**News Release**

 **For Immediate Release** Contact: Shelby Robertson, State FFA Coordinator

**FFA Chapter Participates in State FFA Land Judging Event**

**Pembroke, NC** – The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ FFA Chapter participated in the 70th Annual North Carolina FFA Association Land Judging Career Development Event on November 16, 2024, in Robeson County, North Carolina. This event is sponsored by the Soil Science Society of North Carolina. Team members include \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Their FFA Advisor is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

In early April 1955, 188 FFA members met on a parcel of land in Harnett County near Dunn, North Carolina where Interstate 95 was being constructed. It was on this site that the first “Soil Appreciation and Soil Judging School” was held. Sixty-nine years later, hundreds of FFA members from across the state traveled to Robeson County to participate in the 70th Annual North Carolina FFA Land Judging Career Development Event.

This event encourages students to analyze land characteristics such as soil type, erosion, and drainage to determine the best possible use. Knowledge about soils can be organized and applied in managing farms, fields, and woodlands, developing communities, as well as engineering work. Students are able to comprehend why soils respond differently to management practices and how soil properties affect crop growth and urban uses.

The top five teams in the state event are eligible to compete in the National Land and Range Judging Event in Oklahoma this May. The top three teams and high-scoring individual will be recognized during the North Carolina FFA State Convention in Raleigh on June 24-26, 2025.

North Carolina FFA is a youth organization of 48,241 student members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business, and technology of agriculture with 270 local chapters across the state. FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth, and career success** through agricultural education. Visit [ww.ncffa.org](http://www.ncffa.org/) for more information.