Conservation Districts.

For more information, visit the Envirothon website at [www.wvca.us/envirothon](http://www.wvca.us/envirothon) or contact Davin White at [dwhite@wvca.us](mailto:dwhite@wvca.us) for team-specific photos.